United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Thursday, April 10, 2014*

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 10, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

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

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House to encourage them in their official tasks. As the Members approach the votes they are making today, may they be imbued with courage and leadership that looks to the health and vibrancy of our great Nation.

Assure them that in the fulfillment of their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful to their duties and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations and fulfill them with integrity.

As the Congress looks to the upcoming holy celebrations of millions of Americans, may they, and may we all, be mindful of God's love for us. May we be faithful stewards, not only of Your creation, but also Your desire that all people would be free from whatever inhibits them to be fully alive.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE BATTLING BOYS OF BENGHAZI

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I want to share with the American people a poem a written by a Marine Corps officer. It is about two former Navy SEALs: Ben Doherty and Ty Woods. They were killed in Benghazi. It is called ''The Battling Boys of Benghazi'':

We're the battling boys of Benghazi! No fame, no glory, no paparazzi.
Just a fiery death in a blazing hell, defending our country we loved so well.
It wasn't our job, but we answered the call, fought to the Consulate and scaled the wall.
We pulled 20 countrymen from the jaws of fate. Led them to safety, and stood at the gate.
Just the two of us, and foes by the score, but we stood fast to bar the door.
Three calls for reinforcement, but all were denied,
So we fought, and we fought, and we fought 'til we died.
We gave our all for our Uncle Sam, but our leaders didn't give a damn.
Just two dead SEALs, who carried the load, no thanks to us, we were just ''Bumps in the Road.''

These two Navy SEALs did their jobs. Let's do our jobs and bring those thugs who killed them to justice

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a very simple principle: equal pay for equal work.

It turns out I am not the only one in my household who supports equal pay. One morning last month, on my way out the door, my 8-year-old, Sophie, asked me my plans for the day. I said I was having an event called ''When Women Succeed, America Succeeds'' focused on economic opportunity for women, including good jobs and good pay.

She said, Dad, that's my agenda. I said, You have an agenda? She said, Yeah. She showed me her ''Diary of a Wimpy Kid'' book. At the top of one of the pages it says, When I am elected President, the laws I pass will be—and number one, she wrote, in penmanship we are going to work on, Women should get paid the same as men.

This shouldn't be hard, Madam Speaker. My 8-year-old gets it, and the American people are waiting for Congress to get it too.

So let's stand up for equal pay for equal work and bring the Paycheck Fairness Act up for a vote.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT TIMOTHY OWENS

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of United States Army Sergeant Timothy Owens, who lived in Rolla, Missouri, in the Eighth Congressional District.

Sergeant Owens was killed in senseless act of violence at Fort Hood, Texas, last week. Sergeant Owens deployed to Iraq with the 396th Transportation Company. During his military service, Sergeant Owens earned numerous awards, including the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and four Certificates of Achievement.

Additionally, Sergeant Owens served as a counselor to his fellow soldiers at Fort Hood. In addition to his service to our Nation, Sergeant Owens was a devoted husband and a loving father of three. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Billy, his children, and his numerous family and friends.

Madam Speaker, we honor the service and life of Sergeant Timothy Owens, and we lift his family in prayers.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, last week in the Natural Resources Committee one of my esteemed colleagues from across the aisle claimed that the scientific evidence regarding human contributions to climate change was inconclusive.

Well, Stanford researcher, Dr. James Powell, a geochemist, and a 12-year member of the non-partisan National Science Board, recently completed an update to his survey of peer-reviewed literature on climate change.

As it points out, in the year 2013, there were 10,885 peer-reviewed articles and only two rejected human contributions towards climate change. That is less than two hundredths of 1 percent.

Madam Speaker, this is not disagreement. This is not a divided scientific community, case closed. Congress must stop denying the science and take action. Future generations are depending upon us.

EASTER IN IRAN

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

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, Good Friday and Easter are right around the corner. For some Christians in the Middle East, specifically in Iran and Egypt, these holidays can only be observed and celebrated in fear.

Madam Speaker, Christians continue to be persecuted for their religious beliefs across the globe by intolerant, oppressive regimes and governments that seek to impose strict religious rule.

Many of these Christians, if they aren't killed, tortured to death, or imprisoned, must flee for their lives from places that they and their ancestors called home, for the simple and single reason that they are Christians.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Easter this year, let us not forget the plight and daily struggle of those who can't freely practice the religion of their own choosing. More importantly, Madam Speaker, let us continue to hold those regimes and governments accountable for their systematic targeting and continued oppression of Christians.

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD ACT

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in steadfast support of small business and H.R. 4383, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Small Business Advisory Board Act.

Within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau consumers have a voice. Credit unions have a voice. Community banks have a voice. And appropriately, men and women in uniform have a voice through the Office of Servicemember Affairs. These are all important contributors to include.

Yet, one group was left out, and that group was America's small businesses. While identified as ''small,'' they are mighty when it comes to our local economy and job creation. As a small business owner, I know they have insight to offer during the development of new rules and regulations.

Under the leadership of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER), I have cosponsored this critical improvement to the CFPB. I ask that our colleagues now join us in this bipartisan effort to allow small businesses in the financial sector to be heard.

MEDICAL EVALUATION PARITY FOR SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, yesterday afternoon U.S. Senators ROB PORTMAN and JAY ROCKEFELLER introduced the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers, or MEPS, Act, companion legislation to the bill that I introduced with the Congressman from Ohio, Mr. TIM RYAN, on March 27 of this year.

Most are aware that incoming soldiers must pass a physical and medical evaluation, which is the case, but so many are shocked that there is no similar evaluation for mental health competency.

Madam Speaker, according to recent studies, nearly half of all soldiers who tried suicide first attempted it before enlisting. A large number of suicides in the military were individuals who had never been deployed in a combat role.

These studies give us insight into the mental well-being of our military, but what they also show is that we must know more.

The bipartisan MEPS Act would require a preliminary mental health assessment for military recruits prior to joining the service, which will dramatically improve the way the military identifies and assesses mental health issues.

The bill has no budget impact and has support from a large number of veterans groups. I thank my Senate colleagues for introducing this bill and encourage my colleagues in the House to join the support.

RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 45th anniversary of the Minority Business Development Agency. Throughout its history, MBDA has spurred business development and worked tirelessly to advance the growth and global competitiveness of the minority business community.

These businesses fuel the economic engine of our country, revitalizing our communities by creating hundreds of new jobs. In my home State of Florida, this agency helped create 2,500 jobs in 2009, including over 800 new jobs in the past year alone.

At a time when many communities blighted by recession continue to struggle, the Minority Development Business Agency will strengthen businesses on the verge of recovery.

I look forward to seeing this agency continue to create jobs and prosperity both in Florida and across our country.

□ 0915

KELSEY HIRSCH

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, we all know that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, but what you all may not know is about the amazing accomplishments of a young freshman at South Forsyth High School down in my district. Her name is Kelsey Hirsch.

Having been affected by all of the events that she saw in the media around our part of the world, she founded a group in my neighborhood. It is called Bands4RAINN. RAINN is the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, and she came up with the idea of selling wristbands to raise money for that network.

She set a goal for herself of raising $600. She ended up raising more than $10,000. She ended up winning the HOPE Award for RAINN. She ended up founding a group at her high school called WarEagles4RAINN, and this weekend, she is holding a Concert4Courage and Hoops4Hope, which are two more fundraising events, to draw attention to sexual assault and violence, particularly among young people.

Mr. Speaker, one person can make a difference, and in my district, it is Kelsey Hirsch, a freshman at South Forsyth High School.

LOUIS ZAPATA

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a giant whom we lost in the Fort Worth community—Louis Zapata, the first Hispanic ever elected to the Fort Worth City Council.

Mr. Zapata held the post for 14 years. He was one of the longest-serving city council members in the city's history.

Mr. Zapata was so proud of the city's north side, which he represented well. He did so many wonderful things for the community, like advancing the arts and protecting the Rose Marine Theater. Mr. Zapata was also someone who was interested in raising the quality of life for all of our city's citizens.

In addition to his duties on the Fort Worth City Council, he was also a union member and a union representative at Bell Helicopter, one of the city's largest employers, where he worked tirelessly to make sure that every man and woman who worked at the plant enjoyed a better quality of life.

I want to thank Mr. Zapata for everything that he did to help make our city better and to help make our community better. He will be missed. He is one of the legends of the Fort Worth City Council, and he is someone who will always be remembered fondly in our city.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material into the RECORD on H. Con. Res. 96.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 544 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H. Con. Res. 96.

Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) kindly take the chair.

□ 0917

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, with Ms. FOXX (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113–405 offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. WOODALL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 113–405.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

(a) DECLARATION.—The Congress determines and declares that this concurrent resolution establishes the budget for fiscal year 2015 and sets forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

SEC. 101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $2,533,142,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $2,675,941,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $2,789,406,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $2,890,066,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,014,538,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,148,143,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,294,465,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,456,164,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,626,464,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $3,807,341,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $0.
Fiscal year 2016: $0.
Fiscal year 2017: $0.
Fiscal year 2018: $0.
Fiscal year 2019: $0.
Fiscal year 2020: $0.
Fiscal year 2021: $0.
Fiscal year 2022: $0.
Fiscal year 2023: $0.
Fiscal year 2024: $0.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $2,743,504,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $2,778,548,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $2,848,957,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $2,925,554,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,033,623,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,162,619,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,241,898,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,361,147,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,414,031,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $3,434,808,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $2,818,544,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $2,808,954,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $2,840,958,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $2,901,664,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,009,073,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,124,872,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,215,785,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,351,489,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,387,409,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $3,405,674,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS (ON-BUDGET).—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the amounts of the deficits (on-budget) are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: -$285,402,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: -$133,013,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: -$51,552,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: -$11,598,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $5,465,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $23,271,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $78,680,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $104,675,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $239,055,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $401,667,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—The appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $18,204,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $18,414,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $19,013,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $19,267,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $19,603,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $20,055,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $20,311,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $20,701,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $20,976,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $21,220,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $13,112,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $13,206,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $13,640,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $13,716,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $13,909,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $14,255,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $14,440,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022; $14,818,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $15,074,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $15,307,000,000.

SEC. 102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

The Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2015 through 2024 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):

Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $528,927,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $566,503,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $573,792,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $573,064,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $597,895,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $584,252,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $611,146,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $593,795,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $624,416,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $611,902,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $638,697,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $626,175,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $653,001,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $640,499,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $669,967,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $661,181,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $687,393,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $672,922,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $706,218,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $685,796,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):

Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):

Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.

(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(4) Energy (270):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(6) Agriculture (350):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.

Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(12) Medicare (570):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(13) Income Security (600):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.

(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(14) Social Security (650):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(17) General Government (800):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(18) Net Interest (900):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $368,359,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $368,359,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $408,990,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $408,990,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $465,411,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $465,411,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, $525,481,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $525,481,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $568,468,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $568,468,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $606,691,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $606,691,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $626,835,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $626,835,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $643,655,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $643,655,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $656,318,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $656,318,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $660,760,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $660,760,000,000.
(19) Allowances (920):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $1,846,217,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,883,682,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $1,795,765,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,826,890,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $1,785,651,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,791,295,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $1,788,927,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,782,388,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $1,840,739,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,828,703,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $1,917,231,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,892,007,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $1,962,061,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,948,451,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $2,047,525,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,046,652,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $2,070,320,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,058,169,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $2,067,830,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,059,117,000,000.
(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(21) Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism (970):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, an amount to be derived from function 920.
(B) Outlays, an amount to be derived from function 920.

TITLE II—BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 201. LIMITATION ON ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House, except as provided for in subsection (b), any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, making a general appropriation or continuing appropriation may not provide for advance appropriations.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—An advance appropriation may be provided for programs, projects, activities, or accounts referred to in subsection (c)(1) or identified in the report to accompany this concurrent resolution or the joint explanatory statement of managers to accompany this concurrent resolution under the heading ''Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations''.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—For fiscal year 2016, the aggregate level of advance appropriations shall not exceed—

(1) $58,662,202,000 for the following programs in the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(A) Medical Services;

(B) Medical Support and Compliance; and

(C) Medical Facilities accounts of the Veterans Health Administration; and

(2) $28,781,000,000 in new budget authority for all programs identified pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''advance appropriation'' means any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, making general appropriations or any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 202. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS.

Upon the enactment of any bill or joint resolution providing for a change in budgetary concepts or definitions, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust any allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution accordingly.

SEC. 203. ADJUSTMENTS OF AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS, AND APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS.

(a) ADJUSTMENTS OF DISCRETIONARY AND DIRECT SPENDING LEVELS.—If a committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) reports a bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, providing for a decrease in direct spending (budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom) for any fiscal year and also provides for an authorization of appropriations for the same purpose, upon the enactment of such measure, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may decrease the allocation to such committee and increase the allocation of discretionary spending (budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom) to the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2015 by an amount equal to the new budget authority (and outlays flowing therefrom) provided for in a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for the same purpose.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS TO FUND OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.—In order to take into account any new information included in the budget submission by the President for fiscal year 2015, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate budgetary levels for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or the section 302(a) allocation to the Committee on Appropriations set forth in the report of this concurrent resolution to conform with section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (as adjusted by section 251A of such Act).

(c) REVISED CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE BASELINE.—The chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate budgetary levels to reflect changes resulting from technical and economic assumptions in the most recent baseline published by the Congressional Budget Office.

(d) DETERMINATIONS.—For the purpose of enforcing this concurrent resolution on the

budget in the House, the allocations and aggregate levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for fiscal year 2015 and the period of fiscal years 2015 through fiscal year 2024 shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the chair of the Committee on the Budget and such chair may adjust such applicable levels of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 204. LIMITATION ON LONG-TERM SPENDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House, it shall not be in order to consider a bill or joint resolution reported by a committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations), or an amendment thereto or a conference report thereon, if the provisions of such measure have the net effect of increasing direct spending in excess of $5,000,000,000 for any period described in subsection (b).

(b) TIME PERIODS.—The applicable periods for purposes of this section are any of the four consecutive ten fiscal-year periods beginning with fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 205. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, and section 4001 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, the report accompanying this concurrent resolution on the budget or the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on any concurrent resolution on the budget shall include in its allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to the Committee on Appropriations amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and the United States Postal Service.

(b) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of applying sections 302(f) and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, estimates of the level of total new budget authority and total outlays provided by a measure shall include any off-budget discretionary amounts.

(c) ADJUSTMENTS.—The chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels for legislation reported by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform that reforms the Federal retirement system, if such adjustments do not cause a net increase in the deficit for fiscal year 2015 and the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 206. APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.

(a) APPLICATION.—Any adjustments of the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels made pursuant to this concurrent resolution shall—

(1) apply while that measure is under consideration;

(2) take effect upon the enactment of that measure; and

(3) be published in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable.

(b) EFFECT OF CHANGED ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.—Revised allocations and aggregates resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as allocations and aggregates included in this concurrent resolution.

(c) BUDGET COMPLIANCE.—The consideration of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, for which the chair of the Committee on the Budget makes adjustments or revisions in the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels of this concurrent resolution shall not be subject to the points of order set forth in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives or section 504.

SEC. 207. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Costs of Federal housing loans and loan guarantees are treated unequally in the budget. The Congressional Budget Office uses fair-value accounting to measure the costs of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but determines the cost of other Federal loan and loan-guarantee programs on the basis of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (''FCRA'').

(2) The fair-value accounting method uses discount rates which incorporate the risk inherent to the type of liability being estimated in addition to Treasury discount rates of the proper maturity length. In contrast, FCRA accounting solely uses the discount rates of the Treasury, failing to incorporate all of the risks attendant to these credit activities.

(3) The Congressional Budget Office estimates that if fair-value were used to estimate the cost of all new credit activity in 2014, the deficit would be approximately $50 billion higher than under the current methodology.

(b) FAIR VALUE ESTIMATES.—Upon the request of the chair or ranking member of the Committee on the Budget, any estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office for a measure under the terms of title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, ''credit reform'', as a supplement to such estimate shall, to the extent practicable, also provide an estimate of the current actual or estimated market values representing the ''fair value'' of assets and liabilities affected by such measure.

(c) FAIR VALUE ESTIMATES FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS.—Whenever the Director of the Congressional Budget Office prepares an estimate pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out any bill or joint resolution and if the Director determines that such bill or joint resolution has a cost related to a housing or residential mortgage program under the FCRA, then the Director shall also provide an estimate of the current actual or estimated market values representing the ''fair value'' of assets and liabilities affected by the provisions of such bill or joint resolution that result in such cost.

(d) ENFORCEMENT.—If the Director of the Congressional Budget Office provides an estimate pursuant to subsection (b) or (c), the chair of the Committee on the Budget may use such estimate to determine compliance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and other budgetary enforcement controls.

SEC. 208. TRANSFERS FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE TREASURY TO THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND THAT INCREASE PUBLIC INDEBTEDNESS.

For purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, or the rules or orders of the House of Representatives, a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that transfers funds from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund shall be counted as new budget authority and outlays equal to the amount of the transfer in the fiscal year the transfer occurs.

SEC. 209. SEPARATE ALLOCATION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.

(a) ALLOCATION.—In the House, there shall be a separate allocation to the Committee on Appropriations for overseas contingency operations/global war on terrorism. For purposes of enforcing such separate allocation under section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the ''first fiscal year'' and the ''total of fiscal years'' shall be deemed to refer to fiscal year 2015. Such separate allocation shall be the exclusive allocation for overseas contingency operations/global war on terrorism under section 302(a) of such Act. Section 302(c) of such Act shall not apply to such separate allocation. The Committee on Appropriations may provide suballocations of such separate allocation under section 302(b) of such Act. Spending that counts toward the allocation established by this section shall be designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) ADJUSTMENT.—In the House, for purposes of subsection (a) for fiscal year 2015, no adjustment shall be made under section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if any adjustment would be made under section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 210. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

The House adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of the House of Representatives, and these rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with other such rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the House of Representatives to change those rules at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of the House of Representatives.

TITLE III—POLICY

SEC. 301. POLICY STATEMENT ON HEALTH CARE LAW REPEAL.

It is the policy of this resolution that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148), and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–152) should be repealed.

SEC. 302. POLICY STATEMENT ON MEANS-TESTED WELFARE PROGRAMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds that:

(1) Too many people are trapped at the bottom rungs of the economic ladder, and every citizen should have the opportunity to rise, escape from poverty, and achieve their own potential.

(2) In 1996, President Bill Clinton and congressional Republicans enacted reforms that have moved families off of Federal programs and enabled them to provide for themselves.

(3) According to the most recent projections, over the next 10 years we will spend approximately $9.7 trillion on means-tested welfare programs.

(4) Today, there are approximately 92 Federal programs that provide benefits specifically to poor and low-income Americans.

(5) Taxpayers deserve clear and transparent information on how well these programs are working, and how much the Federal Government is spending on means-tested welfare.

(6) It should be the goal of welfare programs to encourage work and put people on a path to self-reliance.

(b) POLICY ON MEANS-TESTED WELFARE PROGRAMS.—It is the policy of this resolution that—

(1) the welfare system should be reformed to give states flexibility to implement and improve safety net programs and that to be eligible for benefits, able bodied adults without dependents should be required to work or be preparing for work, including enrolling in educational or job training programs, contributing community service, or participating in a supervised job search; and

(2) the President's budget should disclose, in a clear and transparent manner, the aggregate amount of Federal welfare expenditures, as well as an estimate of State and local spending for this purpose, over the next ten years.

SEC. 303. POLICY STATEMENT ON BLOCK GRANTING MEDICAID.

It is the policy of this resolution that Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) should be block granted to the States in a manner prescribed by the State Health Flexibility Act of 2013 (H.R. 567, 113th Congress).

SEC. 304. POLICY STATEMENT ON A CARBON TAX.

It is the policy of this resolution that a carbon tax would be detrimental to American families and businesses, and is not in the best interest of the United States.

SEC. 305. POLICY STATEMENT ON THE USE OF OFFICIAL TIME BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FOR UNION ACTIVITIES.

It is the policy of this resolution that, as called for in H.R. 107, the Federal Employee Accountability Act of 2013, Federal employees shall not use official time to conduct union activities.

SEC. 306. POLICY STATEMENT ON CREATION OF A COMMITTEE TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATION AND WASTE.

It is the policy of this resolution that a new committee, styled after the post-World War II ''Byrd Committee'' shall be created to act on GAO's annual waste and duplication reports as well as Oversight and Government Reform Inspector General reports.

SEC. 307. POLICY STATEMENT ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF ABORTION.

It is the policy of this resolution that no taxpayer dollars shall go to any entity that provides abortion services.

SEC. 308. POLICY STATEMENT ON READABLE LEGISLATION.

It is the policy of this resolution that bills should be made more readable and for Members of Congress and more accessible to the public as called for in H.R. 760, the Readable Legislation Act of 2013.

SEC. 309. POLICY STATEMENT ON WORK REQUIREMENTS.

It is the policy of this resolution that the work requirements in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program should be preserved as called for in H.R. 890, 113th Congress.

SEC. 310. POLICY STATEMENT ON ENERGY PRODUCTION.

It is the policy of this resolution that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and currently unavailable areas of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) should be open for energy exploration and production. To ensure States' rights, states are given the option to withdrawal from leasing within certain areas of the OCS. Specifically, a State, through enactment of a State statute, may withdrawal from leasing from all or part of any area within 75 miles of that State's coast.

SEC. 311. POLICY STATEMENT ON REGULATION OF GREENHOUSE GASES BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

It is the policy of this resolution that the Environmental Protection Agency should be prohibited from promulgating any regulation concerning, taking action relating to, or taking into consideration the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change.

SEC. 312. POLICY STATEMENT ON REFORMING THE FEDERAL BUDGET PROCESS.

It is the policy of this resolution that the Federal budget process should be reformed to promote accountability, increase transparency, and make it easier to reduce spending.

SEC. 313. POLICY STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PUTTING AMERICANS BACK TO WORK.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Although the United States economy technically emerged from recession nearly five years ago, the subsequent recovery has felt more like a malaise than a rebound. Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth over the past four years has averaged just over 2 percent, well below the 3 percent trend rate of growth in the United States.

(2) The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) did a study in late 2012 examining why the United States economy was growing so slowly after the recession. They found, among other things, that United States economic output was growing at less than half of the typical rate exhibited during other recoveries since World War II. CBO said that about two-thirds of this ''growth gap'' was due to a pronounced sluggishness in the growth of potential GDP—particularly in potential employment levels (such as people leaving the labor force) and the growth in productivity (which is in turn related to lower capital investment).

(3) The prolonged economic sluggishness is particularly troubling given the amount of fiscal and monetary policy actions taken in recent years to cushion the depth of the downturn and to spark higher rates of growth and employment. In addition to the large stimulus package passed in early 2009, many other initiatives have been taken to boost growth, such as the new homebuyer tax credit and the ''cash for clunkers'' program. These stimulus efforts may have led to various short term ''pops'' in activity but the economy and job market has since reverted back to a sub-par trend.

(4) The unemployment rate has declined in recent years, from a peak of nearly 10 percent in 2009-2010 to 6.7 percent in the latest month. However, a significant chunk of this decline has been due to people leaving the labor force (and therefore no longer being counted as ''unemployed'') and not from a surge in employment. The slow decline in the unemployment rate in recent years has occurred alongside a steep decline in the economy's labor force participation rate. The participation rate stands at 63.2 percent, close to the lowest level since 1978. The flipside of this is that over 90 million Americans are now ''on the sidelines'' and not in the labor force, representing a 10 million increase since early 2009.

(5) Real median household income declined for the fifth consecutive year in 2012 (latest data available) and, at just over $51,000, is currently at its lowest level since 1995. Weak wage and income growth as a result of a subpar labor market not only means lower tax revenue coming in to the Treasury, it also means higher government spending on income support programs.

(6) A stronger economy is vital to lowering deficit levels and eventually balancing the budget. According to CBO, if annual real GDP growth is just 0.1 percentage point higher over the budget window, deficits would be reduced by $311 billion.

(7) This budget resolution therefore embraces pro-growth policies, such as fundamental tax reform, that will help foster a stronger economy and more job creation.

(8) Reining in government spending and lowering budget deficits has a positive long-term impact on the economy and the budget. According to CBO, a significant deficit reduction package (i.e. $4 trillion), would boost longer-term economic output by 1.7 percent. Their analysis concludes that deficit reduction creates long-term economic benefits because it increases the pool of national savings and boosts investment, thereby raising economic growth and job creation.

(9) The greater economic output that stems from a large deficit reduction package would have a sizeable impact on the Federal budget. For instance, higher output would lead to greater revenues through the increase in taxable incomes. Lower interest rates, and a reduction in the stock of debt, would lead to lower government spending on net interest expenses.

(b) POLICY ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of this resolution to promote faster economic growth and job creation. By putting the budget on a sustainable path, this resolution ends the debt-fueled uncertainty holding back job creators. Reforms to the tax code to put American businesses and workers in a better position to compete and thrive in the 21st century global economy. This resolution targets the regulatory red tape and cronyism that stack the deck in favor of special interests. All of the reforms in this resolution serve as means to the larger end of growing the economy and expanding opportunity for all Americans.

(2) JOBS ACT.—It is the policy of this resolution that to create jobs, opportunity, and economic growth, H.R. 4304, the Jumpstarting Opportunities with Bold Solutions (JOBS) Act, should be enacted. This legislation, introduced by the Republican Study Committee, would unleash North American energy production, reform labor laws, reduce the regulatory burden, and increase access to capital.

SEC. 314. POLICY STATEMENT ON TAX REFORM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) A world-class tax system should be simple, fair, and promote (rather than impede) economic growth. The United States tax code fails on all three counts-it is notoriously complex, patently unfair, and highly inefficient. The tax code's complexity distorts decisions to work, save, and invest, which leads to slower economic growth, lower wages, and less job creation.

(2) Over the past decade alone, there have been more than 4,400 changes to the tax code, more than one per day. Many of the major changes over the years have involved carving out special preferences, exclusions, or deductions for various activities or groups. These loopholes add up to more than $1 trillion per year and make the code unfair, inefficient, and highly complex.

(3) The large amount of tax preferences that pervade the code end up narrowing the tax base. A narrow tax base, in turn, requires much higher tax rates to raise a given amount of revenue.

(4) It is estimated that American taxpayers end up spending $160 billion and roughly 6

billion hours a year complying with the tax code-a waste of time and resources that could be used in more productive activities.

(5) Standard economic theory shows that high marginal tax rates dampen the incentives to work, save, and invest, which reduces economic output and job creation. Lower economic output, in turn, mutes the intended revenue gain from higher marginal tax rates.

(6) Roughly half of United States active business income and half of private sector employment are derived from business entities (such as partnerships, S corporations, and sole proprietorships) that are taxed on a ''pass-through'' basis, meaning the income flows through to the tax returns of the individual owners and is taxed at the individual rate structure rather than at the corporate rate. Small businesses, in particular, tend to choose this form for Federal tax purposes, and the top Federal rate on such small business income reaches 44.6 percent. For these reasons, sound economic policy requires lowering marginal rates on these pass-through entities.

(7) The United States corporate income tax rate (including Federal, State, and local taxes) sums to just over 39 percent, the highest rate in the industrialized world. Tax rates this high suppress wages and discourage investment and job creation, distort business activity, and put American businesses at a competitive disadvantage with foreign competitors.

(8) By deterring potential investment, the United States corporate tax restrains economic growth and job creation. The United States tax rate differential with other countries also fosters a variety of complicated multinational corporate behaviors intended to avoid the tax, which have the effect of moving the tax base offshore, destroying American jobs, and decreasing corporate revenue.

(9) The ''worldwide'' structure of United States international taxation essentially taxes earnings of United States firms twice, putting them at a significant competitive disadvantage with competitors with more competitive international tax systems.

(10) Reforming the United States tax code to a more competitive international system would boost the competitiveness of United States companies operating abroad and it would also greatly reduce tax avoidance.

(11) The tax code imposes costs on American workers through lower wages, on consumers in higher prices, and on investors in diminished returns.

(12) Revenues have averaged about 17.5 percent of the economy throughout modern American history. Revenues rise above this level under current law to 18.4 percent of the economy by the end of the 10-year budget window.

(13) Attempting to raise revenue through tax increases to meet out-of-control spending would damage the economy.

(14) This resolution also rejects the idea of instituting a carbon tax in the United States, which some have offered as a ''new'' source of revenue. Such a plan would damage the economy, cost jobs, and raise prices on American consumers.

(15) Closing tax loopholes to fund spending does not constitute fundamental tax reform.

(16) The goal of tax reform should be to curb or eliminate loopholes and use those savings to lower tax rates across the board—not to fund more wasteful Government spending. Tax reform should be revenue-neutral and should not be an excuse to raise taxes on the American people. Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

(b) POLICY ON TAX REFORM.—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should enact legislation that provides for a comprehensive reform of the United States tax code to promote economic growth, create American jobs, increase wages, and benefit American consumers, investors, and workers through revenue-neutral fundamental tax reform that provides for the following:

(1) Aims for revenue neutrality (relative to the CBO baseline revenue projection) based on a dynamic score that takes into account macroeconomic effects.

(2) Simplifies the individual rates from seven brackets to two, with a top rate of 25 percent.

(3) Simplifies the tax code by ensuring that fewer Americans will be required to itemize their deductions.

(4) Gives equal tax treatment to individual and employer health care expenditures modeled on the American Health Care Reform Act (H.R. 3121).

(5) Eliminates the current Earned Income Tax Credit that is given in a yearly lumpsum payment and replaces it with a program that would allow workers to exempt a portion of their payroll taxes every month.

(6) Repeals the death tax or inheritance tax.

(7) Reduces the rate of double taxation by lowering the top corporate rate to 25 percent and setting a maximum long-term capital gains tax rate at 15 percent.

(8) Sets a maximum dividend tax rate at 15 percent.

(9) Encourages (on net) investment and entrepreneurial activity.

(10) Moves to a competitive international system of taxation.

SEC. 315. POLICY STATEMENT ON REPLACING THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE LAW.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) The President's health care law has failed to reduce health care premiums as promised. Health care premiums were supposed to decline by $2,500. Instead, according to the 2013 Employer Health Benefits Survey, health care premiums have increased by 5 percent for individual plans and 4 percent for family since 2012. Moreover, according to a report from the Energy and Commerce Committee, premiums for individual market plans may go up as much as 50 percent because of the law.

(2) The President pledged that Americans would be able to keep their health care plan if they liked it. But the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office now estimates 2 million Americans with employment-based health coverage will lose those plans.

(3) Then-Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, said that the President's health care law would create 4 million jobs over the life of the law and almost 400,000 jobs immediately. Instead, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the law will reduce full-time equivalent employment by about 2.0 million hours in 2017 and 2.5 million hours in 2024, ''compared with what would have occurred in the absence of the ACA.''.

(4) The implementation of the law has been a failure. The main website that Americans were supposed to use in purchasing new coverage was broken for over a month. Since the President's health care law was signed into law, the Administration has announced 23 delays. The President has also failed to submit any nominees to sit on the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a panel of bureaucrats that will cut Medicare by an additional $12.1 billion over the next ten years, according to the President's own budget.

(5) The President's health care law should be repealed and replaced with reforms that make affordable and quality health care coverage available to all Americans.

(b) POLICY ON REPLACING THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE LAW.—It is the policy of this resolution that the President's health care law must not only be repealed, but also replaced by enacting H.R. 3121, the American Health Care Reform Act.

SEC. 316. POLICY STATEMENT ON MEDICARE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) More than 50 million Americans depend on Medicare for their health security.

(2) The Medicare Trustees Report has repeatedly recommended that Medicare's long-term financial challenges be addressed soon. Each year without reform, the financial condition of Medicare becomes more precarious and the threat to those in or near retirement becomes more pronounced. According to the Congressional Budget Office—

(A) the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be exhausted in 2026 and unable to pay scheduled benefits; and

(B) Medicare spending is growing faster than the economy and Medicare outlays are currently rising at a rate of 6 percent per year over the next ten years, and according to the Congressional Budget Office's 2013 Long-Term Budget Outlook, spending on Medicare is projected to reach 5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2040 and 9.4 percent of GDP by 2088.

(3) The President's health care law created a new Federal agency called the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) empowered with unilateral authority to cut Medicare spending. As a result of that law—

(A) IPAB will be tasked with keeping the Medicare per capita growth below a Medicare per capita target growth rate. Prior to 2018, the target growth rate is based on the five-year average of overall inflation and medical inflation. Beginning in 2018, the target growth rate will be the five-year average increase in the nominal GDP plus one percentage point, which the President has twice proposed to reduce to GDP plus one-half percentage point;

(B) the fifteen unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats of IPAB will make decisions that will reduce seniors access to care;

(C) the nonpartisan Office of the Medicare Chief Actuary estimates that the provider cuts already contained in the Affordable Care Act will force 15 percent of hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies to become unprofitable in 2019; and

(D) additional cuts from the IPAB board will force even more health care providers to close their doors, and the Board should be repealed.

(4) Failing to address this problem will leave millions of American seniors without adequate health security and younger generations burdened with enormous debt to pay for spending levels that cannot be sustained.

(b) POLICY ON MEDICARE REFORM.—It is the policy of this resolution to protect those in or near retirement from any disruptions to their Medicare benefits and offer future beneficiaries the same health care options available to Members of Congress.

(c) ASSUMPTIONS.—This resolution assumes reform of the Medicare program such that:

(1) Current Medicare benefits are preserved for those in or near retirement.

(2) For future generations, when they reach eligibility, Medicare is reformed to

provide a premium support payment and a selection of guaranteed health coverage options from which recipients can choose a plan that best suits their needs.

(3) Medicare will maintain traditional fee-for-service as an option.

(4) Medicare will provide additional assistance for lower-income beneficiaries and those with greater health risks.

(5) Medicare spending is put on a sustainable path and the Medicare program becomes solvent over the long-term.

SEC. 317. POLICY STATEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) More than 55 million retirees, individuals with disabilities, and survivors depend on Social Security. Since enactment, Social Security has served as a vital leg on the ''three-legged stool'' of retirement security, which includes employer provided pensions as well as personal savings.

(2) The Social Security Trustees Report has repeatedly recommended that Social Security's long-term financial challenges be addressed soon. Each year without reform, the financial condition of Social Security becomes more precarious and the threat to seniors and those receiving Social Security disability benefits becomes more pronounced:

(A) In 2016, the Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be exhausted and program revenues will be unable to pay scheduled benefits.

(B) In 2033, the combined Old-Age and Survivors and Disability Trust Funds will be exhausted, and program revenues will be unable to pay scheduled benefits.

(C) With the exhaustion of the Trust Funds in 2033, benefits will be cut nearly 25 percent across the board, devastating those currently in or near retirement and those who rely on Social Security the most.

(3) The recession and continued low economic growth have exacerbated the looming fiscal crisis facing Social Security. The most recent CBO projections find that Social Security will run cash deficits of $1.7 trillion over the next 10 years.

(4) Lower-income Americans rely on Social Security for a larger proportion of their retirement income. Therefore, reforms should take into consideration the need to protect lower-income Americans' retirement security.

(5) The Disability Insurance program provides an essential income safety net for those with disabilities and their families. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), between 1970 and 2012, the number of people receiving disability benefits (both disabled workers and their dependent family members) has increased by over 300 percent from 2.7 million to over 10.9 million. This increase is not due strictly to population growth or decreases in health. David Autor and Mark Duggan have found that the increase in individuals on disability does not reflect a decrease in self-reported health. CBO attributes program growth to changes in demographics, changes in the composition of the labor force and compensation, as well as Federal policies.

(6) If this program is not reformed, families who rely on the lifeline that disability benefits provide will face benefit cuts of up to 25 percent in 2016, devastating individuals who need assistance the most.

(7) In the past, Social Security has been reformed on a bipartisan basis, most notably by the ''Greenspan Commission'' which helped to address Social Security shortfalls for over a generation.

(8) Americans deserve action by the President, the House, and the Senate to preserve and strengthen Social Security. It is critical that bipartisan action be taken to address the looming insolvency of Social Security. In this spirit, this resolution creates a bipartisan opportunity to find solutions by requiring policymakers to ensure that Social Security remains a critical part of the safety net.

(b) POLICY ON SOCIAL SECURITY.—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should work on a bipartisan basis to make Social Security sustainably solvent. This resolution assumes these reforms will include the following:

(1) Adoption of a more accurate measure for calculating cost of living adjustments.

(2) Adoption of adjustments to the full retirement age to reflect longevity.

(c) POLICY ON DISABILITY INSURANCE.—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress and the President should enact legislation on a bipartisan basis to reform the Disability Insurance program prior to its insolvency in 2016 and should not raid the Social Security retirement system without reforms to the Disability Insurance system. This resolutions assumes that reforms to the Disability Insurance program will include—

(1) encouraging work;

(2) updates of the eligibility rules;

(3) reducing fraud and abuse; and

(4) enactment of H.R. 1502, the Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Benefits Double Dip Elimination Act, to prohibit individuals from drawing benefits from both programs at the same time.

SEC. 318. POLICY STATEMENT ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.

(a) FINDINGS ON HIGHER EDUCATION.—The House finds the following:

(1) A well-educated workforce is critical to economic, job, and wage growth.

(2) 19.5 million students are enrolled in American colleges and universities.

(3) Over the last decade, tuition and fees have been growing at an unsustainable rate. Between the 2002-2003 Academic Year and the 2012-2013 Academic Year—

(A) published tuition and fees for in-State students at public four-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 5.2 percent per year beyond the rate of general inflation;

(B) published tuition and fees for in-State students at public two-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 3.9 percent per year beyond the rate of general inflation; and

(C) published tuition and fees for in-State students at private four-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 2.4 percent per year beyond the rate of general inflation.

(4) Over that same period, Federal financial aid has increased 105 percent.

(5) This spending has failed to make college more affordable.

(6) In his 2012 State of the Union Address, President Obama noted that, ''We can't just keep subsidizing skyrocketing tuition; we'll run out of money.''.

(7) American students are chasing ever-increasing tuition with ever-increasing debt. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, student debt more than quadrupled between 2003 and 2013, and now stands at nearly $1.1 trillion. Student debt now has the second largest balance after mortgage debt.

(8) Students are carrying large debt loads and too many fail to complete college or end up defaulting on these loans due to their debt burden and a weak economy and job market.

(9) Based on estimates from the Congressional Budget Office, the Pell Grant Program will face a fiscal shortfall beginning in fiscal year 2016 and continuing in each subsequent year in the current budget window.

(10) Failing to address these problems will jeopardize access and affordability to higher education for America's young people.

(b) POLICY ON HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY.—It is the policy of this resolution to address the root drivers of tuition inflation, by—

(1) targeting Federal financial aid to those most in need;

(2) streamlining programs that provide aid to make them more effective;

(3) maintaining the maximum Pell grant award level at $5,730 in each year of the budget window; and

(4) removing regulatory barriers in higher education that act to restrict flexibility and innovative teaching, particularly as it relates to non-traditional models such as online coursework and competency-based learning.

(c) FINDINGS ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.—The House finds the following:

(1) Over ten million Americans are currently unemployed.

(2) Despite billions of dollars in spending, those looking for work are stymied by a broken workforce development system that fails to connect workers with assistance and employers with trained personnel.

(4) According to a 2011 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, in fiscal year 2009, the Federal Government spent $18 billion across 9 agencies to administer 47 Federal job training programs, almost all of which overlapped with another program in terms of offered services and targeted population.

(5) Since the release of that GAO report, the Education and Workforce Committee, which has done extensive work in this area, has identified more than 50 programs.

(3) Without changes, this flawed system will continue to fail those looking for work or to improve their skills, and jeopardize economic growth.

(d) POLICY ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.—It is the policy of this resolution to address the failings in the current workforce development system, by—

(1) streamlining and consolidating Federal job training programs as advanced by the House-passed Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act (SKILLS Act); and

(2) empowering states with the flexibility to tailor funding and programs to the specific needs of their workforce, including the development of career scholarships.

SEC. 319. POLICY STATEMENT ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE CANCELLATION OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) According to the most recent estimate from the Office of Management and Budget, Federal agencies were expected to hold $739 billion in unobligated balances at the close of fiscal year 2014.

(2) These funds represent direct and discretionary spending made available by Congress that remains available for expenditure beyond the fiscal year for which they are provided.

(3) In some cases, agencies are granted funding and it remains available for obligation indefinitely.

(4) The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 requires the Office

of Management and Budget to make funds available to agencies for obligation and prohibits the Administration from withholding or cancelling unobligated funds unless approved by an act of Congress.

(5) Greater congressional oversight is required to review and identify potential savings from unneeded balances of funds.

(b) POLICY ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE CANCELLATION OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCES.—Congressional committees shall through their oversight activities identify and achieve savings through the cancellation or rescission of unobligated balances that neither abrogate contractual obligations of the Government nor reduce or disrupt Federal commitments under programs such as Social Security, veterans' affairs, national security, and Treasury authority to finance the national debt.

(c) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Congress, with the assistance of the Government Accountability Office, the Inspectors General, and other appropriate agencies should continue to make it a high priority to review unobligated balances and identify savings for deficit reduction.

SEC. 320. POLICY STATEMENT ON RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) The budget for the House of Representatives is $188 million less than it was when Republicans became the majority in 2011.

(2) The House of Representatives has achieved significant savings by consolidating operations and renegotiating contracts.

(b) POLICY ON RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS.—It is the policy of this resolution that:

(1) The House of Representatives must be a model for the responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources and therefore must identify any savings that can be achieved through greater productivity and efficiency gains in the operation and maintenance of House services and resources like printing, conferences, utilities, telecommunications, furniture, grounds maintenance, postage, and rent. This should include a review of policies and procedures for acquisition of goods and services to eliminate any unnecessary spending. The Committee on House Administration should review the policies pertaining to the services provided to Members and committees of the House, and should identify ways to reduce any subsidies paid for the operation of the House gym, barber shop, salon, and the House dining room.

(2) No taxpayer funds may be used to purchase first class airfare or to lease corporate jets for Members of Congress.

(3) Retirement benefits for Members of Congress should not include free, taxpayer-funded health care for life.

SEC. 321. POLICY STATEMENT ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF UNNECESSARY AND WASTEFUL SPENDING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) The Government Accountability Office (''GAO'') is required by law to identify examples of waste, duplication, and overlap in Federal programs, and has so identified dozens of such examples.

(2) In testimony before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Comptroller General has stated that addressing the identified waste, duplication, and overlap in Federal programs ''could potentially save tens of billions of dollars.''

(3) In 2011, 2012, and 2013 the Government Accountability Office issued reports showing excessive duplication and redundancy in Federal programs including—

(A) 209 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education programs in 13 different Federal agencies at a cost of $3 billion annually;

(B) 200 separate Department of Justice crime prevention and victim services grant programs with an annual cost of $3.9 billion in 2010;

(C) 20 different Federal entities administer 160 housing programs and other forms of Federal assistance for housing with a total cost of $170 billion in 2010;

(D) 17 separate Homeland Security preparedness grant programs that spent $37 billion between fiscal year 2011 and 2012;

(E) 14 grant and loan programs, and 3 tax benefits to reduce diesel emissions;

(F) 94 different initiatives run by 11 different agencies to encourage ''green building'' in the private sector; and

(G) 23 agencies implemented approximately 670 renewable energy initiatives in fiscal year 2010 at a cost of nearly $15 billion.

(4) The Federal Government spends about $80 billion each year for approximately 800 information technology investments. GAO has identified broad acquisition failures, waste, and unnecessary duplication in the Government's information technology infrastructure. Experts have estimated that eliminating these problems could save 25 percent-or $20 billion-of the Government's annual information technology budget.

(5) GAO has identified strategic sourcing as a potential source of spending reductions. In 2011 GAO estimated that saving 10 percent of the total or all Federal procurement could generate over $50 billion in savings annually.

(6) Federal agencies reported an estimated $108 billion in improper payments in fiscal year 2012.

(7) Under clause 2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, each standing committee must hold at least one hearing during each 120 day period following its establishment on waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs.

(8) According to the Congressional Budget Office, by fiscal year 2015, 32 laws will expire, possibly resulting in $693 billion in unauthorized appropriations. Timely reauthorizations of these laws would ensure assessments of program justification and effectiveness.

(9) The findings resulting from congressional oversight of Federal Government programs should result in programmatic changes in both authorizing statutes and program funding levels.

(b) POLICY ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF UNNECESSARY AND WASTEFUL SPENDING.—Each authorizing committee annually shall include in its Views and Estimates letter required under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of programs within the jurisdiction of such committee whose funding should be reduced or eliminated.

SEC. 322. POLICY STATEMENT ON UNAUTHORIZED SPENDING.

It is the policy of this resolution that the committees of jurisdiction should review all unauthorized programs funded through annual appropriations to determine if the programs are operating efficiently and effectively. Committees should reauthorize those programs that in the committees' judgment should continue to receive funding.

SEC. 323. POLICY STATEMENT ON FEDERAL REGULATORY POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Excessive regulation at the Federal level has hurt job creation and dampened the economy, slowing our recovery from the economic recession.

(2) In the first two months of 2014 alone, the Administration issued 13,166 pages of regulations imposing more than $13 billion in compliance costs on job creators and adding more than 16 million hours of compliance paperwork.

(3) The Small Business Administration estimates that the total cost of regulations is as high as $1.75 trillion per year. Since 2009, the White House has generated over $494 billion in regulatory activity, with an additional $87.6 billion in regulatory costs currently pending.

(4) The Dodd-Frank financial services legislation (Public Law 111–203) resulted in more than $17 billion in compliance costs and saddled job creators with more than 58 million hours of compliance paperwork.

(5) Implementation of the Affordable Care Act to date has added 132.9 million annual hours of compliance paperwork, imposing $24.3 billion of compliance costs on the private sector and an $8 billion cost burden on the states.

(6) The highest regulatory costs come from rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); these regulations are primarily targeted at the coal industry. In September 2013, the EPA proposed a rule regulating greenhouse gas emissions from new coal-fired power plants. The proposed standards are unachievable with current commercially available technology, resulting in a de-facto ban on new coal-fired power plants. Additional regulations for existing coal plants are expected in the summer of 2014.

(7) Coal-fired power plants provide roughly forty percent of the United States electricity at a low cost. Unfairly targeting the coal industry with costly and unachievable regulations will increase energy prices, disproportionately disadvantaging energy-intensive industries like manufacturing and construction, and will make life more difficult for millions of low-income and middle class families already struggling to pay their bills.

(8) Three hundred and thirty coal units are being retired or converted as a result of EPA regulations. Combined with the de-facto prohibition on new plants, these retirements and conversions may further increase the cost of electricity.

(9) A recent study by Purdue University estimates that electricity prices in Indiana will rise 32 percent by 2023, due in part to EPA regulations.

(10) The Heritage Foundation recently found that a phase out of coal would cost 600,000 jobs by the end of 2023, resulting in an aggregate gross domestic product decrease of $2.23 trillion over the entire period and reducing the income of a family of four by $1,200 per year. Of these jobs, 330,000 will come from the manufacturing sector, with California, Texas, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, Indiana, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Georgia seeing the highest job losses.

(b) POLICY ON FEDERAL REGULATION.—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should, in consultation with the public burdened by excessive regulation, enact legislation that—

(1) seeks to promote economic growth and job creation by eliminating unnecessary red tape and streamlining and simplifying Federal regulations;

(2) pursues a cost-effective approach to regulation, without sacrificing environmental, health, safety benefits or other benefits, rejecting the premise that economic

growth and environmental protection create an either/or proposition;

(3) ensures that regulations do not disproportionately disadvantage low-income Americans through a more rigorous cost-benefit analysis, which also considers who will be most affected by regulations and whether the harm caused is outweighed by the potential harm prevented;

(4) ensures that regulations are subject to an open and transparent process, rely on sound and publicly available scientific data, and that the data relied upon for any particular regulation is provided to Congress immediately upon request;

(5) frees the many commonsense energy and water projects currently trapped in complicated bureaucratic approval processes;

(6) maintains the benefits of landmark environmental, health safety, and other statutes while scaling back this administration's heavy-handed approach to regulation, which has added $494 billion in mostly ideological regulatory activity since 2009, much of which flies in the face of these statutes' intended purposes; and

(7) seeks to promote a limited government, which will unshackle our economy and create millions of new jobs, providing our Nation with a strong and prosperous future and expanding opportunities for the generations to come.

SEC. 324. POLICY STATEMENT ON TRADE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Opening foreign markets to American exports is vital to the United States economy and beneficial to American workers and consumers. The Commerce Department estimates that every $1 billion of United States exports supports more than 5,000 jobs here at home.

(2) A modern and competitive international tax system would facilitate global commerce for United States multinational companies and would encourage foreign business investment and job creation in the United States

(3) The United States currently has an antiquated system of international taxation whereby United States multinationals operating abroad pay both the foreign-country tax and United States corporate taxes. They are essentially taxed twice. This puts them at an obvious competitive disadvantage.

(4) The ability to defer United States taxes on their foreign operations, which some erroneously refer to as a ''tax loophole,'' cushions this disadvantage to a certain extent. Eliminating or restricting this provision (and others like it) would harm United States competitiveness.

(5) This budget resolution advocates fundamental tax reform that would lower the United States corporate rate, now the highest in the industrialized world, and switch to a more competitive system of international taxation. This would make the United States a much more attractive place to invest and station business activity and would chip away at the incentives for United States companies to keep their profits overseas (because the United States corporate rate is so high).

(6) The status quo of the current tax code undermines the competitiveness of United States businesses and costs the United States economy investment and jobs.

(7) Global trade and commerce is not a zero-sum game. The idea that global expansion tends to ''hollow out'' United States operations is incorrect. Foreign-affiliate activity tends to complement, not substitute for, key parent activities in the United States such as employment, worker compensation, and capital investment. When United States headquartered multinationals invest and expand operations abroad it often leads to more jobs and economic growth at home.

(8) American businesses and workers have shown that, on a level playing field, they can excel and surpass the international competition.

(b) POLICY ON TRADE.—It is the policy of this resolution to pursue international trade, global commerce, and a modern and competitive United States international tax system in order to promote job creation in the United States.

SEC. 325. NO BUDGET, NO PAY.

It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should agree to a concurrent resolution on the budget every year pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. If by April 15, a House of Congress has not agreed to a concurrent resolution on the budget, the payroll administrator of that House should carry out this policy in the same manner as the provisions of Public Law 113-3, the No Budget, No Pay Act of 2013, and place in an escrow account all compensation otherwise required to be made for Members of that House of Congress. Withheld compensation should be released to Members of that House of Congress the earlier of the day on which that House of Congress agrees to a concurrent resolution on the budget, pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, or the last day of that Congress.

SEC. 326. POLICY STATEMENT ON REFORM OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) SNAP.—It is the policy of the resolution that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program be reformed so that:

(1) Nutrition assistance funds should be distributed to the states as a block grant with funding subject to the annual discretionary appropriations process.

(2) Funds from the grant must be used by the states to establish and maintain a work activation program for able-bodied adults without dependents.

(3) It is the goal of this proposal to move those in need off of the assistance rolls and back into the workforce and towards self-sufficiency.

(4) In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget is permitted to revise allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels, including discretionary limits, accordingly.

(b) ASSUMPTIONS.—This resolution assumes that, pending the enactment of reforms described in (a), the conversion of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program into a flexible State allotment tailored to meet each State's needs. Additionally, it assumes that more stringent work requirements and time limits apply under the program.

SEC. 327. POLICY STATEMENT ON TRANSPORTATION REFORM.

It is the policy of this resolution that State and local officials are in a much better position to understand the needs of local commuters, not bureaucrats in Washington. Federal funding for transportation should be phased down and limited to core Federal duties, including the interstate highway system, transportation infrastructure on Federal land, responding to emergencies, and research. As the level of Federal responsibility for transportation is reduced, Congress should also concurrently reduce the Federal gas tax.

TITLE IV—RESERVE FUNDS

SEC. 401. RESERVE FUND FOR THE REPEAL OF THE 2010 HEALTH CARE LAWS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that only consists of a full repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the health care-related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

SEC. 402. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF OBAMACARE.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that reforms or replaces the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 403. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATED TO THE MEDICARE PROVISIONS OF THE 2010 HEALTH CARE LAWS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that repeals all or part of the decreases in Medicare spending included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 404. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE OF THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that includes provisions amending or superseding the system for updating payments under section 1848 of the Social Security Act, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 405. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR REFORMING THE TAX CODE.

In the House, if the Committee on Ways and Means reports a bill or joint resolution that reforms the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any such bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024 when the macroeconomic effects of such reforms are taken into account.

SEC. 406. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TRADE AGREEMENTS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution reported by the Committee on Ways and

Means, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that implements a trade agreement, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 407. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR REVENUE MEASURES.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that decreases revenue, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 408. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR RURAL COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that makes changes to or provides for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–393) by the amounts provided by that legislation for those purposes, if such legislation requires sustained yield timber harvests obviating the need for funding under Public Law 106–393 in the future and would not increase the deficit or direct spending for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2019, or the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 409. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TRANSPORTATION REFORM.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure reforms the Federal transportation funding system, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 410. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REDUCE POVERTY AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITY AND UPWARD MOBILITY.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure reforms policies and programs to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility, but only if such measure would neither adversely impact job creation nor increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 411. IMPLEMENTATION OF A DEFICIT AND LONG-TERM DEBT REDUCTION AGREEMENT.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution to accommodate the enactment of a deficit and long-term debt reduction agreement if it includes permanent spending reductions and reforms to direct spending programs.

SEC. 412. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR REFORMING SNAP.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that reforms the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

SEC. 413. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE REFORM.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that reforms the Social Security Disability Insurance program under title II of the Social Security Act.

TITLE V—EARMARK MORATORIUM

SEC. 501. EARMARK MORATORIUM.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives to consider—

(1) a bill or joint resolution reported by any committee, or any amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that includes a congressional earmark, limited tax benefit, or limited tariff benefit; or

(2) a bill or joint resolution not reported by any committee, or any amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that includes a congressional earmark, limited tax benefit, or limited tariff benefit.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this resolution, the terms ''congressional earmark'', ''limited tax benefit'', and ''limited tariff benefit'' have the meaning given those terms in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(c) INAPPLICABILITY.—This resolution shall not apply to any authorization of appropriations to a Federal entity if such authorization is not specifically targeted to a State, locality, or congressional district.

SEC. 502. LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES.

The Committee on Rules of the House of Representatives may not report a rule or order that would waive the point of order set forth in section 501(a).

TITLE VI—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING

SEC. 601. DIRECT SPENDING.

(a) MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 6.8 percent.

(2) For means-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for means-tested direct spending:

(A) In 1996, a Republican Congress and a Democratic president reformed welfare by limiting the duration of benefits, giving States more control over the program, and helping recipients find work. In the five years following passage, child-poverty rates fell, welfare caseloads fell, and workers' wages increased. This resolution applies the lessons of welfare reform to both the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid.

(B) For Medicaid, this resolution recommends conversion from direct spending to a discretionary program subject to appropriation. Pending this reform, this resolution assumes the conversion of the Federal share of Medicaid spending into a flexible State allotment tailored to meet each State's needs. Such a reform would end the misguided one-size-fits-all approach that has tied the hands of State governments. Instead, each State would have the freedom and flexibility to tailor a Medicaid program that fits the needs of its unique population. Moreover, this resolution assumes the repeal of the Medicaid expansions in the President's health care law, relieving State governments of its crippling one-size-fits-all enrollment mandates.

(C) For the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, recommends conversion from direct spending to a discretionary program subject to appropriation. Pending this reform, this resolution assumes the conversion of the program into a flexible State allotment tailored to meet each State's needs. The allotment would increase based on the Department of Agriculture Thrifty Food Plan index and beneficiary growth. Such a reform would provide incentives for States to ensure dollars will go towards those who need them most. Additionally, it requires that more stringent work requirements and time limits apply under the program.

(b) NONMEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 5.7 percent.

(2) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for nonmeans-tested direct spending:

(A) For Medicare, this resolution advances policies to put seniors, not the Federal Government, in control of their health care decisions. Those in or near retirement will see no changes, while future retirees would be given a choice of private plans competing alongside the traditional fee-for-service Medicare program. Medicare would provide a premium-support payment either to pay for or offset the premium of the plan chosen by the senior, depending on the plan's cost. The Medicare premium-support payment would be adjusted so that the sick would receive higher payments if their conditions worsened; lower-income seniors would receive additional assistance to help cover out-of-pocket costs; and wealthier seniors would assume responsibility for a greater share of their premiums. Putting seniors in charge of how their health care dollars are spent will force providers to compete against each other on price and quality. This market competition will act as a real check on widespread waste and skyrocketing health care costs.

(B) In keeping with a recommendation from the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, this resolution calls for Federal employees—including Members of Congress and congressional staff—to make greater contributions toward their own retirement.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 544, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Chairman, I yield myself 1½ minutes.

I rise today on behalf of the Republican Study Committee. As so many Members of this Chamber know, the Republican Study Committee is made up of those most conservative Republicans here in the House; and while I

serve on the Budget Committee, I have great respect for our Budget chairman, PAUL RYAN, and I have a great belief in the budget that came out of that Budget Committee.

The Republican Study Committee's role is to try to do even better; and, Madam Chair, we have brought just such a budget today. We call it the Back to Basics Budget, and it is the budget that balances the fastest of any budget that we are going to be debating here on the House floor.

In just 4 years, it will bring us to balance, but I am not here about the numbers. I am here about why the numbers matter because, for every year that we are not in balance, we are not just borrowing that money from our children, we are paying interest on that money that could have gone to other priorities.

You will hear in this debate today about priorities that my friends on the other side of the aisle wish we would invest more money in that they don't believe our budget invests enough in.

That may be true, yet what our budget does do is begin to pay back the debt in ways that we can take all of that money that we are dedicating to interest today and dedicate it to American families tomorrow.

Of all of the things we disagree on in this Chamber, I think we can agree that the best use of our dollars is not in their going to pay creditors, but in their going to serve constituents, and that is what the Back to Basics Budget will do for us today.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chairman, what we have got here with this particular amendment is more than a doubling down on what was already a bad idea.

We heard, actually, from Mr. ROGERS, who is the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and a Republican Member of Congress, that the Republican version of the budget offered by Mr. RYAN was ''draconian''—draconian because of the impact it has on important investments that have historically helped make our economy grow, make us a world leader, make sure that we can keep our competitive edge in a global economy. The Republican budget coming out of the Budget Committee devastated those important investments.

Of course, they didn't close one single special interest tax loophole for the purpose of reducing the deficit, but they decided to cut deeply into investments in our kids' education, everything from early education, to K–12, to college ed. They make no secret about it.

They want to charge college students higher interest rates and, at the same time, protect special interest tax breaks. What we have here in the Republican Study Committee's amendment is simply a doubling down on what the chairman of the Republican Appropriations Committee already called draconian.

The interesting thing to me, Madam Chairman, is that I would have thought that the Republican Study Committee would have taken a different approach. I would have thought they would have taken an approach that didn't require, as part of their budget, the revenues from the Affordable Care Act, but if you look at their revenue line, it is identical to the revenue line in the House Republican budget, which is identical to the Congressional Budget Office's revenue line, which The Heritage Foundation—no left-leaning group—has said means that these budgets incorporate the tax revenues from the Affordable Care Act.

Again, here is what The Heritage Foundation said:

> Perhaps the biggest shortcoming of this budget is that it keeps the tax increases associated with ObamaCare.

It is what they have said about the House Republican budget's revenue line. This one has the same thing.

If they are going to repeal the Affordable Care Act, as they say they will, that revenue line should go down; yet no matter how you cut it, Madam Chairman, the choices remain choices that we do not believe reflect the values and priorities of this country, which are of protecting those special interest tax breaks for very powerful interests while gutting important investments in our future, investments that have been proven historically to make the United States the leading economic power in the world.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Chairman, I yield myself 15 seconds to thank my friend for his fealty for The Heritage Foundation. I share that and would remind him that the Heritage action is key voting a ''yes'' vote on the budget before us today.

If he would like to be in line with Heritage, he can vote ''yes'' with me today. I would welcome that support.

With that, Madam Chairman, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana, Chairman SCALISE, who is the chairman of the Republican Study Committee and a gentleman who has provided huge leadership for us in this Conference.

Mr. SCALISE. I want to thank my colleague from Georgia for yielding and for his leadership in bringing forth this budget. As the chairman of the Republican Study Committee's Budget and Spending Task Force, Mr. WOODALL has brought this budget called Back to Basics, and that is really what we are here to talk about right now.

Madam Chair, what are those basics we should get back to?

I think they are the basic fundamentals that our Founding Fathers laid out when they created this great Nation. It is still the greatest nation in the history of the world, but it is a nation with serious challenges.

If you look at our economy, our economy is struggling in many ways because of policies coming out of Washington, because of Washington's failure to confront those challenges.

People across this country are ready to confront those challenges. They are looking to us to finally start laying out a vision that says we are going to start living within our means, that we are going to do the things that families across this Nation do every single year, and that is finally getting back to fiscal discipline.

When my friend on the other side—I guess the person who is tasked with coming and opposing budgets that balance—uses terms like ''draconian''—Madam Chair, I will tell you what is draconian. What is draconian is to deny the opportunity to our children and grandchildren that we enjoy today, something that every single generation in the history of our country has.

One of the pure definitions of the American Dream is that every generation in our Nation's history, since George Washington led us through that Revolution, has had better opportunities than those that we enjoy today; yet most people in this country recognize, if we don't get our fiscal house in order, our children—my 7- and 4-year-olds, whom my wife drove to school this morning—won't have those same opportunities, and they all deserve the opportunities that we enjoy.

So how do we do it? How do we get back to basics?

We do it by having really good, strong, bold policy—bold policy that says we ought to live within our means.

Our budget balances by year 4. In 2018, we have a balanced Federal budget. If you compare that with President Obama's budget, he has got a budget that has over $1 trillion in new taxes.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle say: oh, you need to stick more taxes on all of these businesses.

If anybody is making a profit in America, it seems like they want to put a bull's-eye on him. If one happens to be successful and make a profit and create jobs in this country, that is somehow a bad thing.

If you take their approach in their budgets—in all of their budgets—they have over $1 trillion in new taxes. President Obama has nearly $2 trillion in new taxes, so you would think: okay, all of those new taxes must be what get you to balance.

In fact, Madam Chair, all of those new taxes just get you more despair. This President's budget never, ever

gets to balance, but he has all of those tax increases that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about.

In our budget, we don't have any new tax increases. What we have is good, smart fiscal discipline policy that says let's get our economy moving again and let's believe in the American people.

By not raising taxes and by getting our economy moving, you actually get to balance in 4 short years and start creating surpluses, so we can pay back that debt, as my friend from Georgia talked about, so that we don't have to send all of those interest payments to other countries and to other priorities. Let's set those priorities in America.

How do we do this? How do we actually get back to balance in such a short period of time?

Number one, we save Medicare from bankruptcy, just as PAUL RYAN does in the House Republican budget that came out of the Budget Committee. We share many of those same principles that get us to fiscal responsibility by saving Medicare, by not letting it go bankrupt, as our colleagues on the other side do and as the President's own budget does.

The President's own budget allows Medicare to go bankrupt. We don't think that is responsible, so we take care of those who paid into a system over their lifetimes.

We also invoke smart policy. If you start with health care, in our bill, we actually repeal the President's health care law and replace it with the American Health Care Reform Act, a bill that actually puts patients back in charge of their health care and that allows us to, again, have families be in charge of those decisions and to lower costs.

It is good, smart policy. We will talk more about it, but this is the right path to getting our economy back on track.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman speaks about the importance of fiscal discipline and fiscal responsibility, and we agree.

The question we have is: Why do they exempt from the whole practice of fiscal discipline all of these what are called tax expenditures and tax preferences that have been put into the Tax Code many times by very powerful special interests?

What does a tax preference mean? It means in many cases that, because somebody has well-heeled lobbyists, he is able to escape having to pay taxes on something that everybody else has to pay for.

□ 0930

What our Republican colleagues are saying is they don't want to take away any of those special interest preferences for the purpose of reducing the deficit. They would rather cut deeply into our kids' education. They would rather charge college students more interest on their loans. They would rather increase class sizes in K–12, which is what happens when you cut Title I and special education.

They talk about opportunity, but the opportunities that they are protecting are those for the special interests who had their lobbyists do very well for them in Washington. Hey, hands off all of that. We don't want to touch that. But we are coming after everybody else, including, by the way, seniors on Medicare who will immediately see the reopening of the doughnut hole.

So if you are a senior with high prescription drug costs, that is going to cost you $1,200 more per year, on average, immediately. And then they begin to phase in in their budget their Medicare voucher program, which will end the Medicare guarantee.

This is all about priorities. The interesting thing here is that, despite all the talk about fiscal discipline from our Republican colleagues, it is hands off imposing any fiscal discipline on powerful special interests who have succeeded in getting themselves special deals in the Tax Code.

I am very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA), chairman of the Democratic Caucus and a member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has spent a lot of time focusing on these issues.

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the ranking member on the Budget Committee for, first, all the work he has done over the years in trying to get America back on track when it comes to what it should do with its budgets.

Budgets are a testament to our values and our priorities, and I believe Mr. VAN HOLLEN has made it very clear what the values and priorities of Members of this side of the aisle are. It is about making sure that we invest the taxpayer dollars to help our economy grow, help grow jobs, and help our kids grow up and get to college.

But let me remind everyone here of something. Remember those brainless, autopilot sequester cuts which had been scheduled for last year that led to the Republican shutdown of our government? Well, the Republican budget of 2015 is sequester on steroids.

Remember last year's autopilot sequester cuts that would have kicked over 50,000 children out of Head Start classes? Well, the 2015 Republican budget kicks 170,000 kids out of Head Start classes.

This Republican budget would kill jobs, with 1.1 million Americans likely to lose their job as a result of this budget and probably 3 million more the following year are the estimates.

This budget would cut seniors' Social Security benefits by changing the way we calculate their cost-of-living increases so that they would get less each year, even though we know the cost of living for seniors keeps going up.

They would continue to reduce our investments in very important projects that include Medicare, because this Republican budget would voucherize Medicare. It would turn it into a privatized version of what we have now, without the guarantees, so that seniors will be paying more for their prescription drugs.

This Republican budget would close not one single wasteful corporate tax loophole and, instead, it actually offers billionaires a $200,000 tax cut at the same time that it is increasing taxes for the middle class by about $2,000.

It should surprise no one that, while we are not closing any tax loopholes in the Republican budget and while we are increasing the taxes for middle class Americans, this Republican budget excludes things that we should do.

Through this budget we could, right now, move to increase the economy's capacity, increase the number of jobs, and decrease our deficits by finally fixing our broken immigration system.

Our Democratic budget does that; the Republican budget doesn't. And as a result, we give up, through the Republican budget, an opportunity to reduce our deficits by close to a trillion dollars over the next couple of decades. We give up the opportunity to create close to 3.5 million jobs over the next 10 to 20 years by doing immigration reform, and we give up the chance to strengthen Social Security by doing immigration reform. The Democratic budget makes those investments.

The Democratic budget actually invests in early childhood education. The Democratic budget makes it possible for more middle class families to afford to send their kids to college.

The Democratic budget makes those investments because we do close corporate tax loopholes. We do go after those who are evading paying their fair share of taxes. And we can make those investments in early childhood education, in fixing our broken immigration system, in investing in our roads and bridges because we go after those who are evading paying their taxes. We could do that.

But, again, I remind you, this is a budget being presented on this floor from our colleagues on the other side that actually put the brainless cuts under the sequester on autopilot. And we need to defeat that.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 15 seconds to just say: Nonsense. Nonsense. This is the only budget that is being presented that includes the Tax Code Termination Act that terminates every single special interest loophole in the entire Tax Code. Both gentlemen know that. Every single special interest exemption, exception in the Tax Code is gone under this budget.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. HUELSKAMP), a fantastic member of the Republican Study Committee and a member of my class of 2010.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Chairman, over the past 3 years, I have conducted over 220 townhall meetings in my district. When we discuss Federal spending, my constituents do not want to hear about debt-to-GDP ratios or CBO scoring rules when it comes to the budget. What they want to know is why Congress has not balanced the budget yet and when we plan to do so. They want to know when Washington will stop spending money we don't have. They want to know when we will stop piling trillions of dollars of debt on the backs of our children and grandchildren.

This RSC budget would balance the budget the soonest of any of the alternatives before us, Mr. Chairman, and it would begin to pay down our debt the fastest. It is the type of results the American people demand out of Washington.

I am pleased this budget includes some innovative and responsible reforms like Medicaid block grants, food stamp block grants, and a real timetable to save and secure Medicare.

I am also pleased it would repeal ObamaCare. It would call for the passage of a real health care reform act like the American Health Care Reform Act, the JOBS Act, the REINS Act, throwing out our entire Tax Code and starting over, and it would restore work requirements for those on welfare and prohibit funding abortion providers.

In short, this RSC budget is full of the right ideas to get our Nation back on track, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for the RSC budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. BROWN), a distinguished member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and someone who is focused on investing in America.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. The documents that we are debating today are more than just the Republican budget. It is who they are.

They constantly quote scripture, yet the Bible says the poor will always be with us. Our job is to help raise the standard.

They remind me of ''The Wizard of Oz.'' The Republicans have no heart.

This is another example of reverse Robin Hood—robbing from the working people and the middle class to give huge tax cuts to the rich.

The latest House Republican goals are to dismantle Medicare by ending the guarantee and replacing it with a voucher program and block grant and cut Medicaid by $732 billion.

I was so upset last year when the SNAP program—programs like Meals on Wheels and assistance to children—was cut by $40 billion. Now they cut it by $125 billion.

They want to repeal the Affordable Care Act. But let me just mention that everybody that talks about repealing it has health care. Every single one of them have health care.

They reject the President's proposal for veterans and Job Corps while aiming to reduce the high unemployment rate among veterans. A cut of 24 percent to nondefense appropriations would mean $146 billion cut from veterans' health care.

They cut transportation and infrastructure projects by $173 billion, phasing out the Essential Air Service programs to 160 small communities.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DENHAM). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentlelady an additional 1 minute.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. It eliminates Amtrak operational funds, resulting in 36 States and more than 20 million people losing Amtrak service. The transportation budget assumes no highway or transit investment in 2015.

And while everyone knows that education is critical, they cut billions from programs like Head Start.

To whom God has given much, much is expected. I certainly think more is expected from the Republican leadership in this House.

As I said from the beginning, they remind me of ''The Wizard of Oz.'' This Republican House has no heart.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), my good friend.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Chairman, the RSC budget balances in 4 years. For most Americans, 4 years seems like a very long time. When they see budgets that balance in even 10 years, let alone 26 years, or not at all, they wonder what we are thinking.

In the real world, folks can't spend money they don't have. Families have to balance their own budgets. They expect Washington to do the same. That is why I applaud this budget. It is full of tough choices, but it demonstrates that House Republicans aren't afraid to make the difficult decisions necessary to secure America's future and preserve the American Dream.

It is called leadership. That means proposing simple answers—even when they are not easy ones.

I commend Chairman SCALISE and Mr. WOODALL for crafting a plan that will balance the budget and create a healthy economy sooner than any other budget alternative. The RSC budget proposes a path that embraces the responsibility we have to future generations to leave America better than we found her.

The unwillingness of Congress to make tough choices is putting our country on a road to ruin. Let's take the road less traveled. It may make all the difference.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 33. Concurrent resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.

S. Con. Res. 35. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105–292, as amended by Public Law 106–55, and as further amended by Public Law 107–228, and Public Law 112–75, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, reappoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom:

Katrina Lantos Swett of New Hampshire.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Chairman, at this time it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Republican Study Committee's Back to Basics Budget for 2015.

The RSC's budget solves a problem that threatens the future well-being of this country, and that is the increasing size of the Federal Government's debt. The solution provided by the budget is simple. It requires the Federal Government to balance its budget in 4 years.

Similar to the Ryan budget, the RSC proposal reduces discretionary spending, reforms Social Security, simplifies the Tax Code, and cuts wasteful spending, among other things.

□ 0945

I am particularly pleased with the RSC's inclusion of two of my bills that seek to eliminate some wasteful spending. We eliminate the Commission to Nowhere, and we eliminate the MAP

Act, and we save $10 million by doing that.

Time and again, the Denali Commission has been found to perform duplicative work that should be carried out by State and local governments. This view is supported across the board, from Citizens Against Government Waste, to the Heritage Foundation, to even President Obama.

In fact, the inspector general of the Denali Commission recently called it ''a congressional experiment that hasn't worked out'' and suggested that ''Congress put its money elsewhere.''

The waste within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Market Access Program is also disturbing. The MAP program, though intended to increase international consumption of American products, has financed lavish international travel and marketing expenses for some of our already most successful companies.

Under this program, taxpayer dollars have paid for international educational wine tastings from London to Mexico, and financed an animated series in Spain chronicling the adventures of a squirrel named Super Twiggy and his nemesis, the Colesterator.

Our national debt stands at over $17 trillion. Such debt puts our country's security, economy, and everything else at risk.

Let's pass this today.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Chairman, I would ask my friend from Maryland if he has any speakers remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. No, I do not.

Mr. WOODALL. I would ask the gentleman if he would like to give me the opportunity to close?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. The gentleman is free to lead off.

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

We have talked about tax breaks for the rich here. There are no such tax breaks in this budget. We have talked about the preservation of corporate loopholes. There are no such preservation of corporate loopholes in this budget.

I will say it again. This is the only budget that we will vote on that includes the Tax Code Termination Act, which admits to one another that the tax system we have today is broken. Republicans and Democrats alike have riddled it beyond repair with special interest loopholes, exemptions, breaks, and special carve-outs.

I, Mr. Chairman, am the cosponsor, the lead sponsor of the Fair Tax, the only proposal on Capitol Hill that abolishes every single deduction, exemption, exception in the Tax Code. So nonsense, if folks will suggest that this is a budget for special interests.

Let me tell you what this is a budget for. This is a budget for working Americans, because, Mr. Chairman—you saw it earlier when the chairman of the Republican Study Committee held up this chart. The red line represents a pathway of economic ruin contained in the President's budget.

The President talks about a balanced approach, and yet his approach never balances. The Republican Study Committee budget balances more quickly than any other budget proposal that we will discuss.

Does it have to make tough choices to do it?

Yes, it does. What is the benefit of those tough choices, Mr. Chairman?

The benefit is in interest savings alone. If you support NIH, as I do, with just the interest savings between our budget and the President's budget, we couldn't just double NIH funding, we could triple it, not just this year but every year in the budget window.

Mr. Chairman, on our current path, by 2017 we are going to be spending more on interest on the national debt than we spend on the entire Medicaid program to care for our children and our elderly.

By 2020 we will spend more on interest on the national debt under the President's proposal than we will on all national security concerns combined.

There is not a family in America, Mr. Chairman, that believes they can borrow their way into prosperity.

The interest that we pay on the debt that the President proposes that this Nation borrow steals opportunities from our children. It is immoral to advance our generation today at the expense of generations tomorrow.

Does this budget make tough choices?

It does. There is only one budget that we will be considering today, Mr. Chairman, that takes steps to protect and preserve Social Security. That is the RSC budget.

There are only two budgets that we will be considering today that take steps to ensure the solvency of Medicare for generations to come. That is the RSC budget and the Budget Committee budget.

Mr. Chairman, you cannot talk about a balanced approach that does not balance. You cannot talk about making tough decisions if you are willing to do nothing to save those programs, Medicare and Social Security, that so many of our families back home rely on.

We know those programs are headed towards destruction, which is why the RSC has made the very difficult choice to begin saving them today.

It will only get harder if we put those decisions off until tomorrow. We say, do it today.

I urge my colleagues to support the Republican Study Committee budget, as has been key voted out of organizations across this town.

I will end as I began. I appreciate the gentleman from Maryland recognizing the support of those outside organizations, and those are organizations committed to balancing this budget.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it would be great if we could all believe in magic.

The gentleman says that their budget closes all the tax loopholes. No tax loopholes. In fact, he says theirs is the only budget that terminates the Tax Code all together, gets rid of it.

That is interesting because, if you look at the revenue levels coming in under his budget, it is identical to the current Tax Code, every year, exactly as the Congressional Budget Office says, dollar for dollar.

In fact, I think he said he got rid of it in fiscal year 2017 or so. But, gee, the dollars keep rolling in just as they would be if you didn't get rid of the Tax Code.

And you know why?

Because they don't close any of the special interest tax breaks. It is the status quo in terms of the revenue coming in.

If we were, in fact, going to close some of those special interest tax breaks, so that we could reduce our deficits, then you wouldn't have those numbers that they have got in their budget resolution.

Now, look, we all agree that we need to impose fiscal discipline. The question all along has been, how do we do it?

Do we do it in a way where we share responsibility as Americans, or do we do it in a way where some people don't have to pay anything, which means everybody else has to get hit that much harder?

Under the Republican budget, and under this Republican study group budget even more, they protect the very wealthy. You are doing great. But at the expense of everybody else.

So the gentleman talks about more funds for the National Institutes of Health; they more than double the cuts to the National Institutes of Health from the earlier budget we saw, which, again, I would just remind our colleagues, it was the Republican chairman of the Appropriations Committee who said that the House Republican budget is draconian, that one. That is from Mr. ROGERS. All right?

So now this one is doubling down on draconian. And the question for us, as a country is, what are the consequences?

What does that mean in people's lives?

Well, it means real things. It means less funds for Head Start and early Head Start. It means a big cut to K–12 education.

We have a bipartisan piece of legislation saying that Congress is already

failing to meet our commitments to special ed. We asked local school jurisdictions to take on the responsibility, it was the right thing to do, to make sure every kid got a good education. That was the right thing to do.

But these guys would cut that program. So this is the wrong choice for America.

Mr. Chairman, I urge our colleagues to vote ''no,'' and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Republican Study Committee's budget proposal.

Not only does the RSC budget balance in four years, reduce spending, and repeal Obamacare, the RSC budget proposal also recommends the House enact H.R. 352, the Tax Code Termination Act. This legislation, which I introduced at the beginning of the 113th Congress, would force Congress to debate comprehensive tax reform by sunsetting our current tax code in December 2017 and forcing Congress to enact a new tax system by July of that same year. This bipartisan legislation has the support of over 100 Members of Congress who support a variety of tax proposals. I am pleased that the authors of the RSC budget have a desire to see these proposals debated and our complicated tax code addressed by setting a date certain for scrapping our tax code. I look forward to voting in support of the Republican Study Committee's budget and working with my fellow members of the Republican Study Committee to see that happen.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DENHAM). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 133, noes 291, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 175]

AYES—133

Aderholt	Cotton	Hensarling
Amash	Culberson	Holding
Bachmann	DeSantis	Hudson
Bachus	DesJarlais	Huelskamp
Barton	Duncan (SC)	Huizenga (MI)
Bentivolio	Duncan (TN)	Hultgren
Bishop (UT)	Ellmers	Hunter
Black	Farenthold	Issa
Blackburn	Fincher	Jenkins
Brady (TX)	Fleischmann	Johnson, Sam
Bridenstine	Fleming	Jordan
Broun (GA)	Flores	King (IA)
Bucshon	Franks (AZ)	Kingston
Burgess	Gardner	Labrador
Byrne	Garrett	LaMalfa
Camp	Gingrey (GA)	Lamborn
Campbell	Gohmert	Lance
Carter	Goodlatte	Lankford
Cassidy	Gosar	Latta
Chabot	Gowdy	Long
Chaffetz	Graves (GA)	Lummis
Coble	Graves (MO)	Marchant
Cole	Hall	Massie
Collins (GA)	Harper	McCaul
Conaway	Harris	McClintock
Cook	Hartzler	McHenry
McKeon	Price (GA)	Shimkus
McMorris Rodgers	Ribble	Smith (MO)
Meadows	Rice (SC)	Smith (NE)
Messer	Rigell	Smith (TX)
Mica	Roe (TN)	Stewart
Miller (FL)	Rogers (AL)	Stockman
Miller (MI)	Rohrabacher	Stutzman
Mullin	Rokita	Thornberry
Mulvaney	Rooney	Tipton
Neugebauer	Ross	Walberg
Nunnelee	Royce	Weber (TX)
Olson	Salmon	Wenstrup
Palazzo	Sanford	Westmoreland
Perry	Scalise	Williams
Petri	Schock	Wilson (SC)
Pittenger	Schweikert	Woodall
Poe (TX)	Scott, Austin	Yoder
Pompeo	Sensenbrenner	Yoho
	Sessions	

NOES—291

Amodei	Duffy	Larson (CT)
Barber	Edwards	Latham
Barletta	Ellison	Lee (CA)
Barr	Engel	Levin
Barrow (GA)	Enyart	Lipinski
Bass	Eshoo	LoBiondo
Beatty	Esty	Loebsack
Becerra	Farr	Lofgren
Benishek	Fattah	Lowenthal
Bera (CA)	Fitzpatrick	Lowey
Bilirakis	Forbes	Lucas
Bishop (GA)	Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (NY)	Foster	Lujan Grisham (NM)
Blumenauer	Foxx	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Bonamici	Frankel (FL)	Lynch
Boustany	Frelinghuysen	Maffei
Brady (PA)	Fudge	Maloney, Carolyn
Braley (IA)	Gabbard	Maloney, Sean
Brooks (AL)	Gallego	Marino
Brooks (IN)	Garamendi	Matheson
Brown (FL)	Garcia	Matsui
Brownley (CA)	Gerlach	McCarthy (CA)
Buchanan	Gibbs	McCarthy (NY)
Bustos	Gibson	McCollum
Butterfield	Granger	McDermott
Calvert	Grayson	McGovern
Cantor	Green, Al	McIntyre
Capito	Green, Gene	McKinley
Capps	Griffin (AR)	McNerney
Capuano	Griffith (VA)	Meehan
Cárdenas	Grijalva	Meeks
Carney	Grimm	Meng
Carson (IN)	Guthrie	Michaud
Cartwright	Gutiérrez	Miller, Gary
Castor (FL)	Hahn	Moore
Castro (TX)	Hanabusa	Moran
Chu	Hanna	Murphy (FL)
Cicilline	Hastings (FL)	Murphy (PA)
Clark (MA)	Hastings (WA)	Nadler
Clarke (NY)	Heck (NV)	Napolitano
Clay	Heck (WA)	Neal
Cleaver	Herrera Beutler	Negrete McLeod
Clyburn	Higgins	Noem
Coffman	Himes	Nolan
Cohen	Hinojosa	Nugent
Collins (NY)	Holt	Nunes
Connolly	Honda	O'Rourke
Conyers	Horsford	Owens
Cooper	Hoyer	Pallone
Costa	Huffman	Pascrell
Courtney	Hurt	Pastor (AZ)
Cramer	Israel	Paulsen
Crawford	Jeffries	Payne
Crenshaw	Johnson (GA)	Pearce
Crowley	Johnson (OH)	Pelosi
Cuellar	Johnson, E. B.	Peters (CA)
Cummings	Jolly	Peters (MI)
Daines	Jones	Peterson
Davis (CA)	Joyce	Pingree (ME)
Davis, Danny	Kaptur	Pitts
Davis, Rodney	Keating	Pocan
DeFazio	Kelly (IL)	Polis
DeGette	Kelly (PA)	Posey
Delaney	Kennedy	Price (NC)
DeLauro	Kildee	Quigley
DelBene	Kilmer	Rahall
Denham	Kind	Rangel
Dent	King (NY)	Reed
Deutch	Kinzinger (IL)	Reichert
Diaz-Balart	Kirkpatrick	Renacci
Dingell	Kline	Richmond
Doggett	Kuster	Roby
Doyle	Langevin	Rogers (KY)
Duckworth	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (MI)
		Ros-Lehtinen
		Roskam
		Rothfus
		Roybal-Allard
		Ruiz
		Ruppersberger
		Rush
		Ryan (OH)
		Ryan (WI)
		Sánchez, Linda T.
		Sanchez, Loretta
		Sarbanes
		Schakowsky
		Schiff
		Schneider
		Schrader
		Scott (VA)
		Scott, David
		Serrano
		Sewell (AL)
		Shea-Porter
		Sherman
		Shuster
		Simpson
		Sinema
		Sires
		Slaughter
		Smith (NJ)
		Smith (WA)
		Southerland
		Speier
		Stivers
		Swalwell (CA)
		Takano
		Terry
		Thompson (CA)
		Thompson (MS)
		Thompson (PA)
		Tiberi
		Tierney
		Titus
		Tonko
		Tsongas
		Turner
		Upton
		Valadao
		Van Hollen
		Vargas
		Veasey
		Vela
		Velázquez
		Visclosky
		Wagner
		Walden
		Walorski
		Walz
		Wasserman Schultz
		Waters
		Waxman
		Webster (FL)
		Welch
		Whitfield
		Wilson (FL)
		Wittman
		Wolf
		Womack
		Yarmuth
		Young (AK)
		Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—7

Jackson Lee	Miller, George	Schwartz
Lewis	Perlmutter	
McAllister	Runyan	

□ 1020

Messrs. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, MARINO, GARAMENDI, AMODEI, RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. SHIMKUS, MILLER of Florida, and SESSIONS changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. VAN HOLLEN

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. YODER). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 113–405.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

(a) DECLARATION.—Congress declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015 and that this resolution sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2014 and for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

SEC. 101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $2,592,835,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $2,759,265,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $2,883,321,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,000,046,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,126,171,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,264,915,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,420,419,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,654,473,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,942,611,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,138,354,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $58,994,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $83,226,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $93,898,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $109,739,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $111,486,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $116,278,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $125,768,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $198,126,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $316,093,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $330,901,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $3,077,749,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $3,233,596,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $3,405,715,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,570,429,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,772,232,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,966,966,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $4,137,989,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $4,369,350,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $4,520,421,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,668,170,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $3,070,617,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $3,323,895,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $3,387,284,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,438,886,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,754,211,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,932,822,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $4,112,683,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $4,357,729,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $4,484,953,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,617,936,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS (ON-BUDGET).—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the amounts of the deficits (on-budget) are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $-477,782,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $-494,630,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $-503,963,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $-538,840,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $-628,040,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $-667,907,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $-692,264,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $-683,256,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $-542,342,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $-479,582,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—The appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $18,350,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $19,001,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $19,716,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $20,484,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $21,322,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $22,191,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $23,076,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $23,943,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $24,691,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $25,411,000,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $13,259,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $13,792,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $14,344,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $14,932,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $15,628,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $16,390,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $17,206,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $18,060,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $18,789,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $19,498,000,000,000.

SEC. 102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

The Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2015 through 2024 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $529,658,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $567,234,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $569,522,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $570,714,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $577,616,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $570,915,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $586,874,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $573,937,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $595,151,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $586,489,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $604,440,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $595,520,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $613,753,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $604,663,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $624,066,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $619,436,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $639,335,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $627,590,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $656,669,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $637,835,000,000.
(2) International Affairs (150):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $43,703,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,562,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $46,680,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,601,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $47,736,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,731,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $48,838,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,649,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $49,917,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,590,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $51,065,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $47,349,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $51,734,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,065,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $53,172,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $49,276,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $54,361,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $50,360,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $55,602,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $51,486,000,000.
(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $29,307,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,239,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $30,476,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,895,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $31,138,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,597,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $31,836,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,307,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $32,535,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,942,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $33,272,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,670,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $34,014,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,307,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $34,782,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,057,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $35,556,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,818,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $36,360,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,603,000,000.
(4) Energy (270):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $7,178,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,631,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $6,636,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,566,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $5,012,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,862,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $4,816,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,813,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $4,902,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,156,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $4,994,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,428,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $5,111,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,677,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $5,226,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,862,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $5,445,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,069,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $5,982,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,291,000,000.
(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $35,996,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,282,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $39,468,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $41,208,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $40,842,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $41,286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $42,546,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $42,499,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $43,691,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,255,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $45,297,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,740,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $45,705,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,414,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $46,982,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,520,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $48,189,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $47,794,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $49,571,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,545,000,000.
(6) Agriculture (350):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $16,492,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $16,430,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $22,171,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,592,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $21,822,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,971,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $21,707,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,920,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $21,243,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,555,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $21,387,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,858,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $21,892,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,321,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $22,090,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,569,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $22,581,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,044,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $22,957,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,443,000,000.
(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $9,378,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-1,205,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $13,392,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-1,596,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $11,227,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-4,723,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $11,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-5,263,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $11,383,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-10,550,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $13,715,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-8,647,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $13,025,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-4,179,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $14,142,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-4,528,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $14,326,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-5,476,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $14,798,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-6,172,000,000.
(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $103,315,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $96,274,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $105,625,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $103,067,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $106,708,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $106,759,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $107,919,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $108,962,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $90,697,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $108,008,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $91,764,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $104,444,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $92,870,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $103,343,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $94,030,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $103,978,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $95,210,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $104,980,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $96,439,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $106,003,000,000.
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $18,272,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,125,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $13,387,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,701,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $13,337,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,180,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $13,462,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,041,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $13,408,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $18,556,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $13,275,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,975,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $13,498,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $15,797,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $13,532,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $13,808,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $13,775,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $13,601,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $14,068,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $13,725,000,000.
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $95,795,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $101,125,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $101,357,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $103,966,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $111,276,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $105,786,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $116,381,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $113,148,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $119,772,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $117,486,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $122,145,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $120,521,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $124,411,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $123,151,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $125,730,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $125,437,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $126,673,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $126,993,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $126,886,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $128,011,000,000.
(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $490,900,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $492,926,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $554,738,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $557,377,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $611,852,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $609,361,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $635,432,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $635,628,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $669,537,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $668,913,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $714,614,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $703,684,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $743,224,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $741,798,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $782,412,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $780,624,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $823,381,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $821,591,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $866,300,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $864,887,000,000.
(12) Medicare (570):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $524,018,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $523,974,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $562,812,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $562,696,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $573,622,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $573,531,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $597,086,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $596,995,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $659,248,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $659,148,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $706,542,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $706,444,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $755,439,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $755,340,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $836,435,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $836,328,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $858,792,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $858,682,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $887,443,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $887,326,000,000.
(13) Income Security (600):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $532,236,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $529,617,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $543,824,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $544,651,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $548,458,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $544,538,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $552,957,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $544,169,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $572,706,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $568,006,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $585,943,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $581,295,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $600,055,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $594,959,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $618,793,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $618,076,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $627,951,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $622,337,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $635,638,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $624,722,000,000.
(14) Social Security (650):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $31,442,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,517,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $34,245,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,283,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $37,133,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,133,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $40,138,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,138,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $43,383,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,383,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $46,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,747,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $50,255,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $50,255,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $53,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $53,941,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $57,800,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $57,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $58,441,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $58,441,000,000.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $154,027,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $153,028,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $166,618,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $165,877,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $164,907,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $164,503,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $162,770,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $162,558,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $174,305,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $174,022,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $179,269,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $178,534,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $183,571,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $182,736,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $195,680,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $194,736,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $192,458,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $191,491,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $189,292,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $188,262,000,000.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $54,730,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,395,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $59,345,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $56,655,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $59,120,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $62,730,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $60,693,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $65,253,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $62,467,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $63,193,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $64,404,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $63,976,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $66,557,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,016,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $69,298,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $68,688,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $71,399,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $70,765,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $73,573,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $72,916,000,000.
(17) General Government (800):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $25,355,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,745,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $25,326,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,123,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $26,243,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $26,038,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $27,389,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,109,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $28,590,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,102,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $29,462,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,975,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $30,399,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,924,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $31,357,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,888,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $32,261,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,799,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $33,236,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,760,000,000.
(18) Net Interest (900):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $366,897,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $366,897,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $423,329,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $423,329,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $500,508,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $500,508,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $589,466,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $589,466,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $665,970,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $665,970,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $731,425,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $731,425,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, $787,730,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $787,730,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $842,243,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $842,243,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $893,181,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $893,181,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $936,153,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $936,153,000,000.
(19) Allowances (920):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $2,225,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,102,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $-1,978,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $943,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $790,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,705,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $2,328,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,288,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $3,701,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,458,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $-912,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,052,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $312,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,896,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $3,654,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,977,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $9,109,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $10,868,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $15,860,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $16,770,000,000.
(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $-78,532,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-78,532,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $-83,378,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-83,378,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $-83,632,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-83,632,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $-83,956,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-83,956,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $-90,374,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-90,374,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $-91,882,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-91,882,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $-95,566,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-95,566,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $-98,215,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-98,215,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $-101,362,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-101,362,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $-107,098,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $-107,098,000,000.
(21) Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism (970):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $85,357,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $49,250,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $25,625,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $6,504,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $2,225,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $902,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $714,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $35,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $27,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $27,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $27,000,000.

TITLE II—RESERVE FUNDS

SEC. 201. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR JOB CREATION THROUGH INVESTMENTS AND INCENTIVES.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that provides for robust Federal investments in America's infrastructure, incentives for businesses, and support for communities or other measures that create jobs for Americans and boost the economy. The revisions may be made for measures that—

(1) provide for additional investments in rail, aviation, harbors (including harbor maintenance dredging), seaports, inland waterway systems, public housing, broadband, energy, water, and other infrastructure;

(2) provide for additional investments in other areas that would help businesses and other employers create new jobs; and

(3) provide additional incentives, including tax incentives, to help small businesses, nonprofits, States, and communities expand investment, train, hire, and retain private-sector workers and public service employees;

by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure does not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 202. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OPPORTUNITY, GROWTH, AND SECURITY INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that increases, by the same amounts for defense and non-defense, the 2015 limits on discretionary spending in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure does not increase the deficit for fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

(b) FUNDING OF ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES.—The increase in the discretionary caps will allow additional funding for key priorities, including—

(1) enhance early childhood and K-12 education;

(2) expand scientific research and innovation funding;

(3) provide jobs and meet infrastructure needs;

(4) expand opportunity and mobility for Americans;

(5) enhance public health, safety, and security;

(6) make the government more efficient and effective; and

(7) promote military readiness.

SEC. 203. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INCREASING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that—

(1) provides tax incentives for or otherwise encourages the production of renewable energy or increased energy efficiency;

(2) encourages investment in emerging clean energy or vehicle technologies or carbon capture and sequestration;

(3) provides additional resources for oversight and expanded enforcement activities to crack down on speculation in and manipulation of oil and gas markets, including derivatives markets;

(4) limits and provides for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;

(5) assists businesses, industries, States, communities, the environment, workers, or households as the United States moves toward reducing and offsetting the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions; or

(6) facilitates the training of workers for these industries (''clean energy jobs'');

by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 204. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that—

(1) enhances the delivery of health care to the Nation's veterans and service members, including the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental illnesses, and increasing the capacity to address health care needs unique to women veterans;

(2) makes improvements to the Post 9/11 GI Bill to ensure that veterans receive the educational benefits they need to maximize their employment opportunities;

(3) improves disability benefits or evaluations for wounded or disabled military personnel or veterans, including measures to expedite the claims process;

(4) expands eligibility to permit additional disabled military retirees to receive both disability compensation and retired pay (concurrent receipt); or

(5) eliminates the offset between Survivor Benefit Plan annuities and veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation;

by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 205. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR ADDITIONAL TAX RELIEF FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that provides additional tax relief to individuals and families, such as expanding tax relief provided by the refundable child credit, by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal

year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 206. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE EXTENSION OF EXPIRED OR EXPIRING TAX PROVISIONS.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that extends provisions of the tax code that have expired or will expire in the future, by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 207. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that makes improvements to Medicare, including making reforms to the Medicare payment system for physicians that build on delivery reforms underway, such as advancement of new care models, and—

(1) changes incentives to encourage efficiency and higher quality care in a manner consistent with the goals of fiscal sustainability;

(2) improves payment accuracy to encourage efficient use of resources and ensure that patient-centered primary care receives appropriate compensation;

(3) supports innovative programs to improve coordination of care among all providers serving a patient in all appropriate settings;

(4) holds providers accountable for their utilization patterns and quality of care; and

(5) makes no changes that reduce benefits available to seniors and individuals with disabilities in Medicare;

by the amounts provided, together with any savings from ending Overseas Contingency Operations, in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 208. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR MEDICAID AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH IMPROVEMENT.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that improves Medicaid or other children's health programs, by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024. Such improvements may include demonstrations around psychiatric care for special populations and helping states improve the provision of long-term care.

SEC. 209. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR EXTENSION OF EXPIRING HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that extends expiring Medicare, Medicaid, or other health provisions, by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 210. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that improves the contemporary health care workforce's ability to meet emerging demands, by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024. Such improvements may include an expansion of the National Health Service Corps, an extension of the enhanced Medicaid primary care reimbursement rates that bring Medicaid primary care payment rates up to Medicare levels using Federal funds, and an expansion of the enhanced reimbursement rates to mid-level providers who practice independently.

SEC. 211. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INITIATIVES THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that improves the lives of children by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024. Improvements may include:

(1) Extension and expansion of child care assistance.

(2) Changes to foster care to prevent child abuse and neglect and keep more children safely in their homes.

(3) Changes to child support enforcement to encourage increased parental support for children, particularly from non-custodial parents, including legislation that results in a greater share of collected child support reaching the child or encourages States to provide access and visitation services to improve fathers' relationships with their children. Such changes could reflect efforts to ensure that States have the necessary resources to collect all child support that is owed to families and to allow them to pass 100 percent of support on to families without financial penalty. When 100 percent of child support payments are passed to the child, rather than to administrative expenses, program integrity is improved and child support participation increases.

(4) Regular increases in funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to put the Federal Government on a 10-year path to fulfill its commitment to America's children and schools by providing 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special education.

SEC. 212. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY AND COMPLETION.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that makes college more affordable and increases college completion, including efforts to: encourage States and higher education institutions to improve educational outcomes and access for low- and moderate-income students; ensure continued full funding for Pell grants; or help borrowers lower and manage their student loan debt through refinancing and expanded repayment options, by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 213. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that helps ensure that all Americans have access to good-paying jobs by fully reauthorizing the Trade Adjustment Assistance program or funding other effective job training and employment programs by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 214. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR RURAL COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that makes changes to or provides for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) by the amounts provided by that legislation for those purposes, if such legislation requires sustained yield timber harvests obviating the need for funding under Public Law 106–393 in the future and would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 215. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR FULL FUNDING OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that provides full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 216. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that capitalizes the existing Affordable Housing Trust Fund by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2019 or fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2024.

TITLE III—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING

SEC. 301. DIRECT SPENDING.

(a) MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 6.8 percent.

(2) For means-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for means-tested direct spending: The resolution rejects cuts to the social safety net that lifts millions of people out of poverty. It assumes extension of the tax credits from the American Taxpayer Relief Act due to expire at the end of 2017. These credits include an increase in refundability of the child tax credit, relief for married earned income tax credit filers, and a larger earned income tax credit for larger families. It also assumes expansion of the earned income tax credit for childless workers, a group that has seen limited support from safety net programs.

(b) NONMEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 5.7 percent.

(2) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for nonmeans-tested direct spending: For Medicare, this budget rejects proposals to end the Medicare guarantee and shift rising health care costs onto seniors by replacing Medicare with vouchers or premium support for the purchase of private insurance. Such proposals will expose seniors and persons with disabilities on fixed incomes to unacceptable financial risks, and they will weaken the traditional Medicare program. Instead, this budget builds on the success of the Affordable Care Act, which made significant strides in health care cost containment and put into place a framework for continuous innovation. This budget supports comprehensive reforms to give physicians and other care providers incentives to provide high-quality, coordinated, efficient care, in a manner consistent with the goals of fiscal sustainability. It makes no changes that reduce benefits available to seniors and individuals with disabilities in Medicare. In other areas, the resolution assumes extension of emergency unemployment compensation, additional funding for surface transportation, a new initiative for early childhood education, and extension of the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which assists with higher education expenses.

TITLE IV—ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House, except as provided in subsection (b), any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making a general appropriation or continuing appropriation may not provide for advance appropriations.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Advance appropriations may be provided—

(1) for fiscal year 2016 for programs, projects, activities, or accounts identified in the joint explanatory statement of managers to accompany this resolution under the heading ''Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations'' in an aggregate amount not to exceed $28,852,000,000 in new budget authority, and for 2017, accounts separately identified under the same heading; and

(2) for all discretionary programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''advance appropriation'' means any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making general appropriations or any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015 that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2015.

SEC. 402. ADJUSTMENTS TO DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.

(a) PROGRAM INTEGRITY INITIATIVES UNDER THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT.—

(1) SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM INTEGRITY INITIATIVES.—In the House, prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making appropriations for fiscal year 2015 that appropriates amounts as provided under section 251(b)(2)(B) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations shall be increased by the amount of additional budget authority and outlays resulting from that budget authority for fiscal year 2015.

(2) HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL PROGRAM.—In the House, prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making appropriations for fiscal year 2015 that appropriates amounts as provided under section 251(b)(2)(C) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations shall be increased by the amount of additional budget authority and outlays resulting from that budget authority for fiscal year 2015.

(b) ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INTEGRITY INITIATIVES.—

(1) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TAX COMPLIANCE.—In the House, prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making appropriations for fiscal year 2015 that appropriates $9,445,000,000 for the Internal Revenue Service for enhanced enforcement to address the Federal tax gap (taxes owed but not paid) and provides an additional appropriation of up to $480,000,000, to the Internal Revenue Service and the amount is designated for enhanced tax enforcement to address the tax gap, the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations shall be increased by the amount of additional budget authority and outlays resulting from that budget authority for fiscal year 2015.

(2) UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY ACTIVITIES.—In the House, prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making appropriations for fiscal year 2015 that appropriates $133,000,000 for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments, reemployment services and training referrals, and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews for the Department of Labor and provides an additional appropriation of up to $25,000,000, and the amount is designated for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments, reemployment services and training referrals, and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews for the Department of Labor, the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations shall be increased by the amount of additional budget authority and outlays resulting from that budget authority for fiscal year 2015.

(c) PROCEDURE FOR ADJUSTMENTS.—In the House, prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report, the chairman of the House Committee on the Budget shall make the adjustments set forth in this subsection for the incremental new budget authority in that measure and the outlays resulting from that budget authority if that measure meets the requirements set forth in this section.

SEC. 403. COSTS OF EMERGENCY NEEDS, OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS AND DISASTER RELIEF.

(a) EMERGENCY NEEDS.—If any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report makes appropriations for discretionary amounts and such amounts are designated as necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to this subsection, then new budget authority and outlays resulting from that budget authority shall not count for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, or this resolution.

(b) OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—In the House, if any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report makes appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for overseas contingency operations and such amounts are so designated pursuant to this paragraph, then the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations may be adjusted by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose up to, but not to exceed, the total amount of budget authority the President requests for overseas contingency operations for 2015 in a detailed, account-level, submission to Congress and the new outlays resulting from that budget authority.

(c) DISASTER RELIEF.—In the House, if any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report makes appropriations for discretionary amounts and such amounts are designated for disaster relief pursuant to this subsection, then the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations, and as necessary, the aggregates in this resolution, shall be adjusted by the amount of new budget authority and outlays up to the amounts provided under section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as adjusted by subsection (d).

(d) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS.—

(1) CAP ADJUSTMENT.—In the House, if any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making appropriations for wildfire suppression operations for fiscal year 2015 that appropriates a base amount equal to 70 percent of the average cost of wildfire suppression operations over the previous 10 years and provides an additional appropriation of up to but not to exceed $1.4 billion for wildfire suppression operations and such amounts are so designated pursuant to this paragraph, then the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations may be adjusted by the additional amount of budget authority above the base amount and the outlays resulting from that additional budget authority.

(2) DEFICIT-NEUTRAL ADJUSTMENT.—The total allowable discretionary adjustment for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be reduced by an amount equivalent to the sum of allocation increases made pursuant to paragraph (1) in the previous year.

(e) PROCEDURE FOR ADJUSTMENTS.—In the House, prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report, the chairman of the House Committee on the Budget shall make the adjustments set forth in subsections (b), (c), and (d) for the incremental new budget authority in that measure and the outlays resulting from that budget authority if that measure meets the requirements set forth in this section.

SEC. 404. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISCRETIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House, notwithstanding section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, and section

4001 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on any concurrent resolution on the budget shall include in its allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to the House Committee on Appropriations amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and of the Postal Service.

(b) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of applying section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, estimates of the level of total new budget authority and total outlays provided by a measure shall include any off-budget discretionary amounts.

SEC. 405. APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.

(a) APPLICATION.—In the House, any adjustments of allocations and aggregates made pursuant to this resolution shall—

(1) apply while that measure is under consideration;

(2) take effect upon the enactment of that measure; and

(3) be published in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable.

(b) EFFECT OF CHANGED ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.—Revised allocations and aggregates resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as allocations and aggregates included in this resolution.

(c) ADJUSTMENTS.—The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may adjust the aggregates, allocations, and other levels in this resolution for legislation which has received final congressional approval in the same form by the House of Representatives and the Senate, but has yet to be presented to or signed by the President at the time of final consideration of this resolution.

SEC. 406. REINSTATEMENT OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO.

In the House, and pursuant to section 301(b)(8) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for the remainder of the 113th Congress, the following shall apply in lieu of ''CUTGO'' rules and principles:

(1)(A) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), it shall not be in order to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report if the provisions of such measure affecting direct spending and revenues have the net effect of increasing the on-budget deficit or reducing the on-budget surplus for the period comprising either—

(i) the current year, the budget year, and the four years following that budget year; or

(ii) the current year, the budget year, and the nine years following that budget year.

(B) The effect of such measure on the deficit or surplus shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the Committee on the Budget.

(C) For the purpose of this section, the terms ''budget year'', ''current year'', and ''direct spending'' have the meanings specified in section 250 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that the term ''direct spending'' shall also include provisions in appropriation Acts that make outyear modifications to substantive law as described in section 3(4) (C) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(2) If a bill, joint resolution, or amendment is considered pursuant to a special order of the House directing the Clerk to add as a new matter at the end of such measure the provisions of a separate measure as passed by the House, the provisions of such separate measure as passed by the House shall be included in the evaluation under paragraph (1) of the bill, joint resolution, or amendment.

(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the evaluation under paragraph (1) shall exclude a provision expressly designated as an emergency for purposes of pay-as-you-go principles in the case of a point of order under this clause against consideration of—

(i) a bill or joint resolution;

(ii) an amendment made in order as original text by a special order of business;

(iii) a conference report; or

(iv) an amendment between the Houses.

(B) In the case of an amendment (other than one specified in subparagraph (A)) to a bill or joint resolution, the evaluation under paragraph (1) shall give no cognizance to any designation of emergency.

(C) If a bill, a joint resolution, an amendment made in order as original text by a special order of business, a conference report, or an amendment between the Houses includes a provision expressly designated as an emergency for purposes of pay-as-you-go principles, the Chair shall put the question of consideration with respect thereto.

SEC. 407. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

The House adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of the House, and these rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with other such rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the House of Representatives to change those rules at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of the House of Representatives.

TITLE V—POLICY

SEC. 501. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON JOBS: MAKE IT IN AMERICA.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds that—

(1) the economy entered a deep recession in December 2007 that was worsened by a financial crisis in 2008-by January 2009, the private sector was shedding about 800,000 jobs per month;

(2) actions by the President, Congress, and the Federal Reserve helped stem the crisis, and job creation resumed in 2010, with the economy creating 8.9 million private jobs over the past 49 consecutive months;

(3) as part of a ''Make it in America'' agenda, United States manufacturing has been leading the Nation's economic recovery as domestic manufacturers regain their economic and competitive edge and a wave of insourcing jobs from abroad begins;

(4) despite the job gains already made, job growth needs to accelerate and continue for an extended period for the economy to fully recover from the recession; and

(5) job creation is vital to Nation building at home and to deficit reduction—CBO has noted that if the country were at full employment, the deficit would be about half its current size.

(b) POLICY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should pursue a ''Make it in America'' agenda with a priority to consider and enact legislation to help create jobs, remove incentives to out-source jobs overseas and instead support incentives that bring jobs back to the United States, and help middle class families by increasing the minimum wage.

(2) JOBS.—This resolution—

(A) provides funding to support President Obama's four-year, $302 billion surface transportation reauthorization proposal;

(B) provides $1 billion for the President's proposal to establish a Veterans Job Corps; and

(C) establishes a reserve fund that would allow for passage of additional job creation measures, including further infrastructure improvements and support for biomedical research that both creates jobs and advances scientific knowledge and health, or other spending or revenue proposals.

SEC. 502. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Supporting the President's four-year, $302 billion surface transportation reauthorization proposal will sharpen America's global competitive edge in the 21st century by allowing infrastructure expansion and modernization.

(2) Many of our roads, bridges, and transit systems are in disrepair, and fail to move as many goods and people as the economy demands. The American Society of Engineers gives the United States infrastructure an overall grade of D+.

(3) Deep cuts to our transportation funding over the next 10 years will hurt families and businesses at a time when we have major infrastructure needs and workers ready to do the job.

(4) Increasing transportation investments improves our quality of life by building new ladders of opportunity—improving our competitive edge, facilitating American exports, creating new jobs and increasing access to existing ones, and fostering economic growth, while also providing critical safety improvements and reduced commute times.

(5) The highway trust fund provides critical funding for repairing, expanding, and modernizing roads, bridges, and transit systems, and according to recent CBO projections, it is expected to become insolvent this summer. This could force a halt to construction projects, which would put 700,000 jobs at risk.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the House to provide funding in support of the President's proposed four-year, $302 billion surface transportation reauthorization that prevents the imminent insolvency of the highway trust fund and increases investment in our highway and transit programs. Such an investment sharpens our competitive edge, increases access to jobs, reduces commute times, makes our highways and transit systems safer, facilitates American exports, creates jobs, and fosters economic growth.

SEC. 503. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON TAX REFORM AND FAIRNESS FOR MIDDLE-CLASS AMERICANS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds that—

(1) According to the United States Census Bureau, American families lost ground during the 2000s as median income slipped 4.9 percent in real terms between 2000 and 2009.

(2) According to the Congressional Budget Office, between 1979 and 2007, real after-tax incomes for the top 1 percent of income earners grew 278 percent—or a stunning $973,100—per household. In contrast, real after-tax incomes of the middle 20 percent of families grew just 25 percent, and incomes of the poorest 20 percent increased by 16 percent.

(3) Past Republican tax plans have made reducing taxes for the wealthiest Americans the top priority. The result has been legislation that increased deficits while giving a disproportionate share of any tax cuts to the wealthy.

(4) Recent Republican tax plans, including this year's House Republican Budget, have emphasized reducing the top marginal rates

to 25 percent. Analysis by the non-partisan Tax Policy Center has shown that it is impossible to achieve such a reduction and be revenue-neutral without large reductions in tax deductions and credits for middle-income taxpayers that would lead to a net tax increase on those families.

(5) Analyses of proposals to reduce top rates to 25 percent within a revenue-neutral tax reform plan indicate that the plans would raise taxes on middle-class families with children by an average of at least $2,000.

(6) Such a tax increase would—

(A) make it even harder for working families to make ends meet;

(B) cost the economy millions of jobs over the coming years by reducing consumer spending, which will greatly weaken economic growth; and

(C) further widen the income gap between the wealthiest households and the middle class by making the tax code more regressive.

(7) The tax code contains numerous, wasteful tax breaks for special interests.

(8) these special tax breaks can greatly complicate the effort to administer the code and the taxpayer's ability to fully comply with its terms, while also undermining our basic sense of fairness.

(9) they can distort economic incentives for businesses and consumers and encourage businesses to ship American jobs and capital overseas for tax purposes; in many cases, the revenues lost to various tax expenditures can be put to better use for more targeted initiatives.

(b) POLICY.—

(1) This resolution would accommodate action to simplify the tax code and eliminate special interest tax breaks without increasing the tax burden on middle-class taxpayers.

SEC. 504. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds that—

(1) the minimum wage has not been increased since 2009;

(2) the real value of the minimum wage today is less than it was in 1956;

(3) increasing the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour would give a raise to about 28,000,000 workers;

(4) increasing the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour would lift about 1,000,000 Americans out of poverty;

(5) minimum wage workers bring home an average of 50 percent of their family's total income;

(6) a higher minimum wage would put more money in the pockets of individuals who are likely to spend additional income, which would help expand the economy and create jobs;

(7) in part because of this effect, recent studies have indicated that increases in the minimum wage do not adversely impact job creation as much as had been previously thought, and that modest increases in the minimum wage may actually create jobs;

(8) the higher minimum wage is important to victims of wage discrimination, who are more likely to find themselves in low-paying jobs;

(9) a higher minimum wage will reduce government spending to provide assistance to minimum wage workers; and

(10) a higher minimum wage will benefit businesses by increasing productivity, reducing absenteeism, and reducing turnover.

(b) POLICY.—This resolution assumes action by the House of Representatives to raise the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour in three annual steps, as proposed in H.R. 1010, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013.

SEC. 505. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON IMMIGRATION REFORM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Fixing the country's broken immigration system will mean a stronger economy and lower budget deficits.

(2) The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that enacting H.R. 15, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, will reduce the deficit by $900 billion over the next two decades, boost the economy by 5.4 percent, and increase productivity by 1.0 percent.

(3) The Social Security Actuary estimates that immigration reform will add up to $300 billion to the Social Security Trust Fund over the next decade and will extend Social Security solvency by up to two years.

(4) The passage of H.R. 15 recognizes that the primary tenets of its success depend on securing the sovereignty of the United States of America and establishing a coherent and just system for integrating those who seek to join American society.

(5) We have a right, and duty, to maintain and secure our borders, and to keep our country safe and prosperous. As a Nation founded, built and sustained by immigrants we also have a responsibility to harness the power of that tradition in a balanced way that secures a more prosperous future for America.

(6) We have always welcomed newcomers to the United States and will continue to do so. But in order to qualify for the honor and privilege of eventual citizenship, our laws must be followed. The world depends on America to be strong—economically, militarily and ethically. The establishment of a stable, just, and efficient immigration system only supports those goals. As a Nation, we have the right and responsibility to make our borders safe, to establish clear and just rules for seeking citizenship, to control the flow of legal immigration, and to eliminate illegal immigration, which in some cases has become a threat to our national security.

(7) All parts of H.R. 15 are premised on the right and need of the United States to achieve these goals, and to protect its borders and maintain its sovereignty.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the House that the full House vote on comprehensive immigration reform—such as H.R. 15, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act—to boost our economy, lower deficits, establish clear and just rules for citizenship, and secure our borders.

SEC. 506. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Since the expiration of emergency unemployment compensation at the end of 2013, over 2,000,000 workers and their families have lost benefits. Thousands more are losing benefits each week.

(2) The long-term unemployment rate at the time of the expiration, and still today, was nearly twice as high as it was at the expiration of any previous extended unemployment benefits program.

(3) Extending unemployment is good for the affected workers and their families, and the economy as a whole. The CBO has estimated that extending emergency unemployment compensation will create 200,000 jobs by the end of the year.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of this resolution that emergency unemployment compensation be extended for 1 year, retroactive to its expiration. The resolution assumes this would be accomplished in two steps with passage of the bipartisan Senate bill adding 5 months and future legislation completing the task. Over the full year, this will benefit 5,000,000 Americans and their families as well as their communities and the Nation as a whole.

SEC. 507. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has long been considered one of our most effective anti-poverty programs. It has generally enjoyed strong, bipartisan support from Members of Congress and Presidents of each party.

(2) The EITC rewards work. Benefits are only available to taxpayers with earned income. Encouraging workforce participation among low earners is generally thought to benefit the workers, their families, the community and the overall economy.

(3) Many of our income security programs target their benefits towards children. The EITC is no different; the credit for childless workers is significantly less generous. As a result, low-income childless workers often receive little support from our anti-poverty efforts. Expanding the EITC for childless workers would help close that gap and has been supported by anti-poverty experts with varying ideological perspectives, consistent with the Credit's bipartisan history.

(4) Expansion of the EITC can be viewed as a tax cut. There is significant room to expand the EITC for childless workers that would still leave those workers as net taxpayers, when you include both the employee- and employer-paid portion of their Medicare and Social Security payroll taxes.

(5) A tax cut for these workers is appropriate as very low-income childless workers, because of the limited tax benefits available to them, can, in some circumstances actually fall below the poverty line as a result of their tax burden.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of this resolution that the House should pass legislation to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit for childless workers. This expansion could take several forms, including larger phase-in and phase-out rates, higher thresholds for beginning the phase-out range, and extension of the credit to older and younger adults.

SEC. 508. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: WHEN WOMEN SUCCEED, AMERICA SUCCEEDS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Wage inequality still exists in this country. Women make only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men, and the pay gap for African American women and Latinas is even larger.

(2) Nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women, and the minimum wage has not kept up with inflation over the last 45 years.

(3) More than 40 million private sector workers in this country—including more than 13 million working women—are not able to take a paid sick day when they are ill. Millions more lack paid sick time to care for a sick child.

(4) Nearly one-quarter of adults in the United States (23 percent) report that they have lost a job or have been threatened with job loss for taking time off due to illness or to care for a sick child or relative.

(5) Fully 89 percent of the United States workforce does not have paid family leave through their employers, and more than 60 percent of the workforce does not have paid

personal medical leave through an employer-provided temporary disability program, which some new mothers use.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the House that Congress should make a positive difference in the lives of women, enacting measures to address economic equality and women's health and safety. To address economic fairness, Congress should enact the Paycheck Fairness Act, increase the minimum wage, support women entrepreneurs and small businesses, and support work and family balance through earned paid sick leave, and earned paid and expanded family and medical leave. To address health and safety concerns, Congress should increase funding for the prevention and treatment of women's health issues such as breast cancer and heart disease, support access to family planning, and enact measures to prevent and protect women from domestic violence.

SEC. 509. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ERADICATE POVERTY AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Access to opportunity should be the right of every American.

(2) Poverty has declined by more than one-third since 1967. More than 40,000,000 Americans are not in poverty today because of programs and tax policies that strengthen economic security and increase opportunity. Continued Federal support is essential to build on these gains.

(3) Antipoverty programs have increasingly been focused on encouraging and rewarding work for those who are able. The programs can empower their beneficiaries to rise to the middle class through job training, educational assistance, adequate nutrition, housing and health care.

(4) Social Security has played a major role in reducing poverty. Without it, the poverty rate in 2012 would have been 8.5 percentage points higher. Its positive impact on older Americans is even starker, lowering the poverty rate among this group by 40 percentage points.

(5) Unemployment insurance benefits provide critical support to millions of workers, who lost their jobs through no fault of their own, and their families. Without these benefits, 2,500,000 more people would have lived in poverty in 2012.

(6) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program alone lifts nearly 5,000,000 people out of poverty, including over 2,000,000 children. It is particularly effective in keeping children—over 1,000,000—out of deep poverty (below half the poverty line). School breakfast and lunch programs help keep children ready to learn, allowing them to reach their full potential.

(7) Medicaid improves health, access to health care and financial security. Medicaid coverage lowers infant, child, and adult mortality rates. Medicaid coverage virtually eliminates catastrophic out-of-pocket medical expenditures, providing much needed financial security and peace of mind.

(8) The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) together lift over 9,000,000 people, including 5,000,000 children, out of poverty. President Ronald Reagan proposed the major EITC expansion in the 1986 Tax Reform Act, which he referred to as ''the best antipoverty, the best pro-family, the best job creation measure to come out of Congress''. Studies indicate that children in families that receive the type of income supports EITC and CTC offer do better at school and have higher incomes as adults.

(9) Despite our progress, there is still work to be done. Nearly 50,000,000 Americans still live below the poverty line. Parental income still has a major impact on children's income after they become adults.

(10) The minimum wage has not changed since 2007 and is worth less today than it was in real terms at the beginning of 1950. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that an incremental increase in the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

(11) In addition, some areas of the country have been left behind. They face persistent high levels of poverty and joblessness. Residents of these areas often lack access to quality schools, affordable health care, and adequate job opportunities.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the House to support a goal of developing a national strategy to eliminate poverty, with the initial goal of cutting poverty in half in ten years, and to extend equitable access to economic opportunity to all Americans. The strategy must include a multi-pronged approach that would—

(1) ensure a livable wage for workers, including raising the minimum wage so that a full time worker earns enough to be above the poverty line;

(2) provide education and job training to make sure workers have the skills to succeed;

(3) provide supports for struggling families in difficult economic times and while developing skills;

(4) remove barriers and obstacles that prevent individuals from taking advantage of economic and educational opportunities; and

(5) provide supports for the most vulnerable who are not able to work: seniors, the severely disabled, and children.

As the strategy is developed and implemented, Congress must work to protect low-income and middle-class Americans from the negative impacts of budget cuts on the critical domestic programs that help millions of struggling American families. The strategy should maximize the impact of antipoverty programs across Federal, State, and local governments. Improving the effective coordination and oversight across agencies and implementing a true unity of programs under a ''whole of government'' approach to shared goals and client-based outcomes will help to streamline access, improve service delivery, and strengthen and extend the reach of every Federal dollar to fight poverty. The plan should consider additional targeting of spending toward persistent poverty areas to revitalize these areas of pervasive historical poverty, unemployment, and general distress.

SEC. 510. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM THAT PROTECTS WORKERS AND RETIREES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds that—

(1) Social Security is America's most important retirement resource, especially for seniors, because it provides an income floor to keep them, their spouses and their survivors out of poverty during retirement—benefits earned based on their past payroll contributions;

(2) in January 2013, 58,000,000 people relied on Social Security;

(3) 9 out of 10 individuals 65 and older received Social Security benefits;

(4) Social Security helps keep people out of poverty and has lowered the poverty rate among seniors by nearly 40 percentage points;

(5) Social Security benefits are modest, with an average annual benefit for retirees of about $15,000, which is the majority of total retirement income for more than half of all beneficiaries;

(6) diverting workers' payroll contributions toward private accounts undermines retirement security and the social safety net by subjecting the workers' retirement decisions and income to the whims of the stock market;

(7) diverting trust fund payroll contributions toward private accounts jeopardizes Social Security because the program will not have the resources to pay full benefits to current retirees; and

(8) privatization increases Federal debt because the Treasury will have to borrow additional funds from the public to pay full benefits to current retirees.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the House that Social Security should be strengthened for its own sake and not to achieve deficit reduction. Because privatization proposals are fiscally irresponsible and would put the retirement security of seniors at risk, any Social Security reform legislation shall reject partial or complete privatization of the program.

SEC. 511. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON PROTECTING THE MEDICARE GUARANTEE FOR SENIORS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds that—

(1) senior citizens and persons with disabilities highly value the Medicare program and rely on Medicare to guarantee their health and financial security;

(2) in 2013, 52,000,000 people relied on Medicare for coverage of hospital stays, physician visits, prescription drugs, and other necessary medical goods and services;

(3) the Medicare program has lower administrative costs than private insurance, and Medicare program costs per enrollee have grown at a slower rate than private insurance for a given level of benefits;

(4) people with Medicare already have the ability to choose a private insurance plan within Medicare through the Medicare Advantage option, yet 72 percent of Medicare beneficiaries chose the traditional fee-for-service program instead of a private plan in 2013;

(5) rising health care costs are not unique to Medicare or other Federal health programs, they are endemic to the entire health care system;

(6) converting Medicare into a voucher for the purchase of health insurance will merely force seniors and individuals with disabilities to pay much higher premiums if they want to use their voucher to purchase traditional Medicare coverage;

(7) a voucher system in which the voucher payment fails to keep pace with growth in health costs would expose seniors and persons with disabilities on fixed incomes to unacceptable financial risks;

(8) shifting more health care costs onto Medicare beneficiaries would not reduce overall health care costs, instead it would mean beneficiaries would face higher premiums, eroding coverage, or both; and

(9) versions of voucher policies that do not immediately end the traditional Medicare program will merely set it up for a death spiral as private plans siphon off healthier and less expensive beneficiaries, leaving the sickest beneficiaries in a program that will wither away.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the House that the Medicare guarantee for seniors and persons with disabilities should be preserved and strengthened, and that any legislation to end the Medicare guarantee, financially penalize people for choosing traditional Medicare, or shift rising health care costs onto seniors by replacing Medicare with vouchers or premium support for the purchase of health insurance, should be rejected.

SEC. 512. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR WORKING FAMILIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds that—

(1) making health care coverage affordable and accessible for all American families will improve families' health and economic security, which will make the economy stronger;

(2) the Affordable Care Act will expand affordable coverage to 25,000,000 people by the end of the decade, and already, millions of Americans have health insurance under this law—more than 7,000,000 individuals have signed up for private health insurance through new health insurance Marketplaces, 3,000,000 young adults have been able to stay on their parent's health insurance plan, and 3,000,000 people have new Medicaid coverage;

(3) the Affordable Care Act ensures the right to equal treatment for people who have preexisting health conditions and for women;

(4) the Affordable Care Act ensures that health insurance coverage will always include basic necessary services such as prescription drugs, mental health care, and maternity care and that insurance companies cannot impose lifetime or annual limits on these benefits;

(5) the Affordable Care Act increases transparency in health care, helping to reduce health care cost growth by requiring transparency around hospital charges, insurer cost-sharing, and kick-back payments from pharmaceutical companies to physicians;

(6) the Affordable Care Act reforms Federal health entitlements by using nearly every health cost-containment provision experts recommend, including new incentives to reward quality and coordination of care rather than simply quantity of services provided, new tools to crack down on fraud, and the elimination of excessive taxpayer subsidies to private insurance plans, and as a result will slow the projected annual growth rate of national health expenditures by 0.3 percentage points after 2016, the essence of ''bending the cost curve''; and

(7) the Affordable Care Act will reduce the Federal deficit by more than $1,000,000,000,000 over the next 20 years.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the House that the law of the land should support making affordable health care coverage available to every American family, and therefore the Affordable Care Act should not be repealed.

SEC. 513. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON MEDICAID.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds that—

(1) Medicaid is a central component of the Nation's health care safety net, providing health coverage to 60,000,000 Americans, including 1 in 3 children;

(2) Medicaid improves health outcomes, access to health services, and financial security;

(3) senior citizens and people with disabilities account for two-thirds of Medicaid program spending and consequently would be at particular risk of losing access to important health care assistance under any policy to sever the link between Medicaid funding and the actual costs of providing services to the currently eligible Medicaid population;

(4) Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term care services in the United States, providing a critical health care safety net for senior citizens and people with disabilities facing significant costs for long-term care; and

(5) at least 70 percent of people over age 65 will likely need long-term care services at some point in their lives.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the House that the important health care safety net for children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable Americans provided by Medicaid should be preserved and should not be dismantled by converting Medicaid into a block grant, per capita cap, or other financing arrangement that would limit Federal contributions and render the program incapable of responding to increased need that may result from trends in demographics or health care costs or from economic conditions.

SEC. 514. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds that—

(1) we must continue to support a strong military that is second to none and the size and the structure of our military have to be driven by a strategy;

(2) those who serve in uniform are our most important security resource and the Administration and Congress shall continue to provide the support they need to successfully carry out the missions the country gives them;

(3) a growing economy is the foundation of our security and enables the country to provide the resources for a strong military, sound homeland security agencies, and effective diplomacy and international development;

(4) the Nation's projected long-term debt could have serious consequences for our economy and security, and that more efficient military spending has to be part of an overall plan that effectively deals with this problem;

(5) the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform and the bipartisan Rivlin-Domenici Debt Reduction Task Force concluded that a serious and balanced deficit reduction plan must put national security programs on the table;

(6) former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen argued that the permissive budget environment over the last decade, a period when defense spending increased by hundreds of billions of dollars, had allowed the Pentagon to avoid prioritizing;

(7) reining in wasteful spending at the Nation's security agencies, including the Department of Defense—the last department still unable to pass an audit—such as the elimination of duplicative programs that have been identified by the Government Accountability Office needs to continue as a priority;

(8) effective implementation of weapons acquisition reforms at the Department of Defense can help control excessive cost growth in the development of new weapons systems and help ensure that weapons systems are delivered on time and in adequate quantities to equip our servicemen and servicewomen;

(9) the Department of Defense should continue to review defense plans and requirements to ensure that weapons developed to counter Cold War-era threats are not redundant and are applicable to 21st century threats, which should include, with the participation of the National Nuclear Security Administration, examination of requirements for the nuclear weapons stockpile, nuclear weapons delivery systems, and nuclear weapons and infrastructure modernization;

(10) weapons technologies should be proven to work through adequate testing before advancing them to the production phase of the acquisition process;

(11) the Pentagon's operation and maintenance budget has grown for decades between 2.5 percent and 3.0 percent above inflation each year on a per service member basis, and it is imperative that unsustainable cost growth be controlled in this area;

(12) nearly all of the increase in the Federal civilian workforce from 2001 to 2013 is due to increases at security-related agencies—Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Justice—and the increase, in part, represents a transition to ensure civil servants, as opposed to private contractors, are performing inherently governmental work and an increase to a long-depleted acquisition and auditing workforce at the Pentagon to ensure effective management of weapons systems programs, to eliminate the use of contractors to oversee other contractors, and to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse;

(13) proposals to implement an indiscriminate 10 percent across-the-board cut to the Federal civilian workforce would adversely affect security agencies, leaving them unable to manage their total workforce, which includes contractors, and their operations in a cost-effective manner; and

(14) cooperative threat reduction and other nonproliferation programs (securing ''loose nukes'' and other materials used in weapons of mass destruction), which were highlighted as high priorities by the 9/11 Commission, need to be funded at a level that is commensurate with the evolving threat.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the House that—

(1) the sequester required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 for fiscal years 2016 through 2021 should be rescinded and replaced by a deficit reduction plan that is balanced, that makes smart spending cuts, that requires everyone to pay their fair share, and that takes into account a comprehensive national security strategy that includes careful consideration of international, defense, homeland security, and law enforcement programs; and

(2) savings can be achieved from the national defense budget without compromising our security through greater emphasis on eliminating duplicative and wasteful programs, reforming the acquisition process, identifying and constraining unsustainable operating costs, and through careful analysis of our national security needs.

SEC. 515. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) The United States Government Accountability Office described climate change as, ''a complex, crosscutting issue that poses risks to many environmental and economic systems—including agriculture, infrastructure, ecosystems, and human health—and presents a significant financial risk to the Federal Government''.

(2) The United States Academy of Sciences and the British Royal Society reported, ''It is now more certain than ever, based on many lines of evidence, that humans are changing Earth's climate. The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, accompanied by sea-level rise, a strong decline in Arctic sea ice, and other climate-related changes''.

(3) The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded the effects of climate change are occurring worldwide, ''Observed impacts of climate change have already affected agriculture, human health, ecosystems on land and in the oceans, water supplies, and some people's livelihoods''.

(4) The United States National Research Council's National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee found climate change affects, ''human health, water supply, agriculture, transportation, energy, and many other aspects of society''.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the House that climate change presents a significant financial risk to the Federal Government. The scientific community has reached a consensus regarding climate change science, which provides critical information to preserve economic and environmental systems throughout the world.

SEC. 516. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON INVESTMENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Investments in early education are among the best investments we can make for children, families, and the economy.

(2) Investments in early childhood benefit the economy as a whole, generating at least $7 in return for every $1 invested by lowering the need for spending on other services—such as remedial education, grade repetition, and special education—and increasing productivity and earnings for those children as adults.

(3) Children who receive high-quality early education benefit directly in both the short term and the long term. They have better educational outcomes, stronger job earnings, and lower crime and delinquency rates.

(4) Unfortunately, only 3 out of every 10 4-year-olds are enrolled in high-quality early childhood education programs in the United States. This low level of participation ranks the United States 28th out of 38 countries in the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development for the share of 4-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education.

(5) In particular, children from low-income families are less likely to have access to high-quality, affordable preschool programs that will prepare them for kindergarten. By third grade, children from low-income families who are not reading at grade level are six times less likely to graduate from high school than students who are proficient.

(b) POLICY.—This resolution provides for enactment of a $76 billion, 10-year investment to provide access to high-quality early education for all 4-year-olds. Early education programs must meet quality benchmarks that are linked to better outcomes for children, including a rigorous curriculum tied to State-level standards, qualified teachers, small class sizes, and effective evaluation and review of programs.

SEC. 517. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON TAKING A BALANCED APPROACH TO DEFICIT REDUCTION.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Since 2010, the Congress has enacted several major measures to reduce the deficit. Most of the savings come from cuts to spending. Revenues represent less than one-quarter of total savings achieved.

(2) Allowing implementation of the remaining spending sequester will damage our national security, critical infrastructure, and other important investments.

(3) Every bipartisan commission has recommended, and the majority of Americans agree, that we should take a balanced, bipartisan approach to reducing the deficit that addresses both revenue and spending.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the House that Congress should develop a balanced plan to address the Nation's long-term fiscal imbalance. The plan should—

(1) prevent job loss and economic drag in the near term as the economy heals;

(2) increase revenues without increasing the tax burden on middle-income Americans; and

(3) decrease spending through greater efficiencies within the Government and improving incentives for service providers while maintaining the Medicare guarantee, protecting Social Security and a strong social safety net, and making strategic investments in education, science, research, and critical infrastructure necessary to compete in the global economy.

SEC. 518. POLICY STATEMENT ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF UNNECESSARY AND WASTEFUL SPENDING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) The Government Accountability Office (''GAO'') is required by law to identify examples of waste, duplication, and overlap in Federal programs, and has so identified dozens of such examples.

(2) In testimony before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Comptroller General has stated that addressing the identified waste, duplication, and overlap in Federal programs ''could potentially save tens of billions of dollars''.

(3) The Federal Government spends about $80 billion each year for information technology. GAO has identified opportunities for savings and improved efficiencies in the Government's information technology infrastructure.

(4) Federal agencies reported an estimated $108 billion in improper payments in fiscal year 2012.

(5) Under clause 2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, each standing committee must hold at least one hearing during each 120 day period following its establishment on waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs.

(6) According to the Congressional Budget Office, by fiscal year 2015, 32 laws will expire. Timely reauthorizations of these laws would ensure assessments of program justification and effectiveness.

(7) The findings resulting from congressional oversight of Federal Government programs may result in programmatic changes in both authorizing statutes and program funding levels.

(b) POLICY STATEMENT ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF UNNECESSARY AND WASTEFUL SPENDING.—Each authorizing committee annually shall include in its Views and Estimates letter required under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of programs within the jurisdiction of such committee whose funding should be changed.

SEC. 519. POLICY OF THE HOUSE ON THE USE OF TAXPAYER FUNDS.

It is the policy of this resolution that the House should lead by example and identify any savings that can be achieved through greater productivity and efficiency gains in the operation and maintenance of House services and resources like printing, conferences, utilities, telecommunications, furniture, grounds maintenance, postage, and rent. This should include a review of policies and procedures for acquisition of goods and services to eliminate any unnecessary spending. The Committee on House Administration shall review the policies pertaining to the services provided to Members of Congress and House Committees, and shall identify ways to reduce any subsidies paid for the operation of the House gym, Barbershop, Salon, and the House dining room. Further, it is the policy of this resolution that no taxpayer funds may be used to purchase first class airfare or to lease corporate jets for Members of Congress.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 544, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment reflects the priorities and values of the country. This amendment focuses on growing jobs now, making sure that we have a strong economy and making sure we significantly reduce our deficit and debt as a share of our economy over the longer term and does it in a balanced way. It does it by, for example, closing some of the special interest tax breaks that actually perversely encourage American corporations to ship American jobs overseas. We believe we should be in the business of shipping American products overseas, and this budget does invest in jobs right here at home.

Unlike the House Republican budget, we don't allow the transportation trust fund to go insolvent later this summer. Unlike the House Republic budget, we do not make deep cuts in our kids' education. We think it is important to build that ladder of opportunity. Unlike the Republican budget, we don't reopen the prescription drug doughnut hole and require seniors to pay more if they have high prescription drug costs, and we don't shred the social safety net.

Mr. Chairman, I want to also bring to the attention of the body something else that is in here. We advance fund, 100 percent, the Veterans Administration, because what we saw during the unnecessary and unproductive government shutdown last fall was that the closure began to put at risk the benefits that were being paid to our veterans. Now, we already provide for the advance funding of those health care benefits, but what we don't fund in advance are the people who have to administer them to make sure that they are delivered to our veterans on time.

So we are very pleased to have a letter here from the DAV and other veterans' groups that strongly support this provision in our budget. It is something that they have been requesting. I just want to read one of the paragraphs:

> We would like to commend you for presenting an alternate budget proposal that contains a provision for advance appropriations to all VA discretionary programs and services, a critically needed reform that is universally supported by veterans' organizations and is DAV's number one priority.

So whether it is veterans, whether it is our kids' education, or whether it is making our commitment to our seniors, we choose to make sure that we fund the priorities of the country and we don't keep off-limits tax preferences for the powerful and the privileged.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. TERRY). The gentleman is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Chairman RYAN.

As a businessowner of 42 years, I know what it means to meet the bottom line and live within my means, both in my business and in my family. Unfortunately, America hasn't lived within its means for years, and we are nearing the tipping point. But President Obama and the Democrats in Congress want to push us nearer to the edge rather than rein us back in by spending money we just don't have and growing government with massive, government-run programs like ObamaCare.

The government already takes enough money from the hands of hard-working Americans—and that is not the problem. The problem is spending. Mr. VAN HOLLEN's plan does nothing to address the real problem. It makes it worse. We need a budget that shrinks the size of government, reins in out-of-control spending, and prevents tax dollars from being subject to waste, fraud, and abuse.

The Van Hollen plan raises taxes by $1.8 trillion, and when compared to the Republican budget authored by Chairman RYAN, it spends nearly $6 trillion more, adds more than $4 trillion to the national debt, and it never, never balances. The budget is a disaster that doesn't reflect the direction this Nation needs to go, nor does it reflect what the American people want or need.

We need a responsible plan. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this substitute.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman is right that we do close some special interest tax breaks, but we also have about $400 billion in revenue from pro-growth immigration reform which is in this budget, which at least some of our colleagues on the Republican side recognize as a good thing.

In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has told us that one thing we could do right now to get the economy moving faster would be to pass comprehensive, bipartisan immigration reform. In fact, they say it will help reduce the deficit by close to $1 trillion over the next 20 years and generate some economic activity. So $400 billion in that revenue is from more economic activity, the kind of pro-growth activity we thought our Republican colleagues liked.

I am now very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from California (Ms. LEE), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee, who has been focused on trying to make sure everybody in America gets a fair shake.

□ 1030

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the ranking member for yielding and for your tireless leadership of our committee. I rise in very strong support of the Democratic alternative to the disastrous Republican budget. Our Democratic alternative closes tax loopholes and makes smart investments in policies and programs that create jobs, cuts poverty and grows the economy for all.

The Democratic alternative raises the minimum wage to $10.10 which lifts nearly 1 million Americans out of poverty. It also expands the earned income tax credit, and for the millions of Americans still struggling to find a job, it extends the lifeline of unemployment compensation which House Republicans have refused to consider. Nearly 3 million people are living on the edge because Republicans refuse to extend emergency unemployment compensation.

Our alternative protects Medicare, eliminates the sequester, and includes, as our ranking member said, comprehensive immigration reform which lowers our deficit by $900 billion.

Finally, I appreciate some of my Republican colleagues have shown an interest in cutting poverty in our country. However, we have starkly different opinions of how we achieve that goal.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlelady.

Ms. LEE of California. I thank the ranking member.

As I was saying, we must attack poverty, not the poor, as evidenced through the draconian cuts to the safety net in the Ryan budget. Gutting SNAP is not a path out of poverty.

The American people deserve a fighting chance to enter the middle class. They deserve better than the Ryan budget. Let me tell you, the better budget for our country is the Democratic alternative, which provides pathways out of poverty, creates jobs, protects the safety net, and grows the economy for all.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY).

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I think it is noteworthy that once again—once again—and this is the fourth budget cycle that I have been through, the fourth Democratic budget offered here, that never balances. It never balances. How do you ever, ever pay back money that you have already borrowed if you never have a surplus and never get to balance? I have said it before and I will say it again: if you borrow money from me and intend to pay it back, that is debt. If you borrow money from me and never intend to pay it back, that is theft. That is what the Democrats are offering here today, Mr. Chairman. They are encouraging us to borrow more and borrow more and borrow more and never lay out any plan whatsoever for paying that money back to the children and grandchildren from whom we are borrowing.

The only plan that will be offered later today that does that is the Republican budget. I strongly encourage a ''no'' vote on the Democratic plan, a ''no'' vote on continued generational theft, and a ''yes'' vote on the Republican plan.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I find this newfound ideology of having to hit a particular target at a particular time interesting since 3 years ago the Republican budget balanced maybe around the year 2040. And this year, it doesn't balance if you also claim to be getting rid of the Affordable Care Act, because you have $2 trillion in revenue in savings in this Republican budget from the Affordable Care Act, the same Affordable Care Act you say you are getting rid of. You just can't have both things true at the same time.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT), someone who knows a little bit about logic, a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Chairman, a budget is a statement of a society's moral principles. The Democratic budget is an investment plan that creates a job for a marine who comes back from Afghanistan. It guarantees health security for a single mom and her asthmatic daughter. It expands the opportunity for a bright-eyed son of immigrant parents to go to college.

On the other hand, the Ryan manifesto doesn't create a job for that marine. The Ryan budget fires 3 million Americans over the next 2 years, and it protects tax breaks for companies shipping those jobs overseas. The Ryan budget repeals the Affordable Care Act, forcing that single mother and baby daughter back into the intolerable days when families could not afford health care.

In summary, the Republican budget asks not what you can do for your country, but proclaims your country refuses to do a thing for you.

The Democratic budget invests in our greatest resource, the American people, the key to our Nation's continued greatness in the years to come. Vote ''yes'' on the Democratic alternative.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE), the vice chairman of the House Budget Committee.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the chairman of the committee for the great work he has done in bringing forward a positive, solutions-oriented budget.

What we are hearing here is the same song, different verse. You would think

that they would get tired of singing this song because it is so out of key: spends more, taxes more, borrows more, adds $4.3 trillion to the debt and never, ever comes to balance. Ever.

The American people watching this and reading their newspapers about what the plan is in Washington, what the budget is in Washington, they recognize that the Democrats' plan is never, ever to balance; not something they can do in their homes. People have to balance their budgets. Not something they can do in their businesses; people have to balance budgets. So we hope that at some point in the future our friends on the other side of the aisle recognize that fiscal responsibility has something to do with the American dream.

When we don't balance as a Nation, when our Federal budget doesn't balance, when we continue to add $4.3 trillion more to the debt than the Republican budget, what that means is we are robbing from future generations. We are telling them you are going to have to pay this; we are not responsible enough to pay it. You get to pay it. How does that sound to the young person out there who, by the way, is graduating from college and can't find a job in their sphere of interest because of this faltering economy.

So what is the alternative? That is the good news, Mr. Chairman. There are positive solutions that we are offering. That is the Republican budget we are going to have a vote on just this morning, a positive budget that actually balances the budget over a period of 10 years. And it not only balances the budget, it gets us on a path to pay off the entire debt of the United States.

Think about the wonderful dreams that can be realized by young people and others across this great land when we don't have any debt. Think of what happens when you finally pay off that car. What a great relief that is. When you are finally able to pay off your home, when you are finally able to pay off those debts, you remember, you wake the next morning and you feel freer and more excited. There is a greater opportunity to realize your dreams.

Our budget recognizes that health care is indeed important, and that Medicare and Medicaid, not according to me or the Republican side but according to the actuaries in those programs, is going broke. Bankrupt. What does that mean? That means that seniors and individuals in the Medicaid program will no longer be able to receive the benefits, the services, the health care that we have promised them as a country. That is what that means. That is what this program does on the other side of the aisle. That is why in our budget we save and strengthen and secure Medicare and Medicaid. We do so by making certain that patients are in charge of health care, not the Federal Government. The Republican budget is the premier budget that is being offered today. I urge my colleagues to vote down the Democrat budget and vote for the Republican budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, look, our Republican colleagues are going to have to choose and tell the American people, either they claim to have a budget that balances in 10 years or they are going to repeal the Affordable Care Act. But right now because they get rid of the entire Affordable Care Act, including the revenues and savings, they don't come close to balancing. I keep hearing balance, and the reality is that it has all that revenue from the Affordable Care Act.

The one thing we know is that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says the Republican budget will slow down the economy in the next couple years. Ours won't, in part because we make investments in our infrastructure.

At this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), who is focused on making sure that this country has the modern infrastructure it needs, the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, if this budget balances, it balances in an alternate reality, perhaps on Planet Reagan. But it does take a very dyspeptic view of investments because they prioritize tax cuts for billionaires over investments. They purport or pretend or actually will cut out all Federal investment in roads, bridges, highways, and transit. That is a $52 billion cut. That is a couple of million jobs, and a lot more crumbling bridges.

We have something called the Land Water Conservation Fund. It is funded by taxes collected from offshore oil drilling. It is suppose to buy conservation lands. They will not allow a single acre of land to be purchased by the Federal Government, but they will still collect the tax from the oil industry.

And what about the looming crisis in wildfires in the West? Well, they are closing their eyes and are pretending we are not going to have drastic wildfires across the West, and they put zero budget in there in anticipation of drastic wildfires.

This is the most unbelievably unrealistic, and I would have to go almost to the word, and I can't attribute it to people's motivations, but hypocritical budget I have ever seen.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, I think this is a fascinating debate that is taking place today, laying out truly the two versions and visions for America. My friends on the other side of the aisle have no interest in putting America on a pathway to sustainability. They advocate for $2 trillion of more taxes, but more taxes and more spending in their proposal never leads us to a balanced budget. They lead us to a debt crisis.

It is one thing to come into this House, into this Chamber, and tell the American people, ''I want to raise taxes; and with those tax increases which are going to kill jobs, at one point I will balance the budget.'' But they don't even do that. They tax and they spend, and spend and they tax, and they never balance.

Mr. Chairman, I know this is Mr. RYAN's last budget that he has introduced. I have somewhat of a disagreement on this, and there is some good news and bad news in what the Democrats propose. The good news is that they actually pay for all of their spending. The bad news is the money they pay it with is still in the pockets of our hardworking middle class families. It is going to be an attack on middle class families if we are going to pay for an irresponsible budget and an irresponsible spending path. And in the end, they will have a lower standard of living. I think that is unacceptable. I think we should reject this budget and actually be responsible to the American people, sustainable for the American people, and truly get the job done for the next generation.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 8 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Maryland has 6¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, the Republican budget flies in the face of the reality of their own budget. It does nothing to deal with the very real, looming crisis of Social Security. They are afraid to inflict their Medicare solution on the seniors that vote today; instead, it will bite long after the people arguing for it will have moved on.

It repeals the Affordable Care Act, but keeps the taxes and fees they railed against. But there is nothing sadder than yesterday's Ryan soliloquy on how America cannot afford to invest in its future.

Well, we don't think having billionaire hedge fund managers pay the same tax rate as hardworking Americans would be a blow to prosperity. Our budget invests in America's future—in infrastructure, education, innovation—while the Republicans would sentence this rich, great country to perpetual decline. Mercifully, this won't happen. Their budget will not become law.

Someday, America will invest in our future again, close tax loopholes, and work together to solve our problems. Our budget shows how.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself 1 minute, Mr. Chairman.

We have had a good three days of debate here. I plan on saying more in a

few moments, but I find it really interesting, I don't see much of a defense of the budget that the gentleman is offering, and more of the continually what I would call discredited attacks against ours. Our budget increases spending on average by 3.5 percent over the next 10 years instead of 5.2 percent.

□ 1045

We are proposing to spend $43 trillion over the next 10 years instead of the $48 trillion. This is draconian, awful, evil, terrible, hurting people.

We have seen this movie so many times over and over again. All the other side is offering is just keep doing more of the same; the same economics that we have had for the same 5 years, just keep doing more of that.

If taxing, borrowing, and spending was working, we would know by now. It is not.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 additional seconds.

That is why we need a different direction. That is why we owe the country an alternative; one that actually grows the economy, one that balances the budget and pays off the debt, one that secures retirement not with empty promises but real reforms, one that goes after waste and cronyism, one that respects people and does not offer more and more and more and more control in Washington.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, what we know is old and stale and doesn't work is trickle down economics. The idea you just give the folks at the very top a little bit bigger tax break and somehow it is going to benefit everybody else didn't work and made the deficit go up.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), a member of the Finance Committee.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman.

We do live in a great country. Thank God people before this Congress, before Mr. RYAN's budget, understood that investing in our Nation's infrastructure was critical to achieving that greatness.

The budget being offered by the Democrats invests in America, we invest in infrastructure. The Ryan budget does not do that. In fact, we go back.

Our country has never been made great. We have never built railroads, never built great dams, never built great things to make this country the wonderful place that it is based on cutting and slashing and redistributing money up toward the wealthiest.

Vote against the Ryan budget. Vote for the Democratic alternative.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman I am now pleased to yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), a terrific new member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

I think we can agree at least on the rhetoric that the best thing we can do to balance our budget in the long-term is to grow the economy, but it is pretty clear we have a different vision as to how that will actually happen.

We believe that a Tax Code that is fair, that equally distributes the obligation to all Americans, is one of the ways we get there. We don't believe that simply cutting taxes for the wealthiest Americans and passing the obligation on to working people is the way to do it.

We believe that we grow the economy by investing in infrastructure so that we can grow jobs and deliver products across the country and across the planet. We don't think we get there by cutting infrastructure and continuing to challenge our businesses.

We believe we grow the economy by investing in the skills of our workforce so that they can become more productive, not by cutting those necessary programs.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 3¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

It has been a good debate on the floor of the House over the last couple of days.

The question boils down to, what are our country's priorities, what are our country's values? We believe we should be focused right now on growing opportunity and growing jobs. That is what our budget does.

The Congressional Budget Office tells us that the House Republican budget will actually slow down job growth and slow down economic activity over the next couple of years.

We invest in our infrastructure to keep America going. Their budget actually has the transportation trust fund go insolvent later this year.

We continue to build ladders of opportunity so more people can prosper in this country. The Republican budget protects tax breaks for folks at the very, very top; in fact, provides millionaires with a one-third cut in their tax rate—they do that—but they cut our investment in early education, in K through 12. We actually increase, we increase our early investment education. We think our kids' future is the most important thing for the future growth of this country.

We protect our commitments to seniors. We don't reopen the prescription drug doughnut hole, we do not end the Medicare guarantee, and yes, we significantly bring down the deficits and stabilize the debt-to-GDP ratio in the out years. We don't do it by playing games. We don't say we are going to get rid of the Affordable Care Act and then rely on all the revenue and all the savings from the Affordable Care Act to pretend to hit balance in the out years.

As I said earlier, we make sure we learn from our mistakes. In the 16-day shutdown, which was totally unproductive and totally unnecessary and all part of an effort to get rid of the entire Affordable Care Act, a lot of Americans got hurt, including our veterans who are on the edge. So we do in this budget what every veteran organization asked this Congress to do: we made sure we advance-fund those appropriations so that next time, God forbid, someone in this House thinks it is a good idea to shut down the government, at least those who served our country are not put at risk in terms of getting the medical and other support they need.

So yes, we invest in our veterans, we invest in our kids' future, we maintain our commitments to seniors, and we do that by asking the most powerful and the most privileged special interests to contribute a little bit more as we grow our economy through commonsense bipartisan immigration reform.

If you want an America that is going to grow and prosper as one country, where we respect our individual freedoms and liberty and entrepreneurship but also recognize that there are some things that history has taught us we do better by working together, which is what has made us a world economic power, then support the Democratic budget. If you want to continue to support and protect the special interests at the very top on some trickle down theory, that that will help everybody else, then vote for the Republican budget, because that is what they do at the expense of the rest of the country and at the expense of economic growth and prosperity for every American.

Vote ''yes'' for jobs, opportunity, and security. Vote for the Democratic budget.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First off, let me start off by saying to my friend from Maryland: I am glad we are having this debate, and this is the last time the two of us are doing this, and it has been a pleasure.

I also want to thank the staff. All of our staffs have put so much hard work into this. I want to thank our staff, led

by our great staff director, Austin Smythe, for all that he has done. I want to thank the people over at the CBO who work really long hours producing all of these estimates so that we can write these budgets.

Mr. Chairman, I submit for the RECORD these names to show our thanks.

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE MAJORITY STAFF

Austin Smythe
Andy Morton
Tim Flynn
Conor Sweeney
Vanessa Day
William Allison
Brian Bolduc
Dennis Teti
Paul Restuccia
Nicole Foltz
Jon Romito
Mary Popadiuk
Jon Burks
Jim Herz
Matt Hoffmann
Ted McCann
Stephanie Parks
Justin Bogie
Shane Skelton
Gene Emmans
Kara McKee
Jenna Spealman
Donald Schneider
Alex Stoddard
Jose Guillen
Richard ''Dick'' Magee
Eric Davis
Interns: Boyd Garriott, Gabriel Krimm, and Alyssa Wootton

PERSONAL STAFF (REPRESENTATIVE PAUL RYAN, WISCONSIN, 1ST DISTRICT)

Cameron Clark
Chad Herbert
Casey Higgins
Susie Liston
Joyce Meyer
Teresa Mora
Sarah Peer
Lauren Schroeder
Kevin Seifert
Andy Speth
Allison Steil
Tricia Stoneking
Robert Swift
Danyell Tremmel
Megan Wagner
Tory Wickiser
Interns: Harrison Balistreri, Sarah Holtz, Gretchen Wade, and Brittney Weiland

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, the differences between our budgets and our approaches could not be more clear. Let me take them one by one.

We have had a number of substitutes on the floor. There is one consistent theme from the substitutes offered by our friends on the other side of the aisle. While we are offering a budget that balances the budget and pays off the debt, they are offering a budget that never, ever balances.

They are starting with a $1.8 trillion tax increase. That is on top of the $1.7 trillion tax increase that has already occurred. They go as high as offering in the Progressive Caucus budget a $6.6 trillion tax increase.

They are offering not only a spending on autopilot going out of control today, they want to raise it higher, $791 billion in this budget to as much as $3.3 trillion in more spending. They are offering a budget to add trillions to the debt.

Now, when they say they want to raise taxes, and that is what their proposal is, again, they like to say it is just on the rich: Anybody listening, don't worry, it is not on you, it is on just these few rich people.

Here is the problem. They have a funny way of defining the rich. They have a funny way of defining it as small business. Most of our jobs come from small businesses. Those are the people who are going to get hit with this tax increase. That is where our jobs come from.

Second, we have seen this movie before, and we know what it looks like. They have already raised taxes $1.7 trillion. Look at the taxes on ObamaCare. They were supposed to be taxes on the rich. It taxes everybody. It doesn't matter how much you make. You are going to get hit with a tax: a mandate tax, a sell-your-house tax, taxes, taxes, taxes.

Are they raising all these taxes so they can pay off the debt? No—to fuel more spending.

Here is what we are proposing. Here is what the gentleman doesn't want to say. We are saying have revenue-neutral tax reform, meaning take the amount of revenues we bring into the government today, keep that same revenue, but clean up this awful Tax Code. Plug the loopholes, cancel loopholes so that we can lower tax rates for families and businesses across the board to create more jobs, more economic growth. We have already gotten the studies that tell us doing this helps a lot.

We are taxing American businesses at much higher tax rates than our foreign competitors are taxing theirs, and they are winning and we are losing. So we are saying, fundamental comprehensive tax reform, stop picking winners and losers in Washington, lower tax rates.

Second, this House Democrat budget increases spending by $740 billion above what would happen if we did nothing. That is $5.9 trillion more than our budget. They used to call this stimulus. I remember just a few short years ago all these ideas were called stimulating and stimulus. Remember, Mr. Chairman, we have done this. And guess what? Stimulus didn't work.

So now they call it investment. If you disinvest, that means you are not spending enough. An investment, just remember every time you hear the word investment, it means: tax, borrow, spend in Washington. Take money from hardworking taxpayers, borrow from the next generation, and spend more money in Washington. That means take money from businesses, take money from small businesses, take money from people creating jobs, borrow more money from China, leverage it against the next generation, spend more in Washington.

We will spend $3.5 trillion this year. Spending is slated to go above about 5.2 percent on average. We are basically saying let's get this under control; 3.5 percent is enough.

What they will also say is look at what we are doing on Medicare, all these awful things that we are doing on Medicare. We are saving it for the current generation by preserving it as is, and then we are making sure that it is there for the next generation.

Here is the dirty little secret. Look at what they have already done to Medicare. It was ObamaCare that ended Medicare as we know it, it was ObamaCare that raided $700 billion from Medicare to spend on ObamaCare, it was ObamaCare that set up this new rationing board of 15 unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats to put price controls on Medicare, which will lead to denied care for seniors.

It is the House Democrats' budget that is complicit with the Medicare trust fund going bankrupt in 2026. Our budget strengthens Medicare, saves it for this generation, and puts reforms in place so that the next generation can count on it without having 15 bureaucrats running the program.

Look at what they are proposing on national security. They track right along with the President's budget. They are proposing to cut compensation for our men and women in uniform, to hollow out our force, to cut training and readiness and structure, not to lower the deficit, but to fuel more domestic spending. So we will have an Army lower than anything we have seen before World War II, we will have a Navy smaller than what we haven't seen since before World War I, we will have an Air Force smaller than we have ever had before, not for deficit reduction, but for more domestic spending. We reject that approach.

Finally, their budget adds $4.3 trillion to our national debt. That is despite this massive tax increase. Their budget never balances, ever.

Under their plan, in 2024, the deficit will be $637 billion. At the end of the day it is just not credible.

We trust the American people to have more control over their lives. We reject this budget. Let's balance the budget, grow the economy, create jobs, and pay off our debt, and pass the House Republican budget.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 163, noes 261, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 176]

AYES—163

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—261

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Enyart
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—7

Jackson Lee
Lewis
McAllister
Miller, George
Perlmutter
Runyan
Schwartz

□ 1126

Messrs. CASSIDY, SOUTHERLAND, and STEWART changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. RUSH and CUELLAR changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, it is now in order to consider a final period of general debate, which shall not exceed 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the distinguished House majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Pro-Growth Budget Act.

Right now, America is not working for too many people. For years, our economy has remained stagnant and job growth weak.

□ 1130

At the current time, three out of four Americans report that they are living paycheck to paycheck. The ability to climb the economic ladder of success and live the American Dream is becoming much more difficult for millions of people.

Mr. Chairman, this is the status quo in America, but it is a status quo that we must not accept. Our constituents deserve better. Our constituents deserve a government that is focused on turning this economy around and making America work again, and work again for everybody.

In the House, there are some very clear differences on how to solve America's problems. My Democratic colleagues believe the best way to move the country forward is with $1.8 trillion in new tax hikes so that this government can even spend more. That is not right, and it is not fair. Working Americans deserve a chance to put more of their hard-earned paychecks into their personal savings accounts, to invest that or spend it on their families before they are forced to send it to Washington.

We House Republicans have a better plan, a balanced budget that will begin to provide working families, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet, with just a little relief. The budget before us will create jobs. It will cut wasteful spending. It will reform our Tax Code and hold Washington more accountable. Plain and simple, this budget is pro-growth. This budget is about making America work again.

Today, Members of the House have a very simple choice. We can continue the status quo, stand in the way of economic progress and new opportunities for working middle class families, or we can choose to lead the American people down a path to prosperity where all Americans have a chance at success.

Mr. Chairman, passing a budget is not only an important step to restoring trust in government and faith in our economy, it is our legal obligation to do so. The House passes a budget even when our paychecks aren't on the line. The House Republicans choose to lead on this issue. We have passed a budget every year since taking the majority. So let's now stand together and fulfill one of the most important duties that we were elected to do and pass a budget that the American people that sent us here can be proud of.

I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), the chairman of the Budget Committee, for his continued dedication to reining in wasteful spending and restoring fiscal responsibility and in balancing the budget.

I also want to thank the other members of the Budget Committee for their hard work continuously on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to pass this budget on behalf of the American people.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I want to start by joining the chairman of the committee and thanking both the Democratic and Republican staff of the Budget Committee for their hard work and submit, for the RECORD, their names.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINORITY STAFF LIST

Sarah Abernathy
Ellen Balis
Kathleen Capstick
Zachary Cuff (Intern)
Ken Cummings
Bridgett Frey
Jocelyn M. Griffin
Tom Kahn
Najy Kamal
Andrea Leung
Sheila McDowell
Diana Meredith
Erin Miller
Kimberly Overbeek
Karen Robb
Scott Russell
Beth Stephenson
Andy Van Wye (Intern)
Ted Zegers

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I would also, Mr. Chairman, like to take this opportunity, it is Chairman RYAN's last year as head of the Budget Committee, and I do want to thank him for the professional way in which he has conducted the committee.

Lest he think I am getting carried away, this is an example where process did not lead to a better product, and that is why we are here today because, unfortunately, I have to report that this House Republican budget is the worst of the Republican budgets I have seen in the last 3 years for the United States of America.

Mr. Chairman, budgets reflect the choices we make for our country. They tell the American people what we care about and what we care less about. At every juncture in this House Republican budget, they choose to protect very powerful special interests and the most wealthy in our country at the expense of everyone else and at the expense of all the other priorities. For example, they have tax cuts that actually encourage companies to ship American jobs, not products, overseas, while our budget invests right here in the United States of America.

Now, we heard the Republican leader say we want a better economy for everybody. The Congressional Budget Office tells us that this Republican budget will slow down economic growth right now for the next couple of years, that it will reduce job growth in the next couple of years, all while doing what? Providing another windfall tax break to millionaires.

Yes, look at their budget. They want to drop the top tax rate, 39 percent to 25 percent, full 30 percent. What does that mean? $200,000 average tax break for millionaires. Who finances it in their budget? Well, math tells you middle-income taxpayers pay more. They pay $2,000 more per, average, in order to finance trickle-down economics, even though we know from experience that that was a dead end for this country.

While our Republican colleagues talk about fiscal responsibility, apparently they don't care enough about it to close one single special interest tax loophole to help reduce the deficit—not one, not a hedge fund owner, not a big oil company, not one.

And because they say hands off the most powerful and the most privileged, their budget has to come after everybody else, and it does. So it hits our kids' education, early education, K–12. College students are asked to pay more interest. In fact, they got $45 billion savings by charging college kids more interest while they are still in college and not working, again, while hands off the powerful special interests.

Seniors, seniors on Medicare see the prescription drug doughnut hole open, the safety net, again, shredded. And all for what purpose?

Now, they claim that they are going to somehow balance the budget at the end of the 10-year window. But you know what? They can't have it both ways. We have had over 50 votes here in the House of Representatives from our colleagues to repeal the Affordable Care Act. But guess what. They have got $2 trillion in this budget from revenues and savings from the Affordable Care Act.

We use some of those savings. We use those Medicare savings to strengthen Medicare.

Mr. Chairman, I now yield the final minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Democratic leader who has been a fighter for America's priorities.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I congratulate the Budget Committee for the hard work that you have done.

I wish we had more than 10 minutes on each side to discuss the House Democratic budget, but so it is.

Here we are, about to leave for the holy season of Easter and Passover. It reminds me of the Gospel of Matthew, in which Matthew says: ''For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.''

This budget is a statement as to where our treasure is and where our hearts are for the American people. A budget, as our distinguished ranking member said, must be a statement of our national values. What is important to us as a nation should be reflected in our spending priorities, in our treasure.

But you be the judge, I want to say to the American people, but the Speaker will not allow me to address the American people, so their representatives here. Is it a statement of your national values, of our country, to give a $200,000 tax break to people making over $1 million a year at the expense of increasing taxes $2,000 for the middle class? Is that a statement of our values? I didn't think so.

Is it a statement of our values, in order to finance the special interest privilege that is in the Republican budget, is it a statement of your values to cut over 170,000 children from Head Start? Is that a statement of our values? Children learning, parents earning, opportunity, fairness.

Is it a statement of your values to support a budget that says, 3.5 million children in our country, disadvantaged children in economically disadvantaged areas, will have cuts in the budget of Title I? Is that a statement of our values in order to give tax breaks to Big Oil?

Is it a statement of our values to say to aspiring families, some the first in their families to be able to go to college, that we are going to cut over half a million, maybe over 600,000 kids from Head Start? Is that a statement of values to say to over half a million young people you will not have opportunity to have higher education? Instead, we are going to give that same amount of money to Big Oil for tax incentives for them to drill. Is that a statement of our values? I don't think so. I don't think so.

So where is their treasure and where is their heart?

The treasure in this Republican budget is just as what our ranking member said; it is with the special interests and the wealthiest people in our country. It is a trickle-down approach that has never worked. It has worked for the rich. It has worked for the special interests and their supporters, but it has not worked for the great middle class.

Do we need any more evidence of it not working, that these same warmed-over policies that existed in the Bush era that took us to the Great Recession, a great recession where we met right before the election in September of 2008, where the Chairman of the Fed said to us, if we do not act immediately, we will not have an economy by Monday? This was a Thursday night. That is where these policies took us at the end of the Bush years, and we are still digging out of that recession.

Instead of having a budget that lifts us up to create jobs, to create growth, to invest in science and education, to keep America number one, they call their budget a path to prosperity. It is

a road to recession and always has been, and that is what it is now.

So at least we have a few minutes to discuss our value system, where our treasure is, with the richest and the special interests or with the great middle class and those who aspire to it, and, therefore, where our heart is in terms of budget priorities in this budget.

This is an important budget. Some people want to dismiss it as a joke because it is so outrageous. It is deadly serious. It isn't funny at all because of the impact that it has in the lives of America's families, our children, our seniors, voucherizing Medicare, removing the guarantee of Medicare for our seniors.

□ 1145

Is that a statement of our values, to say to our seniors: you are on your own, you are on your own?

I don't think so. So if our heart is with the middle class, we will put our treasure there and make investments in education and job creation, investments in science.

I will just close. Again, I started with the Bible. Scientific research gives us an almost biblical power to cure. Where there is scientific opportunity, we almost have a moral responsibility—certainly a moral imperative to invest in it, to improve health, to improve the quality of health in our country, and to make sure that everybody has access to it.

But don't worry about the access to it because our investments in basic scientific research are seriously impaired by this budget. It does violence to any concept of science that promotes innovation and keeps making America number one, advancing innovation with investments in science and technology.

It undermines investments in how we protect our environment, so that our children can breathe clean air and drink clean water, about how we protect our America by investments in science and technology to do so, and the intelligence to avoid conflict and the investments in job creation that science will enable us to do.

So if you believe in knowledge, if you would believe in fact, if you believe in the middle class, you must reject the Republican budget. You must reject the Republican budget.

What the Republican leadership is asking Members to do is something that I don't know that they share that value. Certainly, Republicans across the country do not. Republicans across the country support education, investments in science, and the rest. Any poll will show you that.

Just one other thing: if you really want to reduce the deficit, one of the fastest ways you can do it is to have a budget that does as ours does, to include comprehensive immigration reform, which reduces the deficit by $900 billion with a b, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

So by reason of treasure, by reason of heart, by reason of value, by reason of ethic, by reason of honoring our responsibilities to the American people, vote a good, strong ''no'' on the Ryan Republican budget. It is a path to ruin. It is not a path to prosperity.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN's budget is a budget about growth, about investment, about keeping America number one, about strengthening the middle class, which is the backbone of our democracy.

Vote ''no'' on the Ryan budget.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Maryland has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself the balance of the time.

Let me first start off by saying, Mr. Chairman, you have presided over this budget for many years. You have set a great example for the rest of us. This is your last year serving, and I want to thank you for what you have done for this institution. Thank you for setting a great example.

Mr. Chairman, what this debate comes down to is a question of trust. We have offered a budget because we trust the American people. Unlike the Senate Democrats who, once again, have punted, have chosen not even to offer a budget this year, we trust the people to make an honest assessment. We trust them to make the right choice for their future.

Now, to their credit, the House Democrats have offered budgets as well. The problem is they put their trust in Washington. Every time you hear this word ''investment,'' just know what that means: take from hard-working taxpayers, borrow more money from our next generation, from other countries, and spend it in Washington.

Time and again, they are proposing to put government in the driver's seat. They have already engineered a takeover of our entire health care sector. They are overregulating our energy sector. They are depriving us of jobs. They won't even give us the Keystone pipeline.

They are proposing yet new taxes, another $1.8 trillion increase. They are proposing more cronyism. They are proposing more control for Washington, less control of our communities, less control over our businesses, less control over our lives, less control over our futures. In my respectful opinion, it is a vision that is both paternalistic, arrogant, and downright condescending.

You know, Big Government, in theory, it sounds compelling. In practice, it is totally different. Remember, if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. Remember, if you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan. Remember, if government just takes over this sector, it will lower your costs.

Big Government in practice is so different than in the theory. The results have nothing to do with the rhetoric.

We, on the other hand, trust the people. We are offering a balanced budget that pays down the debt. We are offering patient-centered solutions, so patients are the nucleus of the health care system, not the government.

We are offering a plan to save Medicare now and for future generations. We are offering a stronger safety net with State flexibility to help meet people's needs and to help people get from welfare to work, to make the most of their lives. We are offering a progrowth Tax Code. We are offering more energy jobs.

You can boil the differences down to one question: Who knows better, the people or Washington? We have made our choice with this budget. I trust the American people to make theirs.

Mr. Chairman, let's call the votes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, a number of political pundits have asked why House Republicans are advancing a budget this year considering the House and Senate have already agreed upon a top-level budgetary baseline for the upcoming fiscal year. Apparently, Senate Democrats agree with these pundits and have announced that they will not produce a budget. Clearly, these pundits and Senate Democrats have been in Washington for far too long.

The American people did not send us to Congress to look for shortcuts and to find the easy way out. Last year's budget agreement did not magically solve our fiscal challenges, so we need to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Thankfully, under the leadership of Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN, House Republicans are doing just that. Our budget makes the tough decisions necessary to grow our economy by curbing the growth of federal spending and making critical reforms to our entitlement programs.

Critics of the Republican budget call our spending cuts draconian. On the current path, spending will grow, on average, by 5.2 percent a year over the next decade. Under this budget, spending will grow, on average, by 3.5 percent a year. That's not austerity, that's responsibility.

Our budget does cut $5.1 trillion in spending and balances over the next ten years—without raising taxes. On the other hand, the Democrat's budget raises taxes by $1.8 trillion, increases spending by $740 billion more than current policy, while growing our annual deficit to $637 billion in 2024.

While the differences between our budgetary priorities are clear, it is essential that both sides of the aisle work together and build upon last year's budget agreement. Moving back to regular order of approving a budget and advancing the annual individual appropriations bills is the best form of governance possible. Every year, our federal agencies and programs need to be closely examined so that we can remove any waste, fraud, abuse or inefficiencies.

Mr. Chair, the budget before us is an important step towards establishing a responsible

fiscal foundation for the next fiscal year as well as the years to come. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House Budget Committee and Appropriations Committee in executing the vision and priorities laid out in this budget.

I once again want to thank Chairman RYAN for his thoughtful, dedicated work on this budget, which will be his last as Chairman, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Chair, I will vote for the budget proposal framework put forth by Chairman PAUL RYAN.

I vote to reaffirm my support for the principles behind the bipartisan Ryan Murray budget agreement;

For efforts to simplify our nation's tax code to make it simpler and fairer for all involved;

For repeal of the president's misguided and unworkable health care law;

For efforts to reign in the president's wasteful spending proposals and burdensome regulations, which are preventing our economy from reaching its full potential;

For efforts to ensure that our men and women in uniform have the support they need;

For efforts to responsibly reduce our $17 trillion plus debt, which is a national security concern;

And for efforts to balance our nation's budget—the President's budget proposal never achieves balance.

Mr. Chair, I will vote for efforts to reform our entitlement programs to ensure that they are preserved and protected for future generations. This budget proposal is a thoughtful document that forces the Congress to face reality—these programs, which are on autopilot, are simply unsustainable in their current form.

And we must reform these programs because they consume roughly two thirds of our nation's spending. We must preserve our ability to quickly respond to any crisis, foreign or domestic, while still ensuring we have the ability to make the needed investments that will spur economic private industry growth and ingenuity.

Just like the bipartisan Ryan Murray budget agreement, I do not agree with every line in this budget framework, and I will work to improve any future legislation that may be considered as a result of its adoption. But I do agree that we have a duty to offer ideas in the public sphere. I will vote yes because our fiscal challenges are real, and they must be addressed.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I will vote for H. Con. Res. 96 because I continue to believe the Congress has a responsibility to produce a budget each year. As a longstanding member of the House Appropriations Committee, I feel it is important that Congress have an open and honest debate about the fiscal challenges our country faces, especially our out-of-control entitlement spending that continues to deplete the federal coffers of resources to invest in defense, infrastructure, education, science and research on cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), juvenile diabetes, multiple sclerosis, autism and other diseases. These investments are what made America great in the 20th century, but are on track to be completely overtaken within a decade due to unchecked entitlement spending growth.

When I came to the floor to vote for last year's budget, we were $16.7 trillion in debt. Today, we are over $17.5 trillion in debt. That's a nearly trillion dollar increase in one year. It's projected to grow to over $27 trillion in 10 years, another $10 trillion increase. Our unfunded obligations and liabilities are now projected to be well of $70 trillion, and CBO's February 2014 budget outlook projected this year's deficit to be about $514 billion. These numbers get worse with each passing year.

Equally troubling, this mounting debt is increasingly held by foreign countries. In 1970, 6 percent of debt held by the public was in foreign hands. In 1990, it was 19 percent. Today, nearly 50 percent of our publically held debt is in foreign hands—and it is held by countries like China and Saudi Arabia which certainly do not share our interests or values.

My vote today reflects my desire to advance the congressional budget process to confront these serious challenges. While there are many good things in this budget, my vote should not be interpreted as a reflection of my satisfaction with the legislation itself. Simply put, I believe this is a flawed proposal that stands no chance of being adopted by both chambers of Congress this year. I continue to have serious concerns with several of the provisions and believe it falls short of being a plan that can garner the bipartisan support necessary to put our nation on a path towards fiscal responsibility.

Most notably, this budget once again falls short in its failure to incorporate most of the recommendations of the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission. Regrettably, another year has gone by where the president and both the Republicans and Democrats in Congress have failed to advance the only bipartisan fiscal reforms that would address our debt and deficit in a manner that could result in real progress.

As I have repeatedly said, I would much prefer to vote for a bipartisan budget modeled off the Simpson-Bowles plan. It could be improved by incorporating changes in existing law and other proposals, such as those produced by the discussions between the president and Speaker BOEHNER, and plans offered by Alice Rivlin and Pete Domenici, and Representative RYAN and Senator WYDEN. Like the Ryan plan before us today, I do not agree with every line in the Simpson-Bowles plan. But only a budget based on this model can put our nation on a sustainable, long-term path to replace sequestration and reform our nation's entitlement programs so they will exist for future generations.

As much as both sides might prefer that their party control both chambers of Congress and the White House, this is simply not the case. And it's unlikely to change until 2016 at the earliest. Either the Congress can get serious about adopting budget reforms that have bipartisan consensus and could be signed into law, or we can continue having these same quixotic debates, year after year, while our debt and deficit grow unabated. The debt and deficit numbers continue to get worse, and none of the actions taken by the Congress—including sequestration—have made a meaningful impact on our fiscal situation.

For the last eight years I have been working toward finding consensus on bipartisan budget reforms based on the premise that all Americans, not just one group or another, will have to give something towards reducing our debt and deficits. Starting in 2006, during the Bush Administration, I began advocating for a bipartisan commission—the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission—to identify budget reforms that could win the support of both Republicans and Democrats. The Simpson-Bowles Commission, appointed in 2010, was formed largely in response to efforts in the House and Senate to advance the SAFE Commission. The commission's co-chairs, former Senators Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles, ultimately produced a package of bipartisan reforms that was serious and effective.

Unfortunately, President Obama and congressional leadership have spent the last three years running away from the Simpson-Bowles recommendations. When my colleagues and I have brought legislation to the floor of the House based on these recommendations, the efforts have fallen short due to a lack of support from both Republican and Democrat leadership. I believe their misguided opposition represents a failure of leadership that they will come to regret in the years ahead, as our budget challenges grow more and more dire.

To date, we have instead been presented with tepid proposals that fail to meaningfully impact our debt, or proposals, like this budget, that embrace a vision for budget reform that stands little chance of passing and becoming law.

This year, President Obama has retreated from even modest budget reforms that he has proposed in the past, such as chained CPI. I believe history will not look kindly on his failure to lead efforts to bring both parties together around meaningful reforms to address this existential national threat. His failure to lead over the last five years is directly reflected in the budget that the House has passed today, which reflects a conservative blueprint for budget reform rather than reforms based on bipartisan consensus.

There's a certain irony that the budget approved today continues to draw from only one section of the Simpson-Bowles framework: making our federal workforce contribute more towards its retirement and taking steps towards ending the defined benefit retirement plan. Yet again, the Congress is targeting just one group of Americans for additional sacrifice—just as has been done for offsets in past budget agreements. This flies in the face of the Simpson-Bowles vision of shared sacrifice among all Americans in fixing our debt and deficit and, as I have said many times, is just wrong. To cite the Simpson-Bowles recommendations as an excuse to single out additional cuts to federal employees is disingenuous and inappropriate.

My colleagues often forget that while there are many federal employees in the capital region, it is worth noting that more than 85 percent of the workforce is outside of Washington. They also may not realize that more than 65 percent of all federal employees work in agencies that support our national defense capabilities as we continue to fight the War on Terror.

The first American killed in Afghanistan, Mike Spann, was a CIA agent and a constituent from my congressional district. CIA,

FBI, DEA agents, and State Department employees are serving side-by-side with our military in the fight against the Taliban.

Federal employees include the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who are working to stop the flow of illegal immigrants and drugs across our borders.

They are the medical researchers at NIH working to develop cures for cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and autism. They are the VA doctors and nurses treating veterans from World War II to the present day. They are the NASA astronauts and engineers working to support the International Space Station and build our nation's exploration program. These are just a few examples of the hardworking people that serve our country each day that this budget unfairly targets.

I am also concerned with a provision in the budget that would only replace one federal employee for every three vacancies. Do we really want to cut the number of FBI and Border Patrol agents and VA doctors by two-thirds? This proposal amounts to an indiscriminate sequestration of the federal workforce. While there may be some agencies where reductions are necessary, I do not support this indiscriminate approach of doing so. Taken together, these proposals on federal employees may very well undermine the federal workforce.

It is often said that budgets are about choices, and I fear that yet another year will go by where we fail to make the tough choices—yet tough choices that members from both parties can support—to make real progress in confronting our debt and deficit. Until the president and congressional leadership start to incorporate the Simpson-Bowles recommendations, or a bold plan like this that gets control of the debt and deficit, into their budgets, we will likely never address the structural reforms that must be made to responsibly get our nation's fiscal house in order. This should be done in a manner that involves shared sacrifice from all Americans, not just certain groups of Americans.

I am proud to have served on the House Appropriations Committee for most of my tenure in the Congress, where each year we produce appropriations bills that make tough choices, yet the bills often pass with bipartisan support. Over the last several years, the full Appropriations Committee has made more than $100 billion in cuts to discretionary spending. The Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee, which I chair, has contributed more than $12 billion towards those cuts. But we approached these cuts in a responsible manner and I am proud that we have often had bipartisan support for the bills we produce. It can be done, but it requires leadership.

Mr. Chair, this budget is constructive for advancing the debate about our nation's fiscal challenges, and my vote today reflects my support for the process. But until this Congress passes a budget based on the bipartisan reforms recommended by the Simpson-Bowles recommendations, it is unlikely we will ever make real progress towards reducing our debt and deficit in a substantial way. It's time for leadership—from the president and both Republicans and Democrats in Congress—to deal with this issue.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican Budget for fiscal year 2015. We have two choices in front of us today. Two choices on the programs and investments we must fund and prioritize to balance deficit reduction with economic growth.

The prosperity of our Nation is dependent on a strong middle class. Regrettably, the Republican budget would increase taxes on middle class families, provide huge tax breaks for the wealthy, and place the burden of paying for those tax breaks on working Americans, and their children.

We have seen this budget before—a couple of times, in fact. It's the same budget Chairman RYAN brought us in 2013, and in 2012. It is a budget that works for the one percent at the expense of the other 99 percent. It shifts future costs to seniors by ending the Medicare guarantee and raising prescription drug costs. It cuts investment in our Nation's infrastructure, slashes funding for program, that keep children from going hungry, and guts education through cuts to Pell grants and K–12 education. Republicans have proposed a budget that attacks the very foundation of the middle class. It is a path that will lead to economic uncertainty for millions of Americans, and it is not a budget I can support in good conscience.

Democrats have offered a fair and balanced alternative budget that preserves our social safety net, keeps the promises made to our seniors, and asks all Americans to pay their fair share in reducing the deficit. Rhode Islanders understand more than most the toll unemployment can take on families and our communities. The Democratic alternative extends emergency unemployment insurance so those who are still struggling to find work can keep paying their bills. It provides $76 billion for early childhood education and ensures college affordability by lowering student loan debt and including new repayment options. It provides funding for public transit, our highways, and supports critical investments in research and development, clean energy, manufacturing, and programs that make our industries competitive globally.

I have a responsibility to my constituents, and to every American, to make sure that policies we enact in Congress provide for the long term health and prosperity of our Nation, which include getting people back to work, giving our businesses the support they need to grow, and building a skilled workforce to meet the demands of a 21st Century economy. The Republican budget takes us in the wrong direction. I urge my colleagues to reject the Republican Budget and support the Democratic alternative that keeps our promises to our seniors, preserves our social safety net, and balances deficit reduction with job growth and economic recovery.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the Republican Budget Resolution and in strong support of the Congressional Black Caucus' Alternative Budget.

To say that the Republican Budget Resolution is dangerous is an understatement. In particular, two areas of great concern to me will be negatively impacted by this resolution.

As the Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I urge the Appropriations Committee to come as close as possible to maintaining the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act levels of investment in research and development and STEM education. R&D and STEM education are critical to our nation's future, and we support the topline levels in the President's FY 2015 budget request and Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative for the Federal R&D agencies as worthy of support.

Shortchanging those accounts will wind up shortchanging our future economy and quality of life. Increased investment in these areas will pay significant dividends over the long run.

As Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), we aim to be the, ''Conscience of the Congress.'' I feel compelled to discuss the disastrous effects the Ryan Republican Budget would have on our country's research and development enterprise, and consequently, the disastrous effect this budget would have on America's future competitiveness.

As others have pointed out, the Republican Budget cuts non-defense discretionary spending by 1.3 trillion dollars below the baseline 2014 spending level, adjusted for inflation. These are massive cuts on top of a budget that has already seen large reductions in recent years. The effects on research and development would be dramatic. The American Association for the Advancement of Science estimates that the Ryan budget would cut civilian research and development by 92 billion dollars from the current baseline and 112 billion dollars below the President's budget request.

These are striking reductions. Please keep in mind here that the National Science Foundation's total annual budget is just a little over seven billion dollars. So the Republican Budget cuts more research and development funding every year than the entire annual budget of the National Science Foundation.

Additionally, as a senior Member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, I am incensed that this budget fails to address our nation's aging infrastructure.

Millions of Americans would be negatively impacted by this measure, leaving families, individuals and businesses with virtually no transportation options. This proposal would do away with Amtrak operating subsidies, potentially eliminating service for more than 20 million people.

Most shamefully, however, this budget includes virtually no highway or transit investment and does little to address the impending crisis facing our nation's highways. In fact, this resolution assigns a spending level of $20.95 billion for transportation and infrastructure. This is a reduction of $50.99 billion from last year and eviscerates the total transportation and infrastructure budget.

For the third year in a row, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has awarded our nation's infrastructure a ''D+.'' Time and time again, it becomes clear that investing in our infrastructure lays the groundwork for a competitive economy. What we need now is targeted investment in our infrastructure, not draconian reductions.

Our infrastructure is too important to gamble on and the Republican Budget resolution is a roll of the dice. It would result in the loss of

thousands of construction related jobs in already economically disadvantaged areas and cut public transportation funding to historically low levels.

Quite frankly, this budget is dangerous and I ask my Republican colleagues to scrap this plan and work across the aisle to craft a plan that invests in our future. A budget that ignores funding for science and technology, and fails to include targeted infrastructure investments, fails the American future.

The Congressional Black Caucus' budget includes $500 billion in targeted investments and programs that invest in our future. It closes tax loopholes, deductions and exceptions that only benefit the wealthy. Addressing the past wrongs of wealth inequality will help create an economy that works for every American. Passing the CBC's Alternative Budget is the first step in righting those wrongs.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republican Budget Resolution for fiscal year 2015. The budget put forth by House Republicans is unnecessary and unwise. Congress has already passed a budget target for FY2015. The House Appropriations Committee has already marked up two bills. This Republican budget is a complete distraction from the real work Congress should be focusing on—issues such as comprehensive immigration reform, the restoration of long-term unemployment insurance, the Paycheck Fairness Act or others. Instead, Republican leaders have wasted another legislative week with endless floor debate on a budget that recycles many of the rejected Tea Party proposals from the past. Once again, Congressional Republicans are demonstrating their true priorities: providing massive tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and corporations at the expense of Middle Class America.

This ten year Republican budget is the wrong vision for Minnesota and America. Yet again, the GOP abandons investments that ensure broad-based economic prosperity today and into the future. This budget jeopardizes the health and economic security of our seniors by re-opening the donut hole and ending the Medicare guarantee. Their proposal fails our children by making irresponsible cuts to our schools and Pell Grants, putting the dream of a college education out of reach for millions of young adults. Extreme reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Social Services Block Grant, and Medicaid will inflict unnecessary pain on our children, working families, and seniors. By slashing investments in infrastructure, their budget rejects a proven path to grow our economy and create jobs. Instead, it advances the priorities of the wealthiest Americans—massive tax breaks for the top one percent and corporations, while adding to the tax burden of middle class families and destroying the social safety net. The Ryan-Republican budget is a recipe for American economic decline and increased pain for the vulnerable. It moves our nation backwards and gives up on the American dream, the idea that everyone has a fair shot at success. I strongly reject these misguided priorities and the Republicans' harmful vision for our Nation.

Instead, I am pleased to support the budget resolution offered by the Democrats. Our budget proposal prioritizes the needs of our seniors and middle class families. It strengthens the social safety net, protects Medicare, and preserves the Affordable Care Act to help ensure all Americans have access to affordable health coverage. The Democratic Alternative invests in the needs of our communities and will help create jobs by expanding tax incentives for low- and middle-class families. It makes critical investments in education to help make college more affordable and ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed. And it rejects the reckless cuts caused by sequestration to non-defense spending starting next year, while maintaining the funding level requested by the President for defense. The Democratic Alternative is a vision for our country that will keep our communities and our economy strong into the future.

There were also good ideas put forward by the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). Both budget proposals would help support the needs of Minnesota families and keep America strong.

The bottom line is that the Ryan-Republican budget resolution increases the tax breaks for wealthy, abandons America's middle class, and punishes the poor. I came to Congress to move our Nation forward. I urge my colleagues to reject this backward vision put forward by Chairman RYAN and instead support the Democratic Alternative.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, the federal budget is about much more than just dollars and cents. It is a moral document that reflects our values and our vision for our nation's future.

Unfortunately the Republican budget before us is a reflection of misguided priorities and values.

Instead of creating jobs and opportunity for the middle class and those aspiring to realize the American dream the Republican budget recklessly and unfairly protects the super wealthy and special interests at the expense of everyone else.

The Republican budget ignores the significant importance of investing in education, job training, research, innovation, modern day infrastructure and advanced manufacturing. In doing so, it will foolishly cripple our country's economic growth and the future potential of hardworking Americans and their families to create and successfully compete for 21st century jobs.

The Republican plan also jeopardizes the wellbeing of our seniors by proposing to turn Medicare into a voucher system.

In my state of California alone, this disastrous Republican budget would raise health care costs for seniors by ending the Medicare guarantee and forcing 358,862 seniors to pay more for prescription drugs. It would ransack our nation's commitment to education and push 21,140 Californian children out of Head Start and deny Pell Grants to 51,350 low income California college students. The Republican budget would also force California to turn more than 488,000 people away from job training, employment and job search assistance.

And, according to the non partisan Congressional Budget Office, it would stall our nation's recovery by cutting economic growth by 2.5 percent in the year 2015.

I am proud to stand with my Democratic colleagues who have a different vision for America that responsibly reduces our deficit. Our vision respects the American people, gives them opportunity through the creation of good paying jobs that build and strengthens the middle class, protects the future and wellbeing of our children and insures we remain the greatest country in the world.

The CHAIR. All time for debate has expired.

Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NUGENT) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, and, pursuant to House Resolution 544, he reported the concurrent resolution back to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the concurrent resolution.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 205, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 177]

YEAS—219

Aderholt	Conaway	Graves (MO)
Amash	Cook	Griffin (AR)
Amodei	Cotton	Griffith (VA)
Bachmann	Cramer	Grimm
Bachus	Crenshaw	Guthrie
Barletta	Culberson	Hanna
Barr	Daines	Harper
Barton	Davis, Rodney	Harris
Benishek	Denham	Hartzler
Bentivolio	Dent	Hastings (WA)
Bilirakis	DeSantis	Heck (NV)
Bishop (UT)	DesJarlais	Hensarling
Black	Diaz-Balart	Herrera Beutler
Blackburn	Duffy	Holding
Boehner	Duncan (SC)	Hudson
Boustany	Duncan (TN)	Huelskamp
Brady (TX)	Ellmers	Huizenga (MI)
Bridenstine	Farenthold	Hultgren
Brooks (AL)	Fincher	Hunter
Brooks (IN)	Fitzpatrick	Hurt
Buchanan	Fleischmann	Issa
Bucshon	Fleming	Jenkins
Burgess	Flores	Johnson (OH)
Byrne	Forbes	Johnson, Sam
Calvert	Fortenberry	Jordan
Camp	Foxx	Joyce
Campbell	Franks (AZ)	Kelly (PA)
Cantor	Frelinghuysen	King (IA)
Capito	Gardner	King (NY)
Carter	Garrett	Kinzinger (IL)
Cassidy	Gerlach	Kline
Chabot	Gibbs	Labrador
Chaffetz	Gohmert	LaMalfa
Coble	Goodlatte	Lamborn
Coffman	Gosar	Lance
Cole	Gowdy	Lankford
Collins (GA)	Granger	Latham
Collins (NY)	Graves (GA)	Latta

Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—205

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—8

Carson (IN)
Jackson Lee
Lewis
McAllister
Miller, George
Perlmutter
Runyan
Schwartz

□ 1201

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 177 I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on April 10, 2014, I missed rollcall vote 177. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained today and missed roll Nos. 175 through 177. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll No. 176. I would have voted "nay" on roll Nos. 175 and 177.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2377

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name as cosponsor of H.R. 2377.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

VISA LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the bill (S. 2195) to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2195

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

SECTION 1. VISA LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

Section 407(a) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (8 U.S.C. 1102 note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''such individual has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities'' and inserting the following: ''such individual—

''(1) has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity (as defined in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(iii)))''; and

(2) by striking ''allies and may pose'' and inserting the following: ''allies; and

''(2) may pose''.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged concurrent resolution:

S. CON. RES. 35

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, April 10, 2014, through Thursday, April 24, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Monday, April 28, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, April 10, 2014, through Thursday, April 24, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the

Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Speaker of his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DENYING AN IRANIAN TERRORIST DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, last week, we learned something shocking and appalling. The Iranian Government wants to appoint a terrorist as their Ambassador to the United Nations, a man who participated in the 1979 terrorist attack on our Embassy in Tehran. This is unconscionable and unacceptable.

Last week, Senator TED CRUZ and I introduced legislation to fix this problem. This bill gives the President the authority he needs to deny this individual a visa. Senator CRUZ pushed the bill through the Senate unanimously on Monday.

I have been working with House leadership this week to quickly move this bill forward here in the House so that we do not have an Iranian terrorist walking the streets of New York City and having diplomatic immunity. I am proud to report that we just passed this bill unanimously.

I thank my colleagues and House leadership for passing the Cruz-Lamborn legislation.

THE RYAN REPUBLICAN BUDGET THROWS SENIORS OFF A CLIFF

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, they cradled us in our arms when we were babies, picked us off the ground when we scraped our knees, worked long hours to send us to college, and embraced us with unconditional love. I am talking about our parents and our grandparents. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am distraught with tears in my heart because of the Republican budget—slashing Medicaid by billions and cutting critical funding for our neediest seniors in nursing homes.

When our grannies and gramps are at their weakest, their oldest, their loneliest, the Republican Ryan budget puts them in a wheelchair and throws them off a cliff. That is wrong, Mr. Speaker. I say ''no'' to this budget. We can do much better.

HONORING THE HOCKADAY SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hockaday School's centennial anniversary. The school will celebrate 100 years of learning and service this weekend.

Hockaday is a world-renowned institution in Dallas, Texas, in my congressional district. The school educates over 1,000 students from pre-K to 12th grade.

Hockaday stands on the same four cornerstones upon which it was founded: character, courtesy, scholarship, and athletics. These four cornerstones were the original vision of the school's founder, Miss Ela Hockaday. They remain the very fabric of the school and will continue to guide Hockaday students for years to come.

I ask all of my colleagues today to join me in honoring the Hockaday community on this very historic occasion.

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the National Day of Silence.

Tomorrow is the 17th year we have commemorated the National Day of Silence. It is a time when students across the country remain silent for a whole day to draw attention to discrimination towards their LGBT peers.

Our country has made great progress towards more acceptable and tolerance for gay and lesbian individuals; however, gender-expansive students, gender-diverse students, and straight allies still face a lot of fear and discrimination. I want all these students to know they are not alone.

I say this every year, but I continue to be so proud of my young constituents, their parents and families who are working to make the world a better place for all people no matter your race, your color, your gender, or your sexual orientation.

For example, Jordan, a ninth grade transgender male student at The Ark in Santa Cruz will be one of the emcees for the 17th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards in Capitola. Jordan's mom, Heidi, is an advisory council member to the Trans* Teen Project and a facilitator of the Transfamily Support Group.

Though many LGBT students and their allies are silent tomorrow, we in Congress must never be silent. It is our job to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

□ 1230

TRIBUTE TO JANE TUCKER

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jane Tucker of Dallastown, Pennsylvania, who was honored at today's Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Awards.

Jane endured years of life-threatening physical and mental abuse at the hands of her first husband in the 1950s. With tenacity and perseverance, she devoted decades of her life to founding ACCESS-York, York County, Pennsylvania's service provider for victims fleeing domestic violence.

Jane continues to this very day, this very moment, as a volunteer at ACCESS-York, and she serves as the inspiration and motivation to countless victims who turn to ACCESS-York for help, understanding and protection. She is the epitome of resilience, strength, compassion and integrity. From a battered mother to a founding mother of ACCESS-York, Jane Tucker's life is a story of triumph over tragedy, and I am absolutely proud and humbled to be part of honoring her accomplishment with the unsung hero award today.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET UNMITIGATED DISASTER

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget put together by Chairman RYAN is one of the world's worst vanity projects. It doesn't actually help the American people. It simply fulfills Mr. RYAN's ideological fantasies.

I want a budget that will grow our economy, create jobs, invest in the American people. Mr. RYAN wants a budget that will make Ayn Rand proud. I want a budget that improves our national education system. Mr. RYAN's budget will cut funding for nearly 8,000 schools. I want a budget that expands job training. Mr. RYAN's budget would deny 3.5 million Americans access to job training programs. I want a budget that keeps the promises to our seniors. Mr. RYAN's budget ends the guarantee of Medicare and turns it into a voucher system.

Mr. Speaker, the Ryan budget is an unmitigated disaster. I opposed it, and

I know all my Democratic colleagues opposed it. This budget is at odds with what the American people need.

HONORING WALTER H. KECK, JR.

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor Walt H. Keck, Jr., on his retirement after 55 years of public service.

Mr. Keck joined the United States Air Force in 1961. Throughout his 27-year military career, he rose through the ranks to master sergeant before retiring in 1988.

In 1989, Mr. Keck began his law enforcement career as an officer with the Harrison County Sheriff's Department. Nearly 10 years later, he assisted the city of D'Iberville in creating its own police department while continuing to work for Harrison County. Sworn in as D'Iberville police captain in 2008 and deputy chief of police in 2012, Mr. Keck retires on May 6, 2014, with over 28 years of law enforcement service.

Mr. Keck has been described as a man of integrity, intelligence, dedication, and compassion, and as a man who truly cares about the citizens he serves.

Mr. Keck, on behalf of the United States Congress, thank you for your hard work and commitment to the citizens of the United States and south Mississippi. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING VICTIMS OF RWANDAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago, a plane carrying Rwanda's president was shot down, unleashing a genocide carried out by the country's dominant Hutu tribe against its Tutsi minority.

Hundreds of thousands of people, estimates of the dead range up to 1 million, were killed in a matter of weeks. Many were butchered with machetes, their mutilated bodies left to rot in the African sun. Women were brutally raped. Entire families were slaughtered at once. The goal was simple: to kill every Tutsi in Rwanda. The killing went on for 3 months, wiping out nearly three-fourths of the Tutsi population, until rebel forces toppled the government and took over a deeply traumatized nation.

In the two decades since, Rwanda has made remarkable progress in a broad range of economic, health, and social indicators. It has taken on the delicate task of bringing those responsible for the genocide to justice without tearing the country apart. Rwanda's saga, even as we mourn the dead, is ultimately a story of triumph and hope.

For us in America and the West, Rwanda stands as mute testimony to our failure to live up to the post-Holocaust promise of ''never again.'' We cannot undo the past, but we can heed the lessons of Rwanda by acting now to prevent genocide in the Central African Republic. Today's U.N. Security Council vote is a first step, and Congress should act by providing resources. I urge us to do so quickly. Lives are on the line.

FOOD INSECURITY

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, every year we celebrate Easter and Passover, in part, with food. Yet for millions of Americans, putting food on their tables this holiday season is no different than any other day. It is a struggle at best, and a failure at worst. It is a failure of this institution and our government as a whole that we still tolerate incredibly low wages so that people are forced to choose between rent and food, clothes and food, utilities and food. We can do better.

We need the White House to step up and own this issue. They can start with a White House conference on food and nutrition.

Mr. Speaker, even though millions struggle with hunger, there are good souls out there who are trying to help. I want to highlight one Good Samaritan who paid for the groceries of a young woman named Andrea who was just trying to feed her kids. When Andrea exhausted her SNAP benefits at the grocery store, an unnamed woman in line gave her $17.38 so that she didn't have to return any of the groceries.

This House could learn from this example to help our neighbors rather than penalize them simply for being poor. I include for the RECORD Andrea's letter to this unnamed woman in line at the grocery store.

DEAR WOMAN BEHIND ME IN LINE AT THE GROCERY STORE: You don't know me. You have no clue what my life has been like since October 1, 2013. You have no clue that my family has gone through the wringer. You have no clue that we have faced unbelievable hardship. You have no clue we have been humiliated, humbled, destitute.

You have no clue I have cried more days than not; that I fight against bitterness taking control of my heart. You have no clue that my husband's pride was shattered. You have no clue my kids have had the worries of an adult on their shoulders. You have no clue their innocence was snatched from them for no good reason. You know none of this.

What you do know is I tried to buy my kids some food and that the EBT machine was down so I couldn't buy that food. I didn't have any cash or my debit card with me. I only had my SNAP card. All you heard was me saying ''No, don't hold it for me. My kids are hungry now and I have no other way of paying for this.'' You didn't judge me. You didn't snarl ''Maybe you should have less kids.'' You didn't say ''Well, get a job and learn to support yourself.'' You didn't look away in embarrassment or shame for me. You didn't make any assumptions at all.

What you did was you paid that $17.38 grocery bill for us. You gave my kids bananas, yogurt, apple juice, cheese sticks, and a peach ice tea for me; a rare treat and splurge. You let me hug you and promise through my tears that I will pay this forward. I will pay someone's grocery bill for them. That $17.38 may not have been a lot for you, but it was priceless to us. In the car my kids couldn't stop gushing about you; our ''angel in disguise.'' They prayed for you. They prayed you would be blessed. You restored some of our lost faith. One simple and small action changed our lives. You probably have forgotten about us by now, but we haven't forgotten about you. You will forever be a part of us even though we don't even know your name.

You have no clue how grateful and embarrassed I am that we pay for all our food with SNAP. We eat well thanks to the government. I love that. I love that the government makes sure my kids are cared for. It is one less worry for us. I also struggle with pride and embarrassment. I defiantly tell people we are on SNAP. Daring them to judge us.

Only those closest to us know why we are on SNAP. They know my husband is a hard worker who was laid off after 17 years in a management position with his former company. They know we were moved from our home to a new state only to be left homeless since the house we had came with the job he lost. Only those closest to us know my husband works part time while looking tirelessly for more; that he has submitted more applications than he has received interviews for. Too many jobs are only offering part time work anymore. It is not easy for a 40-something year old to find a job that will support his family of five kids.

You know none of this but you didn't let that stop you from being compassionate and generous to someone you have never met.

To the woman behind me at the grocery store, you have no idea how much we appreciate you. You have no idea the impact you had on my kids. You have no idea how incredibly thankful I am for you. Your action may have been small, but to us it was monumental. Thank you.

Thank you for not judging us. Thank you for giving my kids a snack when they were quite hungry. Thank you. Just thank you.

Forever,

Andrea, the woman in front of you at the grocery store with the cart full of kids who are no longer hungry

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUNGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 743(b)(3) of Public Law 113–76, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following individuals on the part of the House to the National Commission on Hunger:

Mr. Jeremy Everett, Waco, Texas

Dr. Susan Finn, Columbus, Ohio

Mr. Robert Doar, Brooklyn, New York

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATEHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, while I am waiting for my posters to arrive at the rostrum, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

THANKING STAFF FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE WITH THE RSC BUDGET

Mr. WOODALL. I thank the gentlelady so much for yielding.

You are allowing me to correct a grave mistake I made earlier today. I had the great pleasure of carrying the RSC budget to the floor today. We weren't able to succeed in passing our balanced budget, but we did succeed in passing the Budget Committee balanced budget. I think that is a great success for this House, but those successes don't happen by themselves. They happen because we are surrounded by staffers in this institution who do an amazing amount of work day in and day out.

In my case, it is Will Dunham, who is the staff director at the Republican Study Committee; the very able budget staffer there, Matthew Dickerson; and my own budget associate, Nick Myrs. Without their help, it would have been impossible to put that budget together, and I am so grateful for their commitment to this institution and to the very difficult work that we do.

With that, I thank my friend very much for yielding.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, all this week I have come to the House floor for a very special purpose. I have offered only some of the reasons that the residents who live in the Nation's Capital should have the same basic rights as other Americans. All other Americans have achieved these rights through statehood. We have tried to break down the elements of statehood into separate bills, but we have not been able to get those elements recognized by the Congress of the United States either.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am making use of an important day coming up next week when Congress will be out of session. April 16 is commemorated in the District of Columbia because it is the day 152 years ago when Abraham Lincoln freed those slaves who happened to live in the Nation's Capital 9 months before the national Emancipation Proclamation. This week, I have used this upcoming occasion to offer a series of remarks not only, of course, because of this historic occasion in our city but because of the meaning this occasion has to the residents of the Nation's Capital here and now, right this moment, not 152 years ago.

Unlike 1862 when African Americans who happened to live in the Nation's Capital were deprived of freedom, in 2014, every American citizen of every background, of every race, of every color, of every religion, of every ethnic origin, of every sex is equally deprived of equal rights with other Americans.

Other Americans, to have obtain full rights, need only be taxpaying citizens who serve in the Nation's wars. The people I represent have served in the Nation's wars since our very first war, the war that created the United States of America. And from the moment the Congress imposed Federal income taxes on the people of the United States, the people I represent have paid those taxes to support their government without a voting Member in this Congress, this House of Representatives, and with no voting Members in the Senate of the United States.

I do have the vote in committee, but when matters affecting my district, in particular, or matters affecting the United States in which my jurisdiction, like other Americans, is implicated, like whether to go to war in Iraq and Afghanistan, where our residents have served, I have no vote on this floor. Mind you, on this floor, Congress votes on the budget raised, the local budget raised in my city, not one penny of which has been contributed by this Congress.

□ 1230

Yet nothing is more important to Americans than the ability to pass your own local laws, to raise your own local money and say how it is to be spent without interference from the national government.

No others who pay taxes, Federal income taxes—obviously, we pay local taxes—but no others who pay Federal income taxes and who have served in our armed forces are denied their basic rights in our country. This, of course, is an embarrassment to the country itself, but today it is far more serious. It is a violation of international law and a treaty that we have signed.

Last month, the U.N. Human Rights Committee issued its report for 2014. Its report called our country to account on the denial of congressional voting rights in the National Legislature for the residents of the District of Columbia. In other words, the United States Government is in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. That is the treaty that our country signed in 1992. The U.N. report recommended: ''Provide full voting rights for the residents of Washington, D.C.''

I would venture to say that you will not find an American citizen who does not agree with that, before the Congress can impose any burden on you, you ought to have the right to raise your hand ''yea'' or ''nay.''

Moreover, this is not the first time that the United Nations has called our country to account. Earlier, in 2006, the Human Rights Committee wrote:

''The committee having taken note of the responses provided by the delegation''—

That means the United States delegation to the U.N.—

heard their responses and said: ''. . . remains concerned that the residents of the District of Columbia do not enjoy full representation in Congress, a restriction that does not seem to be compatible with article XXV of the covenant.''

And then it cited articles II, XXV, and XXVI.

Article II, and I won't quote from the entire article, says:

''Adopt such laws or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights recognized in the present covenant.''

That covenant is a treaty, a treaty we signed in 1992, to which we are, by human rights and international law, bound.

Article XXV says that that right includes: ''the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs directly or through freely chosen representatives.''

In our country, we do not have direct democracy. We govern through freely chosen representatives who get to vote on this floor. The residents of the District of Columbia get to choose me, but I do not get to vote even on matters affecting their local concerns.

Article XXV also says: ''to have access on general terms of equality to public service in this country.''

The residents have access to public service. I serve as a Member of Congress, but they do not have that right in terms of ''equality'' because I cannot vote once I become the Member chosen to exercise that service.

Moreover, notably, when my party was in power, using House rules, the District was given the right to vote on behalf of the residents of the District of Columbia on matters in the so-called Committee of the Whole. Imagine, after getting a right that is not the full right to vote on most matters in this Chamber, but when my Republican colleagues came to power, they took even that right, the right to vote in the Committee of the Whole, from the people of the District of Columbia. Is that, my friends, ''equality,'' or is it discrimination against the residents of the Nation's capital?

The report refers also to article XXVI. That is worth quoting:

''All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination through the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground . . .''

Then they name some such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth—and here is the one that applies to District of Columbia residents—or other status.

What is the other status of the residents of the District of Columbia? Their status is that they reside in their

Nation's capital, the only Nation in the world that denies the residents of their capital the same rights that other residents in their country enjoy.

Nor is there any question that there are more than enough American citizens here to be granted statehood or at least equality.

Two States of the Union that have two Senators and one Representative have fewer residents than the District of Columbia. Here is one, the lowest population in the country, Wyoming. Next is Vermont. And finally, with considerably more residents, almost 650,000, the District of Columbia.

We are soon going to overtake a number of other States. The District is growing, so much that there has been an attempt to raise the so-called Height Act, which limits how high buildings can be, because of the need to expand housing and office space. That attempt was turned back because residents were more concerned with the low-scale residential quality and attractiveness of their city.

We are talking, Mr. Speaker, about 650,000 people, about the size of an average congressional district. Look to this chart about how rapidly the District is growing, on an average, more than 2 percent a year for more than 10 years now. In the last couple of years, it has grown by almost 2½ percent. Just compare that with growth in the United States itself. The United States population grew not by 1 percent or 2 percent, but by 0.7 percent in the last couple of years.

We live in one of the most rapidly growing regions in the country. This is called the national capital region. Maryland and Virginia are the closest States. And yet the District, is growing more than 2 percent compared to Virginia, which grew only 0.9 percent, and Maryland, which grew only 0.7 percent.

Mr. Speaker, during my remarks this week on the floor, this week, selected the two most basic obligations of Americans who have won statehood to test whether the District is being denied its rights. I began with taxes because I think people fret most about paying taxes—and almost all of us have to pay taxes—not because taxes are more important.

Who thinks taxes are more important, of course, is the Republican majority. They are obsessed with taxes. So you would think that they would want to do something about people who pay taxes but don't have representation. Taxes is about the only issue that the Republican majority cares about. But by ''taxes,'' they mean cutting taxes. Yet they raise taxes by imposing taxes without representation on the people of the District of Columbia. They are happy to take more than $3 billion annually out of the pockets of D.C. citizens with no vote on whether those taxes should be raised or lowered.

But, the most surprising fact about taxes in our country is who, which individuals, pay the most. Well, if I were to ask our citizens, to guess, they probably wouldn't say District of Columbia residents. Let me clarify. Of the residents of the 50 States, the residents of the District of Columbia pay more Federal taxes per person than the residents of any of the 50 States.

This chart shows how it goes from the highest to the lowest. The highest in the United States at almost $12,000 per person in Federal taxes annually, resident by resident, live in the District of Columbia. The lowest per capita, per person, live in the State of Mississippi.

□ 1245

So imagine the rage—nobody wants to pay taxes—imagine the rage when you pay more taxes than anybody else and still don't have the vote on the House floor.

Now, I haven't put all of the States on this poster because they could not be seen, but you see it goes from $12,000—or almost $12,000—down to as little as $4,000.

The first 10 States, the top 10 States, end with California. Some of them, you might recognize if you had to guess them. The second is Connecticut. The third is New Jersey. The 10th is California at about $8,000 per person. Compare that to our almost $12,000 per person. Understand that this doesn't have to do with the size of the State's population. It has to do with the amount of taxes per person, and regardless of population size, District residents pay more.

I indicated that Vermont and Wyoming were States we exceeded in population. Wyoming residents pay something close to $8,000 per person compared to our $12,000—or almost $12,000; and Vermont, also a State with fewer residents than in the District of Columbia, pays about half, something over $6,000, compared to our almost $12,000 per person in taxes. Or just randomly pick out your State. Bear in mind, we are comparing them with D.C.'s almost $12,000 per person in Federal taxes that are paying to support the Government of the United States.

Nebraska is half of that, about $6,400. Take two others that are close to one another in the amounts they pay, each about $6,000—Arizona and Indiana—compared to D.C.'s $12,000.

There is Idaho. To support the Federal Government, Idaho, which pays $5,440. D.C. pays something over twice what they pay.

When you get to those which pay the least—let's take the bottom two States, Louisiana at $4,500 and Mississippi at $4,200—you will see D.C. getting to paying three times what these States pay—States which have Representatives and two Senators.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, of all of the obligations, perhaps the most poignant is service in the Armed Forces. For the people I represent, there has been service in the Armed Forces ever since there has been a United States of America and even before, when we were fighting in a Revolution to create the United States of America, but that service has often been disproportionate to the number of residents.

Looking to the major wars of the 20th century, you get an idea of what I mean. In World War I, 635 casualties, but that was more than three States. In World War II, now, we are getting to more in casualties than four States.

By the time we got to the Korean war, the District had more casualties than in eight States. So we have gone from three to four, to Korea with eight and, finally, to Vietnam with more casualties than in 10 States.

The District even sometimes has had to fight to get equal respect for D.C. members of our Armed Forces.

A mother wrote me when she recently went to the graduation of her son from boot camp at Naval Station Great Lakes. The family was there, glowing with honor and pride, for a son who had passed up going to college in order to serve in the United States Navy, so passionate was this kid about service.

When each graduate stepped forward, the flag of the State was raised. When Seaman Jonathan Rucker stepped forward, no State flag was raised.

That, my friends, was the last straw. I was immediately in touch with the White House and with the Armed Services Committees, particularly after veterans in the District of Columbia came forward with more particularly heartbreaking stories.

For example, among the most serious were some veterans who spoke of no D.C. flag being displayed at ''welcome home'' ceremonies, even though the flags of other States were raised. I don't think anybody meant any disrespect to our residents serving in the Armed Forces.

I just believe that, when you pay taxes without representation—when you don't have anybody in the Senate who can take care of you and when you have only a nonvoting Representative in the House, who votes in committee, but not on this floor, it is easy to be disregarded in many ways.

I am very grateful to Senator LEVIN and the Senate Armed Services Committee and to this House and its Armed Services Committee for rectifying this serious slight to our residents, the residents who have given the most to their country.

Mr. Speaker, I read an honor roll, picking out just a few of the very distinguished Washingtonians who have served in the Armed Forces because some of them stand out in the history of our country.

This was a city which had racial segregation imposed on it by the Congress of the United States until the 1960s,

even though, until that time, the majority of the population of the District of Columbia was not African American, but was White; yet even during that period—that period of segregation when African Americans were entering the armed services from every part of the country, the first African American Army general was born in this city, the first African American Air Force general born in this city, the first African American Naval Academy graduate born in this city, the first African American Air Force Academy graduate born in this city, and this roster continues to this very day.

The first Deputy Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard is serving as I speak, Vice Admiral Manson Brown, who was born in this city; and the first African American female aviator of the D.C. National Guard, First Lt. Demetria Elosie—60, is a Washingtonian.

Mr. Speaker, we know that statehood is the only way Americans have gotten full and equal rights. That, of course, is why we seek statehood, but don't think we haven't tried to get our rights in every single way we could. We also have tried piece by piece.

There are pending bills before the House and the Senate now. Some contain important elements of statehood—for example budget autonomy—that would allow our budget to go into effect, a local budget after all, once it is passed by the local legislature, the D.C. Council.

Because this Congress insists that we bring our local budget to this national body, which does not fund the District, our city was almost shut down this past year when the Congress shut down the Federal Government for 16 days.

That was a subject of great anguish in the District of Columbia because we were no part of that fight. We have got a balanced budget, and indeed a surplus, but because we had to bring our budget here and because Congress had not passed a single appropriation, we got shut down, too—or almost.

The mayor kept the city open, and as we were running out of contingent funds, the Republican majority relented and allowed the Federal Government to open, and therefore, the District did not have to close down.

I am pleased that the administration, President Obama, has put into his budget language that would grant the District control over its own budget, allowing the local budget to go into effect as soon as the D.C. City Council passes the local budget. He put that same provision in his budget last year, and the Senate appropriators passed it.

I thought then that D.C. budget autonomy would become law with the budget deal, but when the budget deal came out, it left out the section that would have given the residents of the District of Columbia control over the money they, themselves, and nobody else raises.

I am pleased to say that there are Members of this House on both sides of the aisle who recognize that elementary fairness lies in budget autonomy. I thank Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR for his support for budget autonomy. He is the second in leadership, a Republican leader of this House.

I thank Chairman DARRELL ISSA, who is the chairman of the committee with jurisdiction over matters affecting the District of Columbia, in that he has pressed for budget autonomy even as he pressed to keep the District open when the city was almost shut down.

□ 1300

The District also does not have complete control over its local laws. What D.C. has is a costly requirement that delays local bills for months before they can become effective, because they have to come to the Congress, although the Congress never uses this procedure called a ''layover procedure'' to overturn city laws but finds other means to do so, yet continues to impose the layover requirement of bringing every local law here to the Congress before it becomes effective.

I appreciate that Senator MARK BEGICH, who chairs the subcommittee, and Chairman TOM CARPER, who chairs the full committee with jurisdiction over matters affecting the District of Columbia in the Senate, have introduced bills that would give the District budget and legislative autonomy.

Mr. Speaker, when I came to the House in the early nineties, I was able to get almost two-thirds of the Democrats to vote for statehood for the District of Columbia. It was not enough but it does show you that there were Members then and I believe people now who recognize the unfairness of the unequal status of D.C. residents I have discussed today and earlier this week.

It became more difficult to make progress as the years went by, because most of my service in the Congress has been in the minority. Yet we are making progress.

We were able to get the first statue representing the District of Columbia in the Capitol last year. The reason that is important is that a statue, like those of the states, was denied us because we are not yet a State. We have now been able to break through that with what is surely a symbol of statehood.

And at the ceremony with majority and minority leadership, unveiling the Douglass statue, Majority Leader REID used the occasion, with great enthusiasm, to indicate that he was cosponsoring the D.C. statehood bill.

The reason that is important, Mr. Speaker, is that the Majority Leader, like the Speaker of this House, cosponsors very few bills. It says something about the importance of correcting unfairness to the District of Columbia that Majority Leader REID not only has become a cosponsor of our D.C. statehood bill, one of 17 Senators, but that he did so with great enthusiasm and in a prominent public announcement.

I am pleased that virtually the entire Democratic Senate leadership has sponsored our statehood bill.

Mr. Speaker, Congress continues to deny the American citizens who live in its Nation's Capital their most basic rights. Today we have discussed how that is a violation of every American principle, and that it is even a violation of international law.

Congress has failed to give D.C. residents even some of the rights associated with statehood, rights that they could give today or tomorrow even if they were not prepared to grant us statehood, the right to control our own local funds, funds we raise, funds we then turn over, at a cost of $12,000 per person, to support the government of the United States.

Congress tyrannically overturns locally passed laws and keeps our local laws from going into existence until they have had an opportunity to look at them, except they don't. They just leave this costly, delay-ridden requirement in place.

Congress continues to command our taxes to support the national government at a higher per capita rate than the rate paid by any other Americans while denying D.C. residents voting representation when Congress passes laws concerning those taxes or concerning any other matter affecting our country.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, in the name of those who have died in the Nation's wars; in the name of the living veterans of our wars who are among the 650,000 residents of the District of Columbia today; in the name of D.C. residents who pay $12,000 per person, the highest per capita federal taxes in the country, to support the United States of America; in the name of millions ever since 1801, when the District of Columbia became the Capital, who have died in our wars without seeing the benefits of voting representation in the House and Senate and without the full and equal rights of other Americans who died alongside them, I ask this House to grant the residents of their Nation's Capital statehood. And if you fall short of statehood, at the very least, our residents are entitled to equal representation and to equal recognition, to equality under law with every other American citizen.

I yield back the balance of my time.

WAR ON BRATS

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern that protectionism could one day lead to a ''war on brats.''

Bratwursts are delicious. They are enjoyed around the world. In Wisconsin, we take our brats seriously. But nowhere more so than in the Sixth District, which includes the Bratwurst Capital of the World, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

In 1970, the city of Sheboygan battled Bucyrus, Ohio, for the title and won. The battle was ended on August 14, 1970, when Judge John Bolgert issued an official decision bestowing the title upon Sheboygan and barring all other claimants from using it.

Unfortunately, this title could soon be under attack. There is growing concern that the European Union could consider more geographic name restrictions on products including ''kielbasa'' and Wisconsin's own ''bratwurst.''

This is, frankly, getting ridiculous. If anything, we should be trademarking the name ''bratwurst,'' not them.

I am currently circulating a letter urging the U.S. trade representatives to reject any attempt to include these provisions in further trade negotiations. I strongly urge my colleagues to consider signing this letter.

WAR ON CONSERVATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. It is amazing some of the efforts made to rewrite history and cast things in a light that doesn't exist. So as some people in the administration step up the continued trashing of conservatives in America—we have already seen the assault on conservative groups by the IRS, that does need a special prosecutor, clearly—the assault on people with whom some in the administration disagree, they can't answer questions, and so they make personal attacks.

Then our Attorney General makes a speech yesterday in which, because he was busy helping, perhaps, terrorists or Marc Rich or things like that he didn't notice, because I am sure he wouldn't be untruthful or tell a lie, but he doesn't even know how bad it gets in Washington if you are a conservative, if you are George W. Bush, if you are John Ashcroft, if you are Alberto Gonzales.

It got pretty brutal here, a lot worse than anything our current Attorney General has seen, and that is even without having to go back and recall the treatment that John Mitchell got. I would say, deservedly so, John Mitchell got the treatment he got. But for any Attorney General to be so ignorant of what has happened in very recent years of the maltreatment and malignment and basically slander of Republicans and a Republican President and Republican Attorneys General is a bit breathtaking.

There is a Web site that is Boycott Liberalism. It has a lot of quotes from people. Senator HARRY REID said:

President Bush is a liar.

I don't recall anyone saying that at our hearings with our current Attorney General.

The Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, NANCY PELOSI, said:

Bush is an incompetent leader. In fact, he's not a leader.

I don't recall anyone saying anything of that magnitude of our current Attorney General or President, not in any of our hearings.

Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State and U.S. Senator, said:

We have a culture of corruption. We have cronyism. We have incompetence.

This actually raises a question about pots and kettles calling each other names.

Other quotes. John Edwards, a former U.S. Senator and Democratic Vice Presidential nominee:

I would say if you live in the United States of America and you vote for George Bush, you've lost your mind.

Senator AL FRANKEN said:

I think the President highjacked 9/11 and used it to go to war with Iraq in a way that was very divisive.

The late Ted Kennedy, as Senator, said:

No President in American history has done more damage to our country and our security than George W. Bush.

Amazingly, I am not aware of any U.S. President in one party reaching out more to a Senator in the other party than did George W. Bush with Senator Ted Kennedy, and these are the kind of comments he got in response.

Senator Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State, said:

I predict to you that this administration will go down in history as one of the worst that has ever governed our country.

We are just talking about there has never been an Attorney General or President treated as have been the current ones.

Senator Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State, said:

There has never been an administration, I don't believe, in our history more intent on consolidating and abusing power to further their own agenda.

She also said:

I have been absolutely amazed, even shocked, at the combination of arrogance and incompetence that marks this particular administration.

We are just helping those who have short memories or maybe were busy helping terrorists or others get pardons and didn't notice these kind of statements being made.

Former Senator and former Vice President Al Gore said:

While President Bush likes to project an image of strength and courage, the real truth is that, in the presence of his large financial contributors, he is a moral coward.

Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI said:

Bush is an incompetent leader. In fact, he is not a leader. He is a person who has no judgment, no experience, and no knowledge of the subjects that he has to decide upon.

□ 1315

Quotes go on and on, pages of quotes.

But Democratic Senator from Washington, PATTY MURRAY, said, ''He's''—talking about Osama Bin Laden—''been out in these countries for decades building schools, building roads, building infrastructure, building daycare facilities, building health care facilities, and these people are extremely grateful. We haven't done that.''

Former Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI said, ''I believe that the President's leadership and the actions taken in Iraq''—talking about President Bush—''demonstrate an incompetence in terms of knowledge, judgment, and experience in making the decisions that would have been necessary to truly accomplish the mission without the deaths to our troops and the cost to our taxpayers.''

She also made this statement, former Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI, talking about President Bush: ''I believe that the President's leadership and the actions taken in Iraq demonstrate an incompetence in terms of knowledge, judgment, experience in making the decisions that would have been necessary to truly accomplish the mission without the deaths to our troops and the cost to our taxpayers,'' basically the same thing again.

But, there are some of us that could care less about someone's party or someone's race or someone's gender, someone's age. We don't care. We care about whether you are helping or hurting our country if you are in a position to do one or the other.

I would also direct my friends who would care to do research and get the truth before they go accusing, ignorantly, someone who has the gall to question refusal to turn over documents that were provided by the Justice Department to terrorists, convicted terrorists.

People who financed terrorism, which made them a part of the terrorist act, convicted of over 100 counts, they were given, their lawyers were given thousands and thousands and thousands of pages of documents. Lawyers were given 9,600 or so transcripts or summaries of transcripts.

And Members of Congress are told, as I was in a letter this year in response to my years of trying to get these documents that the Justice Department provided to terrorists, I get a response, basically, saying, hey, here is a Web site, you can look up some exhibits that were admitted in evidence. And here is a public access Web site.

I have been asking for 3 years, just give us the documents Justice gave to the terrorists. If somebody wants to try to make something of that, that is

their problem. But the Constitution provides that Congress has oversight because that is the only way we know what to fund and what not to fund. That is part of article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

So, to be denied documents for 3 years, as I have been, with little coy, useless answers, and then allegations of ulterior motivations, when I want to protect America—and I travel around the world, and I hear moderate Muslim friends, leaders in other countries say, why are you not helping us against radical Islam anymore? You are helping the bad guys.

I want to find out what the documentation was and is that the Justice Department has. And they know how to reduce it to disk and provide it to others. I am told they have done that to others in the Justice Department, so do that for Congress.

At one point I was told, well, there are classification issues. You gave them to terrorists, your Department did, so it shouldn't be a real classification problem to give them to Members of Congress.

So for those who wonder about the treatment of an Attorney General coming for an oversight hearing, we have already seen that the Justice Department repeatedly refused to provide the documentation of what happened in Fast and Furious.

And if someone wants to talk about unprecedented treatment, let's look at the facts, just the little ones we know that haven't been covered up by this administration, that haven't been kept secreted by this administration.

Thank God, one of the gun store owners who was being pressured by the Justice Department to sell to the people he knew he should not sell to, he recorded some of the conversations. If he had not, you can't help but believe they would have turned on him bigger than they did, because once they found out he had tapes of the conversations, they knew they couldn't completely blame him, because he was saying, in essence, I shouldn't be selling to these people. But he was coerced into selling.

People were coerced into selling weapons to people that should not have had them, morally or legally, because the Justice Department wanted to get them to drug cartels in Mexico, where they did, and we know, we have heard that at least a couple of hundred or so Mexicans, each one of them a life worth saving, those lives were taken by guns that this Justice Department forced into the hands of criminals, people that should not have had them. So we would like to know more information about how this all came about.

And it is not good enough to say, hey, the Bush Justice Department had a scheme where they had devices, they had guns that they were going to track, just like in drug sales, where you have a controlled sale so you can try to arrest the bad guys and, because of a problem, they got away from them.

That is a different thing entirely, of intentionally letting guns get away to criminals who killed hundreds of Mexicans, and at least one American, Brian Terry, and perhaps more.

It would be nice if we could get to the bottom of that. Wherever there are big problems in our government, we need to know what they are so we can defund them, or at least bring about accountability, just as my Democratic friends in the Senate repeatedly said, except not so kindly, about the Bush administration and John Ashcroft and Alberto Gonzales.

And there were some things I agreed with Senator SCHUMER on in the Gonzales Justice Department. It was outrageous that they allowed so many National Security Letters to go out without proper basis. I was outraged about that.

In fact, if someone cares to check the RECORD, they can see the way I went after the Bush FBI Director, because I believed then and still believe he did some serious damage to the FBI during the Bush administration.

The only difference is, I never heard him run out and give a speech whining about how he was mistreated as he came before me for questioning. He didn't do that. And he actually tried to take actions to correct the problems that I got all over him about.

Another difference is, he was a Republican President's FBI Director. But I didn't care what his party was. I didn't care who he was. I thought he was hurting the FBI, and I sounded off. And I was shocked that I did not have more friends on the Democratic side of the aisle join me in going after the Republican-appointed FBI Director.

And of course, once he held over and became the FBI Director for this administration, the other side of the aisle got even more kind in its questioning. But one of us—I certainly stayed consistent.

But there are many problems in this Justice Department that are very clear. There is an article from 2011, August 26, by Christian Adams, a guy that should know. He was in the Justice Department and had a case ready for judgment against the New Black Panthers who were intimidating voters at a voting place, until the Holder political appointee stepped in and stopped it.

Yes, they got one judgment, but basically of no effect. They can go intimidate others at other polling places, and there were no legal actions that were really pursued to provide any teeth.

But Christian Adams has an article entitled ''The Politicized Hiring of Eric Holder's Compliance Section.'' He says every single new attorney hired has a history thick with left-wing activism.

And then he goes through and talks about it in a very long article, very well-documented.

My friend across the building, TED CRUZ, Senator CRUZ, invoked Watergate in blasting DOJ's probe of the IRS scandal. This was March 20, this year, this article from The Blaze by Fred Lucas.

Senator CRUZ said the investigator is a partisan Democrat who has donated over $6,000 to President Obama and Democratic causes. Just as nobody would trust John Mitchell to investigate Richard Nixon, nobody should trust a partisan Obama donor to investigate the IRS' political targeting of President Obama's enemies.

But he makes a good point. John Mitchell deserved the criticism he got, but no Attorney General since John Mitchell has the truthful history in their favor to stand up and say, no Attorney General has ever been treated worse than I have.

You just have to go back to Alberto Gonzales. Again, I think he deserved some of the criticism he got, especially on the National Security Letter issue, and I am right there thinking it was a disaster, and it shouldn't have been allowed to happen, and that people needed to be held accountable, which is why I called the White House after it came to light that a report had been on the Attorney General's desk before he testified before the Senate that there were no known abuses of the National Security Letters.

I told the White House, this is indefensible. This isn't right. We can't defend this.

And I wish colleagues across the aisle, when they found similar abuses, problems, fault, would not let party politics or other divisive issues stand in the way of doing what is right.

There are transcripts of Senators going after Attorney General Gonzales, Attorney General Ashcroft, or even going back to John Mitchell. This Attorney General, compared to them, doesn't have a lot to complain about.

And one thing is interesting. You know, when I was a freshman, the Bush administration was in power. We had a lot of trouble getting documents from the Bush administration. The difference between that one and this one: they would eventually get us the documents.

The difference here is they have been there 5 years and they still will not produce documents that should be of critical concern to every American.

□ 1330

Some would say, look, there is no other issue than and concern for America when, in May of 2013, as this article points out from Breitbart:

On Wednesday, Attorney General Eric Holder testified in front of the House Judiciary Committee about the recent scandals plaguing the Obama administration. Unfortunately, the committee and America did not learn very much because Holder apparently does not know much about what happens in Washington, D.C.

The AP claims the Department of Justice violated their constitutional rights when they obtained 2 months of phone records of reporters. When asked about the scandal, Holder claimed ignorance and that he was not part of the decisionmaking process.

He did defend the effort to subvert the press, saying the DOJ wanted to find who leaked information to the AP about a CIA operation in Yemen to stop an airliner bombing plot around the anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death.

On Tuesday, Holder recused himself from the investigation into the AP scandal and told the committee it was because he had the leaked information. He could not give the exact date he recused himself, and he never put it in writing. It took quite awhile for him to receive confirmation it was Deputy Attorney General James Cole who signed the subpoena for the AP phone records.

There are all kinds of reasons to be concerned about what is going on. There are plenty of stories out there.

Oh, gee, how about the speech that my friend across the aisle, KEITH ELLISON of Minnesota, gave where, as reported here from the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Mr. ELLISON said, talking about comparing September 11:

It's almost like the Reichstag fire, kind of reminds me of that. After the Reichstag was burned, they blamed the communists for it, and it put the leader of that country—Hitler—in a position where he could basically have authority to do whatever he wanted.

The fact is that I am not saying September 11 was a U.S. plan or anything like that because, you know, that's how they put you in the nutball box or dismiss you.

But he went on, basically comparing September 11 to Hitler's Reichstag fire, which was set and then blamed on the communists.

From CNN, a report on this, Keith Oppenheimer had stated:

Well, first of all, Wolf, some of the themes that Keith Ellison is talking about are themes that he has been sounding off for a while.

And then Oppenheimer said:

The Minneapolis Star Tribune, quoting Ellison at the forum, is saying this about the Vice President: ''It is beneath his dignity in order for him to answer any question from the citizens of the United States. That is the very definition of totalitarianism, authoritarianism, and dictatorship.''

In response to a question as to whether Ellison supports a new investigation of the causes of September 11, Ellison made a comparison to the Reichstag fire in Berlin that Adolf Hitler used to consolidate power.

And then he quoted my friend across the aisle, with what I just mentioned.

So anyway, there are all kinds of accusations. I thought both George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush should have done more to defend themselves against the outlandish claims; but one thing George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush never did—no matter what race, creed, color, national religion, gender, age, whenever anybody attacked them—he never resorted to name-calling and, in fact, would often try to point out, actually, they have the right to their opinion.

Nowadays, it is a different matter. If someone is concerned that your department or their department would provide discovery documents to convicted terrorists that they are refusing to provide to Congress, that is not an issue of anything other than just not doing what the law requires in the way of oversight.

There is so much going on in this country that needs our attention, and one of them is the Department of Justice. Is it the Department of Justice? Is it the Department of ''just us''?

There is an article from Red State by Candice Lanier, June 26, 2013, where she entitles the article, ''Sixteen Scandals: The Legacy of Eric Holder,'' and then she goes through and cites 16 reasons we should be very concerned about this Justice Department. One of them quotes Discover the Networks.

She says:

Holder also took a leadership role with the Student Afro-American Society, which at one point demanded that the school's abandoned ROTC office be renamed the ''Malcolm X Lounge''—''in honor of a man who recognized the importance of territory as a basis for nationhood.'' In 1970, Holder was a participant in a 5-day occupation of that office. And, according to some accounts, the occupiers were armed. In addition, Holder and SAAS also occupied the office of Henry Coleman, Dean of Freshmen, until their demands were met.

It would appear the SAAS was an advocate of the Black Panthers because, in March 1970, the SAAS released a statement supporting the Black Panthers who were charged with plotting to blow up a police station, department stores, railroad tracks, and the New York Botanical Gardens.

It references the discriminatory hiring practices in the Department of Justice. This article points out:

In June 2008, Holder admitted to the American Constitution Society, an organization started as a liberal counterweight to the Federalist Society, that the Justice Department was ''going to be looking for people who share our values.''

Then it references Fort Hood and the fact that:

Following the Fort Hood attack on November 5, 2009, not one of the postattack reports issued by the Department of Justice mentioned Nidal Hasan's Islamist ideology.

It talks further about that, and then it talks about the AP surveillance, the way it went after the Associated Press and cowed them.

Number four, the Department of Justice secretly targets Fox News reporter James Rosen.

There were issues of credibility in comparing our Attorney General's testimony, saying he didn't know of anyone ever being prosecuted, in essence, and then his signing off on the pursuit of James Rosen.

Five is the Marc Rich pardon and that Eric Holder played an important role in what was arguably the most infamous of President Clinton's 176 pardons. He was the billionaire financier and fugitive oil broker who illegally bought oil from Iran.

Anyway, President Clinton signed the pardon, later crediting Holder's recommendation as one of the factors that had convinced him to issue the pardon.

Number six was the Weather Underground pardon.

Holder, as Deputy Attorney General, ''was the gatekeeper for presidential pardons.'' Two of the recipients of Holder's pardons were former Weather Underground members Susan Rosenberg and Linda Evans.

Number seven—and I am not reading off all the information about these—but seven was:

Holder's DOJ threatens free speech. The American Muslim Advisory Council of Tennessee sponsored an event on June 4, called ''Public Disclosure in a Diverse Society.'' The main speakers for the event were DOJ official Bill Killian, who is the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and FBI Special Agent of the Knoxville Division, Kenneth Moore. What is troubling about the event is that Killian addressed how social media posts and documents deemed inflammatory toward Muslims can be considered a violation of civil rights laws.

He went on and he quoted the law, talking about how anybody critical of Islam could be violating the law. He quotes the law:

If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person in any State, territory, commonwealth, possession, or district in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, they shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

Talk about a chilling effect.

Number eight, hostility towards conservatives. At an American Constitution Society gathering in 2004, Holder made the following comments—and these are all quotes:

Conservatives have been defenders of the status quo, afraid of the future, and content to allow to continue to exist all but the most blatant inequalities.

Conservatives have ''made a mockery of the rule of law.''

Conservatives are ''breathtaking'' in their ''arrogance,'' which manifests itself in such things as ''attacks on abortion rights,'' ''energy policies that are as shortsighted as they are ineffective,'' and ''tax cuts that disproportionately favor those who are well off and perpetuate many of the inequities in our nation.''

The hallmarks of the ''conservative agenda'' include ''social division, mindless tax cutting, and a defense posture that does not really make us safer.''

Anyway, he has got quite a few quotes like that.

But number nine, opposition to Second Amendment rights:

In 2008, Eric Holder claimed that the Second Amendment does not protect an individual's right to keep and bear arms, but only applied to government militias.

Number 10 was the treatment of terrorists as criminal defendants instead of enemy combatants, as the laws that were passed should have indicated.

Number 11 was the Arizona immigration law, how he went after that and he had not even read it. Filed pleadings—

his department filed pleadings, and he made statements about how bad the law was, and he had not even read it.

I thought my friend from Texas, TED POE, a former judge, had asked one of the stupidest questions I had ever heard in our Judiciary Committee hearing when he asked: Had you read that law before you filed that suit?

And the answer was no. I couldn't believe that no lawyer would file a suit declaring a law unconstitutional and he hadn't even read it.

Twelve, New Black Panther intimidation.

Thirteen, opposition to voter ID laws—and by the way, we have evidence—you have places where photo IDs have been required, and there was actually an increase in minority voting.

Fourteen, Fast and Furious, that we can't get to the bottom of because they continue to secrete information about the department's involvement and what they did.

Fifteen, purges references to radical Islam, and we know about the purging of FBI training documents so that we don't offend people that want to destroy our way of life and us.

Sixteen, about the Islamic outreach, when I was grilling FBI Director Mueller about not even pursuing adequately the information about Tsarnaev being radicalized, I said: you didn't even go to the Muslim mosque in Boston to ask about their radicalization.

He said: oh, yes, we did go to the mosque—and then muttered ''in the outreach program.'' They never went to talk to anybody that might know whether Tsarnaev had been radicalized.

Then The New York Times has a story blaming the Russians. The Russians and our own intelligence community know anytime you give a heads-up to another country about information that may be helpful to them, you may end up giving away how intelligence is obtained.

So it was wonderful that, twice, Russia gave us a heads-up, and instead, we go to the mosque that Tsarnaev attends, with our outreach program from the FBI, instead of to investigate how radicalized this young man had become and the damage and the death and mayhem he was about to cause.

If someone wants to say there is another motive for being critical, well, they are living in their own little world.

If somebody wants to bring up race, Mr. Speaker, for the record, let me just say, there is one African American I am still furious with. His name is Fred McClure. He was the president of the State of Texas Future Farmers of America. He was the student body president at Texas A&M University, where I attended. He was a good friend.

I went to Baylor Law School before him. People say: wow, you really did well, you know, you won an award for a law review article, won best brief award, won moot court.

Fred came in behind me and set the place on fire, figuratively speaking, with how well he did and the things he accomplished.

□ 1345

But he went to work for President George H. W. Bush, and in 1990, in December, I begged Fred to come back to east Texas where he grew up in San Augustine and that there were a lot of us that loved him and would get him elected to Congress so we could come back up here to Washington and set things right.

And the thing I am still furious at Fred about is, if Fred had taken the encouragement to heart and come back and run for Congress, we could have gotten him elected. And if we had done that, I could have been about a normal life and not had to be here in Congress.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 35, 113th Congress, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Monday, April 28, 2014, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5366. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Peanut Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Amendment to Primary Peanut-Producing States and Adjustment of Membership [Document Number: AMS-FV-13-0042] received April 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5367. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Colonel Robert G. Armfield and Colonel Christopher M. Short to wear the authorized insignia of the brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5368. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Stanley T. Kresge, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5369. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Weapons Counsel, transmitting certification of amounts requested for the national Nuclear Security Administration in the President's Budget for FY 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5370. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's semiannual Monetary Policy Report pursuant to Pub. L. 106-569; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5371. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's ''Major'' final rule — Enhanced Prudential Standards for Bank Holding Companies and Foreign Banking Organizations (Regulation YY; Docket No.: 1438) (RIN: 7100-AD-86) received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5372. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (Mercer County, PA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] received April 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5373. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (Caddo Parish, LA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5374. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting in accordance with the provisions of section 17(a) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-576, and the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, the Corporation's 2013 Annual Report; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5375. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion's annual report for 2013; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5376. A letter from the Director, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion's annual report for 2013; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5377. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Legislative and Regulator Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting an analysis of 12 CFR Part 44; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5378. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion's annual report for 2013; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5379. A letter from the Acting Chairman, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, transmitting the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities' thirty-eighth annual report on the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5380. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5381. A letter from the Chair, Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services, transmitting the 2014 Recommendations of the Public Members of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5382. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluoxastrobin; Pesticide

Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0576; FRL-9907-46] received April 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5383. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (South Bend, Indiana) [MB Docket No.: 14-1] [RM-11710] received April 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5384. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Generator Verification Reliability Standards [Docket No.: RM13-16-000; Order No. 796] received April 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5385. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-06, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5386. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-185, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5387. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-184, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5388. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-162, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5389. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-181, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5390. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-169, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5391. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-143, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5392. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notice that the Deputy Secretary has issued the required determination to waive certain restrictions on the maintenance of a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Office; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5393. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5394. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5395. A letter from the Director, Office of Civil Rights, International Broadcasting Bureau, transmitting the Board's FY 2013 report, pursuant to the requirements of section 203(b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No Fear Act); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5396. A letter from the Acting Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting the Endowment's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5397. A letter from the Associate Commissioner/EEO Director, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5398. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2014-2018; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5399. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting three reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5400. A letter from the Secretary, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2013 report, pursuant to the requirements of section 203(b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No Fear Act); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5401. A letter from the Chair, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, transmitting the Board's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203(a) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5402. A letter from the EEO Director, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5403. A letter from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting the Court's report on the activities of the Family Court during 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5404. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Amendment 95 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish [Docket No.: 120723270-4100-02] (RIN: 0648-BC39) received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5405. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD189) received April 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5406. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD184) received April 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5407. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD181) received April 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5408. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD166) received April 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5409. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Jig or Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bogoslof Pacific Cod Exemption Area Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD175) received April 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5410. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 121009528-2729-02] (RIN: 0648-XD156) received April 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5411. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States: Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Butterfish Trip Limit

Reduction [Docket No.: 120731291-2522-02] (RIN: 0648-XD167) received April 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5412. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; General Category Fishery [Docket No.: 130214139-3542-02] (RIN: 0648-XD201) received April 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5413. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD190) received April 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5414. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan [Docket No.: 131213999-4208-02] (RIN: 0648-BD82) received April 4, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5415. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Adjustments to 2014 Annual Catch Limits [Docket No.: 130919816-4205-02] (RIN: 0648-BD70) received April 4, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5416. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NOAA Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Precision Strike Weapon and Air-to-Surface Gunnery Training and Testing Operations at Eglin Air Force Base, FL [Docket No.: 120820371-4079-02] (RIN: 0648-BC46) received April 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5417. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; 2014 and 2015 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XC927) received April 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5418. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers employed at the Joslyn Manufacturing and Supply Co. at the covered facility in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5419. A letter from the Regulatory Coordinator, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standards To Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Sexual Abuse and Assault in Confinement Facilities [ICEB-2012-0003] (RIN: 1653-AA65) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5420. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visas: Waiver by Joint Action of Visa and Passport Requirements for Members of Armed Forces and Coast Guards of Foreign Countries (RIN: 1400-AD51) received April 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5421. A letter from the Vice President, Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, Amtrak National Railroad Passenger Corporation, transmitting an addendum to the Legislative and Grant Request for Fiscal Year 2015; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5422. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tariff of Tolls (RIN: 2135-AA35) received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5423. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Interpretive Rule Regarding Applicability of the Exemption from Permitting Under Section 404(f)(1)(A) of the Clean Water Act to Certain Agricultural Conservation Practices [EPA-HQ-OW-2013-0820; 9908-97-OW] received April 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5424. A letter from the Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the 2014 Trade Policy Agenda and the 2013 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program as prepared by the Administration; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5425. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Arms, Ammunition and Implements of War and Machine Guns, Destructive Devices, and Certain Other Firearms; Extending the Term of Import Permits (2010R-26P) [Docket No.: ATF 26F; AG Order No. 3417-2014] (RIN: 1140-AA42) received February 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5426. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — April 2014 (Rev. Rul. 2014-12) received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5427. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Guidance on Section 1.1502-75(b) (Rev. Proc. 2014-24) received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5428. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Virtual Currency [Notice 2014-21] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5429. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Modification of Rev. Proc. 2013-22 (Revenue Procedure 2014-28) received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5430. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Health Insurance Providers Fee; Procedural and Administrative Guidance [Notice 2014-24] received April 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5431. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Application of One-Per-Year Limit on IRA Rollovers (Announcement 2014-15) received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5432. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Postponement of Deadline for Making an Election to Deduct for the Preceding Taxable Year Losses Attributable to Colorado Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides [Notice 2014-20] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5433. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Rollovers to Qualified Plans (Rev. Rul. 2014-9) received April 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5434. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting A report on the Evaluation of the Medicare Care Management Performance Demonstration, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395b-1 note Public Law 108-173, section 649(g); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

5435. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, ''Recovery Auditing in the Medicare and Medicaid Program''; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

5436. A letter from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting the Commission's March 2014 Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

5437. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on the Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) activities for fiscal year 2013; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, the Judiciary, Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 863. A bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–411 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2657. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to sell certain Federal lands in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming, previously identified as suitable for disposal,

and for other purposes (Rept. 113–412). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4032. A bill to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–413 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

The Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4032 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. GRAYSON, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 4445. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to develop and test an expanded and advanced role for direct care workers who provide long-term services and supports to older individuals in efforts to coordinate care and improve the efficiency of service delivery; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 4446. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the claiming and interring of unclaimed remains of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD (for himself, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. LANKFORD):

H.R. 4447. A bill to direct the employing authority of any officer or employee of the Federal Government who is in contempt of Congress to not pay compensation to the officer or employee while the officer or employee remains in contempt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PITTENGER (for himself, Mr. PITTS, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan):

H.R. 4448. A bill to direct the President to suspend assistance to foreign countries that fail to use INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database for purposes of determining accuracy of passports of prospective passengers on commercial flights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4449. A bill to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to expand the training for Federal Government personnel related to trafficking in persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. FARR, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. TITUS, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. HAHN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CHU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LONG, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. GRIMM):

H.R. 4450. A bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 4451. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of the general public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 4452. A bill to establish a corporate crime database, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 4453. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 4454. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain rules regarding basis adjustments to stock of S corporations making charitable contributions of property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 4455. A bill to require Federal agencies to collaborate in the development of freely available open source educational materials in college-level physics, chemistry, and math, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 4456. A bill to determine the feasibility of additional agreements for long-term use of existing or expanded non-Federal storage and conveyance facilities to augment Federal water supply, ecosystem, and operational flexibility benefits in certain areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. NEAL, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. SCHOCK):

H.R. 4457. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCCARTHY of California:

H.R. 4458. A bill to make permanent the withdrawal and reservation of public land previously withdrawn and reserved to support the operations of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California, and to provide for the withdrawal and reservation of additional public land; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 4459. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons who have been released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MENG, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 4460. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to repeal the sunset of the special immigrant nonminister religious worker program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 4461. A bill to authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Climate Change Education Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 4462. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to discount FHA single-family mortgage insurance premium payments for first-time homebuyers who complete a financial literacy housing counseling program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 4463. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to regulate tax return preparers and refund anticipation payment arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHOCK, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 4464. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the look-through treatment of payments between related controlled foreign corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 4465. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to repeal the requirement to establish catch limits for the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 4466. A bill to require certain financial regulators to determine whether new regulations or orders are duplicative or inconsistent with existing Federal regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 4467. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for visas for certain advanced STEM graduates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 4468. A bill to require career and technical education for maritime careers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 4469. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions for 1 year; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 4470. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to regulate tax return preparers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 4471. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the tax incentives for empowerment zones and renewal communities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FATTAH:

H.R. 4472. A bill to provide for the establishment of a grant program to support United States-Israeli cooperation for neuroscience-related research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 4473. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small employers a credit against income tax for the cost of on-the-job training expenses, to make the research credit permanent, and to increase the simplified research credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. GRANGER (for herself, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 4474. A bill to remove the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan from treatment as terrorist organizations and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia (for himself and Mr. HANNA):

H.R. 4475. A bill to allow the manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of investigational drugs and devices intended for use by terminally ill patients who execute an informed consent document, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4476. A bill to require ingredient labeling of certain consumer cleaning products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 4477. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for engineering, final design, and construction of the Altamont Corridor Rail Project, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4478. A bill to require that any new contract to provide project-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 have a term of 40 years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4479. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a renter's credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RICHMOND (for himself, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BASS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CLAY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 4480. A bill to amend adverse credit history determinations for purposes of Federal Direct PLUS Loan eligibility; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4481. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to authorize block grants to States for prekindergarten education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4482. A bill to prohibit any appropriation of funds for the Science and Technology account of the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER (for herself, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MASSIE, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 4483. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the eligibility of certain additional programs for the National Science Foundation competitive grant program for K-12 math, science, engineering, and technology education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. BARBER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 4484. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide improvements for Medicare Advantage special needs plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 4485. A bill to provide for additional enhancements to the sexual assault prevention and response activities of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.J. Res. 114. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States concerning the election of the Members of the House of Representatives; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TERRY:

H. Con. Res. 97. Concurrent resolution recognizing caregiving as a profession and the need for increased educational opportunities for both paid and family caregivers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Ms. CHU, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. BERA of California):

H. Res. 550. A resolution honoring the Sikh American community's celebration of Vaisakhi; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BASS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. LEWIS):

H. Res. 551. A resolution supporting the mission and goals of 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of, and services available to assist, victims of crime in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. RANGEL):

H. Res. 552. A resolution celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1964 World's Fair in Queens, New York; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia:

H. Res. 553. A resolution recognizing Linemen, the profession of Linemen, and the contributions of these brave men and women to protect public safety, and expressing support of designation of April 18, 2014, as National Lineman Appreciation Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HAHN:

H. Res. 554. A resolution recognizing the alarming mortality rate of African-American breast cancer patients; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

190. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State

of Ohio, relative to House Resolution No. 340 commending Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and Ohio; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

191. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 315 memorializing the Congress and the President to support Michigan's application for a state-sponsored EB-5 regional center; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

192. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 316 memorializing the President and the Congress to support Michigan's request for 50,000 EB-2 visas to assist in the recovery of the city of Detroit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

193. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 urging the President, Congress, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to take prompt action to reduce the processing time for veterans' disability benefit claims; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

194. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Colorado, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 14-1007 recognizing the bravery and sacrifice of the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs.

195. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 urging Congress to repeal Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; jointly to the Committees on Financial Services and Foreign Affairs.

196. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the Territory of Guam, relative to Resolution No. 316-32 requesting that the Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services further consider and amend the provisions of the PPACA; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

197. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Washington, relative to Senate Joint Memorial 8003 urging Congress to update and amend the Communications Decency Act; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary.

198. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, relative to House Joint Memorial 206 urging Congress to direct the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to enhance safety standards for new and existing tank rail cars used to transport crude oil and other flammable liquids; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4445.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States...

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 4446.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8: to provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 4447.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, Clause 18

By Mr. PITTENGER:

H.R. 4448.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4449.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 4450.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (which states that ''The Congress shall have the Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States'') and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (which states that the Congress shall have the Power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes'') of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 4451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 4452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 4453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 4454.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 4455.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 4456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 4457.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill makes changes to existing law relating to Article 1, Section 7 which provides that ''All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives.''

By Mr. McCARTHY of California:

H.R. 4458.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 4459.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

1) Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution. This provision permits Congress to make or alter the regulations pertaining to Federal elections;

2) Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. This provision grants Congress the authority to enact appropriate laws protecting the civil rights of all Americans; and

3) The Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution. This provision prohibits excessive bail, excessive fines and cruel and unusual punishment.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 4460.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 4461.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 4462.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 4463.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 1
Amdt. XVI

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 4464.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 4465.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 4466.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 1: All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 4467.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, which states that Congress has the power to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 4468.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 4469.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

The U.S. Constitution

Article I, Section 8: Powers of Congress

Clause 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4471.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FATTAH:

H.R. 4472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I Section 8 Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the United States Congress shall have power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes''.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 4473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, which states ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes.'

By Ms. GRANGER:

H.R. 4474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution that the Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 4475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4476.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 4477.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4478.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4479.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article XVI of the Constitution—Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes . . .

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 4480.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority for this bill stems from Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.''

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER:

H.R. 4483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. SINEMA:

H.R. 4484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 1

and

Article I Section 8 Clause 18

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 4485.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Military Regulation: Article I, Section 8, Clauses 14 and 18

To make Rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.J. Res. 114.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 24: Mr. ROONEY, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 32: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 184: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 279: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 435: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 460: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 485: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 508: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 524: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 551: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 578: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 713: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 718: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 786: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 855: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 863: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 935: Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 942: Mr. POSEY and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 963: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1020: Mr. MAFFEI and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 1070: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. MCKEON.

H.R. 1074: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 1084: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 1141: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 1173: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 1229: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1290: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 1318: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 1331: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 1354: Mr. POCAN and Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 1462: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 1464: Mr. PIERLUISI.

H.R. 1507: Mr. ENYART and Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 1508: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 1563: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 1620: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 1699: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1726: Mr. REED.

H.R. 1812: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.

H.R. 1852: Mr. DAINES.

H.R. 1861: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 1950: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 2093: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 2143: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 2203: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 2247: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 2283: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 2288: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2315: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 2342: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2377: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 2387: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 2429: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. SCALISE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 2504: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. PETERS of California, and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 2543: Mr. LONG and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 2607: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 2619: Mr. POCAN, Mr. RAHALL, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 2648: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2682: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 2707: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 2725: Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 2788: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 2805: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 2870: Mr. MEEHAN and Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 2901: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 2914: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2932: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 2955: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 2957: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 2959: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. PETRI, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 2996: Mr. COOK and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3022: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3086: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 3150: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 3155: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 3179: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama and Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 3313: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3344: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 3361: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 3367: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3377: Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 3494: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3528: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3530: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 3570: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 3581: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 3610: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 3658: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 3665: Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 3673: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3697: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 3707: Mr. HOLT and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 3717: Mr. CARTER, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 3740: Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 3782: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 3867: Ms. GRANGER and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 3929: Ms. FUDGE and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 3930: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. CAMP.
H.R. 3969: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 3991: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 4008: Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 4031: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4058: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 4064: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 4069: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 4119: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4143: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 4162: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4172: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 4225: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4228: Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 4250: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 4255: Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 4285: Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. HAHN, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4299: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4305: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 4308: Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 4316: Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 4320: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 4325: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4346: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 4351: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, MR. HUNTER, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 4357: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 4361: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4364: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 4365: Ms. NORTON, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. PAULSEN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 4370: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 4411: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. SALMON, Ms. MENG, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. COOK, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. LONG, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 4423: Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 4433: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.J. Res. 50: Mr. BENISHEK.
H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TERRY, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. TONKO.
H. Res. 72: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H. Res. 109: Mr. WOODALL.
H. Res. 190: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H. Res. 526: Mr. HUFFMAN.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 2377: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

77. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Township of Parsippany—Tory Hills, New Jersey, relative to Resolution R2014-040 urging the Congress to invest federal dollars in maintaining the highways and improving the transportation infrastructure in the State of New Jersey; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

78. Also, a petition of the County of Saratoga Board of Supervisors, New York, relative to Resolution 44 urging the passage of H.R. 543; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

79. Also, a petition of the County of Saratoga Board of Supervisors, New York, relative to Resolution 45-2014 urging the Senate to introduce a companion bill of H.R. 1494 and ensure its passage within the 113th Congressional Session; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE—*Thursday, April 10, 2014*

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The guest chaplain, Dr. Raphael Warnock, senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church of Atlanta, GA, will lead the Senate in prayer.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of love and justice, for this new day with its new possibilities, we are grateful. For the holy covenant we have with You and for the sacred covenant we have with one another as an American people, we are grateful. For the precious ideals of freedom, self-government, radical inclusion, and equal protection under the law, we are grateful. These are Your gifts. Grant that when we, the American people, especially those who serve in this the people's house, are weighed by the moral balance of history, we will be found worthy.

God, make us mindful that we might be found worthy; mindful that the moral test of government is how it treats those at the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, the handicapped. O God, make us mindful of our inextricable connections to one another and of our sacred obligation as careful stewards of this global neighborhood we are blessed to share.

To the God who loves us into freedom, and frees us into loving, we offer this prayer. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 10, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 354, the minimum wage legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 354, S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the time until 10:30 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled.

At 10:30 a.m. there will be a vote on the Ninth Circuit judge, whose name is Michelle Friedland. Until cloture is invoked there will be up to 30 hours of debate prior to vote on the confirmation of the nomination. So we have two votes we need to have before we leave here this week. We can have a vote at 4:00 tomorrow afternoon and the second vote would be around 7:00 or thereabouts tomorrow afternoon or tomorrow evening. We have to finish these two matters before we leave this week.

The schedule is up to—not Republicans but a few Republicans—so I would suggest the Republicans deal with their own, and we can finish this morning if we need to. We certainly could.

Mr. President, I would be happy to yield to my friend, the dignified and really superb Senator from Georgia.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I thank the leader for the introduction and I am very pleased to introduce today the Reverend Raphael Warnock, the senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. He is a gifted author, a gifted and prolific preacher, and a great citizen of the great State of Georgia and the great city of Atlanta.

Following in the traditions of the King family and the preachers of Ebenezer Baptist Church, he is the fifth pastor in the history of Ebenezer to carry out the mission of Ebenezer with great humility and great ability and great love, and is a great pastor in our eyes. I am pleased to welcome him to the U.S. Senate, and I know we will all be blessed in his presence today.

I yield back.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968

Mr. REID. Tomorrow marks the 46th anniversary of the signing into law the Civil Rights Act of 1968, better known as the Fair Housing Act. This landmark legislation took a stand against housing discrimination and gave American families a fair shot at finding housing that was suitable to their needs. It is fitting we recognize this anniversary now, especially in light of the equality legislation we have been trying to pass here in the Senate recently.

THE ECONOMIC LADDER

One of the first well-known billionaires we heard a lot of talk about on the planet was the outspoken oil tycoon J. Paul Getty. He once quipped: ''Money is like manure. You have to spread it around or it smells.''

Well, Charles and David Koch have certainly spread the money around, but it still stinks. It stinks because of what they do with their money. The Kochs are singlehandedly funding an attack on this Nation's middle class, instead of concerning themselves with narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor.

Remember, in America today the rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, and the middle class is getting squeezed. The Koch brothers have a lot to do with that. They are pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into rightwing organizations. And I didn't make a mistake when I said hundreds of millions of dollars.

Instead of giving Americans a fighting chance to prosperity, the two richest brothers in the world are focused on getting Republicans elected. These Koch-funded organizations and politicians advocate only for what makes the Koch brothers richer. The two richest brothers in the world want to be richer, and it comes at the expense of the average American.

The Kochs are the classic example of two men at the top of the ladder who

would pull that ladder up to make sure no one else can join them. That is exactly what the Koch brothers are trying to do to middle-class families. The only difference, of course, is that Charles and David never even scaled the ladder in the first place. They were born at the top rung. But somehow the Kochs have fooled themselves into thinking they rose to the top by their own merits. They didn't.

More importantly, the Koch brothers have decided that they want their inherited wealth, this company now they have at the top—they want to make sure this ladder that should be reachable for everyone is unreachable. They are determined to make that ladder totally unreachable for others. These billionaires do this by rigging the system even more in their favor, making sure the Kochs' interests are being represented at all costs.

As has been reported—and not by me—the Koch brothers have what some journalists are calling secret banks. Organizations serve as middlemen to fund ultraconservative scare campaigns. Through these secret banks, such as Freedom Partners and others, the multibillionaire Koch brothers pump money into radical institutions and all these rightwing organizations ultimately come to the same conclusion: America's best bet for economic prosperity is to help the Koch brothers get richer.

So what do these groups do with the funds they receive from their billionaire benefactors? Groups such as Americans for Prosperity—try that one on for size, the Americans for Prosperity—lie to the American people about ObamaCare, hoping families will not sign up for affordable health care.

Extreme organizations such as Independent Women's Forum tell women equal pay for equal work is not necessary because they say wage disparity is a myth.

The Koch-backed Manhattan Institute is another one of their shell organizations that tries to convince the country that out-of-work American families don't need unemployment benefits. Why? Because they are out of work because they are lazy.

And, of course, the Heritage Foundation uses Koch dollars to say raising the minimum wage is bad for business and will kill the economy.

It is clear that the Kochs are using these puppet organizations in their proxy war on the middle class. But Charles and David aren't just using radical rightwing groups to keep average Americans from scaling the rungs. They are using Republicans. They are spreading their money around helping Republicans get elected.

Unfortunately, the Republican Congress has shown itself to be in lockstep with the Koch brothers' radical agenda. The Republicans continue to push repeal of the Affordable Care Act. I watched the speech on the House floor yesterday, where one House Member indicated that he tried almost 60 times to repeal the bill—almost 60 times.

What did Albert Einstein say? The definition of insanity is when someone tries to do something over and over again and they get the same result. They are insane. That is Albert Einstein, not me.

They are doing this regardless of the fact that even the Koch brothers; that is, their business, Koch Industries, benefited from ObamaCare.

Remember that ladder. The Kochs already got what they needed from health care reform. They don't want other people to do the same. They have benefited from ObamaCare. I laid that out a few days ago on the Senate floor.

Senate Republicans have blocked the equal pay amendment three times—three separate Congresses. They won't even let us discuss it. All but half of Republican Senators voted against the extension of benefits for the long-term unemployed, and turned their back on their own constituents.

As for the minimum wage, my Republican colleagues have given no indication to help struggling families with the minimum wage.

The Kochs' wealth is being used to squeeze the middle class very much. As long as Charles and David Koch are at the top looking down, who cares about the little people at the bottom, in their estimation.

It is shameful that Koch money has made its way into our Nation's Capitol, our news, and our homes. It is frustrating that as Senate Democrats look across the aisle, we don't see many willing partners in defending middle-class families in Nevada and across the Nation. But we are not going to be intimidated by these Koch surrogates in the media or here in this very Chamber. We will continue to fight even harder to protect Americans from the greedy grasp of these billionaire oil barons and the wrath of their radical minions. Senate Democrats will continue to pull that ladder out from the Koch brothers' fingers so every American has a fair shot at climbing to the top.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

JOB CREATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. For days now Republicans have been coming to the floor to ask the Democratic majority to work with us on jobs. This is the issue Americans say they care the most about. So it is hard to see why Senate Democrats seem so allergic to various jobs ideas we have been proposing, not to mention dozens of job-creating bills already passed by the House.

Look, our constituents want us to work together to rebuild the middle class, to help create opportunities for the families struggling out there just to pay the bills. In recent days we have given our Democratic colleagues ample opportunity to do that. We have offered one innovative proposal after another, proposals that haven't had much of a problem attracting bipartisan support in the past, ideas such as reducing the tax burden on small businesses, freeing them to grow, to hire, to innovate, ideas such as approving the Keystone Pipeline, which would create thousands of jobs right away; ideas such as repealing the medical device tax which even Democrats acknowledge is killing jobs—although they haven't acted to fix it yet—and ideas such as eliminating ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek mandate, a rule that cuts people's hours against their will, that disproportionately affects women and is forcing too many Americans to look for extra work to get by.

But we go even further than just tackling the causes of joblessness. Our ideas go beyond just helping Americans secure jobs with a steady paycheck and the hope of a better future.Because we have also put forward legislation that offers Americans more choices and greater flexibility in the workforce. This is something a lot of our constituents are asking for, and we are responding to those concerns.

One bill we have proposed would let working moms and dads take more time off to strike a better work-life balance. Another bill would prohibit union bosses from denying pay increases to an employee who works harder than her coworkers.

These are the kinds of practical, commonsense proposals our constituents sent us here to actually pass. These are the things that would make jobs more plentiful and life a lot easier for men and women across our country. For some reason Senate Democrats are blocking all of these ideas from getting a vote. Maybe it is because they are so single-mindedly focused on an election that is still 7 months away.

I mean, they have already conceded that their ''agenda'' for the rest of the year was drafted by campaign staffers. It is a stunning admission. It explains their near-total lack of interest in practical solutions to the everyday concerns of our constituents. It also explains why the only jobs that Senate Democrats seem to be interested in these days are their own.

This is a big problem. Not only does it reinforce the widespread belief that Democrats are not serious about jobs, it also reinforces a growing impression that Democrats are simply out of their depth when it comes to our economy. Think about it: Washington Democrats are well into their sixth year of trying to get the economy back on track—6 years.

Yet for many in the middle class things only seem to have gotten worse.

Average household income has fallen by nearly $3,600. The number of Americans actually working in the labor force has dropped to its lowest level since the Carter era. Millions are looking for work and can't find it, and the new rules and regulations just keep on coming. They have tried all their usual liberal solutions—higher taxes, ''stimulus,'' and more regulations. They have tried all the standard stuff and it has not worked. Doing more of it won't work either.

This may be difficult for Washington Democrats to hear, but it is time they switched from their failed ideological approach. It is time for them to shelve their political games and work with us to pass practical legislation for a change—legislation that can finally rescue the middle class from so many years of economic failure.

I have laid out a number of commonsense proposals already. There is more we can do if Democrats are willing to reach across the aisle and help deliver for the American people. My constituents expect us to do that. I am sure theirs do too. Honestly, there is no reason not to do that.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10:30 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. MURRAY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2243 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Michelle Friedland to the Ninth Circuit.

This nomination was approved in the Judiciary Committee on a strong bipartisan vote of 14 to 3, including support from four Republican members: Ranking Member GRASSLEY, and Senators HATCH, GRAHAM, and FLAKE. She has earned the American Bar Association's highest rating of ''well qualified.''

If she is confirmed, which I very much hope she is, it would mark the first time ever that the Ninth Circuit, the busiest circuit in the country by some measures, has its full complement of 29 active circuit judges.

Michelle Friedland earned her bachelor's degree, with honors and distinction, from Stanford University in 1994. She was Phi Beta Kappa, and became a Fulbright Scholar from 1995 to 1996, studying at Oxford.

She earned her law degree from Stanford Law School in 2000, where she was second in her class, graduated with distinction, and inducted into the Order of the Coif.

She then had two prestigious clerkships. The first was with Judge David Tatel on the DC Circuit.

She then clerked for Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who attended Ms. Friedland's confirmation hearing this past November.

Although I could not attend that hearing, it said a great deal that Justice O'Connor, the first woman on the Supreme Court and a voice of great moderation and pragmatism on the Court, came to the Judiciary Committee and demonstrated her support in person for this nominee.

Ms. Friedland then served as a lecturer at Stanford Law School from 2002 to 2004 and subsequently joined the law firm Munger Tolles & Olsen, where she is now a partner.

She has represented major clients, including Berkshire Hathaway, Boeing, Abbott Laboratories, the University of California, and Solvay Pharmaceuticals. She has worked on issues including criminal defense, class action defense, tax, patent, copyright, and antitrust.

She has also done pro bono work, devoting time, for example, to the Silicon Valley Campaign for Legal Services and Equality California.

She has won the President's Pro Bono Service Award and the Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services, both from the State Bar of California.

She also has broad support in the legal community. One letter came from 27 individuals who clerked on the Supreme Court—including for Justices Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas—when Ms. Friedland clerked for Justice O'Connor. They said that Friedland is ''respectful of colleagues, fair-minded to attorneys and litigants, and sharp as a tack.''

A second letter is from Kathryn Haun, who previously served in the Justice Department under Attorney General Mukasey and in the National Security Division. Today she is a Federal prosecutor in Northern California.

Ms. Haun has known Michelle Friedland since they were classmates in the same small section at Stanford Law School. Ms. Haun's letter says:

I clerked for Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, am a member of the Federalist Society, and have always been a registered Republican. Notwithstanding our political differences, I believe [Michelle Friedland] would make an outstanding federal appellate judge if confirmed. This is because Michelle has a deep respect for legal precedent above seeking a particular result in a given case.

A third letter is from the general counsel of Cisco, Edison International, Google, Facebook, Rambus, and other companies. It speaks very highly of this nominee, and says, quote: ''All parties appearing before her, from individual litigants to small businesses to the nation's largest corporations, would be confident that she will adjudge their cases fairly and in accordance with the law.''

The Ninth Circuit is also the busiest circuit. It has over 1,470 pending appeals per panel. This is two and a half times the average of the other circuits.

It comes as no surprise, then, that it takes much longer to resolve an appeal in the Ninth Circuit than in the other circuits. Specifically, the Ninth Circuit takes 13.3 months to resolve an appeal. This is down from 17.4 months in 2011, but it is still 55 percent greater than the average in the other circuits.

Thus, it is very important for businesses, individuals, and others in all States in the Ninth Circuit that nominees to this court are promptly taken up and confirmed.

I will conclude by remarking upon what I see as a real opportunity for the Senate in the coming months.

When I was first elected to the Senate in 1992, it was called by some the Year of the Woman. Senator BOXER and I were both elected that year, as were Senator MURRAY and former Senator Carol Moseley Braun.

Yet after we were all sworn in, there were still only six women in the Senate. I became the first woman ever to sit on the Senate Judiciary Committee, after some very divisive hearings for Justice Clarence Thomas, in which the lack of women on the Judiciary Committee became an issue.

At the time, the Federal courts were mainly the province of men appointed by the two most recent Presidents.

About 92 percent of President Reagan's confirmed judicial nominees were men. That number fell under President George H.W. Bush, but only to 81 percent. Overall, only 12.6 percent of active Federal judges were women when I was sworn in to the Senate.

Although women have been close to half of all law students for decades, even today only 53 of 164 active circuit judges—or 32 percent—are women.

Right now, there are female nominees for the Third, Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Circuits pending in the Senate—a total of six nominees, with four simply waiting for a floor vote. To put these numbers in perspective, there were only 6 women confirmed to the circuit courts during all 8 years of the Reagan administration.

If all six of these pending nominees are confirmed, the number of active female circuit judges would grow by over 11 percent. That is a big deal, and it is a real opportunity to increase significantly the number of women on the circuit courts.

Michelle Friedland is well qualified, she has bipartisan support, and her confirmation would give the Ninth Circuit—the busiest circuit—a full complement of 29 judges for the first time. I urge my colleagues to support her.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, we are again voting to overcome a Republican filibuster of a highly qualified nominee for a judicial emergency vacancy on the busiest circuit court in the country. For what is already the third time this year, the majority leader has had to file cloture on one of President Obama's circuit court nominees in order to move the nomination forward. In stark contrast, the Senate confirmed 18 of President Bush's circuit nominees within a week of being reported by the Judiciary Committee.

Michelle Friedland, nominated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, is an exceptionally talented attorney, and has an exemplary record of service in the top echelons of the legal profession. She clerked on the United States Supreme Court for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor from 2001 to 2002 and on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for Judge David Tatel from 2000 to 2001. Ms. Friedland earned her B.S. with honors and distinction from Stanford University in 1995. She studied at Oxford University from 1995 to 1996 as a Fulbright Scholar and went on to earn her J.D. with distinction from Stanford Law School in 2000.

For over a decade, Ms. Friedland has worked in private practice at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, where she was named partner in 2010. She has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia School Law and as a Lecturer in Law at the Stanford Law School. Ms. Friedland has experience in both the trial court and appellate levels, including the United States Supreme Court. She manages an active pro bono practice and frequently represents the University of California in constitutional litigation. She received the President's Pro Bono Service Award in 2013 from the State Bar of California, and the LGBT Award from the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California in 2009. The American Bar Association unanimously awarded her their highest rating of ''well qualified.''

It comes as no surprise to me that Michelle Friedland's nomination has received significant support. Kathryn Haun, Assistant United States Attorney and Former Counsel to then-Attorney General Michael Mukasey, wrote to the Committee to express her support, saying ''Michelle and I fall at opposite ends of the political spectrum . . . Notwithstanding our political differences, I believe she would make an outstanding federal appellate judge . . . Michelle has a deep respect for legal precedent above seeking a particular result in a given case. She has a balance and a willingness to listen to all arguments before formulating a position on a particular issue. She displays, above all else, intellectual honesty and personal modesty that suit her exceptionally well for a federal appellate judgeship.''

Eugene Volokh, Professor of Law, at the UCLA School of Law, expressed his strong support for Ms. Friedland to the Committee, writing ''Michelle is a brilliant and extremely accomplished lawyer, who will make a superb judge. . . [She] has impressed not just those on her side of the political aisle, but conservatives as . . . well.''

General Counsel from multiple fortune 500 companies including Google, Cisco, and Facebook echo their support of Michelle Friedland, noting that ''Her career has been marked by energy, integrity, and legal excellence. She has represented a broad spectrum of clients in both the private and public sectors . . . The careful, unbiased approach she would bring to the types of issues that arise before the Ninth Circuit are critical to our nation's values and to its economic health.''

In their letter of support, 22 former Supreme Court Law Clerks to Justice O'Connor write, ''We have differing political views and differing careers, but we can all agree that Michelle would be an excellent federal appellate judge. We have . . . enjoyed her warm collegiality, her honesty and fairness, and her dedication to law above ideology. Michelle would be a tremendous addition to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and we urge you to confirm her nomination.''

I ask unanimous consent that a list of letters of support be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my statement.

If confirmed, Michelle Friedland would increase the gender diversity on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She would be the seventeenth female judge to ever sit on the Circuit. In comparison, 83 men have been appointed to the Ninth Circuit over the course of its history. Her confirmation would bring the percentage of active female judges sitting on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to nearly 38 percent. Her confirmation would also mark the first time, since the 29th judgeship was added in 2007, that it has had a full complement of active judges despite having the highest number of appeals filed, the highest pending appeals per panel and the highest pending appeals per active judge of any Circuit in the country.

Yet here we are, again voting to overcome a Republican filibuster of an exceptionally talented nominee to a court that desperately needs to be operating at full strength.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LETTERS RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH MICHELLE FRIEDLAND

July 26, 2013—Six Supreme Court Co-Clerks

August 26, 2013—Eugene Volokh, Professor of Law at the UCLA School of Law and conservative legal commentator

August 26, 2013—Five fellow partners at Munger, Tolles, & Olson LLP

September 4, 2013—Brian Fitzpatrick, Professor of Law at Vanderbilt Law School

September 9, 2013—Anup Malani, Professor of Law and Medicine at the University of Chicago

September 9, 2013—Edward Morrison, Professor of Law at the University of Chicago and Former Law Clerk to Justice Scalia

September 12, 2013—Kathryn Haun, Assistant United States Attorney and Former Counsel to Former Attorney General Michael Mukasey

September 23, 2013—General Counsels from multiple American companies including Google, Cisco, and Facebook

October 2, 2013—27 Supreme Court Co-Clerks

October 24, 2013—28 Former Law Students and Current Attorneys

November 4, 2013—22 former Supreme Court Law Clerks to Justice O'Connor

April 9, 2014—Nancy Duff Campbell and Marcia Greenberger, Co-Presidents of the National Women's Law Center

April 9, 2014—Wade Henderson, President and CEO, and Nancy Zirkin, Executive Vice President, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie K. Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Barbara Boxer, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Charles E. Schumer, John D. Rockefeller IV, Bernard Sanders, Cory A. Booker.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) would have voted ''nay.''

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 106 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—41

Alexander	Flake	Moran
Ayotte	Graham	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Chambliss	Inhofe	Scott
Coats	Isakson	Sessions
Cochran	Johanns	Shelby
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cornyn	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—3

Coburn	Cruz	Markey

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote the ayes are 56 and the nays are 41.

The motion to invoke cloture is agreed to.

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from the roll call vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michelle Friedland to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. Had I been present, I would have supported cloture on the nomination of Michelle Friedland.●

NOMINATION OF MICHELLE T. FRIEDLAND TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

A SHARED COMMITMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I start by making an obvious point that every Member of the Senate is dedicated to helping law enforcement officials get dangerous criminals off the street and deliver justice to victims of sexual assault, every one of us.

As we mark National Crime Victims' Rights Week and National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, let's all keep that shared commitment in mind.

Ten years ago I was proud to join with my colleagues and President Bush to enact the Justice for All Act, which has made it easier for America's law enforcement agencies to protect the innocent, to identify the guilty, and to bring peace of mind to the victims of violent crime. Justice for All dramatically increased the resources available to test DNA samples from crime scenes, to improve our DNA-testing capabilities and to reduce the rape kit backlog which had become a national scandal.

The backlog was—and remains—a national scandal of the highest order, but we are beginning to make some progress. In the city of Houston, for example, a backlog that once reached 6,600 untested rape kits—one of the largest in the country—is now in the process of being completely eliminated thanks in part to the support provided from the Justice for All Act.

Just to refresh the memories of my colleagues and for those who might be listening, these rape kits consist of forensic evidence collected at crime scenes that will help by testing the DNA to identify the perpetrator and, in the process, potentially exonerate people who have been falsely accused. The DNA tests are that good and that effective. What is extraordinary about DNA testing in the field of sexual assault is that sexual assault offenders rarely commit that crime once. They are typically serial offenders. In other words, they keep at it until they are caught. As we have learned from law enforcement officials, when there is not an adult victim available, these offenders are opportunistic and they will attack children, the most vulnerable among us. So this is enormously powerful evidence that is available to law enforcement to exonerate the falsely accused, to make sure the guilty are identified with scientific precision, and to take serial offenders off the street so they can't commit other acts of violence.

Last year I joined with the senior Senator from Vermont, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to introduce bipartisan legislation that would reauthorize the Justice for All Act and continue these beginning steps of progress. If it were up to me, we would have passed that bill a long time ago. If it were up to me, I would prefer to reauthorize the entire Justice for All Act right now—today. It has been hugely successful, and it commands strong support across party lines and across the country.

That said, it doesn't appear we are going to be able to do that today, but we do have an opportunity to take immediate action on two of the law's most critical components. Indeed, they could and should be reauthorized right now—today. I am referring, of course, to the Debbie Smith Act and the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program, both of which have been invaluable tools in our efforts to eliminate the rape kit backlog and to improve public safety.

Earlier this week our House colleagues passed a bill reauthorizing those provisions, and the Senate now has an opportunity to take up that more narrow House bill to reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act and the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program, even if we can't do the Justice for All Act today. I am hoping that colleagues here in the Chamber, and anyone who might be listening to my voice, will join us in this effort to do what we can do today to reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act and the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program and then, when it is possible for the Senate to act, to pass the Justice for All Act, the larger piece of legislation.

As I said, I would prefer to reauthorize the entire Justice for All Act, and I know there are many of our colleagues who share that sentiment with me. But regardless of whatever minor disagreements Members may have, we should immediately—today—reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act and the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program.

Again refreshing the memories of some of my colleagues, and others who may not be familiar with it, the Debbie Smith Act was named after Debbie Smith who has dedicated her life to making sure Congress keeps focused on this rape kit backlog problem and scandal. She is one of the biggest cheerleaders for this law that now bears her name. This is also the name for the portion of the law that allocates funds to the Department of Justice to use for grant programs to forensic laboratories, police departments, and other law enforcement agencies around the country that may not have the money or the expertise or the wherewithal to be able to test these rape kit backlogs.

It is not just my position that these two provisions the House has passed should be taken up and passed by the Senate and then catch up in due course with the entire Justice for All Act. It is also the position of the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and, of course, Debbie Smith herself, and I am confident many of my colleagues have heard from her.

All of those folks support the provisions of the bigger bill. But if we can't do that today, they support the Senate's passing the provisions that have passed the House as soon as possible. We now have an opportunity today to do something to support countless victims of sexual assault during National

Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Crime Victims' Rights Week. All of these groups and individuals support the immediate reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act.

I am proud to stand here with the heroic people who have dedicated their lives to helping address this backlog scandal of untested rape kits, and even more proud to stand with those who are willing—and spending their time and treasure—to help folks who need to heal, who need justice, and who are asking for our support. In all my years of public service, Debbie Smith is among the most inspiring people I have ever had the privilege of meeting. I sincerely hope my colleagues will keep her in mind and others like her as we move forward with this legislation.

Earlier this week, Debbie reminded me that the rape kit backlog is not just about numbers and DNA samples and scientific testing. It is about people, it is about justice, and it is about recovery. As she so eloquently put it:

> These aren't rape kits that need to be tested. These are lives that need to be given back to their owners. These are fragments of lives that have been torn apart.

I hope my colleagues will remember those words as they contemplate how we should move forward on the House provisions that have been passed, as well as the larger Justice for All Act, both of which I support. By reauthorizing the Debbie Smith Act—and later, in due course, whenever we can do it, the larger Justice for All Act—Members of Congress can continue doing our part to help people like Debbie Smith heal wounds, repair lives, and make our country a safer place.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I would ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. SESSIONS. I wish to share with my colleagues some recent developments that I believe are important on the immigration front. My office did a report and an analysis recently that pointed out that this administration, unlike what had been done historically, has been counting border apprehensions as ICE deportations from the United States. Classically, before that ICE officers—the Immigration Customs Enforcement officers—apprehended people inside the border and did removal proceedings and that was what was counted. So they have used those numbers to create the impression that a great deal more removals are occurring than actually are. That is not good. The administration should not be doing that, and it has created confusion. It is just one more example of this administration's willingness, unfortunately, to misrepresent and twist numbers to advance an agenda they believe ought to be advanced.

We are a nation of immigrants. We believe in immigration, but we believe in a lawful system of immigration. Most Americans believe the lawlessness should end and we should have a system that creates a mechanism by which people apply and they are admitted based on a fair evaluation of the people most likely to be prosperous in America and do well and contribute to the Nation and should be given priority—and we are just not doing that.

So the administration contends and says openly that we will not deport people, except those who commit serious crimes, which apparently does not include DUI's. The crimes almost always have to be a felony, it appears, in order for people to be deported, according to the administration. We will ignore the law for that company down the street in a high unemployment area which has five employees working illegally. They would not be removed. They will be allowed to stay and continue to work unlawfully, while Americans who cannot get a job are drawing unemployment insurance and other subsidies. This is happening all over America.

So getting to this fundamental point: Government is not being operated in ways that it should, conducted by a President who is charged to see that the laws of the United States are faithfully executed. He has issued prosecutorial removal policies that go beyond creating a mechanism to enforce the law but in fact wipe out the law, eliminate the law.

There has never been a requirement in the law that if someone is in the country illegally, they can stay as long as they don't get convicted of some other felony unrelated to an immigration violation. Indeed, under the policy as it is being executed, if an individual has false documents, which is a felony for an American citizen, that doesn't count as a deportable crime. It is only drug dealing or a crime of violence or robbery under the policies that we are carrying out.

They say they are faithfully executing that policy in part, deporting the individuals who are convicted of serious crimes. A study came out from CIS, Center for Immigration Studies, that found 1 in 3 criminal alien encounters last year resulted in a release. They are being released, in one form or another, and are remaining in the country.

We have so much going on that is very troubling to me. Former ICE Director John Sandweg said recently:

> If you are a run-of-the-mill immigrant here illegally, your odds of getting deported are close to zero—it's just highly unlikely to happen.

Now that is the truth. I was a Federal prosecutor. I know how the system works and I have worked with ICE officers and Border Patrol officers and prosecuted their cases. This is what the reality is, and it is not right. It should not be.

When we have the Vice President of the United States saying recently he considers the 11 million people here illegally as citizens anyway, what message does that send, colleagues, to an individual who would like to come to America permanently but has a visa to work so many months or be a student for so many months and the visa is over? What does the statement of the Vice President mean to him? It means he doesn't have to go home. All he has to do is just stay in the country. If he is in the interior and not caught at the border and came in by airplane, flew into Philadelphia or Denver, he gets to stay. As long as he doesn't get convicted of a felony, nobody is ever going to bother him. So this is an open border.

If they get past the border, get into the interior, go to St. Louis, go to Salt Lake City, go to Little Rock, Arkansas, then they can stay. That cannot be the policy of the United States of America. It cannot be the policy of a nation that expects its laws to be respected that if someone can get past the border or they can get a visa into the country and overstay, nobody will have any intention of removing them or enforcing the agreement they made or enforcing the law. I feel strongly about this issue.

People are unaware of how this is happening. I see in addition to the fanciful claims about who is being deported or removed, this was on the front page of the Washington Times today. Steven Dinan says the projections of the Washington Times show that Federal agents are '' . . . on pace this year to remove the fewest number of immigrants of President Obama's tenure.''

It goes on to say:

> That slower pace contrasts with the President's argument that he is enforcing the laws to the fullest extent possible by targeting criminals and recent border crossers.

The article goes on to say that the ICE officers are fully funded to remove at least 400,000 people, and at this rate they will be well below that figure. Why? Because it is the policy not to enforce the law. This is what is going on in this country.

On the same page there is the headline of an article that ''Sheriffs warn of

violence from Mexican cartels deep into interior of U.S.''

It goes on to say:

Outmanned and outgunned, local law enforcement officers are alarmed by the drug and human trafficking, prostitution, kidnapping and money laundering that Mexican drug cartels are conducting in the U.S. far from the border.

Not just at the border but away from the border. It goes on:

U.S. sheriffs say that securing the border is a growing concern to law enforcement agencies throughout the country, not just near the U.S.-Mexico boundary.

''If we fail to secure our borders, then every sheriff in America will become a border sheriff,'' said Sam Paige, sheriff of Rockingham County, NC. ''We're only a two-day drive from the border and have already seen the death and violence that illegal crossings brings into our community.''

Other sheriffs joined in expressing that similar concern.

We are not where we need to be. Since the President took office, interior removals have been cut nearly in half. They have dropped by 44 percent. More than half of the ICE removals since 2009 are the border apprehensions, where they just caught them at the border and sent them back. These are not interior deportations as the statistics used to be focused on. Two-thirds of all ICE removals last year were border apprehensions. So—I said ''half'' earlier—it is two-thirds of the numbers that they are counting as deportations and removal are border deportations that weren't previously counted as such.

Ninty-four percent of the people removed last year—get this—were either apprehended at the border, which is not attributable to apprehension, or were convicted of a crime while in the United States.

Do you hear that, colleagues? Ninety-four percent of the people who were removed were either people captured at the border or committing a serious crime, and even those who commit serious crimes are not deported. Most of the rest were repeat violators or fugitives.

So 99.9 percent of the 12 million illegal immigrants and visa overstays, without known crimes on their record, including those fleeing from authority, did not face removal last year. So if someone was here as a visa overstay or an illegal entrant inside the country and did not commit a crime, 99 percent of that—99.92 percent of the 12 million here were not involved or no action was taken to remove them. It just goes to show our law enforcement system is in a state of collapse. It is a deliberate plan by the President of the United States, and it is wrong. People need to be aware of it and need to stand up to it and I think the American people are beginning to do so.

This administration has effectively declared that anyone in the world who illegally gains access to the interior of the United States through a border, through an airport, through a seaport, is free to illegally remain in the United States, free to claim certain tax benefits, free to work and take jobs that unemployed Americans need. This deprives millions of Americans of their jobs, wages and represents a dramatic, breathtaking nullification of Federal law.

This law enforcement collapse is evident everywhere—872,000 aliens have been ordered removed but haven't left. So we order people removed. They get released on bail or get released in order to remove themselves or show up for removal. How many are showing up? Not many. It is called a catch and release, as has been referred to.

There are 872,000—almost 1 million—who at one time or another have been ordered removed but haven't left, and 68,000 potentially deportable aliens deemed criminal by type were released by immigration officials last year. These were people who were charged with crimes and still didn't leave.

The chief of the Border Patrol—this is the guy who runs the border effort with his team—predicted a tenfold increase in the presence of illegal youth crossing the border between 2011 and 2014. They have been told: Come on down, nothing is going to happen, and it has created more people coming, this lack of enforcement.

The Los Angeles Times reports that the number of asylum claims at the borders have increased sevenfold since 2009. Well, the administration developed a policy of stopping everything. All someone has to do is say, I am claiming asylum, and the whole process stops. Time goes by. Often the individuals who claim asylum are released on bail and then they don't leave. We don't know where they go. This is in effect a postmodern view of challenging the very idea that we are a nation-state with real borders. Attorney General Holder and Cecilia Munoz, who is the President's Assistant and Director of the Domestic Policy Council, who used to be with La Raza, described amnesty as a civil right. If you come into the country illegally, the Attorney General of the United States declares that these individuals have a civil right to amnesty. How can this possibly be? This is the chief law enforcement officer in America?

Vice President BIDEN recently said:

You know, eleven million people live in the shadows. I believe they're already American citizens . . . eleven million undocumented aliens are already Americans.

Goodness. The Vice President of the United States would make such a statement. It is stunning beyond belief. Apparently, if somebody is supposed to get on an airplane to leave this country because their visa is up and then they read the Vice President's statement, they could just say: Well, I will just stay. Why should I go back? I would rather stay now. I kind of like this place. If I go back, I will have to wait in line. I will have to compete within the system like everybody else who comes lawfully. Since I am here, I am not going to leave.

Is it any wonder we have more people staying, as the border patrol chief said?

President Obama made a series of nominations—Mr. Jeh Johnson, the head of Homeland Security, a lawyer at the Department of Defense and a political campaigner. He heads the Department of Homeland Security, which is a huge department. He can be counted on to know one thing: He is very close to the President, and he is to carry out the President's wishes. He doesn't know anything else about running a big, major law enforcement operation such as this. Mr. Perez, the former Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, was very active with the pro-amnesty group in Maryland before this. Mr. Rodriguez, who has been nominated to be the Director of USCIS—they were installed not to be good and smart law enforcement officers but to effectuate the President's agenda. You want to know the truth? That is the truth. They were put in there to carry out the agenda, not to carry out law enforcement.

The morale at Homeland Security is the lowest of any major entity in the U.S. Government. They have actually sued supervisors because they are being blocked from enforcing the law as they have taken oath to do.

I see my colleagues are here, and I will yield the floor. First, I will conclude by saying that I hope my colleagues will look at this. These facts are not disputed. This is not acceptable. It cannot be that the U.S. Government would carry on its business in this way. It is dangerous not only on immigration law but any other law that might come up in the future.

Presidents cannot, Attorneys General cannot, and Homeland Security people cannot fail to enforce plain law without creating serious damage to the great American constitutional legal system that has protected us and produced our prosperity.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

AMTRAK

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I would like to start this afternoon by thanking Chairman MURRAY for her tireless work on the Budget Committee—on which I serve—to develop and pass a bipartisan budget, a budget that sets us on a path to return to regular order.

Senator MURRAY has also been a tireless advocate for transportation and infrastructure programs, and as chair of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee—on which I also serve—she

fought tirelessly to include adequate funding for Amtrak back in the fiscal year 2014 omnibus and moving forward.

The topic I would like to take up today is the role of Amtrak in our country and our communities and its appropriate role as a central piece of Federal transportation policy going forward.

Senator MURRAY has been a terrific advocate for investing across a wide range of transportation modalities. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I look forward to working with her and our leading full committee chair Senator MIKULSKI to make sure we are successful in fighting ardently and steadfastly for Amtrak this year and into the future.

I come to talk on the floor today about the importance of our national passenger rail system—Amtrak—because this is not just about getting people from point A to point B. Investing in Amtrak also means creating jobs, making our whole economy more dynamic, and making America more competitive.

Amtrak is performing better and better each and every year. As the Presiding Officer knows all too well, ridership over the last decade has steadily increased. In fact, 10 of the last 11 years have seen record numbers, and last year we broke through 31.6 million riders on Amtrak. The trains are more and more crowded, but they are arriving more and more frequently on time and the quality of the train sets and the quality of the service provided by the conductors and the other folks who work for Amtrak has steadily increased.

As the value proposition of Amtrak has increased, so has ridership. Record ticket sales and other revenues have made this possible. Today Amtrak covers nearly 89 percent of the cost of operating their trains, which is by far the best of any passenger rail operation in the United States. They are, in fact, on track to cover 90 percent, through revenues, of their total operating costs in 2014. Because of this success, since 2002 Amtrak has decreased its debt by more than half.

My home State of Delaware and the Presiding Officer's home State of New Jersey are part of one of the oldest and most critical sections of our national passenger rail system, the so-called Northeast corridor, which goes from Boston to Washington. If it were its own separate economy, the Northeast corridor would produce $3 trillion a year—21 percent of our Nation's total economic output—which would make it the fifth largest economy in the world if it were on its own. But it is not. It is an integrated part of our Nation, and its passenger rail infrastructure is an integrated part of our national commitment to efficient and effective transportation.

In this region in particular, Amtrak is not a luxury; it is a fundamental and critical part of our economy and moving our community and our people forward. If Amtrak service were cut off in the region for just a day, it would cost our economy $13 million. One-third of all the jobs in the Northeast corridor—or 7 million jobs—are within 5 miles of a station.

Amtrak's impact on my home State of Delaware is particularly large because Amtrak employs over 1,000 men and women in the State of Delaware. Many of them work at two maintenance facilities—Wilmington and Bear—where they repair everything from train seats to the heavy trucks to the cars themselves. I have had a chance to visit them on a number of occasions. It is incredible to see the work ethic and capabilities of the men and women of Amtrak. These shops have been there for a long time. They have worked hard to modernize, to be relevant, and to contribute to the strengthening bottom line of Amtrak overall.

I would like to mention ''Irish'' John, who is a good friend of mine and has been a leader for the sheet metal workers for a long time. Sheet metal workers with Amtrak were one of the unions that worked with management to find ways to significantly save costs on overhaul work on Acela train sets, which resulted in Amtrak choosing not to farm out their service work and instead do a $125 million job to overhaul 20 Acela sets in-house. This is union labor, and this helps support good middle-wage jobs. This helps support good middle-class families and middle-class communities in Delaware and our region. This particular work on this Acela overhaul will last more than 3½ years and sustain dozens of jobs at our Bear repair facility.

My friend Bill, who is with the IBEW Amtrak union, is another friend who has helped me understand the critical role of the employment Amtrak provides to our whole region—not just to Delaware, not just to the Philadelphia area, but to the whole Northeast corridor.

When we talk about investing in Amtrak, we are not only investing in new options for commuters and businesses, we are talking about investing in our communities and in workers who will build and maintain the next generation of American rail. As I said, these are great, high-skilled jobs. By investing in Amtrak's present and giving them a predictable future, we will preserve and continue these important skills and these important workers and their families in our communities.

Amtrak's benefits go beyond just the immediate skilled workers and their families and the communities that benefit from them.

In Delaware, the services Amtrak provides help to keep and draw in new businesses through a ripple effect in our whole economy. Last week there was an announcement of a new company that is spinning off out of Sallie Mae that will be locating its headquarters and 120 jobs in Wilmington. They have chosen a site specifically because it is walking distance from our Amtrak station—from the Joseph R. Biden Amtrak Station in Wilmington, DE.

In Newark, the University of Delaware is building a new campus called the Science, Technology and Advanced Research—STAR—Campus, which will build partnerships between several important entities, such as the Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. What makes that partnership possible is the backbone of the Northeast corridor—the connection between these different cities that has made all of us stronger and better because of passenger rail.

I hope from these few examples it is clear that passenger rail is also a critical component of economic development. Passenger rail tends to link downtown urban areas and tends to be absolutely central to anchoring their revitalization, as the Presiding Officer knows so well.

Passenger rail is also critical not just in the Northeast corridor but in communities across the country that rely on it to connect with other communities and our country's major economic centers.

State-supported services have become a major source of ridership growth for Amtrak as well, with that ridership nearly doubling between 1998 and 2013.

Long-distance ridership across the great heartland of our country has also grown by roughly 20 percent without the introduction of any new services, frequencies, or equipment. In fiscal year 2013, long-distance ridership reached its highest point in 20 years.

However, we are at the proverbial crossroads—or I suppose I should say crossing—now because ridership is soaring, Amtrak is more popular than ever before, and demand will continue to grow, but we are not keeping up with the investment in infrastructure that we need to sustain this growth into the future.

For instance, right now there is nearly $6 billion in outdated, delayed investments that need to be made just in the Northeast corridor to bring it to what is called a state of good repair. I will focus on a few of the critical infrastructure needs in the Northeast corridor, but there are also needs across the country.

Baltimore is a city I traveled through this morning on my way to this Capitol on the Amtrak train. In Baltimore, Senator MIKULSKI's home State, the B&P tunnels have stayed open since 1873. Although they have undergone periodic repairs, none of them were built to be permanent. We

can't be competitive if we continue to rely on tunnels that have been around since roughly the time of our own Civil War. We need to invest in modernizing this infrastructure.

Between the Presiding Officer's home State of New Jersey and the great State of New York, preliminary planning is underway on the Gateway Tunnel, which is a critical tunnel that will ease the bottleneck under the Hudson that causes delays throughout the whole region, limits the options of travelers, and ends up costing the economy more in the short and long run. We need to invest in our infrastructure.

In Delaware, we have a bottleneck around our most popular station, the Joseph R. Biden Station in Wilmington. The rail lines north and south of that station slim from three lines to two, restricting service and preventing the addition of new rail service. Thanks in part to a Federal high-speed rail grant, construction will soon be underway to add a third track to alleviate this critical chokepoint, the main one just south of the station. Without new investment, that chokepoint will continue north of the station.

And that is not to mention the hundreds of bridges and tunnels and other connection points—including the overhead centenary lines—that require repair and replacement on the Northeast corridor alone. We need to invest in our infrastructure not just in the Northeast corridor but across this whole country. We do spend a lot of time here on this floor, as we should, talking about our Nation's fiscal deficit and debt, but we should also focus on our physical deficit and debt—the delayed repair of critical pieces of infrastructure that we rely on for our economy and for our communities but that we are not focused on.

If we invest in our infrastructure today, it will employ people in repairing it and lay the groundwork for improvement of our economy over the long term. I recognize the reality that while the budget picture has improved, it is not yet as good as it should be. We are still facing real fiscal challenges.

I ride between Wilmington and Washington nearly every day on Amtrak, and our workers are responsible for repairing and retrofitting a lot of the trains on which I ride. I am impressed with their skill and the caliber of their repair work. As a rider and our State Senator, I see how critical Amtrak is to our economy, our communities, and to our country as a whole. I hope that is clear to the rest of the Members of this Chamber.

I hope that anyone watching who has appreciated the value of Amtrak's connecting power that links this country together from east to west and north to south will communicate with their Senator and convey the importance of strong and sustained investment in the Northeast corridor, yes, but across the whole reach of our country. Only by strengthening Amtrak and ensuring the vibrancy of the entire Nation's system of passenger rail can we really ensure that American rail will be there for years and generations to come.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today, as I have repeatedly since the health care law has been passed, with concerns I have and to share some information with the Senate because of my concerns that in order to help some people who did not have insurance, I am afraid we have hurt many people who did have insurance, did have care they liked. The President continued to focus on coverage, and I have more concerns, as a doctor, about people actually getting care, getting health care, the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs.

So I come to the floor today to talk about a new story out this morning, actually in the Huffington Post, called ''How Obamacare Leaves Some Patients Without Doctors.''

I recall how the President had said: If you like your policy, you can keep your policy. He said: If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. Yet we are hearing stories from all around the country of people who have found that not to be true.

I have heard the majority leader come to the floor and say in a statement that so many stories are lies, they are made up. But I will tell you that this morning, in this publication, there is a lengthy story of several patients in California who have had pain, problems, medical concerns, signed up for insurance, and, as a result, have found out they have insurance, they have coverage, but they cannot find care.

So I would like to share with the Senate today a story, and it has some of the concerns I raised during the debate and the discussion of the health care law. But the Speaker of the House at the time, NANCY PELOSI, from California—the State where this happened—said: First you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it. Well, now people all across the country are finding out what is in it, and they are finding out they are terribly disappointed and they feel they have been sold a bill of goods and they are getting stuck with a bill, and they are finding out it is not very good for them.

The report in this morning's Huffington Post starts out:

In January, a doctor told [Ms.] Friedlander, who was suffering from excruciating lower back pain, that she needed surgery to remove part of a severely herniated disc.

Well, she had Blue Shield insurance, as they report, through Covered California, which is California's version of ObamaCare, and she planned to use that coverage to pay for the operation. It makes sense.

This is what happened. It says:

But when she started to call surgeons covered by Blue Shield, she ran into a roadblock. Surgeons who were covered by her insurance—

amazingly—

operated out of hospitals no longer covered by her insurance. . . .

So if the surgeon was covered, the hospital was not or, vice versa, she could find a hospital that would cover her surgery but could not find a surgeon who was covered by her insurance that was on the staff of that hospital.

It says:

[Ms.] Friedlander spent days on the phone, hours on hold, making dozens of calls across Southern California, trying to match a surgeon with a hospital that would both be covered. In total, she reached out to 20 [different] surgeons and five [different] hospitals.

''No one could help me. Some expressed sympathy,'' Friedlander, 40, told The Huffington Post in an email. ''They told me, 'I'm so sorry—it's all just so new. You're a victim of the changes. No one knows what they're doing.' ''

So what we have here is a victim of the Obama health care legislation because first we had to pass it before we get to find out what is in it.

Unable to match a hospital and a surgeon that were both covered, [Ms.] Friedlander started haggling between doctors for a cash price for the surgery. She chose a surgeon who wasn't covered by her insurance but who operated in a hospital that was covered.

Because she could not, with her insurance, get both the hospital and the doctor.

She expects her insurance to pay the hospital bill, but she had to pay her surgeon's bill herself.

All out of her own pocket.

The article goes on to report:

. . . nationwide, about 70 percent of Obamacare plans—

About 70 percent of the plans purchased on the Obama health care law—

offer fewer hospitals and doctors than employer-sponsored group plans or pre-ACA individual market plans, according to a study by consulting firm KcKinsey & Company released in December. This narrowed number of doctors and hospitals is what [Ms.] Friedlander encountered when trying to match a

surgeon and hospital that would both be covered.

What we are hearing today is that about 70 percent of ObamaCare plans offer fewer hospitals, fewer doctors, in spite of the President's promise to the American people that if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor; if you like your plan, you can keep your plan.

Now, Covered California says they are aware of the problem. A spokesman for the group—a senior medical adviser with the ObamaCare plan in California—says:

We understand that some people are having trouble getting access to the doctors and hospitals they need. And we're working very hard to fix [that] as fast as we can.

Well, perhaps if people had actually read the law, understood what was in it, they would have seen this coming.

The President said your insurance premiums would drop. He said families would save $2,500 a family. But the article says:

To make up for ACA costs and keep premiums low, Blue Shield asked its doctors and hospitals to accept payments from the insurer at rates [well] reduced—

Reduced from what they normally got—

reduced [by] up to 30 percent.

The article goes on:

Not surprisingly, some doctors and hospitals rejected Blue Shield's reduced payment rates and decided not to re-sign contracts with the insurer. At least three major Los Angeles hospitals previously covered by Blue Shield—

And, Madam President, I will tell you, these are first-class hospitals, these are highly thought-of hospitals, hospitals with incredibly good reputations.

. . . three major Los Angeles hospitals previously covered by Blue Shield—UCLA—

The University of California-Los Angeles—

Cedars Sinai and Good Samaritan—have opted out of the insurer's new network. . . .

According to [the communications manager from Blue Shield], Blue Shield of California now has about 40 percent fewer physicians and 25 percent fewer hospitals in its network than last year.

You listen to what is happening, and they talk about the significant gaps occurring in California.

These are the concerns I hear about when I go home to Wyoming every weekend. These are the concerns I heard about this past weekend in Casper, in Douglas, in Riverton, in Thermopolis, and in Newcastle traveling around the State. People are not able to keep their insurance. They are not able to keep their doctors. It is happening all across the country, and we see this story out of California today.

The interesting part of the issue with California is that—the article goes on and they talk to an insurance agent in Sacramento who says: '' . . . people who already had insurance''—'' . . . people who already had insurance''—''especially healthy, young people, may be paying more under Covered California''—''may be paying more''; not what the President promised—''for fewer hospitals and doctors.''

That is not what the intent of the health care law was but it is what the health care law has delivered.

This is what is happening to real people, real families, all across the country. The majority leader says: false, made up, whole cloth. But I will tell you, these stories will continue to occur.

It is interesting, in today's article in the Huffington Post it says:

And when signing up for a plan, it's difficult to determine which doctors and hospitals are still covered.

They are talking about California now. The article says, quoting an insurance agent in California:

''You can sign up on Covered California and think you're totally fine, only to find out later that you're totally hosed''. . . .

This man, David Fear, goes on to say:

Specialist doctors, such as surgeons, obgyns and urologists, declined Blue Cross and Blue Shield's lower payments most frequently. Fear estimates that about two-thirds of Blue Cross and Blue Shield's specialists have opted out of the networks.

It is not just that one patient whom I talked about. There is, like Ms. Friedlander, Ruth Iorio, a 35-year-old new mother from Los Angeles. She is struggling to find the care she needs in Blue Shield's smaller network.

She signed up for Blue Shield through Covered California in November because the Covered California website listed her hospital—

The Web site, the President's Web site, the Covered California Web site—

listed her hospital, UCLA, as accepting Blue Shield. . . .

Continuing:

However, after Iorio gave birth in December, she was told that her ob-gyn at UCLA was not covered by her insurance. So she paid out of pocket.

Iorio has not been able to find a urologist for her son or an ob-gyn who is both covered by her insurance and practicing in a hospital that is covered.

The President said: You can keep your hospital, you can keep your doctor, you can keep your plan.

She's called over a dozen doctors who are covered by her insurance, and each has told her that if she or her son needs an operation in the hospitals the doctor contracts with, it won't be covered.

So even if they get a doctor who is under their plan, they cannot go to a hospital to get actually a procedure done.

As this lady says:

''My insurance is pretty useless. And I'm not fussy about what doctor I see,'' Iorio said. ''I don't know what to do. I may just drop it for myself and keep my son on it. It's really depressing.''

It is really depressing what the President and the Democrats have forced down the throat of the American people with this health care law.

The article continues:

Before joining Covered California, Iorio had an individual Blue Shield plan that was cheaper than what she now pays and that gave her wider access to doctors and hospitals.

Cheaper, wider access. Exactly what the President had promised her is exactly what this woman has lost because of the health care law.

She goes on and says:

''I'm paying $500 a month and every doctor I'm calling is saying, 'No, I can't see you,' '' she said. ''I feel like a second-class citizen.''

Is that what the President's health care law is all about: making people feel like second-class citizens, hearing from folks when they call and ask for help that, sorry, you are just a victim of the Obama health care law—a nation of more and more victims? It does seem, as you look around the country, for those who have been helped, we should not have had to hurt this many people because of a law the American people said ''we do not want'' and was forced, on single-party lines, down the throats of the American people.

This law is bad for patients. We have seen that today. It continues to be bad for providers—the nurses, the doctors, who take care of those patients—and it is terrible for taxpayers. Tax rates will continue to go up. Taxes are continuing to go up as a result of the health care law and the expenses related to it. It has failed repeatedly in dealing with the needs of the American people, who knew what they wanted in the first place, which was they wanted the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs. Instead, they got this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

THOMASINA JORDAN INDIAN TRIBES OF VIRGINIA FEDERAL RECOGNITION ACT

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise today to speak on behalf of S. 1074, the Thomasina Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2013. This is a bill granting Federal recognition to six Indian tribes. The bill has recently been reported out of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and I want to thank Chairman TESTER, the former chairwoman, Senator CANTWELL, and all members of the Committee for this action.

These six Indian tribes—the Chickahominy, Chickahominy Eastern Division, Upper Mattaponi, Rappahannock, Monacan, and Nansemond—are among the best known tribes in American history, but they have never received Federal recognition. Madam President, 566 tribes have received Federal recognition—the vast majority by congressional action—but these tribes have not been recognized.

The story of these tribes and why they have never been recognized is why I take the floor.

It is an amazing story but it is also a deeply tragic story. But the tragedy can be redeemed if Congress acts to correct a gross historical injustice that has deprived these tribes of their rightful place. This is about a full accounting of our past, but it is also about a fair and truthful recognition of living people who have maintained their own tribal identity, customs, and traditions against unbelievable odds for hundreds of years.

The English settlers who arrived at Jamestown in 1607 established a settlement on an island, on land that was already under the control of the Powhatan Indians. The Powhatan Indians were a confederation of numerous Eastern Algonquian Indian tribes who had organized in the Chesapeake region.

The interaction among these Powhatan Indians and these six tribes that were part of this Powhatan Confederacy and the English is known to virtually every American. The original settlement of England in the United States was on the verge of failure numerous times and had to be rescued by a commoner who was part of that group, John Smith.

Only John Smith could keep this little settlement alive. Early after the arrival of the English, John Smith was captured by the Powhatan Indians and was on the verge of being executed by Chief Powhatan because they were unsure about what they thought of these English settlers. In this wonderful story, as he was about to be executed, Pocahontas, the daughter of Chief Powhatan, saved his life. By saving his life, that act paved the way for the survival of this very struggling colony. That colony then grew into English-speaking America, as we know, with the arrival of later groups of English at Plymouth Rock and thereafter.

That act by Pocahontas is known to virtually all Americans. Over the course of the next few decades, they went back and forth in the relationship between these tribes and the English colonists and then between these tribes and African slaves. The first Africans who came to the new world also came to Jamestown Island in 1619.

But after Pocahontas' act, it was generally a peaceful relationship. There were some times of hostility, but in treaties in the 1640s and then again in a final treaty in 1677, the Treaty of the Middle Plantation, the Powhatan Confederacy and these six tribes basically said to their English colonist neighbors: We want to live in peace with you.

Pocahontas got married to John Rolfe, an English tobacco planter. That was a seminal event in early Virginia colonial history. So by the 1680s, 75 years after the settlement of Jamestown Island, the Powhatan Confederation was no more. But these Virginia Indians continued to live and maintain their tribal identity, but they lived in complete peace with the settlers that were their neighbors. The Treaty of Middle Plantation was signed 100 hundred years before the Declaration of Independence. That peace that was made between the Indians and the settlers paved the way for modern Virginia and modern English-speaking America. It has been continuous since 1677—the peace of these tribes. The relations between Virginians and the tribes have been strong. They have endured significant adversity. Their numbers of population have dwindled from 25,000 down to about 3,000 or 4,000 enrolled tribal members today. They converted to the religion of the English settlers, Christianity. They fought as American patriots in every war this country has been in, from the Revolutionary War to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. They faced discrimination as Indians, often kept out of schools in Virginia because of the color of their skin, because they were not deemed to be ''Caucasian'' by State leaders at the time.

But the relationship is a peaceful one, and these tribes still exist. Two tribes in Virginia have small reservations, and the other tribes own land in common. They have tribal churches, tribal cemeteries, and community centers where they still gather. There is a wonderful tradition if you are the Governor of Virginia. On the day before Thanksgiving Day every year, the Virginia tribes come to the Governor's mansion and they present to the Governor deer, turkey, fish, and gifts as a tribute to the peaceful relationship between these tribes and the Commonwealth of Virginia since 1677. It was a beautiful aspect of my time as Governor. It was something we looked forward to every year. The members of these tribes look forward to it as well. Tribal members who have moved all across the country and all across the world come home for a homecoming, and it begins at the Virginia Governor's mansion.

Now I get to the injustice. The interactions between these Indians and the first English settlers is known to everybody—that story about Pocahontas and John Smith, and then Pocahontas' wedding to John Rolfe and her moving to England and dying there. You can go to Pocahontas' grave at Gravesend, which is where the Thames River dumps into the sea. She died coming back to Virginia. The English tend her grave with reverence at a small Episcopal church in that seaside community.

This is the most archetypal story of the interaction between European settlers and the Indians who were our native inhabitants. But despite the importance of this interaction, despite the fact that the tribes have lived and maintained their existence intact since before the settlers arrived here, the tribes have never been recognized along with the 566 tribes who have.

Why? Why have they never been recognized? Well, unbelievably, the first reason they have not been recognized is: They made peace too soon. They made peace with the English. If they had waited until 1780 and made peace with the Americans, that treaty, a treaty with the Americans, would have been the basis immediately for Federal recognition. But they became peaceful too soon with their European neighbors.

Tribal recognition often begins with a treaty. But the treaties are treaties with the American government. All historians acknowledge that the treaties of 1646 and 1677 happened. There are copies of the treaties. The originals are still maintained. All acknowledge that these treaties and the Indians' decision to live in peace with their neighbors was a precondition for the modern Virginia. If there had not been peace, our history may well have been very different.

I will tell you something else. These treaties are recognized by a government, the English government. When our tribes, which have never been recognized by the United States go to visit England, they are given a royal welcome and treated as the sovereign people they are by the government with which they made a treaty in 1646 and 1677. So that was the first ''mistake'' that was made: These tribes made peace too quickly.

There is a second mistake that is in some ways even more difficult to acknowledge. Many of these tribes live in six counties in Virginia. Five of the county courthouses where all their birth, death, and marriage records were stored were burnt during the Civil War. But there were still some records that existed—some.

But in a bizarre bit of our 20th century history, Virginia passed a law, the Racial Integrity Act, in the 1920s. Under a misguided and bizarre notion of ''racial purity,'' the eugenics movement, State officials determined that you were either white or you were colored. There was no such thing as an Indian. The leader of the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, a man named Walter Plecker—this is well documented—sadly held the position of head of the Bureau of Vital Statistics from 1924 to 1967, 41 years.

Remaining records such as they were in that 41-year period, he undertook what is known in Virginia as the ''paper genocide.'' He systematically went into every remaining record he could find and recharacterized anybody who had claimed a descent and a tribal connection as an Indian to ''colored.'' Records were destroyed or altered in a very significant way.

Both of these reasons have made tribal recognition through the BIA process—the Bureau of Indian Affairs—very difficult. Of the 566 tribes that have been recognized, only about one-fifth

have gone through the administrative process. That process usually requires heavy documentation.

But the treaty was with the wrong government, and the birth, death, and marriage records were destroyed because of a racist State policy and the burning of courthouses during the Civil War. These six tribes should be rewarded, not punished, for making peace with their neighbors in the 1640s and 1670s, and they should not be held back because of a horribly misguided State policy that stripped them of the means to easily demonstrate by paper what all historians acknowledge to exist—the continuous history of these tribes.

We started, in Virginia, to correct this in the 1980s. In 1983, Virginia began a process of State recognition of all of these tribes. The six tribes have all been recognized by the State in the 1980s. All tribes that are part of this bill are now recognized by Virginia.

A full effort to finally receive Federal recognition began in 1999, supported overwhelmingly by all Virginians, including the current entire Virginia congressional delegation, Democratic and Republican, House and Senate, and all 10 living Virginia Governors. Recognition bills have passed out of the House for these tribes twice. In the 112th Congress, a bill passed out of the House and then came to the Senate, and it passed out of the Senate committee, only to die because of inaction on the Senate floor.

It is my deep hope that the 113th Congress will finally see the realization of this long-held dream. We should pass this bill because it is right. These tribes exist. They still live in Virginia and uphold their tribal traditions. They deserve to have their existence acknowledged just like the hundreds of other tribes in this country.

But there is a final reason why recognition has a very immediate importance to these Virginia tribes. If you walked 3 blocks from here down the Mall, you arrive at the National Museum of the American Indian. It is part of the Smithsonian, America's National Museum. The Smithsonian is every bit as much a part of our American Government as Congress is.

It is a marvelous museum. It tells the story of our Indian tribes and their amazing history of adversity and triumph. The Smithsonian curators recognize what Congress has failed to do. Go to the second floor. There is a permanent exhibit on the second floor of the museum. The title of the exhibit is, ''Return to a Native Place: Algonquian Peoples of Chesapeake.'' That permanent exhibit in the museum, with the plastic dioramas, highlights the Powhatan tribes that are the subject of this bill.

Here is how the museum describes the permanent exhibit dedicated to these tribes:

Thru photos, maps, ceremonial and everyday objects, this display provides an overview of the history of the Native Peoples of the Chesapeake region from the 1600's to the present day.

So we do recognize these tribes—in a museum. We acknowledge that they are not just a part of history, but in the words of the museum display description, that the people continue to maintain their tribal identity to the present day. But while we recognize the tribes in the museum three blocks from the Capitol, we will not, we have not, and we do not yet recognize these tribes in law.

Finally, the failure to recognize these tribes in law has an unusual and very tragic consequence. It also deals with the Smithsonian. There is another department in the Smithsonian that is far out of the prying eyes of tourists on the mall. It is the warehouse of the Smithsonian where they hold remains of archaeological exhibits. They hold all kinds of remains and all kinds of artifacts from archaeological exhibits from all over the United States and all over the world.

One set of remains that the Smithsonian is holding is the bones of about 1,400 Virginia Indians that were disturbed and unburied during the course of archaeological expeditions in Virginia.

The tribes that we are talking about today, the bones of their ancestors are held in a warehouse by the Smithsonian. For years, these tribes have gone respectfully to the Smithsonian, and they have asked them: Please return to us the bones of our ancestors. We want to bury the bones of our ancestors in accord with our tribal customs. We want to rebury the bones of our ancestors in accord with the customs of Christianity, which we embraced under the tutelage of the English settlers. But the Smithsonian will not return these bones to the tribes. It seems like such a reasonable request. It seems so reasonable, but the Smithsonian will not return the bones of these tribes for one reason: They are not federally recognized. The law governing the antiquities and objects held by the Smithsonian leads the Smithsonian to conclude that they can't give these bones back for reburial unless the tribes are federally recognized.

Our great national museum recognizes the tribes in a great display behind plastic glass and talks about these tribes, but at the same time we recognize them for one purpose, we will not hand the bones back to these folks in a manner they deserve.

To conclude, it is long past time that these tribes receive the tribal recognition that hundreds of other tribes have received. It is long past time that these tribes be accorded the same respect in America—for which they fought since the Revolutionary War—that they receive in England when they go visit. It is long past time that the bones of these Powhatan ancestors be returned to Virginia so that they can be buried by their families in the only land they ever knew as home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RWANDA AND SYRIA

Mr. MCCAIN. Today we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. This week, again and again, I will rise to remind my colleagues and fellow citizens of the humanity we share and appeal to their conscience about the mass atrocities the Assad regime is perpetrating in Syria.

This past Sunday the world joined Rwanda in marking 20 years since the beginning of the genocide that claimed the lives of more than 800,000 innocent men, women, and children. As we reflect on our failures to stop the genocide there, I can't help but think of the lessons we learned from Rwanda and those we didn't.

President Obama stated in his remarks on Sunday that the Rwandan genocide was ''neither an accident nor unavoidable. . . . The genocide we remember today—and the world's failure to respond more quickly—reminds us that we always have a choice. In the face of hatred, we must remember the humanity we share. In the face of cruelty, we must choose compassion. In the face of intolerance and suffering, we must never be indifferent.'' I couldn't agree more with the President of the United States.

The United States, along with the international community, failed to take the necessary action to prevent a tragedy in Rwanda. We chose to ignore the death of hundreds of thousands of people, and in so doing we forsook our humanity. And now we are dangerously close to doing the same in Syria.

While I would like to believe that ''never again'' means something in this context, I look around the world today, and I am haunted by the fact that we simply haven't learned the fundamental lesson from Rwanda that preventing the slaughter of innocents means taking hard political action.

Nowhere is this truer than in Syria, where President Bashar Assad's regime continues its brutal assault against the Syrian people with increasing ferocity. The slaughter of innocent men, women, and children is being carried out by Syria's national army and loyal paramilitaries as a result of state policy, and the terror continues to escalate every day that Assad's crimes go unpunished.

The regime has accelerated attacks against civilians by indiscriminately dropping barbaric barrel bombs on mosques, schools, and bakeries, systematically detaining, torturing, and

killing thousands of people—including hundreds of children—and starving entire neighborhoods to death. It was over 5 months ago that Secretary John Kerry wrote that ''the world must act quickly'' to stop a ''war of starvation'' being waged by Assad's regime against ''huge portions of the population.'' Yet the world did nothing, and hundreds have died of starvation—thousands—in those 5 months.

Eventually the international community responded by passing resolution 2139 through the U.N. Security Council, which ordered the regime to promptly allow unhindered humanitarian access and threatened further consequences for noncompliance. This was 2 months ago, and yet again the world did nothing to back the resolution. In fact, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator, Valerie Amos, reports that the war of starvation has worsened since its passing. The number of Syrians cut off from aid since January has grown by over 1 million people. The Syrian Government continues to prevent supplies of food from entering opposition-held areas, in direct contravention of the U.N. resolution, and it is using U.S.-provided humanitarian aid as leverage in its war against the people. Meanwhile, Iran sends 30,000 tons of food supplies to Assad's regime. While children starve throughout Syria, the government is at least well fed.

Although 800,000 people have not been slaughtered in mere months, as was the case in Rwanda, over the course of 3 years of conflict in Syria, we have witnessed 9 million people forced from their homes, with 2.5 million refugees escaping the violence in neighboring countries, and an estimated 150,000 people dead, with casualties escalating daily.

Regardless of the scale or scope, one fact is clear: The world is watching genocide in slow motion, but it seems that regardless of how many innocent men, women, and children die in Syria, the world's conscience will not be tipped.

What is happening in Syria should be an affront to our conscience, and it should be a call to action. Each day the media floods our newspapers and television screens with some gruesome and horrific evidence of Assad's war crimes. We cannot claim ignorance as we have in the past. Yet we do nothing. It is as if watching all the suffering and simply feeling bad about it has become an adequate moral response. Conventional wisdom tells us that this is because the American public is war-weary. We are scarred by our experience in Afghanistan and Iraq and thus unwilling to get involved in another conflict in the Middle East.

This sentiment is reinforced by the President, who prides himself on having opposed the war on Iraq and getting America out of the region as quickly as possible regardless of the ramifications. He has emphasized the need to ''contain'' the conflict in Syria, calling it a ''civil war'' and neglecting the dangerous spillover effects we are already witnessing, including the destabilization of all of Syria's neighbors and the growth of an Al Qaeda safe haven in eastern Syria and western Iraq.

Following the President's lead, the American public has largely applauded his restraint and opposed greater U.S. involvement in Syria. But in so doing we have again failed the legacy of Rwanda.

Stopping the slaughter in Syria will require difficult political action, but it is not only profoundly in our national interest to act but also our moral obligation to do so. In his remarks on Sunday, President Obama said that we should be reminded of ''our obligations to our fellow man.'' As President, he is the one who should be showing to the American people why it is so vital to our national interest to carry out our moral obligations to our fellow man.

Our policy should be determined by the realities of the moment, not by today's isolationism dictated by the past. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have nothing to do with how we carry out our responsibilities today. Let there be no mistake; we have a responsibility to stop genocide when we see it happening, as in Syria. ''Never again'' should mean something whether or not we are paralyzed by war-weariness.

Of course we would all like to see the slaughter of Syria's innocent men, women, and children be stopped by diplomacy and through nonviolent means. We all want an end to the violence. We all want to believe that a political solution is possible. But there are only two ways to end the violence. One is for all parties to put down their weapons—something President Bashar Assad and his Iranian partners are clearly unwilling to do, as they believe a military solution is possible. So that leaves us with only one other option: to neutralize the party dedicated to the slaughter of innocents and force them to put down their guns. There are options to achieve this goal that fall far short of putting boots on the ground. We do not need to concede and allow genocide to continue or to go to war to prevent it. There are steps in between that the United States, along with our international partners, can take to stand by our international commitments and guarantees of protection.

President Assad has already shown that U.N. resolutions mean nothing to him and that he has no intention of negotiating his departure through the Geneva process. It is clear that military pressure is the only lever that will convince Assad that a political solution is in his favor. We must be ready to prove to Assad that not achieving a diplomatic solution will cost his regime dearly, and there are meaningful actions we can take to help in Syria that will not require us to rerun the war in Iraq. It is not a question of options or capabilities, it is a question of will.

There is a famous quote that states, ''All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.'' As we sit back and place our hopes on negotiations and meaningless guarantees of protection, we watch as hundreds of innocent men, women, and children are brutally slaughtered every day; reinvigorated Al Qaeda affiliates operate with more freedom than ever before; terrorist groups loyal to Iran proliferate and threaten our allies; and the region descends into chaos and turmoil that will inevitably reverberate in the United States of America. This is the price we will pay for choosing to remain disengaged, and the consequences to U.S. national interests will be felt.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD two articles. One is a Reuters story entitled ''Assad says fighting largely over by end of year,'' a statement by a former Russian Prime Minister with a quote:

Assad's strength now lies in the fact that, unlike Yanukovich, he has practically no internal enemies. He has a consolidated, cleansed team.

The second is ''Hezbollah confident in Assad, West resigned to Syria stalemate.''

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Reuters, Apr. 7, 2014]

ASSAD 'SAYS FIGHTING LARGELY OVER BY END OF YEAR'—FORMER RUSSIAN PM

(By Steve Gutterman)

MOSCOW.—President Bashar al-Assad has forecast that much of the fighting in the Syrian civil war will be over by the end of the year, a former Russian prime minister was quoted on Monday as saying.

''This is what he told me: 'This year the active phase of military action in Syria will be ended. After that we will have to shift to what we have been doing all the time—fighting terrorists','' Itar-Tass news agency quoted Sergei Stepashin as saying.

Stepashin, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and former head of Russia's FSB security service, portrayed Assad as secure, in control and in ''excellent athletic shape'' after a meeting in Damascus last week.

'' 'Tell Vladimir Vladimirovich (Putin) that I am not Yanukovich, I'm not going anywhere','' Stepashin quoted Assad as saying during their meeting, state-run news agency RIA reported.

Yanukovich fled to Russia in February after he was pushed from power by protests that followed his decision to spurn closer ties with the European Union and turn to Moscow. Russian leaders have criticised him for losing control of his country.

Stepashin suggested Assad faced no such threat and was likely to win a presidential election this year.

''There is not a shadow of a doubt that he knows what he's doing,'' RIA quoted Stepashin as saying.

''Assad's strength now lies in the fact that, unlike Yanukovich, he has practically no internal enemies. He has a consolidated, cleansed team.

''Moreover, his relatives are not bargaining and stealing from the cash register but are fighting,'' he said, appearing to draw a contrast with Yanukovich and his family.

''FIGHTING SPIRIT''

Stepashin, who served as prime minister in 1999 under President Boris Yeltsin and now heads a charitable organisation called the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, added that ''the fighting spirit of the Syrian army is extremely high''.

Russia has been Assad's most powerful supporter during the three-year-old conflict that activists say has killed more than 150,000 people in Syria, blocking Western and Arab efforts to drive him from power.

Russia and the United States organised peace talks that began in January between Assad's government and its foes. But no agreement was reached and a resumption appears unlikely soon, in part because of high tension between Russia and the West over Ukraine.

Russian officials say Moscow is not trying to prop up Assad and but that his exit from power cannot be a precondition for a political solution. Their assessments of his future have varied with the fortunes of his military.

Assad has lost control of large swathes of northern and eastern Syria to Islamist rebels and foreign jihadis. But his forces, backed by militant group Hezbollah and other allies, have driven rebels back from around Damascus and secured most of central Syria.

The head of Hezbollah said in an interview published on Monday Assad no longer faced a threat of being overthrown, and would stand for re-election this year.

Stepashin predicted Assad would win.

''The majority of the Syrian population will vote for him,'' Itar-Tass quoted him as saying.

[From Reuters, Apr. 9, 2014]

HEZBOLLAH CONFIDENT IN ASSAD, WEST RESIGNED TO SYRIA STALEMATE

(By Samia Nakhoul and Laila Bassam)

BEIRUT.—Bashar al-Assad's Lebanese ally Hezbollah said his Western foes must now accept he will go on ruling Syria after fighting rebels to a standstill—a ''reality'' to which his foreign enemies seem increasingly resigned.

Echoing recent bullish talk coming out of Damascus, Sheikh Naim Qassem, deputy leader of the Iranian-backed Shi'ite militia which is supporting Assad in combat, told Reuters that the president retained popular support among many of Syria's diverse religious communities and would shortly be re-elected.

''There is a practical Syrian reality that the West should deal with—not with its wishes and dreams, which proved to be false,'' Qassem said during a meeting with Reuters journalists at a Hezbollah office in the group's southern Beirut stronghold.

He said the United States and its Western allies were in disarray and lacked a coherent policy on Syria—reflecting the quandary that Western officials acknowledge they face since the pro-democracy protests they supported in 2011 became a war that has drawn al Qaeda and other militants to the rebel cause.

Syria's fractious opposition—made up of guerrillas inside the country and a largely impotent political coalition in exile—had, he said, proved incapable of providing an alternative to four decades of rule by Assad and his late father before him.

''This is why the option is clear. Either to have an understanding with Assad, to reach a result, or to keep the crisis open with President Assad having the upper hand in running the country,'' said the bearded and turbaned cleric.

Qassem's comments follow an account from another Assad ally, Russian former prime minister Sergei Stepashin, who said after meeting him last week that the Syrian leader felt secure and expected heavy fighting to end this year.

Officials said this week that preparations would begin this month for the presidential election—a move that seems to reflect a degree of optimism in the capital and which may well end with Assad claiming a popular mandate that he would use to resist U.N.-backed efforts to negotiate a transition of power.

Hezbollah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah also said this week that Assad is no longer at risk and that military gains mean the danger of Syria fragmenting was also receding.

WESTERN RESIGNATION

It is a view of Assad that—quietly—seems to be gaining ground in Western capitals. Calling it bad news for Syrians, the French foreign ministry said this week: ''Maybe he will be the sole survivor of this policy of mass crimes''.

France, which last year was preparing to join U.S. military action that was eventually aborted, now rules out force and called the stalled talks on ''transition'' the ''only plan''—a view U.S. officials say is shared in Washington, notably among military chiefs who see Assad as preferable to sectarian chaos.

While rebels do not admit defeat, leaders like Badr Jamous of the Syrian National Coalition accept that without foreign intervention ''this stalemate will go on''. A U.S. official, asked about a deadlock that would leave Assad in control of much of Syria, conceded: ''This has become a drawn-out conflict.''

Assad, 48, has weathered an armed insurgency which started with protests in 2011 and descended into a civil war that has sucked in regional powers, including Shi'ite Iran and Hezbollah who back the Alawite president and Sunni states like Saudi Arabia and Qatar behind the rebels.

With Russia blocking a U.N. mandate, and voters showing no appetite for war after losses in Afghanistan and Iraq, Western governments have held back from the kind of military engagement that could have toppled the well-armed Syrian leader.

More than 150,000 people have been killed in three years, as Assad has lost the oil-producing and agricultural east and much of the north, including parts of Syria's largest city, Aleppo.

But he did not suffer the fate of other autocrats in the Arab Spring, whether the presidents of Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen or Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader toppled and killed by rebels who rode into Tripoli under cover of Western air power.

Instead, he has clawed back control near Damascus, where a year ago rebels hoped for a decisive assault, and the center of the country which links the capital to the coastal stronghold of Assad's Alawite minority. His troops, backed by Hezbollah fighters, took another key town on Wednesday.

Though as much as half the country is being fought over, Assad could hope to hold at least a roughly southwestern half, including most of the built-up heartlands near the coast, and more than half of the prewar population of 23 million.

This leaves Western powers reflecting on a perceived loss of influence in the Middle East. Many now see a new strategy of ''containing'' Assad—and the fallout from a bitter war that has created millions of refugees and legions of hardened guerrillas.

''The U.S. has a stated policy of regime change, but it has never devoted the resources to effect that change,'' said Andrew Exum, a former U.S. official who worked on Middle East issues at the Pentagon. ''The de facto U.S. strategy of containment is very well suited for what is likely to be a very long war.''

''STALEMATE WILL CONTINUE''

Qassem said the United States, which backed away from military action in September after blaming Assad for gassing civilians, was hamstrung by fears over the dominance in rebel ranks of al Qaeda's Syrian branch, the Nusra Front, and another group, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

''America is in a state of confusion. On the one hand it does not want the regime to stay and on the other it cannot control the opposition which is represented by ISIL and Nusra,'' he said.

''This is why the latest American position was to leave the situation in Syria in a state of attrition.''

President Barack Obama said last month that the United States had reached ''limits'' after the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and questioned whether years of military engagement in Syria would produce a better outcome there.

Qassem said: ''I expect that the stalemate will continue in the Syrian crisis because of the lack of an international and regional decision to facilitate a political solution.''

U.N.-mediated talks at Geneva failed in February to bridge a gulf between Assad's government and opponents who insist that Assad must make way for a government of national unity.

Western and regional powers who support the Syrian opposition say it would be a ''parody of democracy'' to hold an election in the midst of a conflict which has displaced more than 9 million people and divided the country across frontlines.

Syria's electoral law effectively rules out participation by opponents who have fled the country in fear of Assad's police—candidates must have lived in Syria continuously for 10 years.

''My conviction is that Assad will run and will win because he has popular support in Syria from all the sects—Sunnis and secularists,'' Qassem said. ''I believe the election will take place on its due date and Assad will run and win decisively.''

Fear of hardline Islamists has undermined support for some rebels even among the 75 percent Sunni majority, and bolstered support for Assad among his fellow Alawites, and Christians.

Qassem said it was too soon to speak of Hezbollah pulling out of Syria, despite an increase in Sunni-Shi'ite tensions within Lebanon caused by the intervention across the border of a movement that is Lebanon's most accomplished military force and also holds cabinet seats in the government in Beirut.

''Until now we consider our presence in Syria necessary and fundamental,'' Qassem said.

''But when circumstances change, this will be a military and political matter that requires a new assessment.

''But if the situation stays as is and the circumstances are similar, we will remain where we should be''.

Mr. MCCAIN. I won't include it in the RECORD, but there is an interesting article that states, ''Syria's Assad secure, will seek re-election: Hezbollah leader.''

To show, I think, the very incredible naivety, there is an article in the Washington Post by Secretary Kerry entitled ''Kerry: US strike in Syria wouldn't be devastating.''

The Secretary of State says:

''It would not have had a devastating impact by which he had to recalculate, because it wasn't going to last that long,'' Kerry told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. ''Here we were going to have one or two days to degrade and send a message. . . . We came up with a better solution.''

We came up with a better solution. The President of the United States said that if Bashar Assad crossed a red line and used chemical weapons, we would act. He announced we would act. All our allies knew we were going to act. Then he took a walk with his national security adviser and said he was going to go to Congress. Meanwhile, Senator Kerry, in a bizarre, incredible act, issued a statement that any attack on Syria would be ''incredibly small.'' It is remarkable.

Finally, our conscience should be shot, but it is not. We get kind of immune to day after day after day of these various reports of the slaughter that is going on.

Look at the situation in Syria 3 years ago and look at it today: 150,000 dead, millions displaced; entry of jihadist fighters from all over the world who continue brutal bombing with barrel bombs which will slaughter innocent men, women, and children; and our Secretary of State says: Well, it wouldn't have been much if we would have struck them anyway.

This is a shameful chapter in American history, I say to my colleagues. Historians in future generations will judge us very harshly, and future generations and younger generations may have to pay the price for our inaction and our neglect of our basic human values.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1596

Mr. MANCHIN. I thank my good friend Senator PAT TOOMEY from my neighboring State of Pennsylvania—I am from West Virginia—for working with me on this vital issue to make sure our kids remain safe in every single school across this country.

I am a father of three, a grandfather of eight, and there is nothing more important to me than protecting my children and grandchildren. The bill Senator TOOMEY and I are working on is common sense. Our bill makes sure all employees who work with our students pass a background check to make sure they have no criminal records or an abusive history. That includes everyone from principals, teachers, secretaries, cafeteria workers and janitors—anyone who has contact with our schoolkids. This is a real problem that demands our attention and demands it now.

Since January 1, 130 teachers across America have been arrested for sexual misconduct. At this rate that is more than one teacher per day who will sexually assault a student. As a parent, as a grandparent, and as a representative of the great State of West Virginia, inaction is simply unacceptable.

There are more than 4 million teachers and school staff employed by our public school districts throughout the United States, and there are millions of additional workers who have direct access to students, including bus drivers, cafeteria workers and janitors. Yet there is no—I repeat, there is no—national background check policy in place for people who work directly with our kids every day. Even worse, not all States require checks of child abuse and neglect registries or sex offender registry checks.

A recent report by the Government Accountability Office found that five States—five States—don't even require background checks at all for applicants seeking employment in our school systems. In addition, not all States use both Federal and State sources of criminal data, such as a State law enforcement database or the FBI's interstate identification index.

Our bill would simply require mandatory background checks of a State criminal registry, the State child abuse and neglect registries, an FBI fingerprint check, and a check of the National Sex Offender Registry for existing and prospective employees.

Every child deserves to have at least one place where they feel safe and that harm cannot enter their life. For many of our kids these days that place is at school—not always in the home. This is truly a commonsense bill that aims to help protect our kids from sexual assault, predators, or any individuals who inappropriately behave in our schools.

This is a piece of legislation that is long overdue. It is not an unfunded mandate. I know some people will say that, and the reason I am saying it is not an unfunded mandate is because the people who want the employment have to pay. They have to pay for the background check if they want in the system.

I know there is a section in this legislation that says if a person has been an offender they have to be rehabilitated for 5 years—be clean, have a clean record for 5 years—before they can get in the system. I think that is common sense.

I would like for all my colleagues, if they would, to please consider this piece of legislation. Again, I appreciate the hard work of my colleague Senator PAT TOOMEY, and at this time I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I thank my colleague from West Virginia, Senator MANCHIN, for his terrific efforts on this legislation. I also want to thank our other cosponsors, Senators MCCONNELL and INHOFE, for their support as well.

The tragic story that inspired this bill has a connection to my State of Pennsylvania and Senator MANCHIN's State of West Virginia, so it made it kind of a natural for us to work together on this. It is a terrible story indeed, and I want to summarize it because it goes to the heart of why I am here this morning.

The story begins in Delaware County, PA, where one of the schoolteachers was found to have molested several boys and raped one. Prosecutors decided there was not enough evidence to actually press charges, but the school knew what had happened. So they dismissed the teacher for this outrageous behavior. But shockingly, and somewhat disturbingly, the school also helped this teacher get a new job so they could pass him along and let him become someone else's problem. It happened the new job was in West Virginia. The Pennsylvania school even went so far as to send a letter of recommendation for this monster to get that job in West Virginia, which he did get. He became a teacher, then a school principal, and while there he raped and murdered a 12-year-old boy named Jeremy Bell in West Virginia.

Justice finally caught up with that teacher, and he is now in jail, serving a life sentence for that murder. For Jeremy Bell, unfortunately, justice came way too late. But Jeremy Bell's father decided he would not rest until he had done everything he possibly could to minimize the chance that any other child or parent would ever experience a similar tragedy. Roy Bell is Jeremy's dad. He worked with Congress to create protections for children to ensure they would not be victimized at school, and the House of Representatives responded.

In October of last year, the House unanimously passed the Protecting Students Against Sexual and Violent Predators Act. Unfortunately, there too, in a way, it was a few days too late. Jeremy Bell's dad passed away 3 days before the vote. But it passed the House, and it passed, as I said, unanimously in the House. Now we are here in the Senate with a chance to pass the same bill so it can become law.

This is a bipartisan bill. It is a bill I introduced with Senator MANCHIN. It is a bill that has other cosponsors. I know there are some folks who say: Well,

let's wait, we need more time. I say we have had enough waiting. We have waited too long. Let me explain why we shouldn't wait another day.

I will start with two numbers. The first number is 130. Senator MANCHIN mentioned this number. Since January 1 of this year, 130 teachers have been arrested across America for sexual misconduct with children. That is more than one teacher every day. And these are the ones who have been caught. How many more are happening?

The stories are absolutely heartbreaking: A teacher's aide who undressed and sexually assaulted a mentally disabled boy in his care; a child whose abuse began at age 10 and only ended when at age 17 she found herself pregnant with the teacher's child; the 16-year-old raped by her instructor in a classroom closet; one teacher after another caught with images of child pornography; a special education kindergarten girl forced to go shirtless in class.

These things are unbelievable. But every day we delay, we delay rooting out one of these predators.

The other number I want to share is the number 73. According to the GAO—the Government Accountability Office—the average pedophile molests 73 children over the course of a lifetime. These predators are very devious. They are clever and they are smart. What they do is go where the potential victims are. And where are there potential victims for a pedophile? What better place than a school. So they do in fact go to schools, and from school to school and school district to school district. Every day we delay, we increase the risk a predator is moving on to the next of his 73 victims.

So what can we do? Here is what our bill does. Our bill, the Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act, is an important first step. It would require mandatory background checks for existing and prospective employees and then require the checks be periodically repeated, the timing of which would be left to the discretion of the States. There are five States that do not require checks at all.

The bill would also check to make sure all employees or contractors who have unsupervised contact with children would be subject to this background check—not just teachers but coaches, schoolbus drivers, anyone who has unsupervised contact with the kids. There are 12 States that don't require that now.

The bill requires a more thorough background check. For instance, in Pennsylvania, there is a background check requirement. But if you have lived in the State for more than 2 years, it does not require a background check on the Federal criminal database, and yet we know these people move across State lines.

A fourth and important piece is that our bill forbids what has sadly developed its own name—passing the trash. This idea, this practice, unfortunately, of actually recommending the predator to another job in another school or another State so as to get rid of the problem and let him become someone else's is so disturbing it is hard to imagine anyone would do this, but we know it happens. We know it happens. And a given State doesn't have the power to prevent some school district in another State from doing exactly this, as happened in the case of Jeremy Bell.

There is a list of folks who under our legislation a school would simply not be able to hire: anyone ever convicted of any violent or sexual crime against a child. I think that makes a lot of sense. There are certain felonies that would also preclude a person from ever being hired: homicide, child abuse or neglect, rape or sexual assault, and a few others. In addition, a person who was convicted in the last 5 years of a felony physical assault or battery or a felony drug-related offense would create a 5-year prohibition against hiring such a person.

The enforcement mechanism we have is withholding Federal funds, which would be the inducement for the States to adopt these requirements.

Let me stress that this bill has broad support. I mentioned before this passed the House unanimously. There was not a single objection in the House. It has bipartisan support here in the Senate. Various child advocacy groups are fully in support: the National Children's Alliance, the Children's Defense Fund, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Prosecutors and prosecutor associations—the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association—both fully endorse this legislation. Teachers groups: the American Federation of Teachers and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

I forget how many former teachers in the House—I think 19 or so—all voted for this bill. I am willing to venture the overwhelming majority of the American people would support this effort to keep our kids as safe as we can.

I would also stress there is nothing radical about these proposals. In the Senate we just passed a very similar background check requirement in the child care development block grant legislation, where we insist on almost identical background checks for employees of daycares. That makes perfect sense to me. It is a good step. It is very likely to help protect children in our daycares. But why in the world would we protect the kids in daycare and not provide comparable protection for kids who have gone on to later grades?

This is a bipartisan commonsense bill that has passed the House unanimously. This is our opportunity to pass it in the Senate and send it to the President for his signature. I believe it is a moral imperative we do this to protect these kids. It didn't come soon enough for Jeremy Bell. And sadly, every day we learn there are more victims. But now is the time we can act.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1596 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HARKIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I certainly favor the goals of this legislation. The Senator will remember we passed a childcare bill that included many of the same background check provisions for childcare employees. Those provisions were negotiated between Democrats and Republicans on our committee to address issues that were raised about the implementation of any federally prescribed background checks for childcare settings.

We would like to undertake a similar process in the K–12 context to ensure any concerns raised by either side be addressed. That is what the committee process is for.

What the Senator from Pennsylvania is asking for in this bill will have an impact on nearly every public school in the country and every employee, not just teachers—not just teachers—who might have any unsupervised access to children. So that requires us to do some due diligence.

I don't want anyone to misunderstand me. I am willing to work with the Senator from Pennsylvania and others on this legislation, but I do believe we need to take a closer look at it, talking with relevant stakeholders—States, school districts, employees—about the bill and some perhaps unintended consequences of it. We were able to do that in the childcare bill, and I believe we can achieve similar success with the legislation of the Senator from Pennsylvania. I am ready and willing to engage with the Senator, his staff, and his office in that process.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I support the Senator from Iowa and his request that this bill go to the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

In the Republican Conference, we talk a lot about the importance of taking legislation through committee so it can be amended and considered through the regular order. This is certainly important legislation. All of us would agree on that.

The Senator from Pennsylvania and the Senator from West Virginia deserve a lot of credit for bringing this terrible story to our attention and proposing we address it. And I think we should. But the appropriate way to do that here, is to take it to the committee of jurisdiction to be considered in a markup, amended, and see if anyone has a better idea.

My second reason for hoping this bill goes to the HELP committee is that I have my own idea. I think this bill poses an important question to the Senate about whether we want to constitute ourselves as a national school board. That is, in fact, what we would be doing if we passed it into law.

In our country there are 100,000 public elementary and secondary schools. They all have a principal who is in charge of the employees in that school.

This bill is about determining what kind of criminal background check those school employees should have. What is the principal supposed to do? Doesn't the principal have any responsibility for this? Can the principal just say that this is the job of the United States Senate, so I don't have to worry about that?

There are 14,000 local school boards across West Virginia, Tennessee, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and all of our other States. What is the responsibility of these local school boards when it comes to determining the qualifications of their teachers or the health and safety of their students? Do the members of the local school board say: We don't have to worry about those questions too much because the U.S. Senate will determine for us what the qualifications for teaching will be or how we will keep students healthy and safe in our local public schools?

There are 50 Governors of our states. I used to be one of them, as was the distinguished Senator from West Virginia. I got pretty tired of people flying to Washington, D.C. thinking that they were the only ones who had any sense of responsibility for the public school students in Tennessee. In fact, I felt like the more Washington, D.C. intruded into Tennessee by making decisions that we should be making for ourselves, the less responsible we felt for those decisions and the less effective we were at doing our jobs.

I remember in the early 1990s there was a piece of legislation which whizzed through the Senate and the House just like this piece of legislation has been doing. It was called the Gun-Free School Zones Act, and it came after a particularly terrible shooting at a school. We still have those shootings today, and it wrenches our heart every time they happen.

So, after the shooting, the U.S. Congress said: We will fix it. The Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional because it exceeded the authority of Congress under the commerce clause—that in effect it wasn't Washington's job; it was the job of the states and local communities to determine the issue of gun possession around schools.

I submit that the safety of our schools is the job of the parents of those schools, of the principal in that school, of the community which supports that school, of the local school board, of the supporting organizations, and of the governor and the legislature of the state. If they can pretend they can kick that responsibility up to Washington, I think that is wrong. I do not think that is within our constitutional framework in the United States. Those responsibilities belong locally.

The Senator from Iowa and I have a terrific relationship and ideological differences on many occasions. I spent the morning debating with him about whether his proposal for early childhood education would in effect create a national school board.

He basically made the same argument that is being made here. He said: If we are going to give states money from Washington for early childhood education, we have a responsibility to define how that money is spent, including the parameters for what the teachers' salaries should be.

So if we can define what criminal background checks ought to be for school employees in Maryville, TN, public schools, we can define what the teachers' salaries ought to be in the Maryville, TN, public schools. If we can decide what the safety measures in the school ought to be, we can decide what the maximum size of classes ought to be. We can decide what the length of the school day ought to be and what kind of vision and health screenings we ought to provide. Those decisions are important for children as well. Whether the children are fed properly is important as well. Are we going to kick those decisions upstairs to the U.S. Senate and say: You set the rules for that.

Physical activity programs. The distinguished Senator from Iowa has been a champion for more physical activity his whole career here. He would like to set that as a goal from Washington. I think that is the job of a local community.

Professional development for school staff. If we make decisions about criminal background checks for staff, we can make decisions about their professional development as well.

How about academic standards and curriculum? In the State of Tennessee and in many other States there has been a near rebellion over the so-called Common Core State Standards. The important issue is about how we raise standards for children who need to learn more to succeed. But the problem is that Washington got involved with the standards, and people in our State and many other States don't like national school boards and Washington-control of public schools.

So I think we should stop and think about this. I would prefer to see the federal government in Washington act as an enabler of States and local school boards rather than a mandator.

I would like to see us take this terrific focus the Senators from Pennsylvania and West Virginia have put on the importance of criminal background checks and the safety of our children by making it easier for States and local school boards to search a State criminal registry, a State-based child abuse and neglect registry, a fingerprint-based FBI criminal history, a search of the national sex offender registry.

Forty-six States already require all public school employees to go through some form of a background check. Are we to say we know better than they do? If so, what does that say about our entire structure of public education and whether we should just tell the 14,000 local school boards in the U.S. to disband. We don't need you to make decisions about the safety of the schools in your district. We will do it in Washington. We don't need you to make decisions about academic standards and curriculum. We will do that here?

I think we in Congress should be enablers, not mandators. I think we should take this powerful focus the two Senators have put on criminal background checks for school employees, take it to the HELP committee, and put a spotlight on making it easier and more important for all 100,000 principals, all 14,000 local school boards, all 50 State Governors to do it, help parents to be aroused, and put the spotlight where the spotlight ought to be.

If they want a gun-free school zone, put the spotlight on the school and the community around it. If they want a safe school, put the spotlight on the school and the community around it. If they want to have a criminal background check system to keep predators out of schools, put the spotlight on the principal, the school board, and the community around it. That is the way to effectively do it. That is the way to respect our federalist system of government and our constitutional framework. That is the way to avoid creating a national school board.

So I look forward to working with the Senator from Iowa, the Senator from West Virginia, and the Senator from Pennsylvania. This is an important issue. I would like to see it become law. But I would like for our government in Washington to be more of an enabler of local school boards and school principals than a mandator from Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, needless to say, I am extremely disappointed that we find ourselves here at this impasse with nothing accomplished, and who knows how long it

will take to get something accomplished.

I will point out that the Senate, I think just last week, voted for nearly identical background check language in the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. We voted for this. This is the language vetted by this committee.

If it is vital to keep kids safe at a daycare—which I think it is—why isn't it just as vital to keep kids or their older siblings safe for the rest of the day? I don't think we need to go through the committee to answer that question. We have waited long enough.

This is the 16th background check bill which has been introduced in the House or the Senate since 2009, and here we have nothing on the Senate floor. The committees had 5 years to act. The committees had 5 months when they could have taken up this bill at any time, marked it up, and moved it through the process, but they didn't do this.

As far as using the committee process, I am generally a fan of going through the committee. But let's not pretend that is how we normally operate around here. There are 27 bills so far in this Congress which have received floor consideration without going through a committee at all—7 under the jurisdiction of this committee. Last Congress there were 42 bills which received floor votes without going through committee.

Let's be candid. In just the last week or so, and looking forward another week or two, we have more legislation under the jurisdiction of this committee. Whether it is paycheck fairness or a minimum wage bill, those are under the jurisdiction of this committee. They are going to be brought to the floor without having gone through the committee.

By the way, those are bills we know are going nowhere. Those are political statement bills. So is it more important to get bills that are political statements to the Senate floor than it is legislation which could actually be signed to protect kids from violent predators? This seems to me to be a very misordering of priorities.

I say to my colleague, for whom I have a great deal of respect and with whom I generally find myself in agreement, on this issue I happen to disagree with the senior Senator from Tennessee. In my view, this is not a mandate on the States.

If a State chooses not to develop the background checks we have put into this bill, then we would withhold the ESEA funding, which is 3.5 percent of total funding. That is not insignificant. But it leaves it up to the State to decide. We think kids ought to be safe in schools. If they disagree about the background checks, OK, then they don't have to take this funding. The Supreme Court, by the way, has agreed that this does not represent coercion. It does not amount to coercion when it is on this scale.

The second point I would make in this regard is part of this legislation absolutely requires Federal legislation. As I mentioned briefly in my comments earlier, this all originated from a case where a school in one State sent a letter of recommendation to a school in another State for one of these monsters to be hired. Frankly, I don't know how the school in the State where this person ended up could have prevented that from happening. But Federal legislation can prevent that, and I think it should.

So I am deeply disappointed we are not able to move to this today. I hope we will be able to soon.

I think my colleague from West Virginia had a point he wished to make, so I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I first thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator TOOMEY. I also thank the Senator from Tennessee, for whom I also have the greatest regard for his knowledge and commitment to our children and education, to which he has dedicated his life, and also the Senator from Iowa. This is very serious and very personal to both of us. Our States have been affected. But every State has been affected.

I am not in favor of a national school board in any way, shape or form. I strongly believe in the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution and States rights. But I believe that certain standards have to be set, and we have done that before as far as on a national level.

There are five problems we have always talked about, and those five problems apply to every child in America—not just every child in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Tennessee or Iowa but in America.

The first is every child should have a loving, caring adult in their life. Those are not always the biological parents or family. It could be you. It could be somebody next door. It could be an extended family member.

Every child should have a safe place in their life. Unfortunately, as has been said, it is not always the home. It might be the school.

Every child should have a healthy start. Nutrition—for many children across America, their breakfast, lunch, and nutrition comes from the school.

Every child should be taught to have a livable skill. Again, that is in the school. We depend upon that.

And the fifth thing—which is the hardest to teach—is that every child should grow to be a loving, caring adult, and be able to give back. That is set by us. We set the standards for that. A child will emulate what they see. If they love it and respect it, they will do it.

For us to say we don't believe raising to a Federal standard the well-being and safety of every child in a school system—guaranteeing that the person who is going to be teaching them, nurturing them, taking them to school, and feeding them has a clean background check and is not a child molester—is the least we can do. That is all we are asking for in this bill. I hope that it would get the attention it needs. Again, I am also very disappointed that we cannot move it forward, and I know that precedent has been set and has been articulated by the Senator from Pennsylvania. But I would hope that both the ranking member and the chairman of the HELP Committee would maybe reconsider and take another look at it.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I am willing to support holding a hearing on the bill, moving it rapidly through the HELP committee, and moving it back to the Senate floor. I will make my argument in committee or on the floor, and I may win or I may lose. But I have thought about the gun-free school zones act for more than 20 years, and I thought about it from the point of view of a parent and of a Governor.

The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has conservative Republicans on one side and liberal Democrats on the other. I spend most of my days on the committee trying to argue my Democratic friends out of their good ideas that they want to impose on every local school district in America. There is a moral imperative to have high academic standards for children. There is a moral imperative to have physical education for children. There is a moral imperative to have breakfast for children. There is a moral imperative to help disabled children. There is a moral imperative to do all these things. We all feel that. But just because we in Washington contribute 10 percent of the money spent on elementary and secondary education doesn't mean we should substitute our judgment for that of the local school board and the principal who is accountable to that community for the safety of each child in their school. We ought to think about that before we start assuming these responsibilities because if we pass this bill into law, leave people to think that we solved the problem, and another problem happens, then who is going to be held accountable? The local principal? The local school board? The Governor? No. Maybe the Senate will be held accountable because we took it upon ourselves to say to the parents: We have kept your child safe.

We should enable parents. We should enable schools. We should enable local school districts to create safe and effective schools with high standards. We

should give parents choices of schools with effective teachers, but we shouldn't mandate it or define it from Washington. That is my argument, which I would like to be considered when we think about the extent to which we ought to say to a local school board or principal: We are going to define for you what a criminal background check should consist of for the people you hire in your schools.

I pledge to work on it as rapidly as Senator HARKIN can move it through the committee. I will make my argument, and we will come to a conclusion.

I appreciate the Senators from Pennsylvania and West Virginia putting a focus on such an important issue, and I look forward to a speedy conclusion to the debate and a passage of an appropriate bill on an important issue. I just hope it enables instead of mandates.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

COMMEMORATING THE BOSTON MARATHON TRAGEDY

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, 1 year ago I rose to speak in this Chamber. I rose with a heart heavy with mourning and yet filled with gratitude because 1 year ago cowards set off bombs at our beloved Boston Marathon, trying to terrorize our city, but Boston responded with courage and community.

Today I rise with a heart filled with the spirit of healing and restoration to commemorate the anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing and celebrate the strength and character of the people of Boston.

One year ago terror knocked on Boston's door. It was not just the momentary terror of smoke and sound but the terror of uncertainty and speculation, the terror of siege and lockdown. Such terrors can break a people's spirit. They seek to do no less. But Boston was fearless.

Our first responders, our protectors and investigators, our heroes, our citizen heroes, our families, our friends, and our neighbors—we did not waiver. In that moment when all the world had its eyes upon us, we responded with a cry of defiance, not of fear.

Scripture says: ''Be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love.'' In the last year we have seen what bravery and strength and love can do.

Friends and family, classmates and teachers have come together to keep alive the memories of Krystle Campbell, Lu Lingzi, Martin Richards, and Sean Collier, and to celebrate their lives and to promise they will live on in our hearts.

Investigators and prosecutors have pursued justice, impartial and fair but with righteous conviction and an unwavering sense of purpose.

Healers and neighbors, friends and family have restored life and energy to those who thought it lost and in doing so have felt their own spirits lift.

Inventors and doctors have returned a ballroom dancer to the dance floor and helped children run and play, focused not on what they have lost but on what they can do next.

Families have rejoiced with graduations and birthdays, weddings and children, with the sweetest and most hopeful moments of life.

In the last year we have found that when we are united as one community, bravery and strength and love can heal the body and restore the spirit.

One hundred years after the original Patriots' Day of 1775, an orator celebrating the anniversary of the first battles of the Revolutionary War told the people of Massachusetts that ''our common liberty is consecrated by a common sorrow.'' From time to time, as a community and as a country we are reminded of this wisdom, through the awful grace of God. Our common tragedies and sufferings unite us as one people, and that unity brings with it strength and courage and ultimately renews our commitment to liberty.

Now, with the strength of One Boston still with us, we look ahead to justice that has yet to be served, to healing that remains to be done, to a future of achievements, of celebrations, and of memories.

May God bless those we have lost. May He inspire those who survived to carry forward. May He keep our community united in bravery and strength and love. And may He always watch over the people of Boston, of Massachusetts, and of the United States of America.

Thank you, Madam President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURPHY. Thank you, Madam President.

HEALTH CARE

There was a new announcement today from the Secretary of Health and Human Services that 7.5 million people have signed up for private health care through the exchanges by virtue of the Affordable Care Act. The initial estimates from CBO last fall were that in the best case about 6 million people were going to sign up. We have blown through that enrollment expectation, and still, on this floor and in committee hearings as recently as this morning, Republicans continue to criticize and critique this law with blistering attacks—not because they have data on their side, not because they have evidence on their side, but because their entire electoral strategy for the fall depends on an assault on the Affordable Care Act.

The problem is that increasingly day by day, as more information comes out about the life-changing, life-altering success of this law, there simply is not the evidence to back up the claim from the Republicans that the Affordable Care Act isn't working. In fact, the reason why a new Washington Post poll shows that for the first time more Americans support the Affordable Care Act rather than oppose it is because they know the Affordable Care Act is working. Yet my good friend Representative PAUL RYAN says that despite 7 million people signing up for the law, ''the architecture of this law is so fundamentally flawed that I think it is going to collapse under its own weight.''

One of our own colleagues said, ''I don't think the 7 million enrollment figure means anything. They are cooking the books on this.''

Conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer says that the 7.1 million enrollment figure was a ''phony number'' and that all the changes and delays must mean the majority of the law is already on its way out.

Well, that is the story Republicans are telling here in Washington, but our constituents in Democratic States and Republican States are telling a very different story.

I would like to talk about the numbers for a second because data can be pretty tricky when it gets in the way of your political argument. As one of our former colleagues from New York said—and I am paraphrasing—we are all entitled to our own opinions, but we are not entitled to our own facts.

Here we are. This is the percentage of uninsured in the United States by quarter. We start in 2008, which is essentially the beginning of the recession, and, as would be expected over the course of the recession, the number of uninsured rises from 14.5 percent to a peak of 18 percent. But guess what happens when it hits the peak. The Affordable Care Act goes into operation. The Affordable Care Act begins to be implemented, and in a very short period of time from the beginning of enrollment until the end of the first period of enrollment being March 31, the number goes from 18 percent uninsured to 15.6 uninsured. That is a remarkable decrease over a very short period of time that can only be explained by the fact that 7 million people now have access to private health care insurance, another 3 million people have access to Medicaid, and another 3 million people on top of that have access to insurance on their parents' plans.

When we look at what has happened to young people over a similar period of time, we can see the same dynamic

playing out. This is the rate of uninsured of 18- to 25-year-olds in this country. Here, they are at 28 percent. I mean, how on Earth, in the most affluent, most powerful country in the world, did we ever allow for more than one-quarter of our young people to be uninsured? But we were at 28.4 percent, and when the Affordable Care Act was passed and the first provision went into effect, it allowed people who were under 26 to stay on their parents' plans.

Look. The number starts to move downward. It is a pretty consistent downward slope, moving from 28 to about 24. Then the ACA plans start, and then the number—just as in the uninsured data for the population at large—drops again from 24 down to 21. It was 28 percent at the passage of the law, and it is 21.7 percent today.

Other studies show the same. This is survey data from Gallup, which is generally the gold standard on tracking the rate of uninsured in the country. But we also have a RAND study that was done. This is a very well-known consulting study which said that from the period of September of last year until mid-March, 9.3 million people who were uninsured became insured.

So when Republicans say this data doesn't really tell you the true story because these are all people just shifting from one plan to another, that is not true. The RAND study tells us that 9.3 million people who were uninsured became insured. The RAND study also says that 7.2 million people got access to employer-based insurance who didn't have it previously. And that data doesn't even include the surge of enrollment at the end of March. The RAND study only brings us up to about mid-March.

So this is the real story. This is what the numbers and the data tell us: that people are getting access to insurance for the first time ever. The Affordable Care Act isn't just shifting people from one insurance plan to another insurance plan; it is actually having a remarkable effect on the number of insured in this country.

I am not suggesting this trend line is going to continue along that axis, but, boy, if the next couple of years looks anything like the first 6 months of Affordable Care Act plans being available to people, we are going to see a revolution in this country in terms of the number of people who are outside our health care system. Yet this week was the 52nd, 53rd, 54th vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act in the House of Representatives. The Presiding Officer and I sat through probably 40 of those votes and there is another one today.

A budget presented, again, by Representative PAUL RYAN would take away insurance from 7 million people who now have it, take away Medicaid coverage from 3 million more people who have it, would repeal a law that has provided $9 billion in savings for seniors when they are in the doughnut hole. And $9 billion is a big number and hard to comprehend. By the way, his bill would return that $9 billion to the drug industry because that is where it came from. It didn't shift money from one set of taxpayers to another set of taxpayers. The way we closed the doughnut hole was asking the drug industry to put up some money in order to help seniors.

The irony of all ironies is that the Ryan budget—while repealing all of the provisions that have provided insurance to over 10 million people and discounted health care for millions more—would keep in place the $716 billion in Medicare savings that Republicans and outside groups have hammered Democrats for supporting over the course of the last 5 years.

Over and over we have been told we are killing Medicare Advantage by asking Medicare Advantage to run their insurance plans for the same costs that Medicare charges. Yet despite all of the rhetoric, the Republican budget in the House would keep in place all of the Medicare cuts they have been running against outside of this building.

What our constituents know is that despite bumps in the road, the Affordable Care Act works. Anytime you reorder one-sixth of the American economy, you are going to have problems and you are going to have people who are going to be unhappy. The reality is that for decades we had the most expensive health care system in the world, times two, compared to any other industrialized nation, and we were getting results that didn't measure up to the amount of money we were spending. We had 30 million people who were uninsured, rates of infant immortality and infections that were way above countries spending half as much as we did. We had to make a change. That there were 54 votes in the House of Representatives to repeal the bill, and not a single effort to replace it, tells you that it has been Democrats who have been willing to step to the plate and do the tough reform necessary to try to make changes that were 100 years overdue. The numbers don't lie in the end.

I get it that Republicans think they can win an election by continuing to hammer away at the Affordable Care Act, but there are 7½ million people who now have private health care. There are 3 million people who now have access to Medicaid. There are 3 million more young adults who can stay on their parents' plans. RAND and Gallup tell us that the number of people without insurance in this country is absolutely plummeting by the day. All of that is evidence that despite the best intentions from our Republicans to undermine the law the ACA works.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. REED. Madam President, it has been 103 days since emergency unemployment insurance expired and 3 days since the Senate sent a bipartisan agreement to the House which would restore these benefits for up to 2.7 million Americans. These benefits are fully paid for and would lift the entire economy. That is why the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that failing to renew the benefits for a full year would cost the economy 200,000 jobs. We recognize our bill is a partial restoration, not a full year. The restoration we proposed will increase jobs in the economy as attested by the CBO.

Unfortunately, it appears that the House has no intent to take up the Senate-passed agreement to restore these benefits before they leave town for 2 weeks.

That is right if the House fails to pass what the Senate has passed on a bipartisan vote—and this was a bipartisan, fiscally responsible measure—the Speaker, who says he wants job creation, will be rejecting a portion of those 200,000 new jobs projected by the Congressional Budget Office, which is headed by his own appointee.

Contrary to the criticism that our proposal does not create jobs and doesn't do anything with jobs, it does. More importantly, it restores benefits to people who are desperately looking for work in a very difficult economy, and who need these benefits to keep searching for work as well as supporting their families.

In my view, the failure to act is not defensible. Restoring these benefits is the right thing to do for job seekers and the smart thing to do for our economy. The very modest $300-a-week average benefit, which our bill restores, helps workers stay afloat and cover the necessities as they search for a job. That modest benefit gets pumped back into the economy at the local supermarket or gas station. It is just commonsense. People will get this—I hope—benefit, and they will go right along and take care of the daily needs of life. They are not in a position to stash it away—most of them—and they are not in a position to do anything else but to try to stay afloat through very difficult financial circumstances.

Unemployment remains stubbornly high in my State, and across the United States. The March employment report, while positive, showed we still have much more to do to strengthen our economic recovery, especially for

the 10.5 million Americans looking for work, including 3.7 million of the long-term unemployed. Again, this benefit we propose is particularly directed at these long-term unemployed Americans.

That is why this is a critical effort in our attempts to strengthen our economy—restoring these benefits. We have never let these benefits lapse when the long-term unemployment rate is higher than 1.3 percent—and today it is nearly twice that at roughly 2.6 percent. We have acted on a bipartisan basis, on a fiscally responsible basis, on a basis that recognizes not only the needs of families but the need to help further grow our economy. Now it is time for the House to act that way—responsibly fiscally and responsibly to our neighbors and our constituents, on a bipartisan basis, to get this bill done quickly and get it to the President.

It is my hope the House of Representatives stops blocking this. This is fully paid for. It is fiscally responsible. It is a bipartisan effort. It is what every one of our constituents says we should be doing more of—responsible, thoughtful, bipartisan legislation. We have done our part in the Senate and now it is up to the House. I hope they move quickly—this week indeed—to get this relief to millions of Americans.

With that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Utah.

THE BUDGET

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today to take a look back at the evolution of our Federal budget over the past few years, as we moved from deficits and debt not seen since the years surrounding World War II to our current budget predicament, which still involves deficits and debt that are far too high.

The Federal deficit in fiscal year 2009 was nearly 10 percent of our economy. This was due partly to efforts to battle the financial crisis and partly to ineffective and reckless spending measures like the so-called stimulus.

Since then, the deficit has fallen. From the rhetoric of the administration and its allies here in Congress, you would think that deficit reduction has been accomplished almost exclusively through spending cuts. Indeed, in an effort to demonstrate his reasonableness in calling for even more tax hikes, President Obama often touts the ''tough spending cuts'' that have taken place under his administration.

Of course, after spending ballooned in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to almost a quarter of the size of our entire economy, it eventually had to be curtailed. With a recovering economy, along with tax hikes engineered by the administration and its allies in Congress, deficits have admittedly come down.

Unfortunately, however, as the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has told us, the deficit reprieve will be short lived. The CBO tells us clearly that after 2015, the deficit will rise again and, as a consequence, the Federal debt remains on an unsustainable path.

As the CBO and every credible budget analyst has made clear, our fiscal path is unsustainable because our entitlements are unsustainable—that means Social Security, that means Medicare and Medicaid, and that means the Affordable Care Act.

We know those programs cannot be sustained on their current trajectories. Yet the administration and its allies refuse to do anything about it.

The Senate Democratic budget left entitlements virtually untouched. The President's budget offers little in the way of structural entitlement reforms necessary to put these programs on sound fiscal footing. In fact, with his latest budget, President Obama has even retreated on reforms that he has offered in the past.

But let's look back on how our budget has evolved over the last few years. If you listen to my friends on the other side of the aisle and their supporters, the Federal Government has significantly scaled back on spending which, they say, is responsible for almost all the changes in the Federal deficit since the outsized deficits in fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

We hear from our friends on the other side of the aisle about how they have ''slashed'' spending. We hear about ''austerity,'' as though it is something inherently evil.

For example, in June of 2013, the left-wing Center for American Progress said that ''we have enacted about $2.5 trillion in deficit reduction with about three-quarters coming from spending cuts.''

In March of this year, Vice President BIDEN's former aide Jared Bernstein wrote in the New York Times that we have generated $2.5 trillion in deficit savings, with 77 percent coming from spending cuts.

In February of this year, the Senate Budget Committee chairman wrote to her Senate Democratic colleagues that since August 2010, we have had ''$3.3 trillion in deficit reduction put in place over the last few years'' with 77 percent claimed as coming from spending reductions.

Depending on who you listen to, deficits have been reduced by $2.5 trillion or $3.3 trillion or maybe more. No matter the number, the claimed reduction stemming from spending cuts usually ends up at around 75 percent or more. That would mean that deficit reduction has been accomplished by a 3-to-1 or higher ratio of spending cuts to tax highs. Of course, all of those deficit reduction and spending reduction claims represent promises for the future.

They are measured relative to some artificial so-called budget baseline or yardstick, which can pretty much be anything that you want it to be. Pick one yardstick and you get one result. Pick a different yardstick and you get a different result. But it has been recorded that in fiscal year 2009, the Federal deficit was more than $1.4 trillion or almost 10 percent of GDP at the time.

Also on the books is that in fiscal year 2013, our most recently closed fiscal year, the deficit was around $680 billion or just over 4 percent of GDP at that time. Therefore, deficit reduction we have seen between fiscal years 2009 and 2013, which is a 4-year period, has been about $735 billion. That is not $2.5 trillion. That is not $3.3 trillion.

The larger deficit reduction numbers are derived almost entirely from future promises to reduce spending, promises that we are pretty darn sure are never going to be kept, based upon all of the past history of this country and the Democratic Party, by the way.

Once again, in terms of real actual deficit reduction, the number comes in at roughly $735 billion. Keep in mind all the rhetoric about deficit reduction consisting of 3-to-1 spending reductions to tax hikes. Well, if that is what we would have enacted, we would imagine those ratios would have been at least somehow reflected in the deficit reduction realized over the past 4 years or so.

If not, then, let's be clear that they are only promises to reduce spending, promises that the current and future Congresses can undo with the stroke of a pen. If past experience is the norm, you can count on it. You can count on undoing those promises. I have been in the Senate—this is my 38th year. I have heard countless promises to rein in spending in the future. The fraction of those promises that have ended up being kept is very small.

Promises notwithstanding, let's go back over the past 4 fiscal years and see what has happened. As I said, from fiscal year 2009 to 2013, the deficit has gone down by $735 billion. No one disputes this, certainly not my friends on the other side of the aisle, who have used this number as justification for turning their spending engine back to full throttle.

Given all that they said about spending cuts having been responsible, on a 3-to-1 basis for deficit reduction, the question becomes: Is 75 percent of the deficit reduction we have seen over the last 4 years attributable to spending cuts or austerity? The answer is not even close. The $736 billion of deficit reduction has been accomplished with

$670 billion of increased revenues, and only $65 billion of spending reductions, which on a basis of around $3.5 trillion of annual spending is a reduction of below 2 percent.

I will say that again. The $735 billion of deficit reduction from fiscal year 2009 to 2013 has been accomplished by and large through higher tax revenue. Specifically, more than 91 percent of the deficit reduction has stemmed from higher taxes, and less than 9 percent from reductions in spending.

Less than 9 percent of deficit reduction stems from spending cuts is a far cry from the 75 percent or more that my friends on the other side of the aisle claim. Those claims are based on promises of future spending reductions and budget projections. Yes, those claims are based on carefully crafted budget baselines or yardsticks that my friends creatively construct. All of this is future, which we all know will never come to pass.

But if we had enacted budgetary changes aimed at reducing deficits that involved anything near a 3-to-1 ratio of spending cuts to tax increases, then you would think it would have at least started to slow up over the past 4 fiscal years. As I said, however, it is not even close. Of course, some of the revenue increases have reflected the economy recovering from the recession to its current state, which by the way remains sluggish.

But the 2013 numbers begin to reflect recent tax hikes, engineered by my friends on the other side of the aisle. Moving forward, we can expect even more revenue to be extracted from economy from tax hikes, including the higher tax rates that were passed last year in the fiscal cliff deal, along with the myriad of taxes included as part of the Affordable Care Act.

We have already seen in fiscal year 2014 through February Federal tax revenues hitting a record high for the first 5 months of the fiscal year relative to a similar period of any past fiscal year. Yet, even as the revenue gushes in, my friends on the other side of the aisle want to double down with even more tax hikes. Let's not think for a minute that their demand for higher taxes has anything to do with reining in the deficit or reducing our debts.

Instead, the proposals from Democrats are for even more spending, more redistribution, and an even more bigger government. The President's recent budget is exhibit No. 1. Of course, you will not hear it being called ''inefficient and wasteful government spending.'' No, you will hear about investments. You will not hear the term ''redistribution.'' No, you will hear about the wonderfully egalitarian goal of fairness, as judged by the norms of Democrats.

You will not hear about big government controlling an outsized and increasing share of economic activity in our country. No, you will hear about how virtually every private sector company in virtually every sector of the economy acts abusively or out of greed, without regard for others, in search of tax loopholes to exploit to the detriment of the middle class.

Once again, it is clear from the budget data already in the books over the past 4 fiscal years that the vast majority of deficit reduction, more than 91 percent of it, has come from increased revenue extracted from the private sector. Less than 9 percent has come from any kind of spending restraint. Those are facts. Those are the numbers on the books. Those data do not depend on CBO projections. They do not depend on picking a baseline. They do not rely on budget assumptions.

What these numbers tell us is that virtually none of the so-called austerity or slashed spending that my friends on the other side of the aisle have pretended to endure have occurred in the real world.

As we continue to hear from my friends on the other side of the aisle about how our budget challenge has faded away, and about the trillions and trillions of deficit reduction that has been accomplished through spending cuts, let's keep in mind our recent track record. That record is clear.

I will say it again just to make sure the point is not lost on anyone.

The spending restraint we have seen since the outside spending sprees in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 has been minor. The vast majority of deficit reduction we have seen to date, more than 91 percent of it has resulted from increased revenue. The past 4 fiscal years have shown no evidence of the ongoing promises of 3-to-1 spending cuts to tax hikes.

We do not need to increase taxes yet again. We have already done that. We do not need to declare deficit and debt victory and turn the speeding spigots back on to maximum flow. Our fiscal challenge remains where it has been for some time now. We have unsustainable growth in our entitlement spending and we need to discuss and enact structural reforms to our entitlement programs in order to put them and our fiscal position on a more sustainable course.

Democrats, of course, have other ideas. For instance, take a look at page 33 of the President's budget. The document discusses the future unsustainable deficits and debt and alludes to a large tax increase that is undefined. Here is what it says, ''Even with reforms to Medicare and other entitlements and tough choices . . . we will need additional revenue to maintain our commitments to seniors.''

As I said, my friends on the other side never tire of asking for more money from our American people—never tire of it. For example, both the President's budget and the budget proposed by Senate Democrats last year envisioned revenue increases of over $1 trillion. That apparently is their answer to the entitlement question—not reforms, not structural changes, but ''additional revenues.''

If you are going to try to fix our entitlement problems entirely on the revenue side of the ledger, it is going to take far more revenue than what my friends on the other side of the aisle have previously proposed. If that is the route they want to go, they should at least be honest with the American people about where the revenue will come from and who will be paying for it. The American people deserve to know. I think it is about time our friends on the other side explained it to them. Do not count on that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CUBA

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, we heard news a week or so ago that the U.S. Government, through the Agency for International Development, was conducting a program in Cuba titled ZunZuneo.

It was an attempt to set up a kind of alternative twitter account, and the intent was certainly noble—to increase access of ordinary Cubans to information that would help and assist them.

I have no issue with programs such as this. I think overall they are good. The more we can have people have Internet access and meaningful content is good, but I and many others do have an issue with the Agency for International Development—USAID—undertaking this program.

USAID's mission is to help with humanitarian needs and to promote democratic development around the world. It need not, should not, engage in covert—or in their case they are saying it wasn't covert, they are calling it discreet. Either way, it casts suspicion on other activities that USAID is undertaking around the world.

USAID is in some very tough places around the world—delivering supplies into South Sudan, for example. We work with the people in Syria—not within the country but just outside the country. We work in many dangerous parts of the world, and the last thing we need is suspicion cast on USAID where people think it is an arm of the CIA. It just shouldn't be done. I think USAID does great work around the

world and shouldn't involve itself with work of this type.

With regard to Cuba itself, as I said, I think our goal should be to make sure that Cubans are better informed, that we have increased contact, and that we have more American influence there.

That could be most easily forwarded by simply allowing Americans to travel to Cuba. It is the only country in the world where we have a policy that you have to get a specific license—where only certain classes of people are allowed to go there. That simply makes no sense at all.

If our goal is to make sure that Cuban people are aware of what is going on in the world, that they get real information outside of the government sources—the government in Cuba denies Cuban people the ability to get good, meaningful information—we ought to be all about making sure they have access to that, but the best way to do that is simply allowing Americans to travel there. We do that with other repressive regimes around the world.

It has been said—I think Freedom House has Iran as the only government that is more restrictive, more authoritarian, and more repressive than the Cuban regime. Yet we allow Americans to travel to Iran. In Iran, the Iranian Government may restrict who may come in—as will the Cuban Government, I am sure, once we lift our travel ban there. But that ought to be their province. I have often said if someone is going to limit my travel, it should be a Communist government, not my government.

As we review this program and as we talk about it in the coming weeks—we had a hearing this morning with the head of USAID testifying about it—I hope we simply keep in mind the best way to help the Cuban people to have access to information and to have contact with Americans, to be subject to American influence, freedom, and economic opportunity, is to allow Americans to travel freely there. That would do more than any program we could install, any program administered by USAID, the State Department, the CIA or anybody else—just allow Americans to travel to Cuba.

Mr. DURBIN. Would the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. FLAKE. I yield to the Senator.

Mr. DURBIN. I will make a statement in the nature of a question since we discussed this this morning. We had a lengthy discussion in the Foreign Relations Committee about this twitter project, whatever it was, and whether it was wise—and I think it was the consensus of our committee—that if it opens up Cuban people to other ideas and more information, it is a positive thing.

You and I discussed afterward the fact that there are other things we can do. I think you just alluded specifically to them on the floor, and I wanted to associate myself with your thinking on this and hope that after some 50-years-plus, some fresh thinking on our foreign policy in terms of Cuba may lead to what we ultimately want, and that is giving the Cuban people an opportunity to be part of a real democracy and have real freedoms. Isn't that right?

Mr. FLAKE. It is. I thank the Senator.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

QUORUM CALL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 1 Ex.]

Carper	Hirono	Walsh
Durbin	Reid	Warren
Flake	Tester	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is not present.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to instruct the Sergeant at Arms to request the presence of absent Senators, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 107 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Reed
Begich	Heller	Reid
Bennet	Hirono	Rockefeller
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Landrieu	Shelby
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Menendez	Walsh
Feinstein	Merkley	Warner
Franken	Mikulski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murray	Wyden
Harkin	Nelson	
Heinrich	Pryor	

NAYS—37

Alexander	Flake	Paul
Ayotte	Graham	Portman
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Inhofe	Rubio
Coats	Isakson	Scott
Cochran	Johanns	Sessions
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Corker	Kirk	Toomey
Cornyn	Lee	Vitter
Crapo	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—8

Blunt	Coburn	Markey
Boxer	Cruz	Moran
Burr	Hoeven	

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. We are here this afternoon because Republicans are holding the confirmation of two important nominations. Earlier today the Senate voted to invoke cloture on Michelle Friedland to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. So the only question is, when will she be made a Federal judge in the Ninth Circuit.

There are some who say that 30 hours should run. They can speak for themselves why they insist on doing so. There is no question it is not to debate the nomination. It is just to do nothing, to stand around here and do nothing.

Few, if any, Senators have come to the floor to express any reason to oppose this good woman. She was nominated 9 months ago by President Obama. So it is time to confirm this well-qualified nominee. Enough stalling has taken place.

She graduated second in her class at Stanford University Law School. She clerked for Sandra Day O'Connor in the Supreme Court. She has been a partner in a prominent law firm.

The Ninth Circuit is the busiest circuit in the entire country. The Senate confirmed 18 of President Bush's circuit court nominees within a week of being reported out of committee. This woman, as I already indicated, was 13 months ago. We have 30 other judicial nominees pending on the calendar. We have 85 vacancies on the Federal courts. There is no reason to delay this nomination.

There is no reason to delay the nomination of David Weil to lead the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor. He is a Boston University professor, a Harvard University researcher.

I am sure it is a little difficult for people watching this to understand why Republicans are demanding that we waste time, because that is all it is. But I guess the American people have become accustomed to wasting time. That is what they have tried to do for 5 years. We have wasted time because of issues such as this. The staff has to be here. We have wasted so much time

that we could be working on important issues.

The Republicans have come to the floor saying: We want amendments. The reason we don't deal with that kind of stuff is because we spend so much time on this. We have wasted thousands of hours during the 5 years, and that is very unfortunate. The Republicans are stalling so much.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

I ask unanimous consent that the time until 4:00 today be equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that at 4:00 p.m. all postcloture time be yielded back and the Senate proceed to vote, with no intervening action or debate, on Calendar No. 574; further, following disposition of the nomination, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture for Executive Calendar No. 623; if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time will be yielded back and the Senate will proceed to vote on confirmation of the nomination; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRASSLEY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Reserving the right to object, and I would offer an alternative; but before I do that, I wish to say to my colleagues in the U.S. Senate that, first of all, there is controversy about this nominee. Let's make that clear. And second, the majority leader said maybe the people of this country don't really understand what is going on.

They understand what is going on. We are working under the rules that the majority changed by ignoring the rules of the U.S. Senate in November. So as the majority leader knows, we have not yielded back postcloture time on judicial nominations since the so-called nuclear option was triggered last November.

We have followed the rules of the U.S. Senate for regular order on all judges before the Senate in the last 5 months, just exactly the way the rules were changed in November. So there is 30 hours of postcloture debate on this nomination.

Therefore, I would ask the consent request be modified so that the vote on confirmation would occur at 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 28, when we return from the April recess. This would allow the Senate to process the pending cloture nomination on the wage and hour nominee this afternoon and set that confirmation vote also for Monday, when we return on April 28. That is the alternative I offer to the majority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the majority leader so modify his request?

Mr. REID. I reserve my right to object.

Madam President, obviously this is not a dissertation on logic, because if it were, why in the world would we want to waste 30 hours doing nothing? And that is what we are doing, 30 hours.

I know my friend from Iowa has been on the Judiciary Committee a long time. I appreciate all he has done, but it is apparent the only reason the Senator from Iowa expresses delay is for delay itself, no other reason.

Now, I may have missed it. There could have been someone talking about what a bad person she is or why she is not qualified, but I must have missed that. I heard little, if any, opposition. In fact, I have heard none for this nominee. I have heard only obstruction for obstruction's sake, delay for delay's sake.

This has been going on for 5 years. It appears that the Senator wishes his caucus to be the caucus that ''just says no,'' and that is what they did here.

So, Madam President, I object to the modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. GRASSLEY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Reserving the right to object, and I will object, but to remind everybody, when the majority leader says that nothing is being done on judges, we have confirmed 233 judges and only disapproved the 2; so don't ever try to sell the American people on the idea that the Senate is not doing its work on getting judges approved.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. As I indicated, this is something without logic. We have had a lot of judges approved after wasting hundreds of hours of time doing nothing. We have judges reported out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously, led by our good friend, the senior Senator from Vermont, the chairman of the Committee, who does such an admirable job. They were reported out unanimously, and they stall—the Republicans stall, delay, obstruct, and then we have a vote here and it passes very easily. Their only purpose for the delaying is for delay's sake. They are obstructing this as they have obstructed everything over the last 5 years.

I know people complain about the rule change that was made. Where would we be in this country without having changed that rule?

I got a letter today from Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, outlining nine important people in the Department of Defense who need to be confirmed. Most of the positions have been without anybody there for more than a year. We have numerous ambassadors to important countries around the world, and they are not being confirmed because they are being stalled. Why? Why could we not have these people go do their work? They have been nominated. Countries all over the world are without ambassadors from the United States. Where would we be if we had not changed that rule?

Now we are slogging through these nominations. It is kind of slow because of the inordinate amount of time that we are caused to eat up. But the longer my friend from Iowa talks, the more reason there is that maybe we should have changed the rules more than we did.

So, unless something changes, we will have a vote tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. We will have three votes here tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I think it is important to put all of this in context. My good friend, the majority leader, broke his word last year when he said we had settled the issue of what the rules were going to be for the Senate for this Congress. He then broke the Senate rules in order to change the Senate rules, setting a very unfortunate precedent, and continues to abuse the Senate rules by using the device called filling the tree to prevent Members of the Senate, from his party and from our party, from even offering alternatives.

Despite this heavyhanded behavior, he expects the minority to simply expedite consideration of, in the case of the matter we are discussing, a lifetime appointment. As Senator GRASSLEY has pointed out, we are simply exercising our rights under the rules of the Senate. I might say many of these nominees would have been confirmed last December had we not experienced this event perpetrated by the majority in a heavyhanded attempt to alter the balance, to change the nature of the Senate with a simple majority. It was an unfortunate decision, but those kinds of decisions have consequences. And all we have done here is exercise, as Senator GRASSLEY pointed out, the rights that Senators have under the rules of the Senate. If the majority leader doesn't like the way the Senate is working, I would recommend that he change his behavior.

You know, we don't have a rules problem. We have a behavior problem.

We have had a couple of examples of trying to edge back to normal here, where we brought up a bill that was actually open for amendments, and amendments were processed from Members on both sides. But it seems of late we are back to the old Senate. All we are about is scoring partisan points and denying Members the opportunity to offer amendments.

I think most Members on both sides of the aisle came here to be Senators, which involves having your committee work taken seriously and having the opportunity to offer amendments taken seriously. This body—when it was at its peak and operating the way it should under Members of majorities of both parties—has been a more civil place in which rights were respected.

The Senator from Iowa—the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee—is pointing out that we are simply exercising our rights under the rules of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I am a patient man. At least I try to be. For my friend to come here and have the audacity to talk about my breaking my word—the trouble with that statement is that the whole Senate is here to see what happened.

He said something and I said something. What he said was that we are not going to have all of these filibusters on motions to proceed.

For the viewing audience, we wasted so much time just trying to get on a bill. It is not that easy. You have to file something in the Senate, and then you have to wait a day to get on the bill. If they object—and they object hundreds of times—it takes 2 days to get on the bill. Then we vote, wait 30 hours, and then we are only on the bill. To get off the bill, we have to go through that process all over again, and we have done that hundreds of times.

There have been more filibusters on President Obama's judicial nominations than in the entire history of the country for other Presidents. We have been a country for a long time—roughly 240 years. There have been more filibusters for President Obama in the course of 5 years than for the previous 235 years.

I went to New York and had the good fortune to watch a wonderful play—''All the Way''—about LBJ. That good man—during the time he was majority leader for 6 years—had to overcome one filibuster.

As the majority leader in the Senate—because of the performance we have had over here—I had to overcome over 500 filibusters. This is for the country. It is not for me. We have been stymied on everything we have tried to do—everything.

We know—it is public record now—that 3 days after Obama was elected the first time, a meeting was held here in Washington, and it has been written up all over the place. Karl Rove called the meeting with others. They made the decision that their goal was to make sure this man never got reelected. To the credit of the Republican leader, he said: Our goal is to make sure he is never reelected.

Well, Obama surprised everybody—except us—and was overwhelmingly elected by the American people.

They also said in that same meeting: The way we are going to stop him from being reelected is to object to everything, and that is what they have done. It is unprecedented in the history of our great Republic.

I have been here a while. I know how people used to work together, but you can't work together if one side says no to everything. Once in a while we have had the good fortune to be able to piece together some work with the Republicans. It is getting harder and harder to do, but we have been able to get it done a few times.

They have wasted the time of the American people. If there is an objection to this woman, then come to the floor and talk about what is wrong with her. She attended one of the finest law schools in America. A battle goes on every year, whether it is Harvard, Yale or Stanford, and they flip back and forth. It doesn't matter. She is a very fine academic. She clerked for one of the finest Supreme Court justices we have had in the history of the country—by the way, a Republican.

What is wrong with her? What do we gain by holding this up? The country gains nothing. As I have indicated, we have about 140 nominations that are being held up over here. My friend, the Republican leader, said: Hey, listen, we would have approved them all in December anyway. Please. Who in the world thinks that there is a bit of creditability to that?

I say to everybody that I am sorry. In 25 hours, I guess, we can come here to vote on these people. All we need is a majority, and that is the way it is. I am so sorry for the inconvenience to everyone, but the Republicans know that for them it is pretty easy. They can just walk out of here. They don't have to be here, but we do because it is our burden to run the country. They can walk away and take their little trips and go home. We are not going to be able to do that. We have to vote and approve these two people.

We have a very good judge we need to approve. We have somebody for the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor. That job has been vacant for a long, long time.

Again, I am sorry for the inconvenience to Members, but we have an obligation. We have been elected to be Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I have just a couple of brief observations that are relevant to the point. No. 1, we have approved more judges at this point for President Obama than President Bush had approved at the same time in his Presidency.

No. 2, the majority leader has a curious definition of filibuster. The reason the majority leader has had difficulty getting onto bills is because as soon as we get on bills, there are no amendments allowed. Once you get past the motion to proceed—I would say to the people who may be listening and are not as deeply steeped in Senate rules—there is a 2-step process. You vote to get on a bill, and then you are on the bill.

What happens is that once we get on the bill, the majority leader has made it impossible for Members of his party or ours to offer amendments more often than the last six leaders combined. In other words, he gets to decide whether anybody's amendments are considered—either on his side or our side. That is what has degraded the Senate. That is what has turned the Senate into looking more like the House. In fact, I am told of late that the House has voted on more amendments than the Senate. The assistant majority leader used to say—and he was quite right at the time—if you want to have a chance to vote, come to the Senate; that is what the Senate is about. That is not what it has been about in recent times.

All that is really required to get the Senate back to normal is for the one Member of the Senate who has the right of prior recognition and the right to set the agenda to open the Senate and let Members of both parties offer amendments.

When we used to be in the majority, I would tell our Members that the price of being in the majority is you have to give the minority their votes. It is an unpleasant experience for us, but that is the way the Senate operates, and that is the way you move a bill to completion.

There were a couple of times this year when it looked like we were going to get back to normal. I still hope it is not too late for that. It would be in the best interests of the institution and the best interest of both the majority and minority to begin to restore the institution to the way it used to operate.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I believe I have the floor.

Do I have the floor?

Mr. REID. I have the floor. The Senator yielded the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader had not yet yielded the floor.

Mr. REID. I apologize.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, if the Senator would yield for a question.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I am happy to yield for a question.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the majority leader said that there is urgent work the Senate needs to turn to, which is why we ought to amend the ordinary rules of the Senate which call for a 30-hour postcloture period.

I ask the distinguished Republican leader if he is aware of any urgent work that the majority leader has planned for us to turn to that would be a reason to expedite this particular nomination?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I am sure the majority leader will announce at some point what we are going to do next, but I am not quite sure what that is at this particular point.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, if the Senator will yield for another question, I ask the distinguished Republican leader if he is aware—and I am confident he is—that the majority leader and other leaders of his party had a press conference last week, I believe it was, announcing their agenda from this point through the election in November, which involved issues such as the vote we had yesterday, the vote on the increase in the minimum wage, the vote on extending long-term unemployment, and the like. I believe there was a quote in the article—if the Senator will remember like I do—that basically said: We are not interested in legislating. We are just basically interested in posturing and politics to help distract the American people from the unpopularity of this President's policies and this party's policies.

Does the Senator remember something to that effect?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I do. The Senator from Texas is entirely correct. There was a rather candid admission at a press conference that the whole agenda was basically crafted by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and that getting an outcome was sort of irrelevant. It was mainly about scoring political points for the fall election here on the floor of the Senate.

If that is one of the urgent items the majority leader has in mind that would somehow be prevented if we had a vote on this judge on the Monday after the recess, it is perplexing to reach the conclusion that this is a matter of great urgency for the American people if there is no interest whatsoever in getting an outcome.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have heard my friend the Republican leader come to the floor often and say: Why don't we work on Fridays? Most people work on Fridays. I want to make sure I am right, but I have not seen or heard a single Republican come to the floor and say a single word about the nominee of the Ninth Circuit—positive or negative. They have not said a single word.

A lot of words are being thrown about here—posturing. I wonder if somebody who is a long-term unemployed worker, someone who has been out of work a long time—I will give a profile of someone. Not everybody fits this description. Let's take the example of somebody who is 55 years old and was laid off because of the recession and can't find a job because he or she is overqualified, overeducated—lots of different issues as to why they can't find work.

We decided that it was important that they get an unemployment benefit extension. About 2 million people agree with that for sure because they are the ones who lost those benefits. I don't think that is posturing. We voted on that, and it passed here. I think we had to have five cloture votes to get there. But because of some very strong-willed Republicans, we were able to do that, and I admire those five who joined with us. They didn't want to do it by name. They said something we did yesterday. That something that we did yesterday said that if a woman works the same job that a man works, that woman should be paid the same as a man.

Is that posturing? I don't think so. My daughter doesn't think so and my granddaughters don't think so. They think it is pretty fair. More than half of the people who are going to college now are women. Over half of the people in medical school and law school are women. Shouldn't they be paid the same as men? Is that posturing? I don't think so.

Again, there is diversion and distraction from the issue at hand. They wanted to offer amendments, and one was a 350-page amendment that covered everything. In fact, I said it even included the kitchen sink. They are not serious about this. They only want to move from what we are trying to do.

Do we have anything urgent to do when we get back? If we didn't have to go through all of this nonsense—and that is what it is—we would be voting today on minimum wage. That vote would help 1 million people get out of poverty and 26 million people would get a raise.

Why did we pick the number of $10.10 an hour? Because that gets people out of poverty. It is really important that we understand that this is part of the mantra of the program that Karl Rove and others decided they would do 5 years or more ago, and that is to oppose everything that President Obama has done.

You cannot talk about what went on before because never in the history of our great Republic have we had a party—a minority party—determined to do nothing in the hope that it will get them the majority in November. We will find out if their noble experiment works; that is, oppose everything and people will like us a lot. I don't think that is going to work. We are here to do the work of the American people. Is it right that we have more than 100 people who are being held up for no reason other than they want to make sure that if we have somebody who is going to be a circuit court judge, we have to file cloture—that is 2 days—and then we have 30 hours, and then we have—simply moving to a piece of legislation, we waste a week getting to it because of their obstruction and delay. So it is unfortunate.

My friends talk about all the great things they have done. I will tell my colleagues the great things they have done. I can give lots of examples. We tried to do a highway bill—a highway bill—which is important for this country. We have a deficit in infrastructure of $3 trillion. It wasn't much better a couple of years ago. So we brought that bill to the floor, and we had this great amendment process. They wanted to debate amendments. What did they do? They wanted to stop women from getting contraceptives. That held up things for a month—a month—before they finally got some sense and withdrew that.

The Republicans made a decision a little more than 5 years ago to oppose everything President Obama wanted or tried to do, and they have stuck with that. It has not been good for the country, and we have situations just like we have here.

(Mr. SCHATZ assumed the Chair.)

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, would the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. REID. Sure.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the majority leader says there is important work for the Senate to do, and I can think of one urgent thing we could do today if the majority leader would consent.

The House has passed the reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act.

To remind colleagues, this is money Congress appropriated to the Department of Justice for grants to local law enforcement agencies and forensic labs to test unprocessed rape kits. This is a national scandal, the number of unprocessed rape kits which have prevented law enforcement from identifying a serial perpetrator of sexual assault, many sometimes not just involving adults but also children.

The House has passed the reauthorization of that bill. All it takes is for the majority leader and the Senate to consent to take up that bill today and pass it to get it to the President's desk.

I think that, perhaps, is the most important and most urgent thing we could be doing right now. So I ask the majority leader if he would consent to taking up that bill and passing it in the Senate right now.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the committee, of which I am almost certain my friend is a member—the Judiciary Committee; is that right?

Mr. CORNYN. I am on the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. REID. He is also a former supreme court justice of Texas.

They have reported the bill out of the Judiciary Committee, and my friend was part of that reporting situation. Part of what they reported out has the Debbie Smith language in it, but it has more stuff in it than just that. So I would be happy to take a look at that. We can talk to the chair of the committee and the ranking member, who is on the floor here today, and if they would be willing to separate this stuff

here and have it rather than what was reported out of the committee—they can take a look at this. Senator LEAHY was on the floor. He is not here now, but I would be happy to take a look at that.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if I may ask one more question of the majority leader, one final question.

Mr. REID. I am sorry, I didn't hear that.

Mr. CORNYN. Will the majority leader yield for one last question?

Mr. REID. Yes. But before doing that, I have just been informed that this bill that was reported out of the committee on which the senior Senator from Texas serves—we have cleared it on our side. If they want to clear it today, we will get this out today. All they have to do is clear it on their side. We have cleared it.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if I could ask the majority leader through the Chair, there is the Justice for All Act which, as the leader points out, includes things other than the Debbie Smith Act, which has not cleared the Senate, which, if it did clear the Senate, would include the Debbie Smith Act. That would be a positive development.

There is a separate bill—if the Justice for All Act is not cleared, there is a separate bill which would reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act which has passed the House. So we could take up just the Debbie Smith reauthorization that the House has passed and get that done today, which I would urge the majority leader to consider, if we can't clear the larger bill, the Justice For All Act. But, frankly, I would be happy with either one. But if we could just do the Debbie Smith Act today, I think we could call that great progress and a great win for justice and for some of these people who have been waiting too long for the law enforcement community to be able to identify the perpetrators and get these folks off the street.

Mr. REID. The bill that 55 Senators have cleared over here is a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide postconviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes. We will pass that right now. We are happy to do it.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if I may respond to the majority leader, the bill he is referring to is the Justice for All Act, which I support. But there has been some reason why that bill has not come to the floor and received floor time. I am worried that if we wait to pass that, we will delay the passage of the Debbie Smith Act, which is a component of that act, which we could take up, having passed the House, and we could take that up today and then deal with the Justice for All Act in due course.

So I ask the majority leader if he would grant unanimous consent to take up and pass the House-passed reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act, and I ask unanimous consent to that effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. This is what we deal with here. We have a piece of legislation that has been reported out of the committee. It has been cleared by the Democrats here in the Senate, and the Republicans are now saying: Well, we like that, but we don't want to do it that way; let's do it some other way.

The point is the committee met and reviewed the House legislation and decided they wanted to do more than what the House did. I think we should go forward with what the committee says.

I hear my friend the Republican leader and other Republican Senators say: Let's have the committees do their work.

They have done their work. We approved their work. We are ready to pass this right now, which includes the Debbie Smith language but does a lot more.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I asked the distinguished ranking member of the Judiciary Committee to remind me what the challenge is with the Justice for All Act. We have a Member on our side who is unfortunately not here today because of medical concerns who has concerns about that bill, so we cannot pass that bill by unanimous consent over that Senator's objection. What we can pass is the Debbie Smith Act, which is a piece of this. There is no objection to that, that I know of. Then we could get this rape kit issue addressed today, while we take up the concerns of the absent Senator, who is necessarily not here because of medical issues, when he returns and when the Senate returns.

So I would reiterate my unanimous consent request that the Senate take up and pass by unanimous consent the House-passed Debbie Smith Act.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, more diversion and delay. The Judiciary Committee took what the House did, reviewed it, and said: We can do better.

It is here on the floor right now. Now they are saying: Even though the Judiciary Committee did it—and we are being told all the time to let the committees do their work—we don't like what they did. Let them do something else.

The Debbie Smith Act is important, but the Justice for All Act is a lot better than that. Why don't we approve that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Yes, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the majority leader thinks this is a zero sum game. This could be a win-win. Debbie Smith, whom I have met and I daresay virtually every Member of this body knows, is a passionate advocate for this cause, hence the naming of this statute, this law, on her behalf. She recognized that these unprocessed rape kits are a national scandal and that people like her who had been victims of sexual assault needed help from the Federal Government to help provide funds to local law enforcement agencies to test and process these kits so as to identify the perpetrators and get them off the street.

So what Debbie Smith has asked me and I daresay the majority leader and all of us to do is to take up this piece of the bill. We can do that, and I think we will have done a good thing today. If we can't take up the Justice for All Act because of other concerns people have—this shouldn't be a zero sum game. We could pass the Debbie Smith Act today, and then we could take up the Justice for All Act when we return following the recess. It doesn't have to be a zero sum game.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. This has been cleared on this side for more than 2 weeks—more than 2 weeks. This is what is going on in the Senate. The Republicans basically oppose everything. That is what they decided they were going to do, and they do it. And they come back and say: We reported this out of the committee.

I read what is in it. It is a very good piece of legislation. But they said: We don't like that. Let's forget about the committee process and do something with what the House did.

We have a committee structure here that I have tried to follow. I admire the work done by Senator LEAHY. He led this piece of legislation out of his committee. I accept it and I approve it, as do all other 54 Democratic Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DIGITAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2013

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I originally was going to engage in a colloquy

with Senator PORTMAN on a very important piece of legislation that we, Senator COBURN, and Senator CARPER, were working on for 2 years, and he will come back.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 337, S. 994.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 994) to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; the Carper substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered; the Carper amendment at the desk be agreed to; the Carper substitute, as amended, be agreed to; and the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2970) in the nature of a substitute is printed in the RECORD of Wednesday, April 9, 2014, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The amendment (No. 2971) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To allow the Secretary of Defense to request an extension to report financial and payment information data)

On page 9, strike lines 17 through 21 and insert the following:

''(2) AGENCIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), not later than 2 years after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, each Federal agency shall report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(B) NONINTERFERENCE WITH AUDITABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by the Secretary of Defense, the Director may grant an extension of the deadline under subparagraph (A) to the Department of Defense for a period of not more than 6 months to report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(ii) LIMITATION.—The Director may not grant more than 3 extensions to the Secretary of Defense under clause (i).

''(iii) NOTIFICATION.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives of—

''(I) each grant of an extension under clause (i); and

''(II) the reasons for granting such an extension.

The amendment (No. 2970), in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 994), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 994

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014'' or the ''DATA Act''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) by disclosing direct Federal agency expenditures and linking Federal contract, loan, and grant spending information to programs of Federal agencies to enable taxpayers and policy makers to track Federal spending more effectively;

(2) establish Government-wide data standards for financial data and provide consistent, reliable, and searchable Government-wide spending data that is displayed accurately for taxpayers and policy makers on USASpending.gov (or a successor system that displays the data);

(3) simplify reporting for entities receiving Federal funds by streamlining reporting requirements and reducing compliance costs while improving transparency;

(4) improve the quality of data submitted to USASpending.gov by holding Federal agencies accountable for the completeness and accuracy of the data submitted; and

(5) apply approaches developed by the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board to spending across the Federal Government.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''this Act'';

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as paragraphs (2), (4), and (7), respectively;

(iii) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.'';

(iv) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(3) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term 'Federal agency' has the meaning given the term 'Executive agency' under section 105 of title 5, United States Code.'';

(v) by inserting after paragraph (4), as so redesignated, the following:

''(5) OBJECT CLASS.—The term 'object class' means the category assigned for purposes of the annual budget of the President submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, to the type of property or services purchased by the Federal Government.

''(6) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term 'program activity' has the meaning given that term under section 1115(h) of title 31, United States Code.''; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Treasury.'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (3), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(ii) in paragraph (4), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) shall have the ability to aggregate data for the categories described in paragraphs (1) through (5) without double-counting data; and

''(7) shall ensure that all information published under this section is available—

''(A) in machine-readable and open formats;

''(B) to be downloaded in bulk; and

''(C) to the extent practicable, for automated processing.'';

(D) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(E) in subsection (e), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(F) in subsection (g)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(2) by striking sections 3 and 4 and inserting the following:

''SEC. 3. FULL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, and monthly when practicable but not less than quarterly thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall ensure that the information in subsection (b) is posted on the website established under section 2.

''(b) INFORMATION TO BE POSTED.—For any funds made available to or expended by a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency, the information to be posted shall include—

''(1) for each appropriations account, including an expired or unexpired appropriations account, the amount—

''(A) of budget authority appropriated;

''(B) that is obligated;

''(C) of unobligated balances; and

''(D) of any other budgetary resources;

''(2) from which accounts and in what amount—

''(A) appropriations are obligated for each program activity; and

''(B) outlays are made for each program activity;

''(3) from which accounts and in what amount—

''(A) appropriations are obligated for each object class; and

''(B) outlays are made for each object class; and

''(4) for each program activity, the amount—

''(A) obligated for each object class; and

''(B) of outlays made for each object class.

''SEC. 4. DATA STANDARDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—The Secretary and the Director, in consultation with the heads of Federal agencies, shall establish Government-wide financial data standards for any Federal funds made available to or expended by Federal agencies and entities receiving Federal funds.

''(2) DATA ELEMENTS.—The financial data standards established under paragraph (1) shall include common data elements for financial and payment information required to be reported by Federal agencies and entities receiving Federal funds.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The data standards established under subsection (a) shall, to the extent reasonable and practicable—

''(1) incorporate widely accepted common data elements, such as those developed and maintained by—

''(A) an international voluntary consensus standards body;

''(B) Federal agencies with authority over contracting and financial assistance; and

''(C) accounting standards organizations;

''(2) incorporate a widely accepted, nonproprietary, searchable, platform-independent computer-readable format;

''(3) include unique identifiers for Federal awards and entities receiving Federal awards that can be consistently applied Government-wide;

''(4) be consistent with and implement applicable accounting principles;

''(5) be capable of being continually upgraded as necessary;

''(6) produce consistent and comparable data, including across program activities; and

''(7) establish a standard method of conveying the reporting period, reporting entity, unit of measure, and other associated attributes.

''(c) DEADLINES.—

''(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, the Director and the Secretary shall issue guidance to Federal agencies on the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(2) AGENCIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), not later than 2 years after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, each Federal agency shall report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(B) NONINTERFERENCE WITH AUDITABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by the Secretary of Defense, the Director may grant an extension of the deadline under subparagraph (A) to the Department of Defense for a period of not more than 6 months to report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(ii) LIMITATION.—The Director may not grant more than 3 extensions to the Secretary of Defense under clause (i).

''(iii) NOTIFICATION.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives of—

''(I) each grant of an extension under clause (i); and

''(II) the reasons for granting such an extension.

''(3) WEBSITE.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, the Director and the Secretary shall ensure that the data standards established under subsection (a) are applied to the data made available on the website established under section 2.

''(d) CONSULTATION.—The Director and the Secretary shall consult with public and private stakeholders in establishing data standards under this section.

''SEC. 5. SIMPLIFYING FEDERAL AWARD REPORTING.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, recipients of Federal awards, including State and local governments, and institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall review the information required to be reported by recipients of Federal awards to identify—

''(1) common reporting elements across the Federal Government;

''(2) unnecessary duplication in financial reporting; and

''(3) unnecessarily burdensome reporting requirements for recipients of Federal awards.

''(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, the Director, or a Federal agency designated by the Director, shall establish a pilot program (in this section referred to as the 'pilot program') with the participation of appropriate Federal agencies to facilitate the development of recommendations for—

''(A) standardized reporting elements across the Federal Government;

''(B) the elimination of unnecessary duplication in financial reporting; and

''(C) the reduction of compliance costs for recipients of Federal awards.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The pilot program shall—

''(A) include a combination of Federal contracts, grants, and subawards, the aggregate value of which is not less than $1,000,000,000 and not more than $2,000,000,000;

''(B) include a diverse group of recipients of Federal awards; and

''(C) to the extent practicable, include recipients who receive Federal awards from multiple programs across multiple agencies.

''(3) DATA COLLECTION.—The pilot program shall include data collected during a 12-month reporting cycle.

''(4) REPORTING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each recipient of a Federal award participating in the pilot program shall submit to the Office of Management and Budget or the Federal agency designated under paragraph (1), as appropriate, any requested reports of the selected Federal awards.

''(5) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date on which the pilot program is established.

''(6) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the pilot program terminates under paragraph (5), the Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program, which shall include—

''(A) a description of the data collected under the pilot program, the usefulness of the data provided, and the cost to collect the data from recipients; and

''(B) a discussion of any legislative action required and recommendations for—

''(i) consolidating aspects of Federal financial reporting to reduce the costs to recipients of Federal awards;

''(ii) automating aspects of Federal financial reporting to increase efficiency and reduce the costs to recipients of Federal awards;

''(iii) simplifying the reporting requirements for recipients of Federal awards; and

''(iv) improving financial transparency.

''(7) GOVERNMENT-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director submits the report under paragraph (6), the Director shall issue guidance to the heads of Federal agencies as to how the Government-wide financial data standards established under section 4(a) shall be applied to the information required to be reported by entities receiving Federal awards to—

''(A) reduce the burden of complying with reporting requirements; and

''(B) simplify the reporting process, including by reducing duplicative reports.

''SEC. 6. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.

''(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Inspector General of each Federal agency, in consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States, shall—

''(A) review a statistically valid sampling of the spending data submitted under this Act by the Federal agency; and

''(B) submit to Congress and make publically available a report assessing the completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data sampled and the implementation and use of data standards by the Federal agency.

''(2) DEADLINES.—

''(A) FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the Director and the Secretary issue guidance to Federal agencies under section 4(c)(1), the Inspector General of each Federal agency shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1).

''(B) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—On the same date as the Inspector General of each Federal agency submits the second and fourth reports under sections 3521(f) and 9105(a)(3) of title 31, United States Code, that are submitted after the report under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1). The report submitted under this subparagraph may be submitted as a part of the report submitted under section 3521(f) or 9105(a)(3) of title 31, United States Code.

''(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2) and after a review of the reports submitted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and make publically available a report assessing and comparing the data completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data submitted under this Act by Federal agencies and the implementation and use of data standards by Federal agencies.

''(2) DEADLINES.—Not later than 30 months after the date on which the Director and the Secretary issue guidance to Federal agencies under section 4(c)(1), and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 4 years after the date on which the first report is submitted under this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1).

''(c) RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOARD DATA ANALYSIS CENTER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish a data analysis center or expand an existing service to provide data, analytic tools, and data management techniques to support—

''(A) the prevention and reduction of improper payments by Federal agencies; and

''(B) improving efficiency and transparency in Federal spending.

''(2) DATA AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall enter into memoranda of understanding with Federal agencies, including Inspectors General and Federal law enforcement agencies—

''(A) under which the Secretary may provide data from the data analysis center for—

''(i) the purposes set forth under paragraph (1);

''(ii) the identification, prevention, and reduction of waste, fraud, and abuse relating to Federal spending; and

''(iii) use in the conduct of criminal and other investigations; and

''(B) which may require the Federal agency, Inspector General, or Federal law enforcement agency to provide reimbursement to the Secretary for the reasonable cost of carrying out the agreement.

''(3) TRANSFER.—Upon the establishment of a data analysis center or the expansion of a service under paragraph (1), and on or before the date on which the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board terminates, and in addition to any other transfer that the Director determines is necessary under section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, there are transferred to the Department of the Treasury all assets identified by the Secretary that support the operations and activities of the Recovery Operations Center of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board relating to the detection of waste, fraud, and abuse in the use of Federal funds that are in existence on the day before the transfer.

''SEC. 7. CLASSIFIED AND PROTECTED INFORMATION.

''Nothing in this Act shall require the disclosure to the public of—

''(1) information that would be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act'); or

''(2) information protected under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Privacy Act of 1974'), or section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''SEC. 8. NO PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.

''Nothing in this Act shall be construed to create a private right of action for enforcement of any provision of this Act.''.

SEC. 4. EXECUTIVE AGENCY ACCOUNTING AND OTHER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS AND PLANS.

Section 3512(a)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and make available on the website described under section 1122'' after ''appropriate committees of Congress''.

SEC. 5. DEBT COLLECTION IMPROVEMENT.

Section 3716(c)(6) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' before ''Any Federal agency'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by striking ''180 days'' and inserting ''120 days''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) The Secretary of the Treasury shall notify Congress of any instance in which an agency fails to notify the Secretary as required under subparagraph (A).''.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, after the last exchange, I would point out that the Senate now has acted on a very important piece of legislation that has been 2 years in the works, that actually does reflect the ability for us to come together in a bipartisan consensus. So I rise today to discuss the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act—or DATA Act—an important bill that makes sure taxpayers and policymakers can track every dollar the Federal Government spends.

It is pretty unbelievable that in this day and age, we don't have an easily accessible Web site for tracking every Federal tax dollar. Believe it or not, we do not. Instead, we have an incomplete and thoroughly confusing structure of financial reporting which most people can't understand.

I have served in business. I have served as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. So I have done business accounting and State government accounting. There is nothing like Federal Government accounting and the lack of standards and transparency.

Our taxpayers deserve to know where their money goes, and it is our obligation to share that information in a clear and direct way. Today, Senator PORTMAN and I, originally, along with Senator COBURN and Senator CARPER, rise—and now that the Senate has acted, we are actually taking a giant step to correct that problem and to make sure taxpayers actually get the transparency they deserve.

Since the Federal Government spends more than $3.7 trillion each year, with more than $1 trillion in awards, accurately tracking these funds in a consistent way can definitely be a big job. But the data collected by the budget shops, the accountants, the procurement officers, the grant makers should be combined and reconciled and then presented in a relevant, user-friendly, and transparent way. The various systems should be able to work together based on consistent financial standards so that policymakers and the public can track the full cycle of Federal spending. In a word, the public should be able to ''Wikipedia'' where and how the Federal Government spends its money, and quite honestly, that is what the DATA Act will do.

The DATA Act will make four important improvements that I want to quickly highlight.

First, it creates transparency for all Federal funds. The DATA Act will expand the current site of usaspending.gov to include spending data for all Federal funds by appropriation, Federal agency, program, function, as well as maintain the current reporting for Federal awards like contracts, grants, and loans.

Second—and this is a giant step forward; we are not going to get all the way there—we are starting down this path of setting government-wide financial data standards. We closely monitored the efforts to increase transparency for the Recovery Act funds a few years back, and one reason—even for folks who did not like the Recovery Act—that oversight was successful is because they had consistent standards for reporting the data. Our taxpayers were able to see where the funds and projects were located in their communities.

So the DATA Act requires the Department of the Treasury to establish government-wide financial data standards for Federal agencies so that every term reported is consistent across the Federal Government. This should clearly improve the quality of data.

Too often we see an item appear in one area as a grant and in another area as an expenditure. Trying to sort through what's what is virtually impossible. This part of the DATA Act will help clear that up.

Third, so we do not simply layer on additional reporting requirements without greater accountability, it actually reduces recipient reporting requirements. The DATA Act requires OMB to review the established reporting requirements for contracts, grants, and loans to reduce compliance costs based on these new financial data standards.

I have long been concerned—and I know many of my colleagues on both side of the aisle—about the compliance costs for recipients of Federal funds. Too often a grantee has to report not once or twice but sometimes up to a half dozen times the exact same information. We have seen this in Virginia with many of our universities, such as UVA, where they actually have to report multiple times the same information to multiple agencies.

If all this redundancy were streamlined, recipients such as the University of Virginia or the University of Tennessee could actually direct more money to programs and less to administrative costs.

Fourth, it improves data quality. Under the DATA Act, the inspectors general at each agency will be required to provide a report every 2 years on the quality and accuracy of the financial data provided to usaspending.gov. The GAO will create a government-wide report on data quality and accuracy. Too often the data that is reported at this point does not meet appropriate standards.

We must have a reliable system in place to track Federal funds and compare spending across Federal agencies to get the best value for taxpayers and reduce duplication.

In fact, in the GAO's annual report on duplication released this week, it highlighted the need for better data and specifically called out the limitations. GAO described a ''lack of reliable budget and performance information and a comprehensive list of federal programs'' as one of the biggest challenges in addressing duplication.

I know many of the Members, when I started talking about data standards and better accountability, headed for the exists. I recognize this is not a topic that necessarily excites folks.

But I see my colleague, the Senator from Tennessee, on the floor—a former Governor, as was I. If we are going to get better value for our taxpayers, we have to start with good data, we have to start with a better ability to monitor that data and follow it.

In a world where people can Google all kinds of information, we ought to be able to follow the money in terms of where our taxpayer dollars head. We ought to make sure the recipients of those taxpayer grants can report that information in a single, consistent, and clear way. Policymakers and taxpayers should be able to assess the value of the dollars we invest in these programs.

This has been a long and winding path. As a relatively new Member of the Senate—and I hear some of the debates about some of the old days in the Senate—I am not sure I was here in the old days. But this is a case where, after a 2-year period, working with Members of the House—Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS in the House—and working in the Senate with Senator CARPER and Senator COBURN—Senator COBURN who is out today for health reasons—and my colleague who joined with me in pushing this bill from day one, Senator PORTMAN—who, if time allows, will get back from a speech to add his comments as well—I would like to thank these Members.

I would also like to thank all of the Senate cosponsors for their support of the DATA Act, including members of our Budget Committee, the Government Performance Task Force that I chair.

I would like to thank in particular Senators COONS, WHITEHOUSE, AYOTTE, JOHNSON, and our Budget Committee Chairman PATTY MURRAY, and my staff, Amy Edwards, and all the others who have been relentless on working this through with other committees and the administration to make sure we got this bill done.

So while we may not have resolved all the issues of the day, today the Senate acted in a unanimous, bipartisan way to actually provide better value for taxpayers, more transparency, and less bureaucracy. I would say for a Thursday afternoon—with all the other discussion going on—work well done.

With that, I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF MICHELLE T. FRIEDLAND TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from North Carolina and I be allowed to engage in a colloquy for 20 minutes, and following that the Senator from Iowa be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT ATHLETES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the Senator from North Carolina and I were both involved in intercollegiate athletics. He was a scholarship athlete at Wake Forest University and I was a nonscholarship track person at Vanderbilt University several years before that.

We are here today to make a few comments on the recent ruling by a regional director of the National Labor Relations Board that defines student athletes as employees of the university. It affects only private universities for now—not the University of Tennessee. But it would affect Wake Forest, where the Senator from North Carolina was an outstanding football player, and it would affect Vanderbilt, where I attended.

I guess our message to the NCAA and intercollegiate athletes is: We hope they will understand the opinion of one regional director of the National Labor Relations Board is not the opinion of the entire Federal Government. That is the message I would like to deliver.

I would refer back—and then I will go to the Senator from North Carolina—to 25 years ago, when I was the president of the University of Tennessee, and I was asked to serve on the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. It was headed by the president of North Carolina, Bill Friday, and the head of Notre Dame, Father Hesburgh—a pretty distinguished group of individuals from around the country—to take a look at intercollegiate athletics.

The major conclusion they came to was that presidents need to assert more institutional control over athletics. But here is something that this group of university presidents and others emphasized. They said:

> We reject the argument that the only realistic solution to the problem [of intercollegiate athletics]—
>
> And there have always been some—
>
> is to drop the student-athlete concept, put athletes on the payroll, and reduce or even eliminate their responsibilities as students.
>
> Such a scheme has nothing to do with education, the purpose for which colleges and universities exist. Scholarship athletes are already paid in the most meaningful way possible: with a free education. The idea of intercollegiate athletics is that the teams represent their institutions as true members of the student body, not as hired hands. Surely American higher education has the ability to devise a better solution to the problems of intercollegiate athletics than making professionals out of the players, which is no solution at all but rather an unacceptable surrender to despair.

This was the Knight Commission 25 years ago.

I would ask the Senator from North Carolina, does he not think that while there may be some issues with intercollegiate athletics—and we could talk about what some of those are—that unionization of intercollegiate athletics is not the solution to the problem?

Mr. BURR. Let me say to my good friend, the Senator from Tennessee—who not only was a walk-on track member at Vanderbilt, but was the president of the University of Tennessee, the Governor of Tennessee, the Secretary of Education, and now is a Senator—his credentials allow him to say whatever he wants to on this issue with a degree of knowledge.

It was Teddy Roosevelt who identified the challenge of college football, and through his attempt to get Harvard and Yale and a couple of other universities to address the risk, the NCAA was created.

The amazing thing to Senator ALEXANDER and myself is that we have this governing body today that by all practical observations has done a great job of regulating college sports. It is the reason we have fabulous playoffs. It is the reason we have integrity in the scholarship system. But, more importantly, it is the reason we have top-quality athletes who go into these schools, where less than 1 percent become pros. Ninety-nine percent of them are reliant on a great education for a fabulous outcome in life. To do anything that changes the balance of what they have been able to create is ludicrous and I think what troubles me, and I think it troubles Senator ALEXANDER.

These are not some misguided college football players. This is the United Steelworkers. Let me say that again because I do not think people understand it. This is the United Steelworkers who have put up the money so that these players from Northwestern would go to the NLRB and say: We want to unionize at Northwestern University. Well, on the face of it, it creates a great inequity between public and private schools, where we have a governing body that tries to make this process as equitable as it can.

But let me make this point: If you want to drive the rest of the schools out of major sports, then do this. Only 10 percent of our Nation's athletic programs make money. That means 90 percent of them lose in the athletic department. But for the quality of life of all students, not just athletes, they continue and their alumni continue to subsidize it.

I agree with my good friend from Tennessee. This would be a huge mistake, and it is time for those players at Northwestern to think about more than those individuals who have fronted them the money to bring this case.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator from North Carolina.

The question should be obvious: What does a student at Wake Forest or Vanderbilt or—and we are using the private universities, again, because those are the only ones affected by this decision for now—but if you are at Vanderbilt University, according to the vice chancellor, the total scholarship could

be nearly $60,000. That is the value each year of your athletic scholarship. Times four—so you are up to one-quarter of a million dollars.

The College Board says—roughly estimates—that a college degree adds $1 million to your earnings during a lifetime.

So the idea that student athletes do not get anything in return for their playing a sport is financially wrong. And just speaking as one individual who had the privilege to participate for 2 years as a student athlete without getting anything—I had scholarships, but they were not athletic scholarships—the discipline, the memories, the competition, the chance to be in the Southeastern Conference Tournament—that is very important to me. It was then, just as athletics always is. It is a rare privilege to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

The presidents have looked at the problems of intercollegiate athletics. And there are some. But people forget—and I know the Senator from North Carolina is aware of this. But let's say you are at Vanderbilt and you have a $58,000 scholarship—tuition, room and board but your total costs are over $60,000 and let's say you come from a poor family that has no money and you are put in the embarrassing position of not having walking-around money, money to go out and get a hamburger, or whatever you want to do.

Forty percent of student athletes in America also have a Pell grant similar to 40 percent of all students in America have a Pell grant, and the Pell grant can be, on average, $3,600. So that is $300 a month that could be added.

Now, perhaps there are other issues that ought to be addressed. But I wonder if the Senator from North Carolina would speak more about one thing he talked about. I imagine Florida State, the University of Tennessee, Stanford, maybe Wake Forest—they will all be fine with a more expensive athletic program. But what is going to happen to the smaller schools? What is going to happen to the minor sports? What is going to happen to the title IX women's sports if for some reason a union forces universities to have a much more expensive athletic program for a few sports?

Mr. BURR. Well, let me say to my good friend from Tennessee, I will quote the words of Wake Forest President Nathan Hatch, a former provost at Notre Dame, in an editorial he wrote in the Wall Street Journal just this week.

He says:

> To call student-athletes employees is an affront to those players who are taking full advantage of the opportunity to get an education. Do we really want to signal to society and high-school students that making money is the reason to play a sport in college, as opposed to getting an education that will provide a lifetime benefit?

President Patrick Harker, president of the University of Delaware, in the same article said:

> Turning student athletes into salaried employees would endanger the existence of varsity sports on many college campuses. Only about 10 percent of Division I college sports programs turn a profit, and most of them, like our $28 million athletic program at the University of Delaware, lose money. Changing scholarship dollars into salary would almost certainly increase the amount schools have to spend on sports, since earnings are taxed and scholarships are not. In order just to match the value of a scholarship, the university would have to spend more.

At Wake Forest, let me say, today a scholarship is worth $45,600 in tuition in fees, $15,152 in room and board, $1,100 in books. I will say to my good friend from Tennessee, I am not sure if there is still $15 of laundry money a month that exists under a scholarship. That is what it was when I was there. I daresay I hope it is more than that today because I do not think you can do laundry for $15 a month.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I wonder if I can ask the Senator to reflect a little bit on some of the practical consequences of a student athlete suddenly finding himself thought of as an employee of the university. I wonder, for example, would the employee of the university, the quarterback or whatever position he plays, have to pay taxes on his income? I would think so.

I was thinking about the recent changes in Federal labor law that allow for micro-unions. Almost any little group can petition the National Labor Relations Board, under the Obama administration's views, to become a union. I wonder if quarterbacks would become a micro-union. They would say: We are more important. Look at the NFL. They get paid a lot more. We want a bigger scholarship than others.

I wondered about five-star recruits. Let's say there is a terrific defensive back—as I am sure Senator BURR was when he was in high school. He had five stars from all the recruiting services. Would the private schools who are unionized go out and compete to see who could pay the highest compensation to the five-star recruits, a lot less to the walk-on, maybe less for a three-star. What are the practical consequences of a student athlete suddenly finding himself defined as an employee of the university under the National Labor Relations Act?

Mr. BURR. Let me say to my good friend, as one who remembers August practices in the South—hottest time of the year, three practices a day—the first thing I would bargain out for all players is that I would have to get my ankles taped at 4:30 in the morning, that I would have to go all day and most of the night, and that I could not take that tape off until 8:30 after three practices.

I would negotiate away the smell of dead grass in August, a memory every college football player, as a matter of fact every football player, has of that dead grass in summer practice in hot weather.

I plead with those who play today: Do you truly believe you can form a team if in fact you have individuals who negotiate individual things for themselves? If quarterbacks negotiate they cannot be hit, how good is the club? But where is the team? If individuals find that it is advantageous to them because they are stars and they can negotiate it, where have we lost the sense of team sports?

The Senator from Tennessee mentioned this to begin with: College sports is a lot about the experience. It builds character. It builds integrity. It builds drive. It builds resilience. It is not the only thing in life that does it, but to me, for many individuals, for many young men and women, this is the most effective way for them to become leaders. I might say it is very much the style of our training in the military. As we raise those young officers, they go through a very regimented training.

Imagine what it would be like if we allowed the military to collectively bargain. Let me tell you, none of us would feel safe at night because we don't know exactly what they have gone through. Today we feel safe because we know they have all gone through the same thing.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I think our time is coming toward a close, but we have about 5 minutes left. Then we will be looking forward to the comments of the Senator from Iowa. We thank him for his courtesy in allowing us to go ahead.

I guess the message—I particularly enjoyed hearing the Senator from North Carolina. The message today is directed at two groups. One is to the NCAA, which is to say, do not think that the attitude of one Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board reflects the view of the U.S. Government. It does not. The other is to the student athletes. Think about the value of the opportunity you have.

Here are two former student athletes of varying talents who benefited enormously from that. There are many others who would say the same. The university does not owe us anything. We owe the university—at least that is the way I feel about it—for the privilege of competing, for the privilege of attending. If I had a scholarship, that would have been even better—just the privilege of participating.

To the NCAA, the members of the NCAA have talked about issues such as should we provide more expense money for athletes. I mentioned earlier that 40 percent of them have Pell grants which can go up to $5,600 a year in addition to their $55,000 or $60,000 of football scholarships. So think about that. That was considered by the NCAA and voted

down because the small schools said: It will hurt us. Women's programs said: We will have to drop women's programs.

So this is more complicated than it would seem at first. What about health care? Of course, a student athlete can be covered by his parents' health care insurance. Under the Affordable Care Act, I am sure many on the other side would be quick to say, they would always be able to be insured for any sort of preexisting condition, but these are issues that can be properly looked at by the NCAA.

Unionization, in my opinion, would destroy intercollegiate athletics as we know it. I think we should look back to the opinion of the Knight Commission, headed by Bill Friday of North Carolina and Ted Hesburgh of Notre Dame, and reaffirm that the student athlete is not a professional, not a hired hand. He or she is a student. One percent of the athletes in this country—there may be problems to solve, but the universities and the NCAA can address those problems. Unionization is not the way to do it.

Mr. BURR. I just wanted to address one last thing; that is, the claim that this case was all about health care. The Senator from Tennessee has pointed out as well the options that we have today. But let me speak from a firsthand experience: a college athlete, four operations—two knees, an elbow, a finger. Probably the only record I hold at Wake Forest is the total number of inches of scars on my body. Because of modern medicine, that record will not be broken because they do not do surgery that way anymore.

But I think it is best summed up by our current Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, when he said this:

> When sports are done right, when priorities are in order, there is no better place to teach invaluable life lessons than on a playing field or court. . . . Discipline, selflessness, resilience, passion, courage, those are all on display in the NCAA.

Why would we do anything to risk that? Not only do I believe this is risky, I think just a consideration of it is enough to make us—or should make us reject this quickly, not embrace it.

I thank my colleague from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank my colleague from North Carolina.

I thank the Senator from Iowa for his courtesy in allowing us to go ahead.

Some 50 years ago, I had the opportunity to compete in track and field for Vanderbilt University. Unlike my colleague from North Carolina, who as a fine defensive back at Wake Forest University, there was no athletic scholarship available for me. But I was fortunate enough to be a member of a record setting team.

Twenty-five years ago, while I was president of the University of Tennessee, I was asked to serve on the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. The Knight Commission was created in October 1989 in response to a series of scandals in college sports. After 18 months of careful study, our 22-member commission issued a report called ''Keeping the Faith with the Student-Athlete: A New Model for Intercollegiate Athletics.''

Our central recommendation was that college presidents needed to exercise stronger control of their athletics programs to ensure their academic and financial integrity. And our guiding principle in making that recommendation was that athletes are students first, not professionals. We wrote:

> We reject the argument that the only realistic solution to the problem is to drop the student-athlete concept, put athletes on the payroll, and reduce or even eliminate their responsibilities as students.
>
> Such a scheme has nothing to do with education, the purpose for which colleges and universities exist. Scholarship athletes are already paid in the most meaningful way possible: with a free education. The idea of intercollegiate athletics is that the teams represent their institutions as true members of the student body, not as hired hands. Surely American higher education has the ability to devise a better solution to the problems of intercollegiate athletics than making professionals out of the players, which is no solution at all but rather an unacceptable surrender to despair.

The Knight Commission's perspective on student athletes could not be more different to the perspective in the recent decision, issued by a regional director of the National Labor Relations Board in Chicago, to treat athletes as employees and permit them to form a union.

Student athletes are found throughout all levels and at all types of colleges—small through large, but those that receive athletic scholarships are only at division I and II schools. Division III schools are not allowed to award athletic scholarships.

For the purposes of the NLRB decision, we are talking about an even smaller subset of athletes—scholarship athletes at private institutions like Notre Dame, Vanderbilt, and Stanford. For example, as a non-scholarship athlete at Vanderbilt, I would not have been able to unionize. Senator BURR, on the other hand was given a scholarship to play defensive back at Wake Forest. He would be allowed to unionize.

In 2011, there were roughly 25 million undergraduate students; 9 million Pell recipients, which is approximately 36 percent of undergraduate students. In addition, there were 177,000 scholarship athletes enrolled in bachelor programs at public and private institutions. This is approximately 1.7 percent of all students in bachelor's programs. Of those, 71,000 received Pell Grants, approximately 40 percent of scholarship athletes. The number of scholarship athletes at private institutions enrolled in a bachelor's program was 104,000, approximately 4.2 percent of private students in bachelor's programs. Of those, 43,700 received Pell Grants, approximately 42 percent of private scholarship athletes.

The total number of division I and II schools is 662 of which 283 are private institutions. In division I the total is 350 with 119 of them being private, while the division II total is 312 with 164 private.

Athletic scholarships are limited to only tuition and fees, room and board, and required course-related books. At Vanderbilt the total scholarship could be as much as $58,520 which is a combination of $42,768 for tuition, $14,382 for room and board, and $1,370 for books. At Stanford the total scholarship could be as much as $59,240 which is a combination of $44,184 for tuition, $13,631 for room and board, and $1,425 for books.

Contrast that with the University of Tennessee where the scholarship total could be up to $21,900 consisting of $11,194 for in-state tuition, $9,170 for room and board, and $1,536 for books.

Scholarship athletes may also combine other sources of financial aid, namely Federal or State need-based aid or earned entitlements, in order to cover the full cost of attendance. These include, Pell Grants, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, work-study, State grants based on need using Federal need calculations such as Tennessee's HOPE Scholarship and veterans programs such GI Bill or post 9/11 GI Bill.

Athletic scholarships are awarded in most cases by the athletic department which encourages an athlete to complete the federal application. If an athlete is determined to have a need, then the financial aid office awards the need-based aid, Federal, State, or both. A student athlete is restricted to the institutional cost of attendance when combining other aid with their scholarship, unless they are using their Pell Grant or a veterans benefit. Thus a student athlete with need could receive a full scholarship covering all costs and receive additional funds.

Only 1 percent of student athletes will ever play professional sports. For the remainder, their college degree is the primary benefit of participating in college sports. According to the College Board, the value of a college degree is $1 million over an individual's lifetime. As a former student athlete, who wasn't on scholarship, I can speak from experience that the value of college athletics goes beyond the money. It can enrich every aspect of our education, teaching lessons and developing habits that will pay dividends no matter what a student pursues in life.

Unfortunately, the problems the Northwestern football players are concerned with are not unique to Northwestern and they are not new. These problems include: the NCAA does not

currently allow a full-ride athletic scholarship to cover the actual full cost of attendance; Other expenses include: transportation costs; health fees; student activity and recreation fees and personal expenses allowable under Federal financial aid rules.

For example, a full-ride scholarship at Vanderbilt University is worth $58,520 but the full cost of attendance is calculated by the school to be $62,320. The difference must be made up by the student.

For some student athletes, the lingering effects and potential disabilities will be felt for many years after their playing days are over. Some students are asking for long term medical coverage to help them cover costs of treating these injuries. Schools could provide for some form of additional medical coverage.

While playing sports has certain inherent risks, we do know more now than ever before about how injuries can be avoided. Better protections from injury—football concerns with concussions. Schools can take, and some are taking, steps to improve the safety of their student athletes.

Some students are asking for help to finish their education even when athletic eligibility has run out.

There is money available to address these concerns and take care of our student athletes without unions.

The NCAA and the member universities do need to reform their rules and guidance; and they will.

Earlier this week we spoke to David Williams, Vanderbilt University's athletic director, who had this to say:

> The NCAA and its member universities have the authority and the responsibility to correct the flaws that exist in the system today, many of which are mentioned by the student athletes at Northwestern University. The question is do we have the will to do so. I believe we do and that we will.

Mark Emmert the President of the NCAA, quoted in a recent Meet the Press interview said:

> We have twice now had the board of the N.C.A.A. pass an allowance to allow schools to provide a couple of thousand dollars in what we call ''miscellaneous expense'' allowances. . . . The board's in favor of it. The membership, the more than a thousand colleges and universities that are out there, the 350 of them that are in division one had voted that down. We're in the middle right now of reconsidering all that. I have every reason that that's going to be in place sometime this coming year.

What would actually happen if college sports teams were unionized? Well, David Williams, Vanderbilt's athletic director, said:

> The decision by the NLRB regional board has the power to change the structure, dynamics and maybe the effectiveness of college athletics. It may ultimately end college athletics as we know it today.

I agree with this statement. And think those who support turning college athletes into employees and unionize them should consider the potential consequences. One potential consequence relates to taxes. This recent decision, in essence, may require the entire scholarship to be treated as compensation thus making the whole amount taxable.

Another consequence of potential collegiate unionization relates to labor. One of the most commonly thought of traits when a union represents a workforce is the right to strike. Section 13 of the National Labor Relations Act, NLRA, expressly provides the right of employees to strike, with some exceptions. If a unionized college baseball team doesn't like the coaches' decision to switch practice times, they could decide to walk off the field right before the first pitch is thrown, and call a strike.

The NLRA requires the union and employer to bargain over wages, hours, and other conditions of employment. If a football team joins a union, will the union negotiate different compensation amounts depending on the player's position or contribution to the team? For example, a five star quarterback in high school could decide to attend Notre Dame, because the players' union promises to negotiate a larger scholarship package for him, but the one star, offensive lineman may only get the bare minimum. This could lead to a team and its union making value judgments based on the on-field contributions of a player.

What about when a coach decides to change the offensive scheme from a pro-style offense to the wish-bone. A union wide receiver might have a grievance because this could effect the ''condition of employment,'' in that his role on the team could be diminished. Under the NLRA, a decision like that would have to be bargained for. A coach could not unilaterally change the playbook without approval of the union.

But let's say that a wide receiver decides to go directly to the coach to discuss his grievance about switching offensive schemes. Under the act, that conversation will not be a one-on-one between the coach and the player. Instead, a union representative has the right to be present at that meeting. And instead of resolving the issue internally, the Federal government through the NLRB, or possibly the Federal courts could have the final say.

The current NLRB has struck down several employee conduct policies and handbooks, because they violate an employee's section 7 right to ''concerted activity'' under the NLRA. Will the NLRB now turn its attention to and interfere with the player conduct policies that schools require of their players?

The NLRB issued a 2011 decision in Specialty Healthcare, that permitted unions to organize, multiple, small groups of employees within a single workplace, known as ''micro-unions.'' It is conceivable that every different position on the football team could decide to have their own bargaining unit. The quarterbacks in one unit, the lineman in another unit, and the linebackers in another, etc. The university would then have to separately bargain with multiple different unions, all with different demands.

Universities require its athletes to maintain a 2.0 grade point average, GPA, to keep an athletic scholarship. Would the NLRA consider a minimum grade point average as a condition of employment under the law that must be bargained for? Schools and players' unions could bargain a lower GPA.

What if a coach benches the star point guard, who is a union member, on the basketball team, and replaced him with a non-scholarship, walk-on point guard? Could the team be accused of retaliating against a union player in violation of the NLRA? Under the NLRA it is unlawful to discharge, discipline or otherwise discriminate against an employee for engaging in protected concerted activities. If that star player could show that the benching came after he had been discussing a team related issue with his fellow teammates it would be considered retaliation.

The bottom line, is that importing the sometimes head-scratching rulings of the NLRB into a competitive, team atmosphere is recipe for disaster.

Do they now hire athletes and not worry if they are students? Mark Emmert, NCAA President, said:

> To unionize them, you have to say, These are employees. If you're going to do that, it completely changes the relationship. I don't know why you'd want them to be students. If they're employees and they're playing basketball for you, don't let calculus get in the way.

Yesterday, the Senate voted against cloture on the Paycheck Fairness Act. This is a bill that would amend the Equal Pay Act to make it easier to sue for pay discrimination based on gender by limiting an important employer defense.

Under the bill, the employer would have to prove any difference in pay would be job-related and consistent with a business necessity; If these student athletes are now considered ''employees'' under the eyes of a regional director in Chicago, they would theoretically be entitled to protection under statutes like the Equal Pay Act; And if the Paycheck Fairness Act were to become law, it is conceivable universities could be liable for any differences in compensation that they provide the football team, versus the women's soccer team;

Then there is the effect on smaller schools. Big schools with big budgets may have the ability to negotiate with a union for better benefits for their student athletes. If a football union at Notre Dame negotiates for higher compensation that may set a standard the

school must match for other athletes as well. I imagine that there is enough money coming into the Notre Dame or Stanford athletic departments to allow them to adjust to the realities of unionized college athletics.

But what about smaller schools? They will have to make cuts somewhere. If they preserve their football program, it will likely be at the cost of other sports.

Another consideration that must be taken into account are public universities versus private universities. Because the NLRB regional director's decision only applies to private universities, it creates a different set of rules for private universities than for public universities.

The private schools with athlete unions may ultimately be forced to negotiate salaries or other benefits that violate NCAA rules; to continue competing, they would have to set up their own conference or association. The departure of schools from the NCAA to this new, union friendly association, would fracture the foundations of collegiate sports.

And what about possible title IX implications? As title IX was enforced related to college athletics, institutions made difficult choices to eliminate many athletic programs. Title IX is focused on improving equal access to education. If athletes are employees, then it is unclear how the requirements and protections of title IX will apply to them.

Due to the current limited nature of the ruling, if football players' compensation are considered salaries and not scholarships, then would one of the possible effects be a reduction in the number of women's scholarships that title IX requires the university to offer? Or would title IX require that any new benefits received by a football team under their collective bargaining be shared equitably with the women's sports at the university?

With limited resources and title IX requiring both proportional opportunity for athletes and pay, the recent decision may result in further reductions of athletic programs and opportunities on college campuses.

The Knight Commission's executive director, Amy Privette Perko, recently wrote in the New York Times that:

> The commission supports many of the benefits being sought for college athletes by groups like the College Athletes Players Association, but unions are not needed to guarantee those benefits. Colleges can enact proposals long recommended by the commission for colleges to restore the educational role of athletics and improve athletes' experiences.

I continue to believe that athletes are students first, not professionals. Some of the concerns raised by these college athletes are legitimate but unions are not the solution. They can and should be addressed by the schools and the NCAA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 25 years ago today the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 was signed into law. To mark that anniversary, I come to the floor to discuss some of the history that led to that legislation, the lessons learned over the past 25 years, and the work that still needs to be done to protect whistleblowers.

I emphasize that last part because there still needs to be a lot of work done to protect whistleblowers. The Whistleblower Protection Act was the result of years of effort to protect Federal employees from retaliation. Eleven years before it became law in 1989, Congress tried to protect whistleblowers as part of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978.

I was then in the House of Representatives. There I met a person named Ernie Fitzgerald, who had blown the whistle on the Lockheed C–5 aircraft program going $2.3 billion over budget. Ernie was fired by the Air Force for doing that, and as he used to say: He was fired for the act of ''committing truth.''

When the Nixon tapes became public after Watergate, they revealed President Nixon personally telling his Chief of Staff to get rid of that SOB. That is how a famous whistleblower who pointed out the waste of $2.3 billion was treated.

The Civil Service Commission did not reinstate Ernie until 12 years later. In the meantime, he was instrumental in helping get the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 passed. Yet it soon became very clear that law did not do enough to protect whistleblowers. In the early 1980s, the percentage of employees who did not report government wrongdoing due to fear of retaliation nearly doubled.

Some whistleblowers still had the courage to come forward. In the spring of 1983, I became aware of a document in the Defense Department known as the Spinney report. The report exposed the unrealistic assumptions being used by the Pentagon in its defense budgeting. Those unrealistic assumptions were the basis for add-ons later on so defense contractors could bid up the cost. It was written by Chuck Spinney, a civilian analyst in the Defense Department's Program Evaluation Office.

I asked to meet with Chuck Spinney but was stonewalled by the Pentagon. When I threatened a subpoena, we finally got them to agree to a Friday afternoon hearing in March 1983. The Pentagon hoped the hearing would get buried in the end-of-the-week news cycle. Instead, on Monday morning the newsstands featured a painting of Chuck Spinney on the front cover of Time magazine.

It labeled him as ''a Pentagon Maverick.'' I called him what he ought to be called, the ''conscience of the Pentagon.'' The country owes a debt of gratitude to people such as Ernie Fitzgerald and Chuck Spinney. It takes real guts to put your career on the line, to expose waste and fraud, and to put the taxpayers ahead of Washington bureaucrats.

In the mid-1980s, we dusted off an old Civil War-era measure known as the False Claims Act, as a way to encourage whistleblowers to come forward and report fraud. We amended that Civil War law in 1986 to create the modern False Claims Act, which has resulted in over $40 billion in taxpayers' money being recovered for the Federal Treasury. We made sure when we passed it that it contained very strong whistleblower protections. Those provisions helped to build up support for whistleblowing.

People such as Chuck Spinney and Ernie Fitzgerald helped capture the public imagination and showed what whistleblowers could accomplish.

However, that didn't mean the executive branch stopped trying to silence whistleblowers. For example, in the spring of 1987 the Department of Defense asked Ernie to sign a nondisclosure form. It would have prohibited him from giving out classifiable—as opposed to classified—classifiable information without prior written authorization. That, of course, would have prevented those of us in Congress from getting that information so we couldn't do our oversight work.

Further, the term ''classifiable'' didn't only cover currently classified information, it also covered any information that could later be classified.

The governmentwide nondisclosure form arguably violated the Lloyd-LaFollette Act of 1912. That law states that ''the right of employees . . . to furnish information to . . . Congress . . . may not be interfered with or denied.''

Just to make sure, I added the so-called anti-gag appropriations rider that passed Congress in December 1987. That rider, the anti-gag rider, said that no money could be used to enforce any nondisclosure agreements that interferes with the right of individuals to provide information to Congress. It remained in every appropriations bill until 2013. I then worked to get that language into statute in 2012 through the passage of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act.

By the time of the first anti-gag rider in 1987, there was widespread recognition that all Federal employees ought to be protected if they disclosed waste and fraud to the Congress or for a lot of other reasons as well.

Meanwhile, I had also worked with Senator LEVIN of Michigan to coauthor what we called the Whistleblower Protection Act. It was introduced in February 1987. There were hearings on our bill in the summer of 1987 and the spring of 1988. It proceeded to pass the Senate by voice vote in August. Then

the House unanimously did that in October. After reconciling the differences, we sent the bill to the White House. However, President Reagan failed to sign it. That meant we had to start all over again in the next Congress.

We didn't let President Reagan's inaction—because that was a pocket veto—stand in the way. Senator LEVIN and I moved forward again. When we reintroduced the bill in January 1989, I came to the floor to make the following statement:

> We're back with this legislation in the 101st Congress, and this time, we're going to make it stick.
>
> Congress passed this bill last fall after extensive discussions with members of the Reagan administration.
>
> But in spite of the compromise we worked out, this bill fell victim to President Reagan's pocket veto.
>
> Whistleblowers are a very important part of government operations. By exposing waste, fraud, and abuse, they work to keep government honest and efficient. And for their loyalty, they are often penalized—they get fired, demoted, and harassed. . . . Under the current system, the vast majority of employees choose not to disclose the wrongdoing they see. They are afraid of reprisals and the result is a gross waste of taxpayers' dollars.
>
> Government employers should not be allowed to cover up their misdeeds by creating such a hostile environment.

That is the end of the quote from the statement I made on the introduction of that bill in January 1989.

Once again, the bill passed the Senate and the House without opposition. Working with George H.W. Bush, this time we got the President to sign it. On April 10, 1989, the Whistleblower Protection Act became law.

We left part of the work undone 25 years ago. The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 had exceptions for the FBI, the CIA, the NSA, and other parts of the intelligence community. The Whistleblower Protection Act left employees of those agencies unprotected, and so have the laws that followed it. I am very pleased that the preconferenced intelligence authorization bill released today will remedy that for the intelligence community.

Back in 2012 I championed the addition of intelligence whistleblower protections to the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act. The provisions I authored prohibited various forms of retaliation, including changing an employee's access to classified information. Working closely with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, we got that language into the bill that passed the Senate by unanimous consent May 8, 2012. However, it was not included in the bill the House passed on September 28, 2012.

Prior to the differences being reconciled on October 10, 2012, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 19. It provided certain limited protections for whistleblowers with access to classified information. Yet that Executive order by President Obama was weaker than the provisions I had authored in the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act. Unfortunately, President Obama's actions undercut support for those provisions by suggesting that statutory protection was now necessary. The final law that passed in November left intelligence whistleblowers at the mercy of the Presidential directive.

Now, much of the language I had championed is in the Intelligence authorization bill currently under consideration. It is certainly a step up from Presidential Policy Directive 19. Making any protections statutory is very significant. The bill also has better substantive protections than the Presidential directive.

It does still have some gray areas, I am sorry to say. It leaves some of the policy and procedure development to the discretion of the executive branch, and that is a mistake we know exists because we had a similar thing happen with the FBI because in 1989 the protections of the Whistleblower Protection Act didn't apply to the FBI. That turned out to be a big mistake.

Yet that law did require the Attorney General to implement regulations for FBI whistleblowers consistent with those in the Whistleblower Protection Act. However, it soon became clear that was a little like putting the fox in charge of the henhouse. The Justice Department and the FBI simply ignored that part of the law for nearly 10 years. Not until 1997 did the Attorney General finally implement regulations for whistleblowers at the FBI.

The Justice Department was pushed into finally issuing those regulations by an FBI employee by the name of Dr. Fred Whitehurst. Dr. Whitehurst was considered by the FBI to be its leading forensic explosive expert in the 1990s.

What I am about to show you is that by being a good, patriotic American and blowing the whistle when something is wrong, you can ruin yourself professionally.

Shortly after the Whistleblower Protection Act was passed in 1989, Dr. Whitehurst disclosed major problems with the FBI crime lab. From 1990 to 1995 he wrote close to 250 letters to the Justice Department inspector general about these problems. In other words, he tried to be loyal to the agency he was in and work within that agency to expose wrongdoing but didn't get very far.

In January 1996 he formally requested that the President implement regulations as required by the Whistleblower Protection Act. Only after Fred was suspended in 1997 did the White House finally issue such a memo to the Attorney General. It instructed the Attorney General to create a process for FBI whistleblowers as directed by the Whistleblower Protection Act. Fred Whitehurst's case dragged on for another year until the FBI finally agreed to settle with him in February 1998. He got more than a $1 million settlement out of that just because he was trying to do the right thing. But he got his badge and his gun taken away from him, and he was, in a sense, ridiculed for doing what a patriotic American ought to do.

Fred Whitehurst is not alone in the FBI as far as people having problems. Over the years, others—such as Mike German, Bassem Youssef, Jane Turner, and Robert Kobus—have blown the whistle from within the FBI. Even after the inspector general issued findings in their favor, several had to navigate a never-ending Kafkaesque internal appeals process. It seemed designed to grind down these patriotic Americans into submission through years of inaction.

Now history has started to repeat itself. As Congress was passing the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act in 2012, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 19. He tasked Attorney General Holder with reevaluating the same FBI whistleblower procedures that Fred Whitehurst helped get in place in 1997. The Attorney General was given 6 months to report back.

When the Attorney General didn't report back and didn't issue that report at the 6-month mark, I asked the Government Accountability Office to do its own independent evaluation of the FBI whistleblower protections.

Now 18 months after the President's directive, Attorney General Holder still hasn't released his report. This is a person appointed by the President of the United States, directed by the President of the United States to do something in 6 months, presumably loyal to the President of the United States, and he isn't doing what the Chief Executive of our great country told him to do.

Potential whistleblowers should not have to wait a decade, as they did with the first set of regulations. It appears that the Justice Department is simply sitting on its hands once again.

The example of the FBI should be instructive. Unlike the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Intelligence authorization bill is much more detailed about the protections Congress intends. It puts a time limit on how long the intelligence community has to create their procedures, giving them 6 months. However, remember that is exactly the same amount of time President Obama gave Attorney General Holder to come up with regulations, and it still hasn't happened 18 months later. Congress needs to be vigilant about getting both the intelligence community and the Attorney General to act.

In the meantime, the FBI fiercely resists any efforts at congressional oversight, especially on whistleblower matters. For example, 4 months ago I sent

a letter to the FBI requesting its training materials on the insider threat program. When we just want copies of training materials, would that be difficult for a bureaucracy to present to a Member of Congress?

That program happened to be announced by the Obama administration in October of 2011. It was intended to train Federal employees to watch out for insider threats among their colleagues. Public news reports indicated that this program might not do enough to distinguish between true insider threats and legitimate whistleblowers. I relayed these concerns in my letter. I also asked for copies of the training materials. I said I wanted to examine whether they adequately distinguished between insider threats and whistleblowers so it didn't become a damper on whistleblowing.

In response, an FBI legislative affairs official told my staff that a briefing might be the best way to answer my questions. It was scheduled for last week. Staff of both Chairman LEAHY and myself attended. The FBI brought the head of their insider threat program. Yet the FBI didn't bring the insider threat training materials as we had requested. However, the head of the insider threat program told the staff of both Senator LEAHY and myself there was no need to worry about whistleblower communications.

They are telling me that at a time when we have decades of history of whistleblowers being treated like skunks at a picnic? This gentleman said whistleblowers had to register in order to be protected and the insider threat program would know to avoid these people.

I have never heard of whistleblowers ever being required to ''register,'' in order to be protected. The idea of such a requirement should be pretty alarming to all Americans. We are talking about patriotic Americans wanting to make sure the government does what the law says it should do and spend money the way Congress intended it be spent. They have to register to be protected just because they are a patriotic American? The reason they can't do that is because sometimes confidentiality is the best protection a whistleblower has.

Unfortunately, neither my staff nor Chairman LEAHY's staff was able to learn more because after only 10 minutes—only 10 minutes—in the office and into the briefing, the FBI got up and abruptly walked out.

It might be one thing to walk out on Republican staff, but they walked out on the staff of a Democratic chairman of one of the most powerful committees in the U.S. Senate as well—Chairman LEAHY's staff.

FBI officials simply refused to discuss any whistleblower implications in its insider threat program and left the room. These are clearly not the actions of an agency that is genuinely open to whistleblowers or whistleblower protection.

Like the FBI, the intelligence community has to confront the same issue of distinguishing a true insider threat from legitimate whistleblowers. This issue will be impacted by title V of the current Intelligence authorization bill, which includes language about continuous monitoring of security clearance holders.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper seems to have talked about such procedures when he appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee on February 11 of this year. In his testimony he said this:

> We are going to proliferate deployment of auditing and monitoring capabilities to enhance our insider threat detection. We're going to need to change our security clearance process to a system of continuous evaluation. . . . What we need is . . . a system of continuous evaluation, where we have a way of—

Now, get this.

> —monitoring their behavior, both their electronic behaviors on the job as well as off the job, to see if there is a potential clearance issue.

Director Clapper's testimony gives me major pause, as I hope it does my colleagues. It sounds as though this type of monitoring would likely capture the activity of whistleblowers communicating with Congress.

To be clear, I believe the Federal Government is within its right in monitoring employee activity on worker computers. That applies all the more in the intelligence community. However, as I testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee recently, there are areas where the executive branch should be very cautious.

The House oversight committee held a hearing on electronic monitoring that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration had done of certain whistleblowers in that agency. This monitoring was not limited to work-related activity. The Food and Drug Administration allows its employees to check personal email accounts at work. As a result, the FDA's whistleblower monitoring captured personal email account passwords. It also captured attorney-client communications and confidential communications to Congress and the Office of Special Counsel.

Some of these communications are legally protected. If an agency captures such communications as a result of monitoring, it needs to think about how to handle them very differently; otherwise, it would be the ideal tool to identify and retaliate against whistleblowers. Without precautions, that kind of monitoring could effectively shut down legitimate whistleblower communications.

It wouldn't surprise me, considering the culture of some of these agencies, that is exactly what they want to do, because there is a great deal of peer pressure to go along to get along within these agencies. Whistleblowers, as I said, are kind of like a skunk at a picnic.

There could be safeguards, however. For example, whistleblower communications could be segregated from other communications. Access could be limited to only certain personnel rather than all of the upper management. In any case, whistleblowing disclosures to Congress or the special counsel can't just be routed back to the official accused of wrongdoing.

As the 1990 Executive order made clear, whistleblowing is a Federal employee's duty. It should be considered part of their official responsibilities and something they can do on work time. However, that doesn't mean they aren't allowed to make their protected disclosures confidentially to protect against the usual retaliation. A Federal employee has every right to make protected disclosures anonymously, whether at work or off the job.

Every Member of this body should realize that without some safeguards there is a chance their communications with whistleblowers may be viewed by the executive branch.

These same considerations apply to the intelligence community. The potential problems are heightened if electronic monitoring extends off the job, such as Director Clapper mentioned in the quote I gave. We have to balance detailing insider threats with letting whistleblowers know their legitimate whistleblower communications are protected.

With continuous monitoring in place, any whistleblower would understand their communications with the inspector general or Congress would likely be seen by their agency and punishment could follow. They might perhaps even be seen by those they believe are responsible for waste, fraud, or abuse, and punishment to follow. That leaves the whistleblower open to retaliation.

Even with the protections of this bill, we should all understand it is difficult to prevent retaliation because it is so indigenous in the culture of most government agencies. It requires a lengthy process for an individual to try to prove the retaliation and get any remedy. It is far better, where possible, to take precautions that prevent the likelihood of retaliation even occurring; otherwise, it will make it virtually impossible for there even to be such a thing as an intelligence community whistleblower. Fraud and waste would then go unreported. No one would dare take the risk.

To return to the theme I started with, whistleblowers need protection from retaliation today just as much as they did 25 years ago when the Whistleblower Protection Act was passed on April 10 of that year. I have always said whistleblowers are too often treated like a skunk at a picnic. You have

now heard it for the third time. You can't say it too many times. I have seen too many of them retaliated against.

However, 25 years after the Whistleblower Protection Act, the data on whistleblowing is in, and the debate on whether to protect whistleblowers is over. There is widespread public recognition that whistleblowers perform a very valuable public service.

Earlier this year PricewaterhouseCoopers found that 31 percent of serious fraud globally was detected by whistleblowing systems or other tipoffs. According to a 2012 report from another organization, that number is even higher when looking just in the United States, with 51 percent of the fraud tips coming from a company's own employees.

In 2013, of U.S. workers who had observed misconduct and blown the whistle, 40 percent said the existence of whistleblower protection had made them more likely to report misconduct.

Whistleblowers are particularly vital in government, where bureaucrats only seem to work overtime when it comes to resisting transparency and accountability.

A year and a half after the Whistleblower Protection Act, President Bush issued Executive Order 1990 that said all Federal employees ''shall disclose waste, fraud, abuse and corruption to appropriate authorities.'' That should have changed the entire culture of these agencies that are antiwhistleblower, but it hasn't. But that is what the directive says.

Federal employees are still under obligations this very day. They are fulfilling a civic duty when they blow the whistle.

I encouraged President Reagan and every President after him that we should have a Rose Garden ceremony honoring whistleblowers. If you do that, it sends a signal from the highest level of the U.S. Government to the lowest level of the U.S. Government that whistleblowing is patriotic. Unfortunately, there isn't a single President who has taken me up on my suggestion.

Further, while the Obama administration promised to be the most transparent in history, it has, instead, cracked down on whistleblowers as never before.

Last week, the Supreme Court denied a petition to hear an appeal from a case named Kaplan v. Conyers. The Obama administration's position in that case, if allowed to stand, means untold numbers of Federal employees may lose some of the very same appeal rights we tried to strengthen in the Whistleblower Protection Act. There could be half or more of the Federal employees impacted. Such a situation would undo 130 years of protection for civil servants dating back to the Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act of 1883.

We all remember that President Obama promised to ensure that whistleblowers have full access to the courts and due process. However, his administration has pursued the exact opposite goal here. That ought to be unacceptable to all of us.

I think it is important to send a loud and clear signal that waste, fraud, and abuse won't be tolerated in government, and that is why I am pleased to announce I will officially be forming a whistleblower protection caucus at the beginning of the 114th Congress. Until then, I will be talking to my colleagues and encouraging them to join me as we start putting together an agenda for that caucus in a new Congress.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of this very important bill called the Whistleblower Protection Act, we should all recognize whistleblowers for the sacrifices they make. Those who fight waste, fraud, and abuse in the government should be lauded for patriotism. Whistleblower protections are only worth anything if they are enforced.

Just because we have passed good laws does not mean we can stop paying attention to the issue. There must be vigilance and oversight by the Congress.

The best protection for a whistleblower is a culture of understanding and respecting the right to blow the whistle. I hope this whistleblower caucus will send the message that Congress expects that kind of culture.

I call on my colleagues to help me make sure whistleblowers continue to receive the kind of protection they need and deserve.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STOP IDENTITY THEFT ACT OF 2013

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass the Stopping Tax Offenders and Prosecuting Identity Theft Act of 2013. With tax day coming upon us on Tuesday, the time is now to pass this bipartisan legislation.

I worked on the STOP Identity Theft Act to address the growing problems of tax identity theft and to protect taxpayers against fraud. From the beginning this bill has been bipartisan. Senator SESSIONS is the lead Republican on this bill, and in fact recently this bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on a vote of 18–0. Given the number of members on the committee with very different views on issues, that is an accomplishment and shows what a pressing problem this is.

I think people will be pretty shocked, as you will be, Mr. President, when you hear these numbers. Criminals are increasingly filing false tax returns using stolen identity information in order to claim victims' refunds. You might think that would be a rare incident, but as a former law enforcement person, as the attorney general for the State of New Mexico, I think you know anything can happen. This is a problem where more than anything is happening.

In 2012 alone, identity thieves filed 1.8 million fraudulent tax returns, almost double the number confirmed in 2011. The numbers and the documents in these cases may be forged, but the dollars behind them are real, because in 2012 there was another 1.1 million fraudulent tax returns that slipped through the cracks, and our U.S. Treasury paid out $3.6 billion in the fraudulent returns—$3.6 billion. That is the number coming from the IRS. That is your taxpayer dollars going down the drain to people who are actually stealing taxpayers' identities, putting them on returns, filing returns, and getting back the money.

When criminals file these tax returns, it is not just the Treasury that loses out. Everyday people are the real victims here, because when someone else uses your identity, when someone else fakes your identity, people are then forced to wait months and sometimes even years before receiving their actual refund.

So what is going on? Well, we are having double refunds, right? First they go to the thief. This is happening millions of times. Then the real taxpayer says: Wait a minute, where is my refund, and files a return. The government has to check this out and figure out the first one and they then pay twice. This is what is happening in the United States of America.

In 2012, Alan Stender, a retired businessman from the 5,000-person town of Circle Pines, MN, was working to file his taxes on time just as people are doing right now. After completing all the forms and sending in his tax returns, Alan heard from the IRS that there was a major problem. So he gets it done on time and files the return and finds out from the IRS there is a problem. Someone had stolen his identity and used his personal information to fraudulently file his taxes and steal his tax return.

Just last week 25 people were arrested in Florida for using thousands of stolen identities to claim $36 million in fraudulent tax refunds. This included the arrest of a middle school food service worker who sold the identities of more than 400 students, if you can believe it. Those victims are just kids, and criminals are stealing their identities to file fake returns.

Are you ready for this one? Attorney General Eric Holder recently revealed

that he was a victim of tax return identity theft. This came out this week. Two young adults used his name, his date of birth, and Social Security number to file a fraudulent tax return. They got caught. They were prosecuted. But if you can imagine that this can happen to the Attorney General of the United States—at least we got action there—think about some guy in Circle Pines, MN, who has it happen. As I said, it is happening over a million times every year, from a retired man in Minnesota to middle school students in Florida, to the Attorney General of the United States. It is clear that identity theft can happen to anyone.

We also know this crime can victimize our most vulnerable citizens, victims such as seniors living on fixed incomes or people with disabilities who depend on tax returns to make ends meet and cannot financially manage having their tax returns stolen. There is a lot at stake here and action is needed. That is why I put forward the bipartisan legislation a few years back with Republican Senator JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama, to take on this problem and crack down on the criminals committing this crime. There was also significant bipartisan work in the House last year. A very similar bill was passed in the House that did the same thing, passed bipartisan bills in the House of Representatives. It happened. And the Senate now, as we know, passed it 18–0 out of the Judiciary Committee.

This critical legislation will take important steps to streamline law enforcement resources and strengthen penalties for tax identity theft. The STOP Identity Theft Act will direct the Justice Department to dedicate additional resources to address tax identity theft. It also directs the Department to focus on parts of the country with especially high rates of tax return identity theft and to boost protections for vulnerable populations such as seniors, minors, and veterans.

We also urge the Justice Department to cooperate fully and coordinate investigations with State and local law enforcement organizations.

Identity thieves have become more creative and have expanded from stealing identities of individuals to stealing that of businesses and organizations. My bill recognizes this change and broadens the definitions of tax identity theft to include businesses, nonprofits, and other similar organizations. This is important because once a company or an organization's tax information is stolen, it can be used to create fraudulent tax returns and claim false refunds.

Finally, we need to crack down on the criminals committing this crime. This bill would strengthen tax identity theft penalties by raising the maximum jail sentences from 15 to 20 years. I believe this bill goes a long way in helping law enforcement use their resources more efficiently and effectively and it is time to bring it to the floor.

In recent weeks we have made significant progress, as I said, by passing the bill out of the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously on an 18–0 vote. It doesn't happen often. I thank all of my colleagues on the committee and all of my friends across the aisle for joining with us to vote for this bill. After a long discussion we had amendments. We got this bill. Every single member of the Judiciary Committee voted for this bill, including Senator CRUZ, Senator SCHUMER, Senator FEINSTEIN, and Senator HATCH. It was a unanimous 18–0 vote.

Now I want to bring this bill to the full Senate. I would love to get this done before tax day. I know there is a holdup on the other side of the aisle, and it is time for people to understand that this is a bill that passed the House of Representatives, it passed on an 18–0 vote out of Judiciary, and we simply need to get this done.

When the Attorney General of the United States of America is having his identity stolen and his identity is used to file fake tax returns, we have a problem. We have a problem that involves a lot of money. We have a problem that involves 1.8 million fraudulent tax returns in 2012 alone, double the number in 2011. We have a problem that also involves a lot of money. We have a problem that involves $3.6 billion in 1 year alone in 2012, paid out by the U.S. Government. What do you think taxpayers think when they hear that, that $3.6 billion went to thieves and we have a bill that passed out of the Judiciary Committee 18–0? I would want someone explaining why they are holding up this bill.

It is time to get this bill done. I would love to see it happen before we go back to our home State so I can explain it to my constituents, and I hope our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will work with us. Because with tax season upon us, it is time to pass this bipartisan legislation, to crack down on identity thieves and protect the hard-earned tax dollars of innocent Americans. The time to do it is now.

I again thank Senator JEFF SESSIONS for being the Republican on this bill, and I thank all my colleagues for passing it through the committee. I thank the House for getting it done over there. It is now the time to pass it in the Senate.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. I would ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. I wish to speak as if in morning business.

THE DATA ACT

Mr. President, I was not able to be here earlier on the Senate floor when my colleague Senator WARNER got unanimous consent to pass the DATA Act. This is the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, something we have been working on over the last couple of years.

It is a good bill, and it is about good government and I am glad we were able to pass it this afternoon in the Senate. I now hope it will go to the House for passage and get to the President's desk, because it will help to give all the taxpayers a better view into our government.

Specifically, it improves Federal financial transparency and data quality, both of which are going to help identify and illuminate the ways we spend—certainly something we should be focused on with the huge deficits and all the pressure we are facing.

It will also ease the compliance burden with the people working in the Federal Government and recipients of Federal funds. At the same time it improves the data that they send to the Federal Government. It is a win/win for the taxpayer, for the government, at getting at the issue of waste, fraud, and abuse.

It is an issue that transcends party lines. I want to thank my friend Senator COBURN because he has been a leader in the Governmental Affairs Committee and also the chairman of the committee, Senator TOM CARPER. Without their help, Senator WARNER and I would not have been able to get this bill to the floor today. We also have a number of other cosponsors on a bipartisan basis.

We all know that the Federal Government spends a lot of money—over $3 trillion a year. The goal is to know more about how that money is spent so we can ensure it is being spent on the right things. This legislation, the DATA Act, picks up on lessons we learned about how to make it more accountable and more transparent so taxpayers have a better understanding of how the money is being used. This has to do with grants and contracts. I think it is something that is going to help ensure that we are not just spending the money right but also eliminating fraud and abuse that we otherwise would not find.

I first got involved in this issue when I was at the Office of Management and Budget. I supported it and then was tasked with implementing a 2006 bill that was introduced by Senator COBURN and Senator Obama at the time. It was called the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, FFATA—an unfortunate acronym in my view.

FFATA worked in the sense that it led to something which is called usaspending.gov. Back then a lot of Federal agencies thought this could not be done; that we wouldn't be able to improve our transparency up to the standards that were established in FFATA, and we proved them wrong, thanks to a lot of hard work by a lot of folks in the agencies and at the Office of Management and Budget where I served as Director. It ended up with the ability of taxpayers to get a wealth of information online, again, about Federal grants and Federal contracts so they could better understand how their tax dollars were spent.

It was a good start. It also helped us learn some lessons about how to improve fiscal data quality and transparency even more. We learned that the usaspending.gov can be more comprehensive, more accurate, more reliable, and more timely.

By the way, if you have not gone on this Web site, usaspending.gov, I recommend it. If we pass this legislation, you will like it even more because the data you will be seeing will be more understandable, will be more uniform across the agencies, and will enable us all, as taxpayers, to get a better view into the government.

What does it do? First, it makes it easier to compare spending across the Federal agencies by requiring establishment of these governmentwide standards, such as financial data standards, which is very difficult to do, as I learned when I was at the Office of Management and Budget. It sounds easy, but it is hard and it pays off. It promotes consistency and reliability in data. Second, it strengthens the Federal financial transparency by reforming and significantly improving the Web site itself. It requires more frequent updates—quarterly financial updates of spending by each Federal agency on their programs and at the object class-level basis. It is basically more specific data and more up-to-date so it refreshes the Web site more to make it more useful.

Third, it empowers the inspector general and the GAO to hold agencies accountable. I think putting the inspectors general into this is a good idea because it has another level of accountability. This will make them more accountable for completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data they are submitting to the usaspending.gov. This is new and will make the Web site work even better.

Fourth, it simplifies the reporting requirements by recipients of Federal funds, eliminating unnecessary duplication and burdensome regulations. It basically streamlines what people have to provide to the Federal Government. This will actually make it easier for us to understand what is going on with these contractors, again, as taxpayers doing oversight, but it also makes it easier to do business with the Federal Government. It makes it less complicated for them and gives more transparency for taxpayers, so it is another good aspect of this legislation.

I think each of these reforms will enhance Federal financial accountability in real ways by allowing citizens to track government spending better, allowing agencies to more easily identify improper payments and unnecessary spending.

We have a big issue around here with spending. We spend more than we take in every year to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars. We have a debt that is at least $17 trillion. It is time to make sure we are not wasting money that could be applied to that debt or it could pay for programs that are a top priority. This bipartisan legislation will help us get there.

I am very pleased we were able to get it passed today. Again, I will be working hard with Senator WARNER and others to ensure that we get this through the House and to the President's desk for signature so we can indeed begin to help all of us as citizens have a better view into our Federal Government.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO PETER MUNK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the more than 30 years of hard work and leadership Mr. Peter Munk has demonstrated as the founder and chairman of the board of Barrick Gold Corporation.

Since Barrick Gold was established in 1983, Mr. Munk has worked to make Barrick one of the world's largest gold mining companies, with projects reaching four continents. In 1986, Mr. Munk bet on Nevada, bringing Barrick to the Silver State with the acquisition of the Goldstrike mine located on the Carlin Trend in Eureka County. Nevada has since become the largest source of gold in the United States, producing more than 75 percent of the gold mined throughout the country. Even today, the Goldstrike mine is one of Barrick's most productive properties. Two of Barrick's 5 core gold mines are located in Nevada, and the company continues to operate 7 mines throughout the State, employing more than 4,200 people.

Mr. Munk has shared his many successes and accomplishments with the communities in which he works and lives, and through his philanthropy, he has demonstrated his dedication to education and health. He created the Peter Munk Charitable Foundation in 1992 and has made significant donations to his alma mater, the University of Toronto, which is home to the Munk School of Global Affairs. Additionally, the premier Peter Munk Cardiac Centre was constructed at the University Health Network in Toronto as a product of his generous contributions.

Under Mr. Munk's strong leadership, Barrick Gold has given back to the many communities surrounding Barrick mining operations, and the company has helped provide added support for local economic, health, and social development. In Nevada, much needed school supplies, college scholarships, and large community projects have been funded with the support of Barrick Gold. The company has also implemented strict controls to help reduce the impacts of mining on the environment and contributed to wildlife restoration and improvement projects to enhance Nevada's native plants and species habitats. For instance, in 2012, Barrick partnered with Federal and State land managers to restore vital greater sage-grouse habitat that had been scarred and damaged by a devastating wildfire.

Mr. Munk has made a significant impact on the State of Nevada and has established a lasting legacy on the international mining industry. His influence has been recognized by the Canadian Business Hall of Fame and the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame, and he was honored with one of Canada's highest honors for a private citizen when he was made a Companion of the Order of Canada. Additionally, Mr. Munk was the first Canadian to be awarded the Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship in 2002 and received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

As Mr. Munk steps down from his role as chairman of the board of Barrick Gold Corporation, I congratulate him on his many years of success and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

JUSTICE FOR ALL ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this week marks the 30th annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week. It is a time to recognize victims of crime and their families and to acknowledge the efforts to help them recover and rebuild their lives in the wake of tragedy. It is also

a time to ask what more we can do to help serve victims of crime and improve our criminal justice system. We have an opportunity this week to pass a bill that will not just pay lipservice to crime victims but actually impact and improve their lives. It is time to pass the Justice for All Act.

The Justice for All Act is a bipartisan bill that Senator CORNYN and I introduced nearly 1 year ago to improve the quality of justice in this country. It was approved by the Judiciary Committee in October by a unanimous voice vote, and it cleared the Democratic side of the hotline on March 27. However, it still has not passed the Senate because Senate Republicans object. For reasons that have not been explained, Republicans have failed to consent to passing this commonsense bill. This is no way to treat victims of crime, especially during a week when we seek to honor them.

The Justice for All Act reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction Act, which has provided significant funding to reduce the backlog of untested rape kits so that victims need not live in fear while kits languish in storage. That program is named after Debbie Smith, who waited years for her rape kit to be tested. Although delayed for years, that rape kit test ultimately enabled the perpetrator to be caught. She and her husband Rob have worked tirelessly to ensure that others will not have the same experience. I thank Debbie and Rob for their continuing help on this extremely important cause.

The Justice for All Act reauthorization establishes safeguards to prevent wrongful convictions and enhances protections and legal rights for crime victims. It is supported by experts in the field and law enforcement, including the National Center for Victims of Crime, the National Center of Police Organizations, and the National District Attorneys Associations. Yet even during Crime Victims' Week, which coincides with Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, Senate Republicans have not yet shown a willingness to clear the important reauthorization.

Senator CORNYN was on the floor just last week and earlier today expressing his commitment to getting this passed and signed into law. I urge him to lead his caucus to get it through the Senate. He and I both know that a unanimous voice vote in the Judiciary Committee is uncommon and happens on only the most uncontroversial and uniformly applauded bills. This is one of those bills, and we need to pass this today.

Senator MCCONNELL is also a cosponsor of this bill. This effort has been bipartisan from the beginning, and I am proud that we have the minority leader and the minority whip helping to lead this effort. Despite the support of the Senate Republican leadership, the bill nonetheless remains stalled. Perhaps it is because the House Republican leadership would rather pass a much narrower bill. I trust that the Senate will stand up for all victims who deserve justice, just as we did when the Senate passed an inclusive Violence Against Women Act reauthorization last year.

Our bipartisan Senate legislation strengthens the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program, one of the key programs created in the Innocence Protection Act. Kirk Bloodsworth was a young man just out of the Marines when he was sentenced to death for a heinous crime that he did not commit. He was the first death row inmate in the United States to be exonerated through the use of DNA evidence.

Since the Justice for All Act was first enacted in 2004, we continue to see cases in which people are found to be innocent after spending years in jail.

Thomas Haynesworth was exonerated in 2011 after spending 27 years in prison for crimes he did not commit, thanks to a grant provided by the Justice for All Act. He was accused of rape in 1984 and wrongfully convicted, and the real perpetrator in this case went on to rape more than a dozen women.

It is an outrage when an innocent person is punished, and this injustice is compounded when the true perpetrator remains on the streets, able to commit more crimes. We are all less safe when the system gets it wrong.

This bill also provides funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program, which assists laboratories in performing the many forensic tests that are essential to solving crimes and prosecuting offenders.

I cannot imagine why is there an objection to supporting scientific testing and improving the reliability of criminal convictions. Every American, including crime victims, is better served when our justice system has the resources it needs to operate effectively. If there is a person in the Senate who objects, I ask them to come forward and explain that to me and to the American people. I would welcome that debate.

The hotline on this bipartisan Justice for All Act reauthorization has been running on the Republican side since March 31, and I have not heard one substantive argument against the merits of this bill. Police officers, prosecutors, and crime victims agree on the necessity of this bill. Why can't we?

The Justice for All Act takes important steps to ensure that all criminal defendants, including those who cannot afford a lawyer, receive effective representation. Our justice system, including successful prosecution, depends upon effective representation on both sides.

This is not a time for delay. This is a time for leadership. The stakes are too high and crime victims are depending on us to do the right thing. I urge all Senators, and particularly those in the Republican caucus, to clear this bill today.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, on April 4, 2014, I was unavoidably absent from the following votes as a result of memorial events related to the tragic deaths of Lieutenant Eddie Walsh and Firefighter Mike Kennedy in Boston on March 26, 2014—rollcall votes No. 97 and 98. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on vote No. 97, on the motion to table Reid Amendment No. 2878 to H.R. 3979; and ''yes'' on vote No. 98, on the motion to table the appeal of the appeal of the ruling of the chair that a third degree amendment was not in order.

WAR CRIMES IN SYRIA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to discuss the ongoing crisis in Syria. Last month marked the 3-year anniversary since the brutal conflict began. According to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2139, which was unanimously accepted in February of this year, the conflict has resulted in the death of over 140,000 people in Syria, including at least 10,000 children. UNICEF reports that Syria is among the most dangerous places on Earth to be a child, pointing to high child casualty rates, brutalizing and traumatic violence, deteriorating access to education, and health concerns. The number of children suffering in Syria more than doubled in the third year of the conflict.

The crisis is only getting worse. Hundreds of thousands of Syrian civilians are under fire by government and opposition forces in violation of internationally accepted Laws of Armed Conflict. These war crimes are truly devastating, and to escape the violence, millions of refugees have flooded into neighboring Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, while thousands more remain internally displaced inside Syria Last year I visited the Kilis refugee camp in Turkey which is currently sheltering more than 14,000 Syrian refugees. I witnessed first-hand the remarkable bravery of the Syrian refugee population. Many of these families relocated several times within Syria before ultimately making the heart-wrenching decision to leave their country in order to seek food, medical attention, and safety outside of Syria.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has registered more than 2.6 million Syrian refugees with women and children making up more than 80 percent of the refugee population. By the end of this year, the United Nations estimates that the number of refugees could increase to 4 million.

That is why I am a cosponsor of the Syria Humanitarian Resolution of 2014, which urges all parties in Syria to allow for and facilitate immediate, unfettered access to humanitarian aid throughout the Syrian Arab Republic. This legislation calls for the safety, security, independence, and impartiality of humanitarian workers and demands freedom of movement to deliver aid.

I remain deeply concerned by the instability of the entire region, as violence spills over into neighboring countries such as Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper has testified that, ''In Syria, the ongoing civil war will probably heighten regional and sectarian tensions.'' The influx of Syrian refugees to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq is putting a strain on those countries' resources.

The United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic reports that pro-government forces have murdered, tortured, assaulted, and raped civilians in Syria. Anti-government groups have also engaged in murder, execution without due process, torture, hostage-taking, and shelling of civilian neighborhoods.

But nowhere is the brutality of this war more evident than in the events of August 21, 2013, when the Syrian Army, under the direction of President Assad, launched a chemical weapons attack in the Damascus suburbs. This attack left over 1,400 innocent Syrian civilians dead—many of whom were children.

Assad's criminal use of chemical weapons against his own people is morally reprehensible and violates internationally accepted rules of war. The international community cannot stand by and allow the murder of innocent men, women, and children to go unchallenged. We must bring Assad and all other perpetrators of gross human rights violations in the Syrian conflict to justice.

It is clear that we must take action. Last week I introduced, the Syrian War Crimes Accountability Act of 2014, S. 2209 along with Senators RUBIO and KAINE.

My bill strongly condemns the ongoing violence, the use of chemical weapons, the targeting of civilian populations, and the systematic gross human rights violations carried out by both the Syrian government and opposition forces.

My legislation requires the Secretary of State to provide Congress with a description of violations of internationally recognized human rights abuses and crimes against humanity committed during the conflict in Syria. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary to report to Congress on efforts by the Department of State and USAID to ensure accountability for these violations and provide a review of the facts concerning any prosecution in the case of Syrian crimes that could be defined under universal jurisdiction.

This Monday marked the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda. Unfortunately, we have not learned the lessons of the past. We must do better to not only see that sort of atrocities never again occur under our watch, but to ensure that the perpetrators of such heinous crimes are held accountable for their actions.

Ignoring the crisis in Syria is both morally wrong and counterproductive to our National security and that of our allies. War tactics employed in Syria by government and some opposition forces fly in the face of the rules of war. For the sake of our National security interests and regional stability, we cannot turn a blind eye to these heinous acts.

I strongly believe that there are times when the international community must come together to end atrocities, protect innocent lives from crimes against humanity and hold accountable the groups that perpetrate them.

The Syrian War Crimes Accountability Act of 2014 sends a strong message to the international community that the United States is firmly committed to bringing all perpetrators of international crimes in Syria to justice. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

NATIONAL CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to discuss S. Res. 414. I am pleased the Senate has unanimously declared April as National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month for the second consecutive year. I thank my friend and able colleague, Senator BEN CARDIN of Maryland, for joining me in this legislation. This resolution is very important to me and my family, as my grandson, Jim Beau, is a CDH survivor.

CDH is a birth defect that occurs when the fetal diaphragm fails to fully develop. The lungs develop at the same time as the diaphragm and the digestive system. When a diaphragmatic hernia occurs, the abdominal organs move into and develop in the chest instead of remaining in the abdomen. With the heart, lungs, and abdominal organs all taking up space in the chest, the lungs do not have space to develop properly. This may cause the lungs to be small and underdeveloped.

A diaphragmatic hernia is a life-threatening condition. When the lungs do not develop properly during pregnancy, it can be difficult for the baby to breathe after birth or the baby is unable to take in enough oxygen to stay healthy.

CDH will normally be diagnosed by a prenatal ultrasound, as early as the 16th week of pregnancy. If undiagnosed before birth, the baby may be born in a facility that is not equipped to treat its compromised system because many CDH babies will need to be placed on a heart-lung bypass machine, which is not available in many hospitals. All babies born with CDH will need to be cared for in a neonatal intensive care unit, NICU, and most will need extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, ECMO.

Babies born with CDH will have difficulty breathing as their lungs are often too small, biochemically and structurally immature. As a result, the babies are intubated as soon as they are born, and parents are often unable to hold their babies for weeks or even months at a time.

Most diaphragmatic hernias are repaired with surgery 1 to 5 days after birth, usually with a GORE-TEX patch. The abdominal organs that have migrated into the chest are put back where they are supposed to be and the hole in the diaphragm is closed, hopefully allowing the affected lungs to expand. Hospitalization often ranges from 3 weeks to 10 weeks following the procedure, depending on the severity of the condition.

Survivors often have difficulty feeding, some require a second surgery to control reflux, others require a feeding tube, and a few will reherniate and require additional repair.

Awareness, good prenatal care, early diagnosis, and skilled treatment are the keys to a greater survival rate in these babies. That is why this resolution is so important.

Within the last year, researchers identified a specific gene that may contribute to CDH. The research found that an abnormality in a gene, Ndst1, could lead to the development of CDH. This study was conducted on mice, so more research is needed to determine the role of this gene in humans. However, it certainly is a step in the right direction toward identifying the cause of this defect.

Congenital diaphragmatic hernia is a birth defect that occurs in 1 out of every 3,817 live births worldwide. The CDC estimates that CDH affects 1,088 babies in the U.S. each year.

Every 10 minutes a baby is born with CDH, adding up to more than 600,000 babies with CDH since just 2000. CDH is a severe, sometimes fatal defect that occurs nearly as often as cystic fibrosis and spina bifida. Yet, most people have never heard of CDH. The cause of CDH is unknown. Most cases of diaphragmatic hernia are believed to be multifactorial in origin, meaning both genetic and environmental are involved. It is thought that multiple genes from both parents, as well as a number of environmental factors that scientists do not yet fully understand, contribute to the development of a diaphragmatic hernia.

Up to 20 percent of cases of CDH have a genetic cause due to a chromosome defect or genetic syndrome. According to the CDC, babies born with CDH experience a high mortality rate ranging from 20 percent to 60 percent depending on the severity of the defect and the treatments available at delivery. The mortality rate has remained stable since 1999.

Approximately 40 percent of babies born with CDH will have other birth defects in addition to CDH. The most common is a congenital heart defect.

Babies born with CDH today have a better chance of survival due to early detection and research on treatment options. Researchers are making great progress to determine the cause of this birth defect and to identify optimal treatment methods for babies born with CDH.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, NCBDDD and the National Birth Defects Prevention Network, NBDPN, collaborate to identify risk factors for birth defects and to assess the effect of these birth defects on children, families, and the healthcare system. NBDPN investigators are currently working to examine risk factors for CDH and predictors of long-term survival for infants born with CDH, with analysis planned in 2014 and publication anticipated by 2015.

In addition, investigators at the National Birth Defects Prevention Study, NBDPS, have proposed conducting specific research to better understand risk factors for CDH, as well as factors that predict improved survival rates for infants born with CDH.

In fiscal year 2013, NIH funded approximately $2,560,000 in CDH research.

The Developmental Biology and Structural Variations Branch, DBSVB, at the NIH is currently supporting a collaboration between basic scientists who study CDH and clinicians who work with CDH patients and their families by working with the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Children's Hospital of Boston. The researchers then use the genetic information and biological samples obtained from patients and their families to identify specific genes that could be involved in the defect.

In 2009, my grandson Jim Beau was diagnosed with CDH during my daughter Mary Abigail's 34th week of pregnancy. At that time, no one in my family had heard of CDH before. Fortunately, she was referred to Dr. David Kays at Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville, FL, who is a premier surgeon and expert on CDH.

Jim Beau was born on November 30, 2009. My daughter and her husband Paul heard their son cry out twice after he was born, right before they intubated him, but they were not allowed to hold him.

The doctors let his little lungs get strong before they did the surgery to correct the hernia when he was 4 days old.

It turned out that the hole in the hernia was large. His intestines, spleen and one kidney were up in his chest. The skilled surgeon was able to close the hole and properly arrange the organs. Thankfully, Jim Beau did not have to go on a heart/lung bypass machine, but he was on a ventilator for 12 days and on oxygen for 36 days. In total, he was in the NICU for 43 days before he was able to go home.

He is now a healthy, high-spirited 4-year-old and a delight to be around.

Fortunately for my family and thousands of similar families across the United States, a number of physicians are doing incredible work to combat CDH. The CDH survival rate at Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville, FL, where my grandson was treated, is one of those fine centers. The survival rate of CDH babies born at Shands is between 80 percent and 90 percent.

Dr. David Kays, the head physician and who performed my grandson's surgeries, uses gentle ventilation therapy as opposed to hyperventilation. Gentle ventilation therapy is less aggressive and therefore protects the underdeveloped lungs.

Dr. Kays published a paper in the Annals of Surgery in October 2013 regarding his work with CDH babies. He and his colleagues reviewed 208 CDH patients to analyze the impact of the timing of the hernia repair on babies born with CDH. This study found that those with more severe CDH may benefit from repair before ECMO, while those with a less severe hernia have higher survival rates and reduced need of ECMO if the repair surgery is delayed at least 48 hours after birth, as was the case with Jim Beau. This conclusion is a vital step in the development of a risk-specific treatment strategy for management of CDH. The final line of Dr. Kays' paper should be noted:

[T]he survival attained in this large and inclusive series of patients with CDH should be reassuring to physicians and parents faced with a new prenatal diagnosis of CDH.

My family was very lucky that Jim Beau's defect was caught before he was born, and that he was in the right place to receive excellent care for his CDH.

The resolution Senator CARDIN and I introduced is important because it will bring awareness to this birth defect, and this awareness will save lives. Although hundreds of thousands of babies have been diagnosed with this defect, the causes are still unknown and more research is needed. Every year more is learned and there are more successes. We are making good progress and we must continue our efforts.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation to bring awareness to CDH.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, TRA, which has served as a tangible symbol of the unbreakable friendship between the United States and Taiwan. Today, the partnership between our two countries is stronger than ever.

The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act provides the framework for our official engagements with Taiwan, which marked the end of our official diplomatic ties. For 35 years the TRA has facilitated a partnership committed to facilitating trade, investment, security cooperation, and promoting regional security.

The bilateral achievements made through the TRA have allowed our citizens to create innovative and lasting advancements to the world economy. Today, Taiwan stands as our 12th largest trading partner, and in 2013, the United States and Taiwan traded over $63 billion in goods and services. This bilateral relationship has supported thousands of jobs in both countries, and we must remain committed to the mutual gains this collaboration can provide.

I applaud our West Virginia businesses that have recognized the potential of the Taiwanese economy and exported over $41 million in commodities, high-tech goods, and services to Taiwan last year. We must build on this strong foundation while helping Taiwan meet its needs for foreign sources of energy. I will continue to seek opportunities for further trade integration with Taiwan and shared economic prosperity.

I look forward to working hand-in-hand with our friends in Taiwan to ensure the next generation of American leaders can stand where I stand today, 35 years from now, and celebrate several more decades of peaceful and vibrant collaboration.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE ANNIVERSARY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, the Armenian genocide is sometimes called the ''forgotten genocide.'' But every April, we come together to remember and commemorate the Armenian genocide and to declare that we will never forget.

In order to prevent future genocides, we must clearly acknowledge and remember those of the past. For many years the Congress has had before it a resolution which clearly affirms the factual reality that the Armenian genocide did occur. I was a strong and vocal supporter of the genocide resolution for my entire tenure in the House, and I am proud to have joined Senator MENENDEZ and Senator KIRK in introducing the Armenian genocide resolution in the Senate.

This is the 99th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, yet the suffering will continue for Armenians and non-Armenians alike as long as the world allows denial to exist and prevail. It is long overdue for the United States to join the many other nations that have formally recognized the Armenian genocide.

That is why today's passage by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of the genocide resolution in advance of the 99th anniversary is so historic. I was proud to vote for this important resolution today in committee, and I will keep fighting to ensure its passage by the full Senate. I will continue to work with the Armenian-American community to build a prosperous and bright future for the Armenian people.

We must continue to stand with our ally Armenia to address the challenges they face. Armenia is confronted with blockades by Turkey and Azerbaijan—one of the longest lasting blockades in modern history. The United States must provide increased assistance to Armenia, work to promote trade with Armenia, and work to reestablish the Turkish Government's commitment to normalized relations. And the United States should work to facilitate a closer relationship between Armenia and Europe.

The Armenian people are true survivors. Despite repeated invasions, loss of land, and the loss of between one-half and three-quarters of their population in the genocide, the people of Armenia have prevailed.

We have a shared responsibility to ensure that the Armenian people are able to build their own independent and prosperous future. Together we can continue to build an Armenia that is respected and honored by its allies and neighbors. But for this to happen, there needs to be universal acknowledgement of the horror that was the Armenian genocide.

TRIBUTE TO MARION LOOMIS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, after 38 years with the Wyoming Mining Association, Marion Loomis is retiring.

Marion started his career in the early 1970s with the State of Wyoming's Department of Economic Planning and Development as an economic development geologist. In one of his first jobs, he ran the fuel allocation office during the Arab oil embargo in 1973. In 1976, he joined the Wyoming Mining Association and was made executive director in 1991. His vast knowledge and experience are tremendous assets to the State and its people, and we are grateful for his service.

In Wyoming, we have adopted the Code of the West as our official State code of ethics. Marion Loomis personifies the code. This list of ten ideals every man and woman should live by perfectly describes Marion's personal—and professional—demeanor. Marion Loomis takes quiet pride in his work. With his advocacy, Wyoming has seen exponential growth in the coal industry. When he began, Wyoming produced 8 million tons of coal annually. Today, around 400 million tons of Wyoming coal are mined and shipped nationwide—and worldwide.

Marion has never been one to boast or brag. Instead, he lets his accomplishments speak for themselves. In the past 40 years, Wyoming's production of trona has grown from 1 mine that produced 300,000 tons per year to 4 mines which produce over 10 million tons annually. When he speaks, people listen. They know that his opinions reflect a lifetime of study and are tough, balanced, and fair.

Throughout his career, Marion Loomis has been a champion for Wyoming energy. He was a steadfast leader for the Wyoming Mining Association during several boom and bust cycles in energy development. The State's uranium production is a prime example. He witnessed a booming industry stagnate in the 1990s. Today, it has emerged again as a valuable resource. Marion has always promoted Wyoming as a key player in our Nation's quest for energy independence. He truly does ride for the brand, and his leadership is inspiring.

Marion retired from the Wyoming Mining Association earlier this month. He will be missed, but he has left both the association and the industry stronger, thanks to his dedication and hard work. In the days ahead, Marion plans to fish the streams of Wyoming's Bighorn Mountains, where he and his wife have a cabin. I cannot think of a more fitting reward for a job—and a career—well done.

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize National Healthcare Decisions Day, which is next Wednesday, April 16, a day to educate the public about advance care planning and encourage them to have conversations with loved ones to plan for end-of-life decisions. I am pleased that over 50 organizations—representing health providers, communities of faith, the legal community, and the public sector—in Florida are participating in the day's events.

This issue has been important to me throughout my career, and as the chairman of the Senate's Special Committee on Aging, I had the opportunity to chair a hearing on end-of-life care last June. We found that polls show most Americans would like to talk about their advanced care needs, but they do not know how or with whom to have these conversations. In fact, only about 20 percent of Americans have executed an advanced directive, in part due to a lack of knowledge about planning.

Our hearing also touched on some commonsense solutions that individuals have used to broach this topic with their loved ones. For example, Aging with Dignity, an organization based in my home State of Florida, has created a simple resource called Five Wishes that is focused on things that are meaningful for patients and families, rather than a system of advance care planning dictated exclusively by the terms of doctors and lawyers. Five Wishes takes into account personal, emotional, and spiritual needs as well as medical wishes. With a straightforward, easy-to-complete questionnaire, Five Wishes takes end-of-life decision-making out of the emergency room and into the living room.

There are also areas where the Federal Government could help alleviate some of the barriers individuals face in trying to complete an advance directive. We know many people could use the assistance of a trusted health care provider in completing an advance directive. In 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—CMS—included advance care planning as a reimbursable item as part of the annual wellness visit for Medicare beneficiaries under the Affordable Care Act. Unfortunately, just a short time later, CMS reversed itself and removed this service as reimbursable. I hope this decision is revisited.

At the same time, there are efforts at the State level. For example, in Florida, a consortium of health care providers, faith-based groups, and the legal profession are collaborating to establish the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment program to ensure that advance directives are honored.

It is my hope Congress will support the goals of National Healthcare Decisions Day. Advance care planning is a desired health service and should be a normal part of health care. Advance care planning can empower individuals and allow adults to voice their medical treatment preferences. Together, we can ensure Americans' wishes for medical care at the end of their lives are respected and achieved.

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT SYSTEM

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, recently the Senate failed to permanently repeal the current system of automatic payment cuts for physicians who treat Medicare patients and to replace it with a more sensible system for reimbursing physicians. Instead, the Senate voted—yet again—to pass a short-term patch to this broken system, which postponed these payment cuts for one more year.

After talking with Medicare providers in my State, I decided to oppose

this legislation since it provides only a bandaid for a wholly broken system. I believe that an enduring solution is possible and absolutely necessary, and I will continue to fight for a more sustainable replacement that rewards physicians for the high-quality care they deliver.

Minnesota is No. 1 in the Nation when it comes to the quality of the health care that we provide. If our system of reimbursement could reward providers for their efficiency and quality—rather than the quantity of the services they administer—we could improve the value of the care that our seniors receive while rewarding providers who keep patients healthy. We can do that by overhauling the Medicare physician payment formula and implementing a system that rewards health care value over volume, and there has never been a better moment to do that than now. Over the past 10 years, Congress has spent $150 billion on short-term fixes; the Congressional Budget Office estimated earlier this year that the cost of permanently repealing the formula and replacing it with a more sustainable program now would be even lower than that total so far. For the first time since the passage of our current formula, there was bipartisan, bicameral legislation to fully repeal the Medicare physician payment formula and replace it with a payment system that would better reward physicians for providing high-value care.

We have a unique opportunity to permanently solve this problem. Temporary patches—like the one just passed—only perpetuate the instability created by the annual threat of payment reductions. This instability is bad for patients and bad for providers. Take, for example, the young physician from Rogers, MN who recently called my office to discuss how proposed payment cuts would affect his practice and his future. As a father and a new surgeon, this doctor described the challenges of paying off high levels of debt and starting a new practice in a time of financial uncertainty. Temporary fixes will not help this young doctor to establish a practice and provide the best possible care to his patients. Stopgap measures fail to address the underlying problem with the way Medicare pays for physician services, and I am tired of postponing good policies that help support high-quality providers in Minnesota.

It is clear that now is time to permanently repeal and replace the Medicare physician payment formula. That is why I did not support the legislation to temporarily patch our provider payment system and why I am committed to working towards a permanent solution that would put in place a payment system to reward high-value care.

My goal is to make sure that Medicare beneficiaries, now and in the future, have access to high-quality, affordable health care services. To achieve this, Medicare must be on sound financial footing and be prepared to meet the needs of an aging baby boomer generation.

Replacing Medicare's broken system of provider payments with a system to promote high-value care is a critical step in this direction. I remain committed to helping to take this step.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW KERR

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an invaluable member of my staff on the Select Committee on Intelligence, Andrew Kerr. Andrew has been a familiar face around the committee for the last 7 years, but he will leave us shortly to return to the State Department. I am honored to have the opportunity to thank Andrew for his service on the committee, and I want to publicly note my appreciation for his outstanding work.

Since becoming the vice chairman of the committee in 2011, I have often looked to Andrew for guidance and counsel on intelligence and counterterrorism matters. Despite the successes or shortcomings of the intelligence community, Andrew has always provided grounded and dependable advice. He has also done extensive oversight work designed to reduce excessive spending and encourage efficiency in the intelligence community.

Andrew is a dedicated public servant and I am sure the State Department is happy to have him return. His presence will be missed on the committee and in the Senate, but I want to wish him well as he returns to the Executive branch. Thanks Andrew, for a job well done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to South Anchorage High School as they celebrate their 10th anniversary.

Since opening 10 years ago, the South Anchorage High School Wolverines have excelled both academically and interscholastically by preparing students for higher education and job training. In addition to a full complement of advanced placement classes for students, the Wolverines also annually achieve one of the highest graduation rates in the state at 88 percent. These academic achievements are a testament to the knowledgeable teachers, hard-working students, and supportive parents that call the south Anchorage area home.

Along with their academic achievements, South Anchorage has also been very successful in interscholastic athletic events. With over eight State championships in various sports over the past few years, South High School's students have shown they can excel in the classroom and on the field.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing South Anchorage High School on their 10th anniversary and wish them continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN T. WATTS

● Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I wish to honor John T. Watts. Tommy, as he is known to his friends and colleagues, is a friend of mine. I know he is so proud of his three children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. It is notable that his daughter Kimberly is married to former U.S. Congressman Zach Wamp.

A native of Old Hickory, TN, Tommy moved to my hometown of Chattanooga, TN, at the age of 10. After graduating from Red Bank High School, he attended Tennessee Tech University. He returned to Chattanooga and began working for Southern Champion Tray in 1976.

During his 38 years of service to Southern Champion Tray, Tommy served in a variety of capacities, including as a plant supervisor and most recently, as structural design manager. Winning numerous design awards in the paper and box industry, his designs can be found in local companies such as Chattanooga Bakery and Top Flight. He distinguished himself within the company by being the only employee to work in all three company locations—two in Chattanooga and one in Mansfield, TX. I wish him and his family all the best as he finishes his impressive career at the end of this month.●

REMEMBERING VAL OGDEN

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to a strong community leader, dedicated public servant, and advocate from the State of Washington, Val Ogden.

Val was a longtime friend and I would not be where I am today without her support.

She was a community advocate, in the truest and strongest sense of the word, and she was a champion for women and children.

She was a member of the Washington State House of Representatives, serving as speaker pro tempore.

Val was a leader for her community, securing funding for Washington State University Vancouver. She was a strong Democrat and very active in the Clark County Democratic Party. Val served as the executive director of the Clark County YWCA.

But you can't talk about Val without talking about her husband of 67 years, Dan. They were a team and were always working together to make their community a better place to live.

Val was also a very dedicated mother and grandmother. Along with Dan, she is survived by three children: Dan, Janeth and Patti, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

She will be missed by many but her legacy and leadership lives on.

Mr. President, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in paying homage to Val Ogden. She lived a full life and our thoughts are with her loved ones at this time of great loss.●

BUTTERNUT MOUNTAIN FARM

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to bring to your attention to a remarkable Vermont family.

The Marvin family has an incredible family tie to Vermont and to one of the State's best known products—maple syrup. David Marvin founded Butternut Mountain Farm in 1972 on land his father purchased in Johnson, VT., in the 1950s.

David Marvin has a strong and enduring commitment to an iconic Vermont industry. Through careful stewardship, and with the help of his wife Lucy, he has built a company renowned for quality maple products.

The family produced maple syrup, grew Christmas trees and consulted on timber management. Today, David's children, Ira and Emma, are integral to the operation, which includes more than 80 employees, maple syrup from 300 Vermont farms, and a 75,000 square-foot facility in Morrisville, VT. Butternut Mountain Farm is more than just a producer of maple syrup; it has also become an effective marketer of a treasured product of Vermont.

The family and the company have been recognized for their success. Just a decade after the company's founding, for example, Butternut Mountain Farm was named Vermont State Tree Farm of the Year and National Tree Farm of the Year by the American Forest Institute.

The Marvins are encouraging a culture of conservation. Their Morrisville operation is increasingly relying on renewable energies and energy efficiency. The family has also developed a pay structure that seeks to reward employees with flexible hours, to help reduce commuting costs, and a fair wage.

It is also worth noting that the Marvin family's business plays a crucial role in supporting the jobs of countless Vermonters throughout the state who produce maple syrup which is bottled by Butternut Mountain Farm.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2195. An act to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 35. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:41 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2195. An act to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 10, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2195. An act to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5293. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan; Importer Membership Requirements'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–11–0031) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5294. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict), Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the training of the U.S. Special Operations Forces with friendly foreign forces during fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5295. A communication from the Associate Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Syrian Sanctions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 542) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5296. A communication from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Standard for Soft Infant and Toddler Carriers'' ((16 CFR Part 1112 and 16 CFR Part 1226) (Docket No. CPSC–2013–0014)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5297. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Generator Verification Reliability Standards'' (Docket No. RM13–16–000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5298. A communication from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunities and Diversity Programs, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5299. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5300. A communication from the Associate Commissioner, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5301. A communication from the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5302. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–304, ''Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2014''; to the

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5303. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–305, ''Marijuana Possession Decriminalization Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5304. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–306, ''DC Promise Establishment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5305. A joint communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) and the Chief of Staff of the Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence during fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–5306. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5307. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Enhanced Prudential Standards for Bank Holding Companies and Foreign Banking Organizations'' (RIN7100–AD86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5308. A communication from the Chief of the Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Commercial Operations in the 1695–1710 MHz, 1755–1780 MHz, and 2155–2180 MHz Bands'' ((GN Docket No. 13–185) (FCC 14–31)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5309. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of the Commission's Rules Related to Retransmission Consent, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking'' (MB Docket No. 10–71, FCC 14–29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5310. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''General Site Suitability Criteria for Nuclear Power Stations'' (Regulatory Guide 4.7, Revision 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5311. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Response Strategies for Potential Aircraft Threats'' (Regulatory Guide 1.214, Revision 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5312. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rollovers to Qualified Plans'' (Rev. Rul. 2014–9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5313. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Health Insurance Providers Fee; Procedural and Administrative Guidance'' (Notice 2014–24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5314. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the United States-People's Republic of China Science and Technology Agreement of 1979; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5315. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2013 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5316. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Office of Management and Budget, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5317. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Transportation's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–223. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York urging the United States House of Representatives to pass H.R. 2510—Helping Veterans Exposed to Toxic Chemicals Act; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 507. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–148).

H.R. 862. A bill to authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960 (Rept. No. 113–149).

H.R. 876. A bill to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–150).

H.R. 1158. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (Rept. No. 113–151).

By Mr. SCHUMER, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1728. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SCHUMER, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, without amendment:

S. 1937. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to develop contingency plans to address unexpected emergencies or natural disasters that may threaten to disrupt the administration of an election for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 1947. A bill to rename the Government Printing Office the Government Publishing Office, and for other purposes.

S. 2197. A bill to repeal certain requirements regarding newspaper advertising of Senate stationery contracts.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Julie Ann Koenen and ending with Brian Keith Woody, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014. (minus 1 nominee: Aaron Schubert)

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Ranya F. Abdelsayed and ending with Fireno F. Zora, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 9, 2014.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Christopher David Frederick and ending with Julio Maldonado, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with James Benjamin Green and ending with Geoffrey W. Wiggin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Scott Thomas Bruns and ending with Janelle Weyek, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Roberta Mahoney and ending with Ann Marie Yastishock, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014. (minus 3 nominees: Susan K. Brems; Sharon Lee Cromer; R. Douglass Arbuckle)

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Kathleen M. Adams and ending with Sean Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Kate E. Addison and ending with William F. Zeman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Gerald Michael Feierstein and ending with David Michael Satterfield, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014. (minus 3 nominees: Douglas A. Koneff; Leslie Meredith Tsou; Lon C. Fairchild)

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Matthew D. Lowe and ending with Wilbur G. Zehr, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Kevin Timothy Covert and ending with Paul Wulfsberg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Beata Angelica and ending with Benjamin Beardsley Dille, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014. (minus 1 nominee: Daniel Menco Hirsch)

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Mark L. Driver and ending with Karl William Wurster, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 10, 2014.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Scott S. Sindelar and ending with Christine M. Sloop, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 10, 2014.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2235. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2236. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance efforts to address antimicrobial resistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2237. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an elective safe harbor for the expensing by small businesses of the costs of acquiring or producing tangible property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COATS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2238. A bill to ensure that the United States Government in no way recognizes Russia's annexation of Crimea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2239. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose certain return information related to identity theft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL)):

S. 2240. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to encourage Medicare beneficiaries to voluntarily adopt advance directives guiding the medical care they receive; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2241. A bill to enhance the safety of drug-free playgrounds; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COATS:

S. 2242. A bill to establish the prudential regulator of community and independent depository institutions as the conduit and arbiter of all Federal financial oversight, examination, and reporting; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2243. A bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2244. A bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2245. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to streamline the District's legislative process and conserve taxpayer dollars; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2246. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the Government of the District of Columbia to determine the fiscal year period, to make local funds of the District of Columbia for a fiscal year available for use by the District upon enactment of the local budget act for the year subject to a period of Congressional review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL:

S. 2247. A bill to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 2248. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the number of children eligible for free school meals, with a phased-in transition period, with an offset; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2249. A bill to amend the Indian Tribal Judgment Funds Use or Distribution Act to extend a certain income tax exemption to the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. KIRK, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. REID, Mr. HELLER, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HATCH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. VITTER, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 2250. A bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2251. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to develop and test an expanded and advanced role for direct care workers who provide long-term services and supports to older individuals in efforts to coordinate care and improve the efficiency of service delivery; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 2252. A bill to reaffirm the importance of community banking and community banking regulatory experience on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, to ensure that the Federal Reserve Board of Governors has a member who has previous experience in community banking or community banking supervision, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2253. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for a temporary shift in the scheduled collection of the transitional reinsurance program payments; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2254. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2255. A bill to remove the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan from treatment as terrorist organizations and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. Res. 420. A resolution designating the week of October 6 through October 12, 2014, as ''Naturopathic Medicine Week'' to recognize the value of naturopathic medicine in providing safe, effective, and affordable health care; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Res. 421. A resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and military achievement by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending them for leadership and valor in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 422. A resolution to authorize written testimony, document production, and representation in Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Foundation, Inc. v. United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 162

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 576

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 576, a bill to reform laws relating to small public housing agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 734

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 734, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 917

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 1163

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1163, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1189

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1189, a bill to adjust the boundaries of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium, and for other purposes.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1468

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1468, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation and for other purposes.

S. 1500

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to declare the November 5, 2009, attack at Fort Hood, Texas, a terrorist attack, and to ensure that the victims of the attack and their families receive the same honors and benefits as those Americans who have been killed or wounded in a combat zone overseas and their families.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

S. 1530

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1530, a bill to realign structures and reallocate resources in the Federal Government, in keeping with the core American belief that families are the best protection for children and the bedrock of any society, to bolster United States diplomacy and assistance targeted at ensuring that every child can grow up in a permanent, safe, nurturing, and loving family, and to strengthen intercountry adoption to the United States and around the world and ensure that it becomes a viable and fully developed option for providing families for children in need, and for other purposes.

S. 1622

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1645

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1645, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1728, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, and for other purposes.

S. 1802

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1802, a bill to provide equal treatment for utility special entities using utility operations-related swaps, and for other purposes.

S. 1839

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1839, a bill to make certain luggage and travel articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and

artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 1975

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1975, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an above-the-line deduction for child care expenses, and for other purposes.

S. 1996

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1996, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2078

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2078, a bill to prohibit Federal funding for motorcycle checkpoints, and for other purposes.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2082, a bill to provide for the development of criteria under the Medicare program for medically necessary short inpatient hospital stays, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2100

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2100, a bill to promote the use of clean cookstoves and fuels to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2140

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2140, a bill to improve the transition between experimental permits and commercial licenses for commercial reusable launch vehicles.

S. 2163

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2163, a bill to establish an emergency watershed protection disaster assistance fund to be available to the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance for any natural disaster.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2178, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2223

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S. CON. RES. 34

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 34, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should hold the Russian Federation accountable for being in material breach of its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

S. RES. 413

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 413, a resolution recognizing 20 years since the genocide in Rwanda, and affirming it is in the national interest of the United States to work in close coordination with international partners to help prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and mass atrocities.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2235. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the Democracy Restoration Act, known as the DRA. I want to thank Judiciary Committee Chairman LEAHY and Senators DURBIN, WHITEHOUSE, BOOKER, HARKIN, and SANDERS as original cosponsors of this legislation.

As the late Senator Kennedy often said, civil rights is the ''unfinished business'' of America. The Democracy Restoration Act would restore voting rights in Federal elections to approximately 5.8 million citizens who have been released from prison and are back living in their communities.

After the Civil War, Congress enacted and the States ratified the Fifteenth Amendment, which provides that ''the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.''

Unfortunately, many States passed laws during the Jim Crow period after the Civil War to make it more difficult for newly-freed slaves to vote in elections. Such laws included poll taxes,

literacy tests, and disenfranchisement measures. Some disenfranchisement measures applied to misdemeanor convictions and in practice could result in lifetime disenfranchisement, even for individuals that successfully reintegrated into their communities as law-abiding citizens.

It took Congress and the States nearly another century to eliminate the poll tax, upon the ratification of the Twenty-Fourth Amendment in 1964. The Amendment provides that ''the rights of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.''

Shortly thereafter Congress enacted the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which swept away numerous State laws and procedures that had denied African-Americans and other minorities their constitutional right to vote. For example, the act outlawed the use of literacy or history tests that voters had to pass before registering to vote or casting their ballot.

The act specifically prohibits States from imposing any ''voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure . . . to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.'' Congress overwhelmingly reauthorized the Act in 2006, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush. Congress is now working on legislation to revitalize the VRA after recent Supreme Court decisions curtailed its reach.

In 2014, I am concerned that there are still several areas where the legacy of Jim Crow laws and State disenfranchisement statutes lead to unfairness in Federal elections. First, State laws governing the restoration of voting rights vary widely throughout the country, such that persons in some States can easily regain their voting rights, while in other States persons effectively lose their right to vote permanently. Second, these State disenfranchisement laws have a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities. Third, this patchwork of State laws results in the lack of a uniform standard for eligibility to vote in Federal elections, and leads to an unfair disparity and unequal participation in Federal elections based solely on where an individual lives. Finally, studies indicate that former prisoners who have voting rights restored are less likely to reoffend, and disenfranchisement hinders their rehabilitation and reintegration into their community.

In 35 States, convicted individuals may not vote while they are on parole. In 11 States, a conviction can result in lifetime disenfranchisement. Several States require prisoners to seek discretionary pardons from Governors, or action by the parole or pardon board, in order to regain their right to vote. Several States deny the right to vote to individuals convicted of certain misdemeanors. States are slowly moving or repeal or loosen many of these barriers to voting for ex-prisoners.

An estimated 5,850,000 citizens of the United States, or about 1 in 40 adults in the United States, currently cannot vote as a result of a felony conviction. Of the 5,850,000 citizens barred from voting, only 25 percent are in prison. By contrast, 75 percent of the disenfranchised reside in their communities while on probation or parole after having completed their sentences. Approximately 2,600,000 citizens who have completed their sentences remain disenfranchised due to restrictive State laws. In six States: Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia—more than 7 percent of the total population is disenfranchised.

Studies show that a growing number of African-American men, for example, will be disenfranchised at some point in their life, partly due to mandatory minimum sentencing laws that have a disproportionate impact on minorities.

Eight percent of the African-American population, or 2 million African-Americans, are disenfranchised. Given current rates of incarceration, approximately 1 in 3 of the next generation of African-American men will be disenfranchised at some point during their lifetime. Currently, 1 of every 13 African-Americans are rendered unable to vote because of felony disenfranchisement, which is a rate 4 times greater than non African-Americans. Nearly 8 percent of African-Americans are disenfranchised, compared to less than 2 percent of non-African-Americans. In 3 states more than 1 in 5 African-Americans are unable to vote because of prior convictions: the rates are Florida at 23 percent, Kentucky at 22 percent, and Virginia at 20 percent.

Latino citizens are disproportionately disenfranchised based on their disproportionate representation in the criminal justice system. If current incarceration trends hold, 17 percent of Latino men will be incarcerated during their lifetime, in contrast to less than 6 percent of non-Latino white men. When analyzing the data across 10 States, Latinos generally have disproportionately higher rates of disenfranchisement compared to their presence in the voting age population. In 6 out of 10 States studies in 2003, Latinos constitute more than 10 percent of the total number of persons disenfranchised by State felony laws. In 4 States, California, 37 percent; New York, 34 percent; Texas, 30 percent; and Arizona, 27 percent, Latinos were disenfranchised by a rate of more than 25 percent. Native Americans are also disproportionately disenfranchised.

Congress has addressed part of this problem by enacting the Fair Sentencing Act to partially reduce the sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine convictions. Congress is now considering legislation that would more broadly revise mandatory sentencing procedures and create a fairer system of sentencing. While I welcome these steps, I believe that Congress should take stronger action now to remedy this particular problem.

The legislation would restore voting rights to prisoners after their release from incarceration. It requires that prisons receiving Federal funds notify people about their right to vote in Federal elections when they are leaving prison, sentenced to probation, or convicted of a misdemeanor. The bill authorizes the Department of Justice and individuals harmed by violation of this act to sue to enforce its provisions. The bill generally provides State election officials with a grace period to resolve voter eligibility complaints without a lawsuit before an election.

The legislation is narrowly crafted to apply to Federal elections, and retains the States' authorities to generally establish voting qualifications. This legislation is therefore consistent with Congressional authority under the Constitution and voting rights statutes, as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

I am pleased that this legislation has been endorsed by a large coalition of public interest organizations, including: civil rights and reform organizations; religious and faith-based organizations; and law enforcement and criminal justice organizations. In particular I want to thank the Brennan Center for Justice, the ACLU, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the NAACP for their work on this legislation.

This legislation is ultimately designed to reduce recidivism rates and help reintegrate ex-prisoners back into society. When prisoners are released, they are expected to obey the law, get a job, and pay taxes as they are rehabilitated and reintegrated into their community. With these responsibilities and obligations of citizenship should also come the rights of citizenship, including the right to vote.

In 2008, President George W. Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law, after overwhelming approval and strong bipartisan support in Congress. The legislation expanded the Prison Re-Entry Initiative, by providing job training, placement services, transitional housing, drug treatment, medical care, and faith-based mentoring. At the signing ceremony, President Bush said: ''We believe that even those who have struggled with a dark past can find brighter days ahead. One way we act on that belief is by helping former prisoners who have paid for their crimes. We help them build new lives as productive members of our society.''

The Democracy Restoration Act is fully consistent with the goals of the Second Chance Act, as Congress and the States seek to reduce recidivism rates, strengthen the quality of life in our communities and make them safer, and reduce the burden on taxpayers.

More recently, in a February 2014 speech, Attorney General Eric Holder called on elected officials to reexamine disenfranchisement statutes and enact reforms to restore voting rights.

I therefore urge Congress to address the issue of disenfranchisement and support this legislation.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2243. A bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to introduce the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act. This is a bill that will make critical improvements to how we support our ill and injured veterans and their caregivers.

I am especially pleased to be joined this morning by our former colleague Senator Elizabeth Dole, who has come to the floor today and who has been such a tremendous and invaluable person in working to bring these caregiver issues to national attention. I really appreciate her being here and being such a champion on this, and a leader. She has brought people from all over the country together to make a difference for our caregivers and for our veterans.

We also have many of the very caregivers this bill is designed to help—representing, by the way, almost every State—in the gallery today to see this legislation introduced. I am very proud they are here. It is incredibly important that they are here today and on Capitol Hill because, as the Presiding Officer knows, our caregivers work extremely hard without any recognition, and they rarely ask for anything for themselves. In fact, most of the caregivers I have met sound much like the veterans and servicemembers they care for when they say: Oh, this isn't about me; I am just doing my part.

So last week, when RAND released their comprehensive, groundbreaking study on military caregivers, they chose a very appropriate title: ''Hidden Heroes.'' That is why it is so important to have all of those caregivers here today and working constantly to make sure we all understand what they do.

I am very proud to be introducing this bill not only as a Senator and a senior member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and someone who has fought so hard for the implementation of the VA caregivers program, but, as many of my colleagues know, for me, this is really a deeply personal issue.

Growing up, I saw firsthand the many ways military service can affect both veterans and their families. My father served in World War II. He was among the first soldiers to land in Okinawa. He came home as a disabled veteran and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Later in life he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Eventually he became too sick to work at the little five-and-dime store he managed, and my mom became his caregiver. This was no small burden for my mom, who had to raise seven children, care for my dad, and was now all of a sudden the primary source of income for our family.

Today, after more than a decade of two wars, men and women in uniform, as did my father, have done everything that has been asked of them and so much more. But now, as our role in this conflict winds down, the support we provide cannot end when the war no longer leads the nightly news broadcasts and disappears from the front pages of our newspapers. It is an enduring commitment for those who will first need help now or those who will need help later in their lives. It is a lifetime of care for so many.

In so many cases, the responsibility for providing that care often falls on the loved ones of severely injured veterans. Their courage and their devotion in taking on these responsibilities is inspiring for all of us. They are the reason we created the VA caregivers program, which now provides these family members with health care and counseling and training and respite and a living stipend.

I was proud to lead congressional efforts to push the VA to stop delaying the implementation of the caregivers program and restore the eligibility criteria to the intent of the law. Thankfully, as we know, in the end the White House and the VA announced they would allow more caregivers of more veterans to be eligible for benefits and finally got the program implemented. But there is a lot more we can do because, as the RAND study clearly shows us, caregivers are still struggling. Military caregivers have significantly worse health than noncaregivers, and they are at higher risk for depression. The stress they live under jeopardizes their relationships and puts them at greater risk of divorce, and they have trouble with employment and keeping health insurance. There is no way we will sit by and let caregivers and veterans face this on their own—not when we can make it a little bit easier.

The bill we are introducing this morning, the Military and Veterans Caregivers and Services Improvement Act, makes some broad changes to help give caregivers and veterans the tools they need to help tackle what they face. I wish to take a moment on the floor today to highlight just a few of the important provisions contained in this bill.

First and foremost, this bill will make veterans of all eras eligible for the full range of caregiver support services. We took an important first step in creating the post-9/11 veterans caregivers program. Now that the VA has had some time to get this program working, it is time for us to get services to our older veterans who are also in great need.

The bill also expands eligibility for the VA caregivers program by recognizing a wider array of needs which may require caregiving, placing greater emphasis on mental health injuries and removing restrictions on who is eligible to become a caregiver.

Under the bill, caregiver services will also be expanded to include childcare, financial advice, and legal counseling. Those are some of the top and currently unmet needs of family caregivers.

The bill will also require the Federal Government to meet the unique needs of employees who are caregivers with flexible work arrangements so they can stay employed while caring for their veteran. I, of course, want to see all employers make these kinds of accommodations for caregivers, but I want the Federal Government to lead by example.

When it comes to the Department of Defense, the bill makes several improvements to the special compensation for assistance with activities of daily living—first, by making those benefits tax exempt, and second, eligibility for special compensation would also be set at a more appropriate level of disability and would be more inclusive of mental health injuries and TBI.

The Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act also addresses a key theme identified by RAND. There are many services inside the government and outside to assist caregivers, but these programs are not coordinated. Eligibility criteria are different for each one of them, and there is not enough oversight to ensure the quality of those services. So what our bill does is create a national interagency working group on caregiver services. It will coordinate caregiver policy among all the different departments and create standards of care and oversight tools to make sure our veterans and their caregivers receive high-quality services.

The last provision I wish to highlight is intended to help a military spouse who may be required to become the primary source of income for the family after the servicemember has been injured, just as my mom was. In order to help that spouse get the job they need

to support the family, this bill will allow the injured servicemember or veteran to transfer their post-9/11 GI bill benefits to their dependents by exempting them from the length of service requirements that would currently prevent them from transferring those benefits. Injured veterans should not be penalized because their injury occurred early in their service.

This provision is extremely important because for 2013 the unemployment rate for people with bachelor's degrees was only 4 percent—about one-third lower than the national average—and their median weekly earnings were 34 percent higher than the national average. Meanwhile, the RAND study found that 62 percent of post-9/11 caregivers reported financial strain because of their caregiving.

I know this is important because I saw it in my family. For my family, the additional education my mom obtained got her a better job so she could support her family while she was caring for my dad. It is what made the difference.

I want to again thank some key people who have been true leaders to get this to this point.

I again want to thank Senator Dole and her great staff at the Elizabeth Dole Foundation for keeping our country focused on the needs of our military and veteran caregivers and for bringing such national momentum to make the changes we need.

I also want to thank the Wounded Warrior Project, which was a driving force in creating the very first VA caregivers program. They have provided invaluable advice in developing the bill I am introducing today.

Finally, I really want to thank the outstanding folks at the RAND Corporation. They have put together a truly groundbreaking study that takes stock of where care and benefits have fallen short, where new needs are emerging, and how we can make it easier for veterans to get the care and benefits they deserve.

There are many ways for the whole country—government, nonprofits, businesses, community leaders, faith leaders—to do more to help. For all of us in Congress, that starts with passing this legislation to help our hidden heroes—our military and veteran caregivers.

I again want to thank all of our tremendous caregivers in this country for their service, for not asking for help, as they should. We are the ones who need to ask for help for them and to be there to provide it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2243

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN AND SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM.—

(1) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection (a)(2)(B) of section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''on or after September 11, 2001''.

(2) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ILLNESS.—Such subsection is further amended by inserting ''or illness'' after ''serious injury''.

(3) EXPANSION OF NEEDED SERVICES IN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—Subsection (a)(2)(C) of such section is amended—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(C) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause (iii):

''(iii) a need for regular or extensive instruction or supervision in completing two or more instrumental activities of daily living; or''.

(4) EXPANSION OF SERVICES PROVIDED.—Subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii) of such section is amended—

(A) in subclause (IV), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subclause (V), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subclauses:

''(VI) child care services or a monthly stipend for such services if such services are not readily available from the Department;

''(VII) financial planning services relating to the needs of injured and ill veterans and their caregivers; and

''(VIII) legal services, including legal advice and consultation, relating to the needs of injured and ill veterans and their caregivers.''.

(5) EXPANSION OF RESPITE CARE PROVIDED.—Subsection (a)(3)(B) of such section is amended by striking ''shall be'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''shall—

''(i) be medically and age-appropriate;

''(ii) include in-home care; and

''(iii) include peer-oriented group activities.''.

(6) MODIFICATION OF STIPEND CALCULATION.—Subsection (a)(3)(C) of such section is amended—

(A) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

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

''(iii) In determining the amount and degree of personal services provided under clause (i) with respect to an eligible veteran whose need for personal care services is based in whole or in part on a need for supervision or protection under paragraph (2)(C)(ii) or regular instruction or supervision in completing tasks under paragraph (2)(C)(iii), the Secretary shall take into account the following:

''(I) The assessment by the family caregiver of the needs and limitations of the veteran.

''(II) The extent to which the veteran can function safely and independently in the absence of such supervision, protection, or instruction.

''(III) The amount of time required for the family caregiver to provide such supervision, protection, or instruction to the veteran.''.

(7) PERIODIC EVALUATION OF NEED FOR CERTAIN SERVICES.—Subsection (a)(3) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) In providing instruction, preparation, and training under subparagraph (A)(i)(I) and technical support under subparagraph (A)(i)(II) to each family caregiver who is approved as a provider of personal care services for an eligible veteran under paragraph (6), the Secretary shall periodically evaluate the needs of the eligible veteran and the skills of the family caregiver of such veteran to determine if additional instruction, preparation, training, or technical support under those subparagraphs is necessary.''.

(b) REPEAL OF GENERAL CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM.—Such section is amended by striking subsection (b).

(c) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO CAREGIVERS OF CERTAIN VETERANS.—Such section is further amended by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

''(b) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO CAREGIVERS OF CERTAIN VETERANS.—(1) In providing assistance under subsection (a) to family caregivers of eligible veterans who were discharged from the Armed Forces before September 11, 2001, the Secretary may enter into memoranda of understanding with agencies, States, and other entities to provide such assistance to such veterans.

''(2) The Secretary may provide assistance under this subsection only if such assistance is reasonably accessible to the veteran and is substantially equivalent or better in quality to similar services provided by the Department.

''(3) The Secretary may provide fair compensation to entities that provide assistance under this subsection pursuant to memoranda of understanding entered into under paragraph (1).

''(4) In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall work with the interagency working group on policies relating to caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces established under section 7 of the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2014.''.

(d) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF FAMILY MEMBER.—Subparagraph (B) of subsection (d)(3) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(B) is not a member of the family of the veteran and does not provide care to the veteran on a professional basis.''.

(e) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF PERSONAL CARE SERVICES.—Subsection (d)(4) of such section is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''independent'';

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraphs:

''(B) Supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury.

''(C) Regular or extensive instruction or supervision in completing two or more instrumental activities of daily living.''.

(f) ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 101(c) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 38 U.S.C. 1720G note) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) after the date of the enactment of the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2014 shall include

the following with respect to the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers required by subsection (a)(1) of such section 1720G:

''(A) The number of family caregivers that received assistance under such program.

''(B) The cost to the Department of providing assistance under such program.

''(C) A description of the outcomes achieved by, and any measurable benefits of, carrying out such program.

''(D) An assessment of the effectiveness and the efficiency of the implementation of such program, including a description of any barriers to accessing and receiving care and services under such program.

''(E) A description of the outreach activities carried out by the Secretary under such program.

''(F) An assessment of the manner in which resources are expended by the Secretary under such program, particularly with respect to the provision of monthly personal caregiver stipends under subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii)(V) of such section 1720G.

''(G) An evaluation of the sufficiency and consistency of the training provided to family caregivers under such program in preparing family caregivers to provide care to veterans under such program.

''(H) Such recommendations, including recommendations for legislative or administrative action, as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of carrying out such program.''.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—Subsection (a)(2) of such section is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsection'' and inserting ''section''.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''under subsection (a) or a covered veteran under subsection (b)'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''under subsection (a)'';

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''under subsection (a)''; and

(D) in paragraph (4), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''under subsection (a) or a covered veteran under subsection (b)''; and

(3) COUNSELING, TRAINING, AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1782(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''or a caregiver of a covered veteran''.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11 EDUCATION ASSISTANCE TO FAMILY MEMBERS BY SERIOUSLY INJURED VETERANS IN NEED OF PERSONAL CARE SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 3319A. Authority to transfer unused education benefits to family members by seriously injured veterans

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this section, the Secretary may permit an individual described in subsection (b) who is entitled to educational assistance under this chapter to elect to transfer to one or more of the dependents specified in subsection (c) a portion of such individual's entitlement to such assistance, subject to the limitation under subsection (d).

''(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—An individual referred to in subsection (a) is any individual who—

''(1) retired for physical disability under chapter 61 of title 10; or

''(2) is described in paragraph (2) of section 1720G(a) of this title and who is participating in the program established under paragraph (1) of such section.

''(c) ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS.—An individual approved to transfer an entitlement to educational assistance under this section may transfer the individual's entitlement as follows:

''(1) To the individual's spouse.

''(2) To one or more of the individual's children.

''(3) To a combination of the individuals referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2).

''(d) LIMITATION ON MONTHS OF TRANSFER.—(1) The total number of months of entitlement transferred by a individual under this section may not exceed 36 months.

''(2) The Secretary may prescribe regulations that would limit the months of entitlement that may be transferred under this section to no less than 18 months.

''(e) DESIGNATION OF TRANSFEREE.—An individual transferring an entitlement to educational assistance under this section shall—

''(1) designate the dependent or dependents to whom such entitlement is being transferred;

''(2) designate the number of months of such entitlement to be transferred to each such dependent; and

''(3) specify the period for which the transfer shall be effective for each dependent designated under paragraph (1).

''(f) TIME FOR TRANSFER; REVOCATION AND MODIFICATION.—(1) Transfer of entitlement to educational assistance under this section shall be subject to the time limitation for use of entitlement under section 3321 of this title.

''(2)(A) An individual transferring entitlement under this section may modify or revoke at any time the transfer of any unused portion of the entitlement so transferred.

''(B) The modification or revocation of the transfer of entitlement under this paragraph shall be made by the submittal of written notice of the action to the Secretary.

''(3) Entitlement transferred under this section may not be treated as marital property, or the asset of a marital estate, subject to division in a divorce or other civil proceeding.

''(g) COMMENCEMENT OF USE.—A dependent child to whom entitlement to educational assistance is transferred under this section may not commence the use of the transferred entitlement until either—

''(1) the completion by the child of the requirements of a secondary school diploma (or equivalency certificate); or

''(2) the attainment by the child of 18 years of age.

''(h) ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—(1) The use of any entitlement to educational assistance transferred under this section shall be charged against the entitlement of the individual making the transfer at the rate of one month for each month of transferred entitlement that is used.

''(2) Except as provided under subsection (e)(2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), a dependent to whom entitlement is transferred under this section is entitled to educational assistance under this chapter in the same manner as the individual from whom the entitlement was transferred.

''(3) The monthly rate of educational assistance payable to a dependent to whom entitlement referred to in paragraph (2) is transferred under this section shall be payable at the same rate as such entitlement would otherwise be payable under this chapter to the individual making the transfer.

''(4) The death of an individual transferring an entitlement under this section shall not affect the use of the entitlement by the dependent to whom the entitlement is transferred.

''(5)(A) A child to whom entitlement is transferred under this section may use the benefits transferred without regard to the 15-year delimiting date specified in section 3321 of this title, but may not, except as provided in subparagraph (B), use any benefits so transferred after attaining the age of 26 years.

''(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), in the case of a child who, before attaining the age of 26 years, is prevented from pursuing a chosen program of education by reason of acting as the primary provider of personal care services for a veteran or member of the Armed Forces under section 1720G(a) of this title, the child may use the benefits beginning on the date specified in clause (iii) for a period whose length is specified in clause (iv).

''(ii) Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to the period of an individual as a primary provider of personal care services if the period concludes with the revocation of the individual's designation as such a primary provider under section 1720G(a)(7)(D) of this title.

''(iii) The date specified in this clause for the beginning of the use of benefits by a child under clause (i) is the later of—

''(I) the date on which the child ceases acting as the primary provider of personal care services for the veteran or member concerned as described in clause (i);

''(II) the date on which it is reasonably feasible, as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, for the child to initiate or resume the use of benefits; or

''(III) the date on which the child attains the age of 26 years.

''(iv) The length of the period specified in this clause for the use of benefits by a child under clause (i) is the length equal to the length of the period that—

''(I) begins on the date on which the child begins acting as the primary provider of personal care services for the veteran or member concerned as described in clause (i); and

''(II) ends on the later of—

''(aa) the date on which the child ceases acting as the primary provider of personal care services for the veteran or member as described in clause (i); or

''(bb) the date on which it is reasonably feasible, as so determined, for the child to initiate or resume the use of benefits.

''(6) The purposes for which a dependent to whom entitlement is transferred under this section may use such entitlement shall include the pursuit and completion of the requirements of a secondary school diploma (or equivalency certificate).

''(7) The administrative provisions of this chapter shall apply to the use of entitlement transferred under this section, except that the dependent to whom the entitlement is transferred shall be treated as the eligible individual for purposes of such provisions.

''(i) OVERPAYMENT.—(1) In the event of an overpayment of educational assistance with respect to a dependent to whom entitlement is transferred under this section, the dependent and the individual making the transfer shall be jointly and severally liable to the United States for the amount of the overpayment for purposes of section 3685 of this title.

''(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), if an individual transferring entitlement under this section fails to complete the service agreed to by the individual under subsection (b)(1) in accordance with the terms of the agreement of the individual under that

subsection, the amount of any transferred entitlement under this section that is used by a dependent of the individual as of the date of such failure shall be treated as an overpayment of educational assistance under paragraph (1).

''(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply in the case of an individual who fails to complete service agreed to by the individual—

''(i) by reason of the death of the individual; or

''(ii) for a reason referred to in section 3311(c)(4) of this title.

''(j) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

''(2) Such regulations shall specify—

''(A) the manner of authorizing the transfer of entitlements under this section;

''(B) the eligibility criteria in accordance with subsection (b); and

''(C) the manner and effect of an election to modify or revoke a transfer of entitlement under subsection (f)(2).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TRANSFERS BY MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES.—The heading of section 3319 of such title is amended by inserting ''**by members of the Armed Forces**'' after ''**family members**''.

(2) BAR TO DUPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.—Section 3322(e) of such title is amended by inserting ''or 3319A'' after ''and 3319''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 33 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 3319 and inserting the following new items:

''3319. Authority to transfer unused education benefits to family members by members of the Armed Forces.

''3319A. Authority to transfer unused education benefits to family members by seriously injured veterans.''.

SEC. 4. ENHANCEMENT OF SPECIAL COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES WITH INJURIES OR ILLNESSES REQUIRING ASSISTANCE IN EVERYDAY LIVING.

(a) EXPANSION OF COVERED MEMBERS.—Subsection (b) of section 439 of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

''(1) has a serious injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty;

''(2) is in need of personal care services (including supervision or protection or regular instruction or supervision) as a result of such injury or illness; and''; and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

(b) NONTAXABILITY OF SPECIAL COMPENSATION.—Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (g), (h), (i) and (j), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

''(e) NONTAXABILITY OF COMPENSATION.—Monthly special compensation paid under subsection (a) shall not be included in income for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.''.

(c) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS.—Such section is further amended by inserting after subsection (e), as amended by subsection (b) of this section, the following new subsection (f):

''(f) ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide family caregivers of a member in receipt of monthly special compensation under subsection (a) the assistance required to be provided to family caregivers of eligible veterans under section 1720G(a)(3)(A) of title 38 (other than the monthly personal caregiver stipend provided for in clause (ii)(V) of such section). For purposes of the provision of such assistance under this subsection, the definitions in section 1720G(d) of title 38 shall apply, except that any reference in such definitions to a veteran or eligible veteran shall be deemed to be a reference to the member concerned.

''(2) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide assistance under this subsection—

''(A) in accordance with a memorandum of understanding entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense; and

''(B) in accordance with a memorandum of understanding entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Homeland Security (with respect to members of the Coast Guard).''.

(d) EXPANSION OF COVERED INJURIES AND ILLNESSES.—Subsection (i) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (b)(1) of this section, is amended to read as follows:

''(i) SERIOUS INJURY OR ILLNESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'serious injury or illness' means an injury, disorder, or illness (including traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma, or other mental disorder) that—

''(1) renders the afflicted person unable to carry out one or more activities of daily living;

''(2) renders the afflicted person in need of supervision or protection due to the manifestation by such person of symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury;

''(3) renders the afflicted person in need of regular or extensive instruction or supervision in completing two or more instrumental activities of daily living; or

''(4) otherwise impairs the afflicted person in such manner as the Secretary of Defense (or the Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the Coast Guard) prescribes for purposes of this section.''.

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading for such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 439. Special compensation: members of the uniformed services with serious injuries or illnesses requiring assistance in everyday living''.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 439 and inserting the following new item:

''439. Special compensation: members of the uniformed services with serious injuries or illnesses requiring assistance in everyday living.''.

SEC. 5. FLEXIBLE WORK ARRANGEMENTS FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED EMPLOYEE.—In this section, the term ''covered employee'' means an employee (as defined in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code) who—

(1) is a caregiver, as defined in section 1720G of title 38, United States Code; or

(2) is a caregiver of an individual who receives compensation under section 439 of title 37, United States Code.

(b) AUTHORITY TO ALLOW FLEXIBLE WORK ARRANGEMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management may promulgate regulations under which a covered employee may—

(1) use a flexible schedule or compressed schedule in accordance with subchapter II of chapter 61 of title 5, United States Code; or

(2) telework in accordance with chapter 65 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 6. LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2901 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ii) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively, and realigning the margins accordingly;

(B) by striking ''who requires care or supervision to—'' and inserting ''who—

''(A) requires care or supervision to—'';

(C) by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) is a veteran participating in the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under section 1720G of title 38, United States Code.''; and

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking ''or another unpaid adult,'' and inserting ''another unpaid adult, or a family caregiver as defined in section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, who receives compensation under such section,''.

(b) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Section 2902(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ii-1(c)) is amended by inserting ''and the interagency working group on policies relating to caregivers of veterans established under section 7 of the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2014'' after ''Human Services''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2905 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ii-4) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.''.

SEC. 7. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON CAREGIVER POLICY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be established in the executive branch an interagency working group on policies relating to caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces (in this section referred to as the ''working group'').

(b) COMPOSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The working group shall be composed of the following:

(A) A chair selected by the President.

(B) A representative from each of the following agencies or organizations selected by the head of such agency or organization:

(i) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

(ii) The Department of Defense.

(iii) The Department of Health and Human Services.

(iv) The Department of Labor.

(v) The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

(2) ADVISORS.—The chair may select any of the following individuals that the chair considers appropriate to advise the working group in carrying out the duties of the working group:

(A) Academic experts in fields relating to caregivers.

(B) Clinicians.

(C) Caregivers.

(D) Individuals in receipt of caregiver services.

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the working group are as follows:

(1) To regularly review policies relating to caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

(2) To coordinate and oversee the implementation of policies relating to caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

(3) To evaluate the effectiveness of policies relating to caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces, including programs in each relevant agency, by developing and applying specific goals and performance measures.

(4) To develop standards of care for caregiver services and respite care services provided to a caregiver, veteran, or member of the Armed Forces by a non-profit or private sector entity.

(5) To ensure the availability of mechanisms for agencies, and entities affiliated with or providing services on behalf of agencies, to enforce the standards described in paragraph (4) and conduct oversight on the implementation of such standards.

(6) To develop recommendations for legislative or administrative action to enhance the provision of services to caregivers, veterans, and members of the Armed Forces, including eliminating gaps in such services and eliminating disparities in eligibility for such services.

(7) To coordinate with State and local agencies and relevant non-profit organizations on maximizing the use and effectiveness of resources for caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2014, and annually thereafter, the chair of the working group shall submit to Congress a report on policies and services relating to caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the policies relating to caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces and services provided pursuant to such policies as of the date of submittal of such report.

(B) A description of any steps taken by the working group to improve the coordination of services for caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces among the entities specified in subsection (b)(1)(B) and eliminate barriers to effective use of such services, including aligning eligibility criteria.

(C) An evaluation of the performance of the entities specified in subsection (b)(1)(B) in providing services for caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

(D) An evaluation of the quality and sufficiency of services for caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces available from non-governmental organizations.

(E) A description of any gaps in care or services provided by caregivers to veterans or members of the Armed Forces identified by the working group, and steps taken by the entities specified in subsection (b)(1)(B) to eliminate such gaps or recommendations for legislative or administrative action to address such gaps.

(F) Such other matters or recommendations as the chair considers appropriate.

SEC. 8. STUDIES ON POST-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, VETERANS AND SERIOUSLY INJURED VETERANS.

(a) LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON POST-9/11 VETERANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide for the conduct of a longitudinal study on members of the Armed Forces who commenced service in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001.

(2) GRANT OR CONTRACT.—The Secretary shall award a grant to, or enter into a contract with, an appropriate entity unaffiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct the study required by paragraph (1).

(3) PLAN.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a plan for the conduct of the study required by paragraph (1).

(4) REPORTS.—Not later than October 1, 2019, and every four years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study required by paragraph (1) as of the date of such report.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON SERIOUSLY INJURED VETERANS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide for the conduct of a comprehensive study on the following:

(A) Veterans who have incurred a serious injury or illness, including a mental health injury.

(B) Individuals who are acting as caregivers for veterans.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The comprehensive study required by paragraph (1) shall include the following with respect to each veteran included in such study:

(A) The health of the veteran and, if applicable, the impact of the caregiver of such veteran on the health of such veteran.

(B) The employment status of the veteran and, if applicable, the impact of the caregiver of such veteran on the employment status of such veteran.

(C) The financial status and needs of the veteran.

(D) The use by the veteran of benefits available to such veteran from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(E) Any other information that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(3) GRANT OR CONTRACT.—The Secretary shall award a grant to, or enter into a contract with, an appropriate entity unaffiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct the study required by paragraph (1).

(4) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study required by paragraph (1).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 420—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6 THROUGH OCTOBER 12, 2014, AS ''NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK'' TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE IN PROVIDING SAFE, EFFECTIVE, AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. HARKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 420

Whereas, in the United States, more than 75 percent of health care costs are due to preventable chronic illnesses, including high blood pressure, which affects 88,000,000 people in the United States, and diabetes, which affects 26,000,000 people in the United States;

Whereas nearly ⅔ of adults in the United States are overweight or obese and, consequently, at risk for serious health conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, arthritis, and depression;

Whereas 70 percent of people in the United States experience physical or nonphysical symptoms of stress, and stress can contribute to the development of major illnesses, such as cardiovascular disease, depression, and diabetes;

Whereas the aforementioned chronic health conditions are among the most common, costly, and preventable health conditions;

Whereas naturopathic medicine provides noninvasive, holistic treatments that support the inherent self-healing capacity of the human body and encourage self-responsibility in health care;

Whereas naturopathic medicine focuses on patient-centered care, the prevention of chronic illnesses, and early intervention in the treatment of chronic illnesses;

Whereas naturopathic physicians attend 4-year, graduate level programs that are accredited by agencies approved by the Department of Education;

Whereas aspects of naturopathic medicine have been shown to lower the risk of major illnesses such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes;

Whereas naturopathic physicians can help address the shortage of primary care providers in the United States;

Whereas naturopathic physicians are licensed in 20 States and territories;

Whereas naturopathic physicians are trained to refer patients to conventional physicians and specialists when necessary;

Whereas the profession of naturopathic medicine is dedicated to providing health care to underserved populations; and

Whereas naturopathic medicine provides consumers in the United States with more choice in health care, in line with the increased use of a variety of integrative medical treatments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 6 through October 12, 2014, as ''Naturopathic Medicine Week'';

(2) recognizes the value of naturopathic medicine in providing safe, effective, and affordable health care; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to learn about naturopathic medicine and the role that naturopathic physicians play in preventing chronic and debilitating illnesses and conditions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 421—EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION OF THE SENATE FOR THE ACTS OF HEROISM AND MILITARY ACHIEVEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JUNE 6, 1944, AMPHIBIOUS LANDING AT NORMANDY, FRANCE, AND COMMENDING THEM FOR LEADERSHIP AND VALOR IN AN OPERATION THAT HELPED BRING AN END TO WORLD WAR II

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 421

Whereas June 6, 2014, marks the 70th anniversary of the Allied assault at Normandy, France, by American, British, and Canadian troops, which was known as Operation Overlord;

Whereas, before Operation Overlord, the German Army still occupied France and the Nazi government still had access to the raw materials and industrial capacity of Western Europe;

Whereas the naval assault phase on Normandy was codenamed ''Neptune'', and the June 6th assault date is referred to as D-Day to denote the day on which the combat attack was initiated;

Whereas the D-Day landing was the largest single amphibious assault in history, consisting of approximately 31,000 members of the United States Armed Forces, 153,000 members of the Allied Expeditionary Force, 5,000 naval vessels, and more than 11,000 sorties by Allied aircraft;

Whereas soldiers of 6 divisions (3 American, 2 British, and 1 Canadian) stormed ashore in 5 main landing areas on beaches in Normandy, which were code-named ''Utah'', ''Omaha'', ''Gold'', ''Juno'', and ''Sword'';

Whereas, of the approximately 10,000 Allied casualties incurred on the first day of the landing, more than 6,000 casualties were members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the age of the remaining World War II veterans and the gradual disappearance of any living memory of World War II and the Normandy landings make it necessary to increase activities intended to pass on the history of these events, particularly to younger generations;

Whereas the young people of Normandy and the United States have displayed unprecedented commitment to and involvement in celebrating the veterans of the Normandy landings and the freedom that they brought with them in 1944;

Whereas the significant material remains of the Normandy landing, such as shipwrecks and various items of military equipment found both on the Normandy beaches and at the bottom of the sea in French territorial waters, bear witness to the remarkable material resources used by the Allied Armed Forces to execute the Normandy landings;

Whereas 5 Normandy beaches and a number of sites on the Normandy coast, including Pointe du Hoc, were the scene of the Normandy landings, and constitute both now and for all time a unique piece of humanity's world heritage, and a symbol of peace and freedom, whose unspoilt nature, integrity, and authenticity must be protected at all costs; and

Whereas the world owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the ''greatest generation'' who assumed the task of freeing the world from Nazi and Fascist regimes and restoring liberty to Europe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 70th anniversary of the Allied amphibious landing on D-Day, June 6, 1944, at Normandy, France, during World War II;

(2) expresses gratitude and appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the D-Day operations;

(3) thanks the young people of Normandy and the United States for their involvement in recognizing and celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Normandy landings with the aim of making future generations aware of the acts of heroism and sacrifice performed by the Allied forces;

(4) recognizes the efforts of the Government of France and the people of Normandy to preserve, for future generations, the unique world heritage represented by the Normandy beaches and the sunken material remains of the Normandy landing, by inscribing them on the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List; and

(5) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and programs to honor the sacrifices of their fellow countrymen to liberate Europe.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, on June 6th, 1944, the brave men and women of the Allied Forces began the opening phase of Operation Overlord in an effort to break the Nazi stranglehold on Western Europe. On that early morning, 31,000 members of the United States Armed Forces, and 153,000 of their counterparts in the Allied Expeditionary Force, stormed ashore five landing areas on the beaches of Normandy, France, in what is known as D-Day. In that first day alone, approximately 10,000 allied soldiers were wounded or killed, including 6,000 Americans. Now, 70 years later, it remains our duty to remember the sacrifices made by the members of the ''greatest generation'' who answered the call of those being oppressed by the Nazi and Fascist regimes. In recognition of the incredible feats achieved by our veterans, the Parliament of the French Republic has asked to join us in the passage of an identical resolution in both bodies, honoring these sacrifices made in the name of liberty. As co-chairs of the Senate French Caucus, I have joined with Senator LANDRIEU to introduce this resolution to recognize the upcoming 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings and to express our gratitude and appreciation to the members of the U.S. Armed Forces who participated in these operations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 422—TO AUTHORIZE WRITTEN TESTIMONY, DOCUMENT PRODUCTION, AND REPRESENTATION IN MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS FOUNDATION, INC. V. UNITED STATES

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 422

Whereas, in the case of *Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Foundation, Inc. v. United States*, No. 09–568 C, pending in the United States Court of Federal Claims, the plaintiff has issued a subpoena for testimony and production of documents from Holly Luck, a former employee of Senator Baucus;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Holly Luck is authorized to provide written testimony and produce documents in the case of *Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Foundation, Inc. v. United States*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Holly Luck in connection with the written testimony and document production authorized by section 1 of this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2970. Mr. WARNER (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. PORTMAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 994, to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

SA 2971. Mr. WARNER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2970 proposed by Mr. WARNER (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. PORTMAN)) to the bill S. 994, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2970. Mr. WARNER (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. PORTMAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 994, to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014'' or the ''DATA Act''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31

U.S.C. 6101 note) by disclosing direct Federal agency expenditures and linking Federal contract, loan, and grant spending information to programs of Federal agencies to enable taxpayers and policy makers to track Federal spending more effectively;

(2) establish Government-wide data standards for financial data and provide consistent, reliable, and searchable Government-wide spending data that is displayed accurately for taxpayers and policy makers on USASpending.gov (or a successor system that displays the data);

(3) simplify reporting for entities receiving Federal funds by streamlining reporting requirements and reducing compliance costs while improving transparency;

(4) improve the quality of data submitted to USASpending.gov by holding Federal agencies accountable for the completeness and accuracy of the data submitted; and

(5) apply approaches developed by the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board to spending across the Federal Government.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''this Act'';

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as paragraphs (2), (4), and (7), respectively;

(iii) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.'';

(iv) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(3) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term 'Federal agency' has the meaning given the term 'Executive agency' under section 105 of title 5, United States Code.'';

(v) by inserting after paragraph (4), as so redesignated, the following:

''(5) OBJECT CLASS.—The term 'object class' means the category assigned for purposes of the annual budget of the President submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, to the type of property or services purchased by the Federal Government.

''(6) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term 'program activity' has the meaning given that term under section 1115(h) of title 31, United States Code.''; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Treasury.'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (3), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(ii) in paragraph (4), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) shall have the ability to aggregate data for the categories described in paragraphs (1) through (5) without double-counting data; and

''(7) shall ensure that all information published under this section is available—

''(A) in machine-readable and open formats;

''(B) to be downloaded in bulk; and

''(C) to the extent practicable, for automated processing.'';

(D) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(E) in subsection (e), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(F) in subsection (g)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(2) by striking sections 3 and 4 and inserting the following:

''SEC. 3. FULL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, and monthly when practicable but not less than quarterly thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall ensure that the information in subsection (b) is posted on the website established under section 2.

''(b) INFORMATION TO BE POSTED.—For any funds made available to or expended by a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency, the information to be posted shall include—

''(1) for each appropriations account, including an expired or unexpired appropriations account, the amount—

''(A) of budget authority appropriated;

''(B) that is obligated;

''(C) of unobligated balances; and

''(D) of any other budgetary resources;

''(2) from which accounts and in what amount—

''(A) appropriations are obligated for each program activity; and

''(B) outlays are made for each program activity;

''(3) from which accounts and in what amount—

''(A) appropriations are obligated for each object class; and

''(B) outlays are made for each object class; and

''(4) for each program activity, the amount—

''(A) obligated for each object class; and

''(B) of outlays made for each object class.

''SEC. 4. DATA STANDARDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—The Secretary and the Director, in consultation with the heads of Federal agencies, shall establish Government-wide financial data standards for any Federal funds made available to or expended by Federal agencies and entities receiving Federal funds.

''(2) DATA ELEMENTS.—The financial data standards established under paragraph (1) shall include common data elements for financial and payment information required to be reported by Federal agencies and entities receiving Federal funds.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The data standards established under subsection (a) shall, to the extent reasonable and practicable—

''(1) incorporate widely accepted common data elements, such as those developed and maintained by—

''(A) an international voluntary consensus standards body;

''(B) Federal agencies with authority over contracting and financial assistance; and

''(C) accounting standards organizations;

''(2) incorporate a widely accepted, nonproprietary, searchable, platform-independent computer-readable format;

''(3) include unique identifiers for Federal awards and entities receiving Federal awards that can be consistently applied Government-wide;

''(4) be consistent with and implement applicable accounting principles;

''(5) be capable of being continually upgraded as necessary;

''(6) produce consistent and comparable data, including across program activities; and

''(7) establish a standard method of conveying the reporting period, reporting entity, unit of measure, and other associated attributes.

''(c) DEADLINES.—

''(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, the Director and the Secretary shall issue guidance to Federal agencies on the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(2) AGENCIES.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, each Federal agency shall report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(3) WEBSITE.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, the Director and the Secretary shall ensure that the data standards established under subsection (a) are applied to the data made available on the website established under section 2.

''(d) CONSULTATION.—The Director and the Secretary shall consult with public and private stakeholders in establishing data standards under this section.

''SEC. 5. SIMPLIFYING FEDERAL AWARD REPORTING.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, recipients of Federal awards, including State and local governments, and institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall review the information required to be reported by recipients of Federal awards to identify—

''(1) common reporting elements across the Federal Government;

''(2) unnecessary duplication in financial reporting; and

''(3) unnecessarily burdensome reporting requirements for recipients of Federal awards.

''(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, the Director, or a Federal agency designated by the Director, shall establish a pilot program (in this section referred to as the 'pilot program') with the participation of appropriate Federal agencies to facilitate the development of recommendations for—

''(A) standardized reporting elements across the Federal Government;

''(B) the elimination of unnecessary duplication in financial reporting; and

''(C) the reduction of compliance costs for recipients of Federal awards.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The pilot program shall—

''(A) include a combination of Federal contracts, grants, and subawards, the aggregate value of which is not less than $1,000,000,000 and not more than $2,000,000,000;

''(B) include a diverse group of recipients of Federal awards; and

''(C) to the extent practicable, include recipients who receive Federal awards from multiple programs across multiple agencies.

''(3) DATA COLLECTION.—The pilot program shall include data collected during a 12-month reporting cycle.

''(4) REPORTING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each recipient of a Federal award participating in the pilot program shall submit to the Office of Management and Budget or the Federal agency designated under paragraph (1), as appropriate, any requested reports of the selected Federal awards.

''(5) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date on which the pilot program is established.

''(6) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the pilot program terminates under paragraph (5), the Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program, which shall include—

''(A) a description of the data collected under the pilot program, the usefulness of the data provided, and the cost to collect the data from recipients; and

''(B) a discussion of any legislative action required and recommendations for—

''(i) consolidating aspects of Federal financial reporting to reduce the costs to recipients of Federal awards;

''(ii) automating aspects of Federal financial reporting to increase efficiency and reduce the costs to recipients of Federal awards;

''(iii) simplifying the reporting requirements for recipients of Federal awards; and

''(iv) improving financial transparency.

''(7) GOVERNMENT-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director submits the report under paragraph (6), the Director shall issue guidance to the heads of Federal agencies as to how the Government-wide financial data standards established under section 4(a) shall be applied to the information required to be reported by entities receiving Federal awards to—

''(A) reduce the burden of complying with reporting requirements; and

''(B) simplify the reporting process, including by reducing duplicative reports.

''SEC. 6. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.

''(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Inspector General of each Federal agency, in consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States, shall—

''(A) review a statistically valid sampling of the spending data submitted under this Act by the Federal agency; and

''(B) submit to Congress and make publically available a report assessing the completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data sampled and the implementation and use of data standards by the Federal agency.

''(2) DEADLINES.—

''(A) FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the Director and the Secretary issue guidance to Federal agencies under section 4(c)(1), the Inspector General of each Federal agency shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1).

''(B) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—On the same date as the Inspector General of each Federal agency submits the second and fourth reports under sections 3521(f) and 9105(a)(3) of title 31, United States Code, that are submitted after the report under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1). The report submitted under this subparagraph may be submitted as a part of the report submitted under section 3521(f) or 9105(a)(3) of title 31, United States Code.

''(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2) and after a review of the reports submitted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and make publically available a report assessing and comparing the data completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data submitted under this Act by Federal agencies and the implementation and use of data standards by Federal agencies.

''(2) DEADLINES.—Not later than 30 months after the date on which the Director and the Secretary issue guidance to Federal agencies under section 4(c)(1), and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 4 years after the date on which the first report is submitted under this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1).

''(c) RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOARD DATA ANALYSIS CENTER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish a data analysis center or expand an existing service to provide data, analytic tools, and data management techniques to support—

''(A) the prevention and reduction of improper payments by Federal agencies; and

''(B) improving efficiency and transparency in Federal spending.

''(2) DATA AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall enter into memoranda of understanding with Federal agencies, including Inspectors General and Federal law enforcement agencies—

''(A) under which the Secretary may provide data from the data analysis center for—

''(i) the purposes set forth under paragraph (1);

''(ii) the identification, prevention, and reduction of waste, fraud, and abuse relating to Federal spending; and

''(iii) use in the conduct of criminal and other investigations; and

''(B) which may require the Federal agency, Inspector General, or Federal law enforcement agency to provide reimbursement to the Secretary for the reasonable cost of carrying out the agreement.

''(3) TRANSFER.—Upon the establishment of a data analysis center or the expansion of a service under paragraph (1), and on or before the date on which the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board terminates, and in addition to any other transfer that the Director determines is necessary under section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, there are transferred to the Department of the Treasury all assets identified by the Secretary that support the operations and activities of the Recovery Operations Center of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board relating to the detection of waste, fraud, and abuse in the use of Federal funds that are in existence on the day before the transfer.

''SEC. 7. CLASSIFIED AND PROTECTED INFORMATION.

''Nothing in this Act shall require the disclosure to the public of—

''(1) information that would be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act'); or

''(2) information protected under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Privacy Act of 1974'), or section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''SEC. 8. NO PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.

''Nothing in this Act shall be construed to create a private right of action for enforcement of any provision of this Act.''.

SEC. 4. EXECUTIVE AGENCY ACCOUNTING AND OTHER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS AND PLANS.

Section 3512(a)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and make available on the website described under section 1122'' after ''appropriate committees of Congress''.

SEC. 5. DEBT COLLECTION IMPROVEMENT.

Section 3716(c)(6) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' before ''Any Federal agency'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by striking ''180 days'' and inserting ''120 days''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) The Secretary of the Treasury shall notify Congress of any instance in which an agency fails to notify the Secretary as required under subparagraph (A).''.

SA 2971. Mr. WARNER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2970 proposed by Mr. WARNER (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. PORTMAN)) to the bill S. 994, to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 9, strike lines 17 through 21 and insert the following:

''(2) AGENCIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), not later than 2 years after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, each Federal agency shall report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(B) NONINTERFERENCE WITH AUDITABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by the Secretary of Defense, the Director may grant an extension of the deadline under subparagraph (A) to the Department of Defense for a period of not more than 6 months to report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(ii) LIMITATION.—The Director may not grant more than 3 extensions to the Secretary of Defense under clause (i).

''(iii) NOTIFICATION.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives of—

''(I) each grant of an extension under clause (i); and

''(II) the reasons for granting such an extension.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following bill: S. 2132, a bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, and for other purposes. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Keeping the Lights On—Are We Doing Enough to Ensure the Reliability and Security of the U.S. Electric Grid?''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, on April 10, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Expanding Access to Quality Early Learning: the Strong Start for America's Children Act''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 10, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SR–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''The President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled ''International Development Priorities in the FY 2015 Budget.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 10, 2014, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 10, 2014, at 3 p.m., to hold an European Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, ''Transatlantic Security Challenges: Central and Eastern Europe.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL AND CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 10, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Oversight of Small Agencies.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Brian Winseck, a detailee assigned to the Budget Committee from Senator WARNER's office, be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m. tomorrow, all postcloture time be yielded back and the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on Calendar No. 574; further, that following disposition of that nomination, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Executive Calendar No. 613, and that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be yielded back and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nomination; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 760, 761, 762, 763, and 764, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Coast Guard; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Coast Guard under title 14, U.S.C., section 271(d):

To be rear admiral

Linda L. Fagan
Thomas W. Jones
Steven D. Poulin
James E. Rendon

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. William D. Lee

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard

and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Charles W. Ray

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Charles D. Michel

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Commandant of the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 47:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Peter V. Neffenger

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE COAST GUARD

PN1357 COAST GUARD nominations (2) beginning RUBY L. COLLINS, and ending MICHAEL W. WAMPLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 16, 2014.

PN1358 COAST GUARD nominations (242) beginning William C. Adams, and ending Adam K. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 16, 2014.

PN1402 COAST GUARD nominations (6) beginning KEVIN J. LOPES, and ending MARIETTE C. OGG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

LEGAL AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 422.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 422) to authorize written testimony, document production, and representation in Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Foundation, Inc. v. United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a subpoena to a Senate employee in a civil action pending in the Court of Federal Claims. The plaintiff in this case is an organization serving as trustee for a trust set up by Congress, through legislation sponsored by Senator Max Baucus, to promote conservation and recreational use of land in Montana. The suit arises out of a dispute between plaintiff and the Department of the Interior over the Department's amendment of the trust agreement with plaintiff. As part of discovery in the case, plaintiff has issued a subpoena to Holly Luck, a former employee of then-Senator Baucus, seeking information and documents involving this matter.

This resolution would authorize Ms. Luck to provide written testimony and to produce documents from Senator Baucus's office, except where a privilege should be asserted, with representation by the Senate Legal Counsel.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 422) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Republican leader, pursuant to Public Law 113–76, the appointment of the following individuals to be members of the National Commissioner on Hunger: Spencer A. Coates of Kentucky and J. Russell Sykes of New York.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 4 p.m., Friday, April 11, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume executive session to consider the Friedland nomination postcloture, with the time until 5 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be up to three rollcall votes tomorrow at 5 p.m. The first vote will be on confirmation of the nomination of Michelle Friedland to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit. The next vote will be a cloture vote on the nomination of David Weil to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor, and the last vote will be on confirmation of the Weil nomination.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 4 P.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:05 p.m., adjourned until Friday, April 11, 2014, at 4 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ROBERT M. SPEER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE MARY SALLY MATIELLA, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

RAMIN TOLOUI, OF IOWA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE CHARLES COLLYNS, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JONATHAN NICHOLAS STIVERS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE NISHA DESAI BISWAL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ALICE G. WELLS, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

WILLIAM D. ADAMS, OF MAINE, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JAMES A. LEACH, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

NANCY B. FIRESTONE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

LYDIA KAY GRIGGSBY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE FRANCIS M. ALLEGRA, TERM EXPIRED.

THOMAS L. HALKOWSKI, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE LYNN JEANNE BUSH, TERM EXPIRED.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION INTO AND WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASSES INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR:

MICHAEL A. LALLY, OF PENNSYLVANIA

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

JAMES M. FLUKER, OF KANSAS
JAMES M. MCCARTHY, OF MARYLAND
JOHN E. SIMMONS, OF CALIFORNIA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

ANDREW J. BILLARD, OF CONNECTICUT
JOHN P. FAY, OF VIRGINIA
CATHERINE A. FEIG, OF TEXAS
MARSHA MCDANIEL, OF TEXAS
MEGAN A. SCHILDGEN, OF ILLINOIS

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DAVID E. AVERNE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JAY BIGGS, OF OHIO
MARTIN CLAESSENS, OF ILLINOIS
SARAH J. COOK, OF FLORIDA
RAFAEL A. PATINO, OF FLORIDA
BRENDA VANHORN, OF NEW YORK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS ONE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MELINDA MASONIS, OF MICHIGAN
SUSAN C. N'GARNIM, OF VIRGINIA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS TWO, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

THOMAS F. DOHERTY, OF FLORIDA
ANTHONY R. ETERNO, OF VIRGINIA
CATHERINE RODRIGUEZ, OF FLORIDA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

CAROLINE M. SCHNEIDER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DINA J. ABAA–OGLEY, OF CALIFORNIA
LESLIE ABITZ, OF WISCONSIN
KATHY ELIZABETH ADAMS, OF GEORGIA
ANA V. ADLER, OF FLORIDA
ERIC LOUIS ADLER, OF CALIFORNIA
MAZIN TERRY ALFAQIH, OF CALIFORNIA
ANGELA MONICA ALLEN, OF NEW JERSEY
KURT W. ALLRED, OF TEXAS
ADRIAN JOHN AMEN, OF OREGON
ANNE CLAIRE D. ANDAYA–NAUTS, OF TEXAS
STEVEN E. ANDERSON, OF TEXAS
MELANIA RITA ARREAGA, OF ILLINOIS
KRIS ARVIND, OF ILLINOIS
THOMAS OWEN ASH, OF TEXAS
ELIZABETH ATEGOU, OF ILLINOIS
CHRISTOPHER M. AUSDENMOORE, OF TENNESSEE
AARON M. BANKS, OF NEW YORK
MOHAMMAD F. BARGHOUTY, OF NEW YORK
JENNIFER BARNES KERNS, OF TEXAS
ROBERT EDWARD BARNEY, OF ARIZONA
DIANA MICHELLE BATES, OF COLORADO
THOMAS P. BENZ, OF VIRGINIA
NAZANIN BERARPOUR, OF CALIFORNIA
NAMITA SHAH BIGGINS, OF NORTH CAROLINA
DAVID A. BIGGS, OF TEXAS
ROBERT EDWARD BLAKESLEE, OF FLORIDA
BION NORTHAM BLISS, OF MARYLAND
PATRICK THOMAS BOLAND, OF VIRGINIA
JEANETTE KATHRYN BRACKETT, OF FLORIDA
DUSTIN WILLIAM BRADSHAW, OF HAWAII
JESSICA LYNN BRADSHAW, OF PENNSYLVANIA
BRIAN D. BRENDEL, OF MICHIGAN
MICHAEL A. BROOKE, OF CALIFORNIA
CAROLINE N. BROUN, OF MISSOURI
CHERONDA E. BRYAN, OF TEXAS
CYNTHIA T. BURLEIGH, OF FLORIDA
BLAKE EDWARD BUTLER, OF TEXAS
JUSTIN SCOTT BYTHEWAY, OF UTAH
KATHERINE E. CANTRELL, OF TEXAS
ROBERT CAVESE, OF OHIO
DANIEL CEDERBERG, OF TEXAS
ELIZABETH CERABINO–HESS, OF CALIFORNIA
JAMES CERVEN, OF VIRGINIA
MEREDITH L. CHAMPLIN, OF FLORIDA
ISABELLE CHAN, OF MINNESOTA
VANNA CHAN, OF MINNESOTA
MATTHEW GLENN CHOWN, OF CALIFORNIA
JACOB CHRIQUI, OF CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL HUGH COGNATO, OF PENNSYLVANIA
BRADLEY STEWART COLEY, OF TEXAS
JASON ERIC CONROY, OF IOWA
EDWARD JOSEPH COX, OF OREGON
SARAH CRANSTON, OF TEXAS
M. KELLY CULLUM, OF MARYLAND
KARLA A. DANIELS, OF CALIFORNIA
KEVIN GREGORY DAUCHER, OF ARIZONA
JAMESON LEE DEBOSE, OF NEBRASKA
DIANE C. DEL ROSARIO, OF NEW YORK
STUART RICHARD DENYER, OF VIRGINIA
NATHAN SHANE DETTMAN, OF UTAH
CHRISTOPHER DE VEER, OF NEW YORK
THEODORE E. DIEHL, OF CALIFORNIA
TABARI AHMED DOSSETT, OF CALIFORNIA
NATHAN T. DOYEL, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID DREILINGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BAYLOR MCKAY DUNCAN, OF VIRGINIA
JEANIE MARIE DUWAN, OF VIRGINIA
BRETT DVORAK, OF INDIANA
MELANIE L. EDWARDS, OF LOUISIANA
RACHEL EHRENDREICH, OF NEW YORK
EVAN ELLIOTT, OF COLORADO
JOEL ANTHONY ERWIN, OF TEXAS
SAMANTHE A. EULETTE, OF NEW YORK
DANIEL GLENN EVENSEN, OF UTAH
TRAVIS WALTON FEUERBACHER, OF CALIFORNIA
ADAM J. FIELDS, OF WASHINGTON
JEROME S. FIELDS, OF MINNESOTA
NICHOLAS CHARLES FIETZER, OF MINNESOTA
JOEL A. FIFIELD, OF UTAH
JAMES PATRICK FINAN, OF WASHINGTON
SAMUEL N. FONTELA, OF FLORIDA
BENJAMIN TODD FORD, OF VIRGINIA
ELIZABETH FRANKENFIELD, OF VIRGINIA
M. SHAYNE GALLAHER, OF KENTUCKY
PATRICK S. GAN, OF WASHINGTON
EUGENE GARMIZE, OF NEW YORK
PATRICK CHRISTOPHER GERAGHTY, OF FLORIDA
THOMAS MICHAEL GODDARD, OF MICHIGAN
ERIN LEIGH GORDON, OF OHIO
MONICA COLMENARES GRECO, OF FLORIDA
CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS GREEN, OF FLORIDA
DILLON MICHAEL GREEN, OF CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL GRIFFITH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LEWIS F. GROW, OF FLORIDA
KOFI GWIRA, OF NEW JERSEY
BERNADETTE REGINA HALAT, OF NEW YORK
BRIAN HALL, OF TEXAS
ERIK M. HALL, OF TEXAS
LYDIA S. HALL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MATTHEW ZAKIN HALLOWELL, OF NEW YORK
JOEL B. HANSEN, OF NEVADA
B. CAIN HARRELSON, JR., OF GEORGIA
JESSICA HARTZFELD, OF OHIO
LAILA MITCHELL HASAN, OF ARIZONA
NICHOLAS ADAM HASKO, OF WASHINGTON
JAMES LINDLEY HATHAWAY, OF MONTANA
JONATHAN LEIF HAYES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LARINA HELM KONOLD, OF IDAHO
NICHOLAS C. HERSH, OF PENNSYLVANIA
JOHN P. HESFORD, JR., OF VIRGINIA
EVA ELISE HOLM, OF WASHINGTON
MATTHEW M. HUGHES, OF PENNSYLVANIA
CHRISTOPHER NEIL HUNNICUTT, OF NORTH CAROLINA
KAREN E. HUNTRESS, OF MAINE
VI LUAT JACOBS-NHAN, OF WASHINGTON
BRYAN DAVID JANDORF, OF VIRGINIA
MARCUS GEORGE EDGAR JASONIDES, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
STEPHANIE ANGELA JENSBY, OF VIRGINIA
AMON O. JOHNSON, OF WASHINGTON
NOLEN JOHNSON, OF WISCONSIN
ROSS GORDON JOHNSTON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ELIZABETH YOUNG JONES, OF FLORIDA
MIN G. KANG, OF FLORIDA
AARON P. KARNELL, OF CALIFORNIA
MARGARET THOMSEN KATSUMI, OF MASSACHUSETTS
RICHARD P. KAUFMAN, OF TENNESSEE
MICHELLE MARGOT KAYSER, OF VERMONT
MAURA M. KENISTON, OF MARYLAND
ANNA M. KERNER ANDERSSON, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
KELLI KETOVER, OF FLORIDA
DANIEL A. KIEFER, OF FLORIDA
JULI S. KIM, OF TEXAS
KENDRA D. KIRKLAND, OF FLORIDA
ADAM C. KOTKIN, OF VIRGINIA
ELIZABETH E. KOZLOW, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL J. KREIDLER, OF FLORIDA
ANAND KRISHNA, OF CALIFORNIA
NANCY E. LAMANNA, OF CALIFORNIA
MARITA I. LAMB, OF PENNSYLVANIA
SONIA LAUL, OF TEXAS
ELIJAH PIA COCKETT LAWRENCE, OF UTAH
SUSAN BERNADETTE L'ECUYER, OF NEW JERSEY
YOUNG E. LEE, OF TEXAS
ERIKA REGINA LEWIS, OF ILLINOIS
NINA S. LEWIS, OF FLORIDA
FRANCESCA GRACE LICHAUCO, OF CALIFORNIA
ERIK D. LIEDERBACH, OF WISCONSIN
CHRISTINA F. LIM, OF VIRGINIA
JULIE M. LIMOGES, OF CONNECTICUT
JOHNNY J. LO, OF VIRGINIA
PETER CHARLES LOHMAN, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH KATHLEEN LONGBRAKE, OF OHIO
SARAH LUNDQUIST NUUTINEN, OF WISCONSIN
ANDERS EUGENE LYNCH, OF PENNSYLVANIA
STEPHEN C. MACLEOD, OF MARYLAND
MINTA ELAINE MADELEY, OF TEXAS
EVAN CAMPBELL MAHER, OF WASHINGTON
JOZANNE ML MALONEY, OF UTAH
JASON REID MARTIN, OF NEW YORK
LEAH ANN MARTIN, OF LOUISIANA
KENNETH W. MCBRIDE, OF MINNESOTA
KELLY RABELLO MCCALEB, OF VIRGINIA
RICK MCDANIEL, OF FLORIDA
MARGARET MCELLIGOTT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MEGHAN EMILY MCGILL, OF WASHINGTON
JOHN THORSEN MCKANE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ANSON PIERCE MCLELLAN, OF TEXAS
PETER JOSEPH MCSHARRY, OF MASSACHUSETTS
JONATHAN MARC MERMIS-CAVA, OF CALIFORNIA
PATRICK JOSEPH MERRILL, OF CALIFORNIA
GEORGE MARCELLUS MILLER, OF OKLAHOMA
SHAMIS MOHAMUD, OF VIRGINIA
MEAGHAN CHRISTINE MONFORT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STEPHANIE VAN HOFF MONIOT, OF FLORIDA
MICHELLE J. MORALES, OF FLORIDA
WILLIAM MORGAN, OF NEW JERSEY
AUDREY FERN STAMPER MOYER, OF VIRGINIA
BARBARA M. MOZDZIERZ, OF NEW YORK
TRAVIS J. MURPHY, OF KANSAS
MAUREEN D. MURRAY, OF OREGON
ALEXIS VESTA RUTH MUSSOMELI, OF WASHINGTON
LORENZO B. NEW III, OF FLORIDA
PHILIP DANIEL O'HARA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IFEOMA MARY FRANCES OKWUJE, OF MARYLAND
SERGEY OLHOVSKY, OF NEW JERSEY
KATHERINE EARHART ORDONEZ, OF GEORGIA
LUKE D. ORTEGA, OF ARIZONA
CLARE E. ORVIS, OF MASSACHUSETTS
ANDREW BELL PACELLI, OF ILLINOIS
GEOFFREY ADAM PARKER, OF VIRGINIA
MAREN ELIZABETH PAYNE-HOLMES, OF VIRGINIA
CHARLES JOHN PEREGO, OF PENNSYLVANIA
TIMOTHY M. PIERGALSKI, OF ILLINOIS
EITAN M. PLASSE, OF NEW YORK
LINDSEY MICHELE PLUMLEY, OF ARIZONA
REGIS PREVOT, OF MAINE
URFA QADRI, OF FLORIDA
MELISSA LEE QUARTELL, OF ILLINOIS
VENKATESH RAMACHANDRAN, OF FLORIDA
DARREL RICHARD RASMUSSEN, OF WISCONSIN
TOY INMAN REID, OF FLORIDA
NICHOLAS HICKSON REYNOLDS, OF VIRGINIA
AUSTIN R. RICHARDSON, OF COLORADO
MICHAEL KEITH RITCHIE, OF VIRGINIA
PETER JEROME RITTER, OF MINNESOTA
BRENDAN M. RIVAGE-SEUL, OF TEXAS
DANE RALPH ROBBINS, OF TENNESSEE
ERIN S. ROBERTSON, OF ALASKA
DAVID BIANCO ROCHFORD, OF LOUISIANA
GRIFFIN T. ROZELL, OF TEXAS
AARON J. RYAN, OF MINNESOTA
BRIGID J. RYAN, OF MARYLAND
RAPHAEL SAMBOU, OF CALIFORNIA
LAURA MARIE SANTINI, OF MINNESOTA
MICAH M. SAVIDGE, OF PENNSYLVANIA
GEORGINA SCARLATA, OF VIRGINIA
HEIDI J. SCHELLENGER, OF MAINE
RICHARD E. SCHILLING, JR., OF TENNESSEE
STACY MICHELLE SESSION, OF COLORADO
SOLMAZ SHARIFI, OF CALIFORNIA
SUCHETA SHARMA, OF GEORGIA
ADAM HARRIS SIGELMAN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ADAM SILVER, OF NEW JERSEY
PETER T. SLOAN, OF VIRGINIA
AMY L. SMITH, OF WISCONSIN
SAMANTHA H. SMITH, OF OREGON
TIMOTHY J. SMITH, OF WASHINGTON
KERRI P. SPINDLER-RANTA, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
RAJ SRIRAM, OF NEW YORK
WILLIAM A. STARK, OF ARKANSAS
JACOB DARYL STEVENS, OF WASHINGTON
ROBERT MURRAY STEVENS, OF FLORIDA
MAXWELL HARPER STONEMAN, OF UTAH
WALLACE FRANKLIN STURM III, OF ILLINOIS
DAWN MICHELLE SUNI, OF FLORIDA
DAVID ALLEN SWALLEY, OF CALIFORNIA
MARK TEMPLER, OF ARIZONA
MIA TER HAAR, OF CALIFORNIA
CHRISTINA IRENE TILGHMAN, OF VIRGINIA
JAY B. TRELOAR, OF FLORIDA
JULIUS N. TSAI, OF VIRGINIA
AMANDA JEAN TYSON, OF VIRGINIA
SHARI LEE ULERY, OF COLORADO
MATTHEW CARL UNDERWOOD, OF CALIFORNIA
ANDREEA DANIELA URSU, OF VIRGINIA
ADAM K. VANDERVORT, OF VIRGINIA
PHILLIP J. VANHORN, OF TEXAS
LISA NUCH VENBRUX, OF PENNSYLVANIA
JESSE FREIMAN VICTOR, OF FLORIDA
KEVIN JAKOB VOGEL, OF TEXAS
MELISSA DAATON VONHINKEN, OF VIRGINIA
JUSTIN THOMAS WALLS, OF TEXAS
CODY CANTWELL WALSH, OF NEW YORK
DAVID M. WALTER, OF TEXAS
CHRISTOPHER DANIEL WALTON, OF CALIFORNIA
JONATHAN M. WEADON, OF MARYLAND
NATHAN WEBBER, OF UTAH
MATTHEW B. WEST, OF VIRGINIA
SEAN PATRICK WHALEN, OF TEXAS
STEFAN ROBERT WHITNEY, OF NEW YORK
SETH AARON WIKAS, OF OHIO
NATALIE WILKINS, OF COLORADO
BENJAMIN STEVEN WILLIAMS, OF TEXAS
MATTHEW JAMES WILSON, OF UTAH
CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH WILZ, OF CALIFORNIA
JEREMY R. WISEMILLER, OF FLORIDA
SAM WORLAND-ESQUITH, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DANA SCOTT ADKINS, OF VIRGINIA
JULIE PETERS AKEY, OF VIRGINIA
SANDI R. B. ALLAWAY, OF OREGON
CHRISTOPHER N. ALLEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LINA ANDERSON, OF VIRGINIA
ANTOINE ABI ANTOUN, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL T. AZZARELLA, OF VIRGINIA
NARAYAN BADHEY, OF NEW YORK
EMILY S. BAKER, OF VIRGINIA
ALISON FLANIGAN BASSI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DANIEL JAMES BEAUCHAMP, OF ARIZONA
SARAH M. BELOUSOV, OF FLORIDA
WILLIAM C. BLISS, JR., OF VIRGINIA
JAMES S. BLITZET, OF VIRGINIA
ANDRA BONET, OF VIRGINIA
STRAUN WOLFE BOSTON, OF CALIFORNIA
MARISSA BRADLEY, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
MATTHEW D. BRAVO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SHANNON MARIE BRINK, OF COLORADO
ANTHONY BROSNAN, OF MISSOURI
ERIC W. BROWN, OF VIRGINIA
TUCKER AVINGTON BROWN, OF GEORGIA
ALEJANDRO BULNES, OF VIRGINIA
JOEL A. BURGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PETER DAVID BURGESS, OF WASHINGTON
BRYAN THOMAS BURKE, OF VIRGINIA
ALAN M. BURRIS, OF VIRGINIA
JAMES D. BURRISS, OF VIRGINIA
SADE D. CAMPBELL, OF VIRGINIA
FRANK A. CARDAMONE IV, OF MARYLAND
EDWARD SCOTT CARDEN, OF TEXAS
OLGA TERESA CARDENAS, OF VIRGINIA
TIMOTHY RYAN CARPENTER, OF TEXAS
BRIAN CARR, OF VIRGINIA
THOMAS G. CECIL, OF KENTUCKY
BRYAN CHAMBERLAIN, OF UTAH
REMONA G. CHARLES, OF VIRGINIA
PETER H. CHENG, OF VIRGINIA
HAT NIM CHOI, OF VIRGINIA
DARIN CHRISTENSEN, OF OREGON
VINCENT GABRIEL CILLI, OF PENNSYLVANIA
ADAM R. COLVIN, OF ALABAMA

EDWARD J. DANIELSON, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTOPHER SEAN DAVEY, OF VIRGINIA
RENE P. DAVIDSON, OF VIRGINIA
CRAIG DENNISON, OF IOWA
PATRICK G. DIGNAN, OF FLORIDA
ROBERT EDWARD DILLON, OF VIRGINIA
COLIN JOHN DONOVAN, OF WISCONSIN
DANIEL W. EBERT, OF TEXAS
KEVIN GERARD ELLERBROCK, OF OHIO
MARK L. EVANS, OF TENNESSEE
MARK FERULLO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MANDY ZHANG FEUERBACHER, OF CALIFORNIA
NEIL PATRICK FINNEGAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS
JOHN R. FINNELL, OF MASSACHUSETTS
MARGARET A. FISHER, OF CALIFORNIA
PATRICK M. FITZGERALD, OF VIRGINIA
KEITH L. FLICK, OF VIRGINIA
DARIN M. FOSTER, OF NEW MEXICO
ANNA V. FRAVEL, OF VIRGINIA
MONIKA J. GALVYDIS, OF VIRGINIA
DANIELA GARRETON PEREZ, OF CALIFORNIA
STACY ANN GORDONI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
TRACY ANNE MILLER GOSAR, OF VIRGINIA
BRANDON S. GRIFFITHS, OF CONNECTICUT
VIKRAM GUPTA, OF VIRGINIA
PHILLIP MAX GUTHRIE, OF TEXAS
TARA N. HALL, OF KANSAS
JOSEPH HARBOUK, OF VIRGINIA
BRIAN NASH HARDESTY, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL M. HARMON, OF NEW YORK
KELLY E. HARRINGTON, OF VIRGINIA
KELLY LYNN HART, OF RHODE ISLAND
MARCO A. HERNANDEZ, OF TEXAS
CONOR D. HICKTON, OF VIRGINIA
STEPHANIE A. HICKTON, OF VIRGINIA
TRAVIS C. HIGGINS, OF VIRGINIA
LEE ANDREW HILGARTNER, OF ALASKA
RACHEL C. HINES, OF MARYLAND
DENNIE HOOPINGARNER, OF MICHIGAN
WILLIAM CHARLES HOPE, OF WASHINGTON
JENNIFER N. HUBBARD, OF VIRGINIA
ARIEL ANGELA HUERTA, OF CALIFORNIA
CHELSEA LYNNE HUTCHINSON, OF ILLINOIS
TODD ALAN JURKOWSKI, OF FLORIDA
COURTNEY M. KAPLIN, OF VIRGINIA
ALAN D. KATZ, OF FLORIDA
DIVYA D. KHOSLA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ERICA G. KIEHL, OF VIRGINIA
KRISTIN E. KIEL, OF VIRGINIA
YURI P. KIM, OF VIRGINIA
GAIL LANE-GRIFFITH KIRTLEY, OF MARYLAND
NICHOLAS ANTHONY KLINGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ANASTASIA MAE KOLIVAS, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ABRAHAM Y. LEE, OF MARYLAND
JOSHUA LEE, OF VIRGINIA
RANDY C. LEE, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW G. LEYVA, OF VIRGINIA
PATRICK J. LOMBARDO, OF MICHIGAN
DAVID J. LONGENECKER, OF VIRGINIA
KRISTIN M. LUNDBERG, OF VIRGINIA
MATTHEW MAJERNIK, OF MARYLAND
CALEB K. MAK, OF WASHINGTON
FAITH KROEKER MAUS, OF MINNESOTA
SEAN D. MCGINNIS, OF PENNSYLVANIA
THOMAS J. MCGOWAN, OF VIRGINIA
LAURA B. MCINTYRE, OF VIRGINIA
ROCHELLE L. MCMURRAY, OF VIRGINIA
TIMOTHY SIMON MCNALLY, OF ILLINOIS
GARHETT GRAHAM MECHAM, OF MARYLAND
OMAR W. MEDINA, OF MARYLAND
KEVIN ANDREW MILES, OF KANSAS
KENNETH C. MILLEN, OF FLORIDA
KEVIN B. MILLS, OF VIRGINIA
ADNAN SUNNY MITHANI, OF TEXAS
BRYAN S. MONTEITH, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID E. MOORE, OF CALIFORNIA
CYNTHIA MORENO, OF TEXAS
ROBERT R. MORTON II, OF VIRGINIA
CHELSEA E. MOTTER, OF VIRGINIA
LAURA A. MURPHY, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW R. NELSEN, OF VIRGINIA
KEITH C. NELSON, OF VIRGINIA
COURTNEY E. NICOLAISEN, OF VIRGINIA
FRED FURAT ODISHO, OF ILLINOIS
MICHAEL ARI OSKIN, OF ILLINOIS
ANDREW H. PAGE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
RICHARD J. PARR, OF TEXAS
LYNN M. PARTIK, OF VIRGINIA
KURT PEARSON, OF WASHINGTON
RICHARD E. PINKHAM, OF OHIO
NATHAN MARC PINKUS, OF FLORIDA
CHRISTOPHER JAMES PISTULKA, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
CALEB PORTNOY, OF MASSACHUSETTS
JUSTIN MICHAEL PRAIRIE, OF MARYLAND
PAIGE LINCOLN THORNER PUNTSO, OF VIRGINIA
STACI RAAB, OF VIRGINIA
STEPHANIE L. REMAR, OF VIRGINIA
RYAN M. REYNOLDS, OF UTAH
CHARLES LEWIS RIDLEY, OF FLORIDA
ROYAL S. RIPLEY, OF FLORIDA
JUDD L. ROBERTSON, OF VIRGINIA
BRITTANY ELIZABETH ROGERSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
RANDY L. ROOT, OF VIRGINIA
SEAN WHITING RUTHE, OF TEXAS
ANDREA MARIE SANTORO, OF GEORGIA
STEPHEN E. SAWKA, OF PENNSYLVANIA
MARK JOHN SCHAVER, OF KENTUCKY
BRITTANY A. SCHICK, OF OKLAHOMA
KATHRYNE SCHILLING, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DONALD R. SEMON, OF CONNECTICUT
DAMON SEXTON, OF VIRGINIA
AMELIA SHAW, OF NEW YORK
CRYSTAL SHERIDAN, OF VIRGINIA
NABIL SIDDIQI, OF VIRGINIA
GENEVIEVE C. SIEBENGARTNER, OF OREGON
NICHOLAS SHEAHAN SIEGEL, OF VIRGINIA
HANNAH SIN, OF CALIFORNIA
RICHARD N. SLOANE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JEFFREY SPOON, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH RACHEL STEPHENS, OF OKLAHOMA
FREDERICK W. THIELKE, OF VIRGINIA
SCOTT C. TUTTLE, OF NEW YORK
CHRIS J. TYLER, OF MARYLAND
MATTHEW THOMAS VAN WAES, OF NEW YORK
OREN VARNAI, OF MARYLAND
JEREMY VENTUSO, OF CALIFORNIA
HEATHER E. WADSWORTH, OF VIRGINIA
JOSHUA W. WALKER, OF VIRGINIA
MERRY MICHELLE WALKER, OF MICHIGAN
BART J. WALKINS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JESSICA E. WARDER, OF FLORIDA
MICHAEL Y. WARDER, JR., OF FLORIDA
MICHELLE KRISTINE WARREN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
KATHRYN WESTLUND, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOEL R. WILLETT, OF KENTUCKY
CALDWELL R. WILLIG, OF KENTUCKY
NICOLAS ROBERT WISECARVER, OF VIRGINIA
SHIRLENE YEE, OF ARIZONA
VERA ZDRAVKOVA, OF IDAHO
DA YU ZHAO, OF VIRGINIA
JEFFREY R. ZIHLMAN, OF VIRGINIA

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. SAMUEL A. GREAVES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN F. THOMPSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. LEE E. PAYNE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. WARREN D. BERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JON A. NORMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. RICKY N. RUPP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. WALTER J. LINDSLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8081:

To be major general

COL. ROOSEVELT ALLEN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. RICHARD W. KELLY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CARLTON D. EVERHART II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DARRYL L. ROBERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ELLEN M. PAWLIKOWSKI

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. KAREN E. DYSON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MATHIAS W. WINTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. THOMAS W. LUSCHER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) ERIC C. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KEITH M. JONES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JANET R. DONOVAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MARTHA E. G. HERB
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN F. WEIGOLD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) ALTHEA H. COETZEE
REAR ADM. (LH) VALERIE K. HUEGEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) BRIAN B. BROWN
REAR ADM. (LH) SEAN R. FILIPOWSKI
REAR ADM. (LH) BRETT C. HEIMBIGNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPTAIN KEVIN C. HAYES
CAPTAIN DANIEL B. HENDRICKSON
CAPTAIN THOMAS G. RECK
CAPTAIN LINDA R.D. WACKERMAN
CAPTAIN MATTHEW A. ZIRKLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) SEAN S. BUCK
REAR ADM. (LH) MARK W. DARRAH
REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL M. GILDAY
REAR ADM. (LH) JEFFREY A. HARLEY
REAR ADM. (LH) KEVIN J. KOVACICH
REAR ADM. (LH) DIETRICH H. KUHLMANN III
REAR ADM. (LH) VICTORINO G. MERCADO
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN C. SCORBY, JR.
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN W. SMITH, JR.
REAR ADM. (LH) RICHARD P. SNYDER
REAR ADM. (LH) SCOTT A. STEARNEY
REAR ADM. (LH) JOSEPH E. TOFALO

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

SCOTT A. RABER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

MARK D. LEVIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

JEREMY P. GARLICK
DERICK A. SAGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

TONYA Y. WHITE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DANIEL L. ROSERA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JASON E. OBRIEN
ERIK D. RUDIGER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

STANLEY F. ZEZOTARSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ERIC S. COMETTE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

WILLIAM D. SWENSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

GREGORY R. SHEPARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

DAVID F. CAPORICCI
JAMES G. JONES
LARRY M. PINKERTON, JR.
WILLIAM C. REITEMEYER
CHRISTOPHER L. SELVEY
TYLER B. SMITH
DAVID J. UNDERWOOD
ERIC G. WISHART

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

STEPHEN R. ABRAMS
LEONEL B. ACOBA
VASILIOS AGAPIOS
PAUL W. ALDAYA
DANIEL R. ALEXANDER
CHRISTOPHER R. ALLEN
NATASJA K. ALLEN
CARLOS D. ALVAREZ
MATTHEW D. APOSTOL
CHRISTOPHER M. ARDOHAIN
BRYAN B. AULT
ALEXANDER D. BAILEY
SCOTT M. BAILEY
BRIAN M. BAPTIST
JODY L. BARTH
TRISH A. BASILE
JENNIFER L. BATES
TIFFANY R. BATISTE
SCOTT A. BEAL
BRIAN R. BECK
RACHEL K. BECK
DAVID R. BEERS, JR.
JOHN R. BELANGER
LAUREN J. BELL
PATRICK J. BELL
MICHAEL G. BENNER
WILLIAM R. BENNETT
BRADFORD M. BETHEA II
PAUL M. BISHOP
CHRISTOPHER S. BIZOR
CHARLES L. BONDURANT
JEFFREY M. BONHEIM
JONATHAN S. BORDERS
DWAYNE E. BOWDEN
SAMUEL J. BOYD
ALAN R. BOYES
CRAIG A. BREWER
TIMOTHY M. BROOKS
QUENTIN L. BROWN
TERRENCE T. BRUNO
DOLORES R. BRYANT
KRISTEN M. BUMCROT
MARREO T. BURCH
DAX E. BURROUGHS
SPENCER R. CALDER
CHRISTOPHER N. CAMPBELL
DANIEL C. CANCHOLA
GLEN E. CARR II
PAUL M. CARROLL
JERMAINE A. CARTER
JOHNATHAN N. CARTER
RONALD A. CARTER
DANIEL D. CASTLE
RAYLEE D. CAVAZOSCAVASIER
CHANEL M. CHAMBERLIN
KENYARDA A. CHAMBERS
ALICIA R. CHAPMAN
REBECCA B. CHARLES
CHRISTOPHER J. CHRISTIANA
WOOWON CHUNG
BARRIE J. CIOTTI
ROBERT W. CLARKE, JR.
TRICIA M. CLARKE
MARC D. CLEVELAND
SAMUEL E. CLONCH
GARRETT A. CLOSE
LOUIS D. COGSWELL
RYAN E. COLLINS
SERGIO CONTRERAS, JR.
JAMES R. COOKE
MICHAEL P. COOKE
DAVID R. COOPER
STEPHEN T. COPPEDGE
CHAD D. CORBIN
DANNY P. CORNEJO
DAVID L. CORNELIUS
NANCY I. CORTES
BRENT P. COURTNEY
WAYNE J. DAHL, JR.
JEFFREY A. DALEY
JASON K. DAVIDSON
EVAN R. DAVIES
KRISHNA L. DAVIS
MICHAEL R. DAVIS
WILLIAM J. DENN
BRIAN A. DEVLIN
AMANDA G. DODD
CHRISTOPHER A. DRERUP
DUSTIN W. DURST
JORDAN J. EARLEY
ADAM R. EATON
NOAH A. EMERYMORRIS
D S. EPSTEIN
CRYSTAL D. ERNST
SAMUEL O. FADARE
TERRANCE E. FAVAROTH
ERIN L. FELLA
AARON J. FERGUSON
MATTHEW D. FERGUSON
JEFFREY R. FIELDS
SLOAN C. FISK
AARON S. FLETCHER
MARAEA M. A. FLUKER
MATTHEW J. FONTAINE
NICHOLAS R. FORLENZA
STEVEN L. FOSTER
JEREMY J. FOX
MICHAEL A. FRAAS
ANDREW E. FULTON
BRANDON M. FULTON
THOMAS S. FURMAN
THOMAS L. GAINES
KELLEY L. GALLOWAY
ARTURO M. GARCIA, JR.
ANDREW D. GARDNER
VITALY D. GELFGAT
DANIEL J. GERSHEY
SARAH E. GET
WALTER A. GIBBONS
ANDREW D. GIESEY
MICHAEL A. GLOVER
BENJAMIN W. L. GONG
EDUARDO A. GONZALEZ
JUSTIN S. GRATZEL
EDWARD W. GREEN, JR.
KYLE A. GREENBERG
ROBERT L. GRIER
ANDREW Z. GRIMES
ALFRED W. GRISSIM, JR.
MATTHEW P. GROSS
ALLAN C. GRYSKEWICZ
JASON C. HALL
JEFFREY R. HAMER
GREGORY I. HAMILTON
DAVID L. HAMLIN
MATTHEW D. HARDY
STEPHEN B. HARKER
MICHAEL S. HARMISON
BRIAN J. HARRIS
CLYDE D. HARRIS
MARK R. HASEMAN
WALTER G. HEDRICK IV
MICHELLE A. HENDERSON
STEPHANIE D. HENDERSON
WILLIAM J. HENNESSY
THOMAS M. HICKEY
ANDREW J. HIGHTOWER
DRUANN HILL
JASON C. HILLMAN
NICHOLAS J. HITT
MAURIO S. HOLSTON
NICHOLAS M. HOLTZ
CLARISA A. HORTON
PAUL E. HOUK
DANIEL R. HUDALLA
EDWARD A. HUDSON
BLAKE K. HUFF
DAVID S. HULSE
TAMAR N. HURDITT
JASON P. HUSSEY
SCOTT A. HUTCHISON
SHAMEKA T. HYDER
OTIS J. INGRAM
JOSEPH L. JACKSON
JOSEPH A. JAUNICH
NICHOLAS D. JEFFERSON
JACOB M. JENDREY
SPENGER JEUNE
ANDREW R. JOHNSON
JUSTIN L. JOHNSON
MATTHEW J. JOHNSON
TIMOTHY M. JONES
STEPHEN J. JOOSTEN
TODD C. JUSTICE
LINCOLN L. KAFFENBERGER
BRIAN P. KALAHER
MUSTAFA KAMALREZA
ISSA KAMARA
BARCLAY D. KEAY
ROBERT D. KEELER
CHRISTOPHER J. KEGEL
LEJUANA L. KEHL
NICHOLAS A. KEIPPER
EVAN B. KELLY
ANDREW R. KEMP
BRITNEY E. KENNEDY
DARREN J. KERR
BENJAMIN J. KIM
JACOB J. KIM
DANIEL J. KOEPKE
JAMES P. KOLKY
NICHOLAS J. KRANITES
MICHAEL W. KUMMERER
MERLIN J. KYNASTON
DANIEL P. LAAKSO
TIMOTHY W. LAMBERT
JAMES M. LAMBRIGHT
ERIK J. LAMPE
BRIAN S. LANEY
CHRISTOPHER M. LAREAU
TIMOTHY H. LAWRENCE
COLIN L. LAYNE
BRIAN G. LEBIEDNIK
ANDREW J. LEE
PAUL H. LEE
NATHAN A. LEPPERT
CHRISTOPHER S. LILL
JOSHUA B. LIMBERG
NICHOLAS R. LINSE
JESSAMYN J. LIU
JOHN C. LIVINGSTON
PETERO LOLE
JAMIE C. LONG
LEE C. LORENZ
IZABELLA LUNDY
KYLE R. LUOMA
PAUL A. LUSHENKO
SANTINO A. MAFFEI
RYAN J. MANN
MARVIN S. MARK
WILLIAM N. MARMION
DAVID W. MATHEW
DEAN A. MATHIS
MICHELLE S. MCCARROLL
QUENTIN D. MCCART
RICHARD J. MCCUAN
JOSHUA L. MCDONALD
TIMOTHY M. MCGEE
PAUL MCKNIGHT
JOSHUA S. MEADOR
GILBERT C. MENDOZA
JOSHUA A. MENDOZA
SAUL MEREJO
JASON W. MERRIMAN
RICARDO MEZA
RICHARD K. MICHEL
GREGORY J. MINETOS
TABBER N. MINTZ
TYLER J. MITCHELL
TYRONE A. MOORE
JASON R. MORALES
MALIKAH S. MORGAN
MARCUS A. MORGAN
EROL K. MUNIR
RYAN M. NEELY
FRANCIS S. NELSON
RUSSELL J. NELSON
RYAN M. NELSON
UCHENNA K. NJOKU

PRISCELLA A. NOHLE
CHRISTIAN S. W. NOUMBA
SAMUEL E. NUXOLL
JOHN M. OLIVER
COURTNEY R. OLSON
KYLE D. PACKARD
JENNIFER R. PARKER
NATHAN L. PARKER
DAVID S. PARSONS
JOSHUA J. PASSER
EDWARD D. PATTERSON
STEVEN P. PATTERSON
BRANDON H. PAYNE
MICHAEL J. PEDERSON
DANIEL P. PESATURE
DAVID J. PETERSON
SPENCER W. PHILLIPS
TIFFANY L. PHILLIPS
NICHOLAS B. PICKFORD
MATTHEW J. PICKLE
FRANTZ PIERRE
THOMAS C. PLANT
FRANCISCO R. POLZIN
ERIC F. PRAZINKO
AARON M. PROBST
JOELLE S. QUIAPO
CHRISTOPHER J. RANKIN
ANDREW J. RAYMOND
FRANK D. REMILLARD
AARON J. RETTKE
JOEL W. RHEA
BRANDON W. RICHARDS
PAUL F. RICKMEYER
DANIEL W. RIESENBERGER
ROBERT D. RIGGS
AARON S. RITZEMA
JEAN F. RIVERAGARCIA
ELIEZER D. RIVERALOPEZ
ANGEL L. ROBLES
DAVID G. RODRIGUEZ
JESUS S. RODRIGUEZ
VIVIANA RODRIGUEZ
STEPHANIE ROGERS
DAVID ROKHLIN
MARTIN R. ROSARIO
JAMES F. ROSEBERY
JERWIN P. RUAZOL
COREY H. RUCKDESCHEL
JOSEPH D. RUHL
KEVIN M. RYAN
BENJAMIN J. RYDER
SIMON D. SANCHEZ
ANDREW R. SANDSTRUM
RANDY C. SCHNELL
RAYMOND C. SCHULTZ
JOSHUA D. SCHULZ
JASON H. SEALES
KERRIE M. SECOND
DONALD E. SEDIVY
RYAN M. SEE
BENJAMIN J. SEIBERT
MICHAEL D. SEMINELLI
REZA SHAMS
MICHELLE L. SHARP
VICTOR M. SHEPHERD
JASON J. SHERRILL
CHRISTOPHER E. SHERWOOD
WILLIAM J. SHIELDS
HEIDI B. SHIRLEY
ERIC J. SIDIO
JASON T. SILER
MICHAEL P. SILVERMAN
CHRISTOPHER W. SIMS
ARKORN SINGHASENI
DAVID P. SINON
JESSE L. SKATES
TAD A. SLATTER
CAROL M. SMITH
KEVIN R. SMITH
PHILIP J. SMITH
VALARIE A. SOLIS
CAMERO K. W. SONG
TIMOTHY P. SORENSEN
STEVEN K. SOUZA
WILLIE C. SPENCER II
CHRISTOPHER M. STACY
CASSANDRA L. STALL
JAMES J. STALL
ROBIN A. STARK
AUSTIN T. STARKEN
CRAIG D. STARN
BERRY M. STATON
BRITTIANE V. STATON
ZACHARY M. STAUDTER
PATRICK R. STAUFFER
JONATHAN D. STJOHN
ERIC R. STOLLE
DANIEL S. SUMMERS
ERIC A. SWETT
JEFFREY S. SWINFORD
DERRICK N. SYED
CALVIN W. TAETZSCH
JONATHAN C. TAYLOR
JASON P. TEMPLET
WILBERT E. THIBODEAUX III
DONALD W. THOMAS
RODNEY J. THOMAS
KATIE L. THOMEN
LYNDSEY L. THOMPSON
MATTHEW K. THOMPSON
ARTURO A. TIBAYAN
AUDREY T. TIUMALU
DARIA A. TOLER
TREVER P. TOLER
KENNETH E. TORRES
DAVID K. TOY
JASON A. TURNER
NICHOLAS R. TURNER
MICHAEL A. VALENTINE
CHARLES M. VANOTTEN
DOUGLAS R. VASQUEZ
MARC C. VIELLEDENT
MICHAEL D. VILLALOBOS
PATRICK S. WACHUTKA
CHRISTOPHER S. WADSWORTH
CHRISTOPHER J. WAGENER
JOSEPH W. WALKER
JOSHUA R. WALKER
MARLON A. WALKER
SAMUEL M. WALKER
SCOTT D. WARES
MATTHEW D. WATERFIELD
JAMES B. WEAKLEY
ANNAH M. WEAVER
BRITTANY L. WEIGHTMAN
BRYANT A. WELLMAN
ASHLEY E. WELTE
RYAN M. WEMPE
BRENDAN T. WENTZ
MATTHEW C. WESMILLER
EVAN M. WESTGATE
KIRA C. WEYRAUCH
SARAH M. WHITTEN
ROBERT H. WIDMYER
GREGORY M. WILHELM
AARON A. WILLIAMS
ANTHONY WILLIAMS
JAMILA N. WILLIAMS
SIDNEY I. WILSON
STEPHANIE J. WILSON
KEVIN D. WINFREY
GREGORY R. WORTMAN
JON I. WRIGHT
DONGSHENG XIE
SONG H. YI
DANIEL L. ZIMMERMAN
CHAD M. ZINNECKER
D011223
D011702
D011782
D011862
D011871
D012050
G010127
G010129
G010228
G010232
G010257

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ISAIAH C. ABBOTT
LEONARD D. J. ACQUISTAPACE
JACOB P. ADDY
ADEBAYO T. ADELEKE
HENRY J. AGUIGUI
KWAME O. AGYEMANG
RAYMOND D. AKERS
JOHN H. ALBRIGHT
JAMES I. ALFARO
ELLIS E. ALLEN III
JEREMY W. ALLIE
MARRIO A. ALMADA
AUBREY R. ASHFORD
JERMAINE A. ATHILL
JASON C. ATKINSON
STEVEN J. AUSTIN
LEONARD J. BAKLARZ
ARTHUR R. BALL, JR.
ANDREW J. BAME
APRIL L. BAPTISTE-ROBERTSON
BRENDAN L. BARCLAY
BENJAMIN A. BARRETT
MATTHEW J. BARWICK
WILLIAM P. BASS
JOSE G. BELTRE
DANIEL J. BELZER
MATTHEW C. BENDER
ROLAND L. BETHEA
ANDREW D. BIONDI
JEFFREY R. BLACKSHER
MARK D. BLAIN
BRYAN K. BLOCKLINGER, JR.
ZACHARY R. BOCK
ROBYN E. BOEHRINGER
SHARI S. BOWEN
DAVID J. BOWERS
ADAM G. BRADFORD
ORNA T. BRADLEY
MARLON J. BRIDE
BART B. BRIMHALL
JAMES D. BROOKS
JASON H. BROTHERTON
CHRISTOPHER M. BROWN
KEIRN C. BROWN
MINDY A. BROWN
NADIYA BRYANT
RORI P. BUCHANAN
STEPHANIE F. BUNKER
MICHAEL F. BURNS
BRIAN C. BUTCHER
JUAN A. CANTU
CATHERINE C. CARLSON
RANDALLE M. CARTER
TIMOTHY J. CASHEN
MARY M. L. CASTERLINE
PHILLIP CASTILLO
DAVID E. CERRATO
JIMMY Y. CHANG
NICHOLAS J. CHERRY
ERICA E. CHIN
FELECIA S. CHINA
ANGELA N. CHIPMAN
YONG C. CHOE
WON S. CHUNG
NATHANIEL S. CINCALA
FRANCINE Y. CLARKE
TRAVIS T. COATES
STUART A. COLEMAN
ERIKA J. COLLINS
ANDREW W. COLSIA
NANCY A. COLSIA
DAVID H. COOK
JAMES R. COOK
LEON A. COOK
LAVONE J. CORDON
TWYGENA M. COTTON
ROBERT J. COVINGTON
STEPHANIE B. CRAWFORD
JOHN P. CRUMLEY
MICHAEL A. CUMBIE
STEVEN R. CUSACK
ROBERT A. CUTHBERTSON
ANDRE L. DARLING-WHITTEN
FERNANDO M. DELRIO
JORGE DELTORO
FREDERICK T. DEQUINA
MATTHEW J. DERFLER
HEATHER S. DETERS
DAVID V. DIELMANN
MICAH J. DIGREZIO
PHILIP H. DILLINGHAM
DAMIAN L. DIXON
JASON B. DOLAN
KRISTIN M. DONETH
KELVIN J. DOUGLAS
YAKENA M. DOUGLAS
CHARMAINE M. DOUSE
RAYMOND J. DROESSLER
TARON S. DUKES
DUSTIN C. DUMBRAVO
ROSALYN R. DUMBRAVO
DERRICK H. DUNLAP
WAYNE A. DUNLAP
JOHN D. DUNLAPP
BRETT T. DUNNING
JASON C. DUPUIS
JUSTIN J. DWYER
TASHA M. DYER
ANDREW M. ELJDID
JOHN D. ENFINGER
PATRICK J. ENGEMAN
ROBIN A. ESKELSON
YVONNE M. EVANGELISTA
RAYMOND M. EVERHART
KYLE D. FAILS
BARRY B. FARMER
PEDRO E. FERNANDEZ
JAMES F. FINK
JUSTIN M. FITCH
PAUL R. FLANIGEN
JEFFREY D. FOSTER
RORY C. A. FOSTER
CISCO J. FULLER
BRIAN J. FURBER
MEILING T. FYE
PAUL M. GARCIA
CHAD D. GARDINER
CHRISTOPHER D. GARDINER
JONATHAN G. GARDNER
CHRISTOPHER B. GARRETT
QUENELLA L. GARRETT
DAVID C. GARRISON
MATTHEW J. GARVIN
BRANDON J. GATES
FREDERICK A. GAYLES
TIMOTHY P. GIBBONS
RYAN P. GILLES
CHRISTINA N. GILLETTE
HALDANE C. GILLETTE
JEREMY J. GLENZ
ABRAHAM P. GOEPFERT
MICHAEL A. GOLD
ASHLEY M. GOLDMAN
EDDIE M. GORBETT
MARSHALL L. GRAY
ANDREW T. GRAZIANO
CALEB S. GREEN
NATHAN L. GREER
DEMARIO A. GROVER
NATHANIEL J. GROVES
JAMES O. GRUBE
ELISABET GUILLEN
DANIEL P. GUSTKE
LARRY M. GWINN
RONALD H. HAAS
JOSHUA M. HAFER
WILLIAM F. HAGUE
ERIC J. HALLGREN
JERRY M. HALLMAN, JR.
MICHAEL R. HANNAH
RONALD L. HARO
MICHAEL S. HARRELL
JAMES E. HARRIS IV

CHRISTOPHERJAMES A. HART
JEFFREY M. HART
DIRK C. HASBACH
JASON A. HAYNES
JEREMY HAYNES
KEITH R. HEINDL
JOSEPH D. HENDERSON
RONALD A. HENDERSON
PATRICK W. HENSON
JAMES B. HICKEY
MATTHEW E. HILL
CRYSTAL E. HINES
GEORGE E. HORNE
MATTHEW T. HORSTMAN
PATRICK T. HORVAT
TROY D. HOUSTON
BRAD R. HUCKO
ERIC J. HUGGARD
JERRICK J. HUNTER
RYAN P. HURLEY
CHADWICK E. HYMAN
WALTER L. IVORY, JR.
NICOLE L. JACKSON
RODNEY D. JACKSON
RONALD D. JACKSON
LENDRICK Y. JAMES
MISTY D. JAMES
STEVEN D. JEFFERSON
STACEY N. JELKS
ANGELA N. JEWETT
DEVANIE N. JOHNSON
ERIC M. JOHNSON
JOSEPH H. JOHNSON III
NATHALIA J. JOHNSON
PATRICE L. JOHNSON
ROY C. JOHNSON
CRYSTAL R. JONES
JACOB V. JONES
JEREMIAH JONES
KEITH A. JORDAN
REUBEN T. JOSEPH
CHAD M. JUHLIN
HASSAN M. KAMARA
JASON T. KAPPES
SAMUEL J. KARR
MICHAEL Z. KEATHLEY
KELLEY A. KEATING
MICHAEL B. KEE
ZACHARY J. KEEFER
CAMERON M. KEOGH
TODD KETTERER
ISMAIL A. KHAN
JOHN F. KIEFER
THOMAS F. KIRCHGESSNER
BRIAN R. KNUTSON
WILLIAM B. KOBBE
JODI D. KRIPPEL
MATTHEW F. KROG
LAMOND I. LACEY
DEVEILLA N. LAMBERT
PATRICK A. LANIER
NOLAN O. LASITER
GAVIN R. LASKOWSKI
ROYDREGO V. LAVANT
JOSEPH J. LEE
MARIBEL M. LEE
WAYNE R. LEE, JR.
RYAN K. LERDALL
CHARMAIN L. LETT
DAVID B. LEVERETT
ZACHARY M. LEWIS
WALTER D. LILLEGARD
WILLIAM D. LINCOLN
JASMIN A. LIRIO
YITEH LIU
NORMAN D. LOCKHART
CHRISTOPHER W. LOWRY
BENJAMIN J. LUKAS
ALLEN J. LUNA
LIONEL MACKLIN, JR.
BRIANNA M. MAIER
STEPHEN M. MALLORY
JAMES J. MANUEL
CAMERON D. MAPLES
ERIC J. MARAFFI
ERIC P. MARTIN
JOSEPH B. MARTIN
LENFORD D. MARTIN
MICHAEL J. MARTIN
RYAN P. MARTIN
CATHERINE M. MARTINEZ
SIDNEY E. MASON
ANTON H. MASSMANN
AARON L. MATTHEWS
TELISHA L. MATTHEWS
BRADLEY A. MATTISON
MATTHEW D. MATTISON
MATTHEW G. MAXWELL
LEV L. MAZERES
EBRIMA F. MBAI
JEREMY J. MCCRILLIS
LATASHA D. MCCULLAR
WILLIAM G. MCDUSTRELL
LATECIA S. MCGRADY
MAGEN L. MCKEITHEN
DONIEL D. MCPHAIL
SARAH E. MICHOLICK
ANDREW P. MILLER
MATTHEW C. MILLER
WILLIAM R. MILLS II
KEITH A. MINER
JON D. MOHUNDRO
SENECA H. MOORE
JONATHON A. MORALEE
CARLOS G. MORALES
DAVID MORENO
ALLISON N. MORSE
RACHEL A. MULLHOLLAND
TRAVIS J. MUNSCH
DANIELLE D. MURRELL
SHAWN C. NAIGLE
JOSEPH W. NALLI
PATRICK J. NELSON
BRANDON E. NIXON
LYNDSEY R. NOTT
JONATHAN D. OBLON
KAI H. OBOHO
THOMAS J. OBRIEN
OTAZERIA B. ODIBO
JUSTIN M. OLES
JACOB P. OLSZEWSKI
JOSHUA A. ONEILL
MATTHEW B. OTTO
TIMOTHY J. OWENS
KIMBERLY E. PAGE
DION D. PANDY
SHAWN D. PARDEE
JOEL PARKER
KLAIROONG PATTUMMA
TRAVIS G. PECK
CHRISTOPHER D. PENDLETON
ASHLEY E. PHILBIN
CHARLES L. PHILLIPS
TRAVIS A. PHIPPS
CLINTON E. PIERCE
NICHOLAS R. PINES
JAMIE E. PITTMAN
JOHN A. PLITSCH
FELIPE POSADAMONTES
CHRISTOPHER D. PRICE
JUSTIN D. PRIESTMAN
ROBERT J. PRIGMORE
JERMAINE C. PRUITT
CHAD E. RABURN
BRYAN J. RALLS
LUCAS J. RAND
RUBEN A. RANGEL
ELFONZO J. REED
ALETHIA D. REYNOLDS
JILLIAN C. RIVERA
KATHERINE E. ROBERTSON
STEVEN C. ROBINETTE
EDWARD D. ROBINSON
GERALD A. ROBINSON
ESPERANZA RODRIGUEZSIDDALL
RICHARD F. ROGERS
WAYNE D. ROGERS, JR.
CLINTON A. ROUNTREE
NICHOLAS L. ROWLAND
CASEY A. RUMFELT
YASHICA T. RUSHIN
JASON A. RUSSELL
DARSHAREE J. SAIK
ADAM M. SAMIOF
ALFREDO M. SANCHEZ
MARIA E. SANCHEZ
MIGUEL N. SANTANA
MATTHEW B. SCHADE
HEATHER L. SCHMITT
JASON M. SCHULZ
ELIZABETH A. SCHWEMMER
ANDREW M. SCRUGGS
MARION P. SEWELL, JR.
JOSIE E. SHAHEEN
JEFFREY D. SHAMSI
TYRONE D. SHIELDS
LESLIE A. SHIPP
ERIC P. SHOCKLEY
JAMES E. SHORT
SHAWN M. SKINNER
DIECILLA T. SLEDGE
ATIYA M. SMITH
CHRISTIAN J. SMITH
RACHEL Z. SMITH
STEVEN T. SMITH
EMILY H. SPENCER
JASON E. STAIB
JOSEPH C. STALNAKER
GWENDOLYN E. STANCIL
KEITH E. STEWART
DAVID W. STORRS
MIGDALIA SUMMERVILLE
MATTHEW W. SWIM
ROBERT M. SZYMANSKI
ALLEN J. TAYLOR
JUSTIN B. TEAGUE
JOSEPH E. TEXIDOR
KASANDRA B. THARP
COLE M. THERKILDSEN
LATASHA R. THOMAS
WALDRELL J. THOMAS, JR.
JOHN D. THOMPSON
MATTHEW K. THOMPSON
JEFFREY L. TIMMONS
ALEX J. TORRES
BELINDA C. TREVILLION
MATTHEW A. TURCOTTE
CHRISTINA S. VALENTINE
AGUSTIN O. VALERIONUNEZ
CHRISTOPHER P. VANDELIST
RODRICO P. VARGAS
ANGEL A. VEGACOLON
NICHOLAS D. VIAR
ALEXANDER B. VICTORIA
PETER J. VILLALUZ
CLIFTON J. VINCENT
JUAN M. VIRUETCOLLAZO
JASON D. WAGNER
PETER C. WARNER
NOAH WASHINGTON, JR.
HAROLD K. WATSON
MATTHEW M. WEBB
DANIEL K. WEIDMAN
RYAN P. WELCH
GARY L. WHEELER
BARRY J. WHITE
REGINALD V. WHITE
MICHAEL D. WHITTEN
JASON E. WHITUS
LATIA K. WICKLIFFE
INGA A. WILDERMUTH
ERVIN J. WILLIAMS
STUART P. WILLIAMS
YOLANDA G. WILLIAMS
RYAN M. WILSON
MATTHEW R. WIMMER
SHADRIKA Y. WITHERSPOON
ROSILYN C. WOODARD
BRIAN W. WORSHAM
YOLANDA V. WRIGHT
JAMIL WYNN
LOURDES M. YANESMOORE
DWAYNE M. YOUNG
VANCE E. ZEMKE
SHERRI L. ZIMMERMAN
D011465
D012187

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JASON K. ABBOTT
CLINTON M. ACKLIN
DENVER K. AKI
NEIL R. ALCARIA
NICOLE M. ALEXANDER
ANTHONY J. ALLEN
JACOB A. ALLEN
JONATHON M. ALLEN
MOHAMADOU M. AMAR
BLAKELY M. ANDERSON
JAMES C. ANDERSON
BENJAMIN K. ANDRUS
CHRISTOPHER R. ANTHONY
MICHAEL J. AREVALO
ALLYN L. ARMESON
SAMUEL A. ARNETT
CRAIG D. ARNOLD II
JAMES S. ARTHURS, JR.
CHAD J. ASHE
BRANNON L. ASKEW
MARK C. ASKEW
MARK A. AXTELL
RICHARD A. BABBITT
WILLIAM S. BADER
WESLEY R. BAER
RICHARD J. BAILEY
ANDREW J. BAILIFF
CHAD M. BAKER
JONATHAN S. BAKER
CHRISTOPHER L. BALA
KEVIN S. BALENTINE
MICHAEL D. BALES
TIMOTHY S. BALL
ANDREW R. BALLOW
ROBERT J. BARNO
JONATHAN D. BATE
KEVIN M. BEASLEY
THOMAS L. BEATTIE
JEFFREY M. BEEMAN
TYSON J. BEHNKE
DANIEL R. BELL
NICHOLAS P. BELL
LUKAS B. BERG
JEFFREY M. BERNARD
JEFFREY C. BESS
CELIO S. BIERING
ADRIAN O. BIGGERSTAFF
DONALD J. BIGHAM
RANDALL F. BITTNER
JEFFREY S. BLACK
MICHAEL C. BLAKE
JOSIAH B. BLALOCK
BENJAMIN T. BLANE
JOSHUA J. BLIZZARD
JAMES A. BLOOM, JR.
DUSTIN D. BLUM
RYAN L. BOEKA
JOSEPH C. BOGART
ANDREW S. BOGGS
JOHN Q. BOLTON
CHRISTOPHER A. BOLZ
JOSHUA P. BOST
CRAIG W. BOSVELD
JESSE H. BOULTON
DANIEL K. BOURKE
GERALD L. BOWMAN
GABRIEL R. BOWNS
ANDREW H. BOYD
CHESTER D. BOYLES
JORDAN G. BRADFORD
MARK BRANA
BRANDON W. BRANCA
JOSEPH R. BRANCH
MARVIN T. BRANCH

ROBERT C. BRAND
BENJAMIN D. BRANDS
NATHAN A. BRANEN
ERIN E. BRASWELL
KEVIN L. BRASWELL
JAMES V. BRAUDIS
NATHAN S. BRAXTON
SEAN P. BREEN
LANCE B. BRENDER
KYLE P. BRENGEL
DEVIN R. BRIGHT
MICHAEL D. BRIMAGE
ANDREW A. BROWN
DAVID L. BROWN
JENNIFER M. BROWN
JEREMY P. BROWN
MORGAN R. BROWN
WILLIAM R. BROWN
BENJAMIN P. BROWNLEE
EREKE D. BRUCE
TANYA J. BUCKLEY
ERICK D. BUCKNER
KATHERINE A. BUEHNER
HERMAN E. BULLS, JR.
JASON K. BURFORD
JOHN A. BURKHART
CLINT E. BURLESON
ELLIOTT B. BURNS
JOHN P. BYLER
JOSEPH K. BYRNES
MATTHEW J. CAHILL
MATTHEW E. CAIN
CHRISTOPHER R. CALWAY
JOSHUA J. CAMBRA
MICHAEL E. CAMPBELL
RICHARD C. CAMPBELL
GREGORY W. CANADY
MICHAEL V. CANN
DANIEL P. CAPOZZA
DAVID CARATTINI
PETER D. CARETTO
JUSTIN D. CARLTON
COURTNEY W. CARNEGIE
CLAYTON O. CARPENTER
JOSEPH R. CARR
MICHAEL A. CARRION
WILLIAM CARRION II
JUAN M. CASTELLANOS
SEAN M. CASTILLA
MICHAEL D. CASTILLO
FELIX CASTRO
IVAN CASTRO
JASON D. CASTRO
MICHAEL J. CENTOLA
JONATHAN M. CHAKERES
JARED A. CHANDLER
CHAD J. CHAPMAN
ALBERT J. CHATWOOD
TRINIDAD N. CHAVEZ
KURT E. CHEESEMAN
DEBORAH L. CHEN
JEFFREY J. CHENARD
CHAD P. CHENOWETH
TIMOTHY W. CHESS
GEOFFREY D. CHILDS
SCOTT M. CHRISTIE
JOHN K. CHUNG
JON M. CHYCHOTA
THOMAS J. CIESLAK
TOBIAS R. CLARK
STEVEN L. CLEGHORN
JOSHUA W. CLEMMONS
CHARLES T. CLIFFORD
DANIEL J. CLINEBELLE
JUSTON R. CLYMORE
JEREMY T. COATES
SEAN R. COCHRAN
JONATHAN A. COE
PETER N. COFFMAN
SEAN R. COFFMAN
JARED D. COIL
CHRISTOPHER T. COLBERT
PATRICK M. COLE
TAD J. COLEMAN
ANTHONY F. COLGARY
MARK E. CONKLIN
RYAN D. CONLEY
WILLIAM F. CONNERS
TIMOTHY C. CONNORS
DANIEL G. CORBETT
GREGORY J. CORMIER
JOSEPH R. CORSENTINO
RICKY COTTO
JONATHAN S. COUCH
JEFFREY M. COUGHLIN
DAVID R. COWAN
LUCAS M. CRABTREE
CARL A. CRANDALL
ADAM B. CREEL
JUSTIN W. CROCKER
WILLIAM A. CROSS
MARY C. CRUMBY
RICARDO CRUZ
JUSTIN M. CUFF
JEREMY P. CURRIN
AARON J. DANIELE
CARL J. DANKO
ESTAN N. DAVIS
KARL A. DAVIS, JR.
MATTHEW D. DAVIS
SEAN J. DAVIS
ALEXANDER R. DEAN
CLAYTON J. DEGENHARDT
DAVID A. DELLERMAN
REID M. DENSON
BRIAN J. DERMODY
RANDY S. DESJARDIN, JR.
DAVID W. DESJARDINS
DERRICK W. DEW
MATTHEW J. DEWITT
JASON R. DICKINSON
JOHN A. DICKSON
JOSEPH J. DIDOMENICO
MATTHEW C. DIVICO
SEAN M. DIXON
RICHARD D. DOBKINS, JR.
JOHN S. DOCKERY
JOHN P. DOLAN
ROBERT J. DOMITROVICH
TIMOTHY J. DOWNING
JOSHUA R. DRAKE
JOHN T. DREW
BRANDON R. DROBENAK
BRIAN J. DROHAN
NICHOLAS R. DUBAZ
RYAN R. DUFFY
THOMAS G. DULL
CHRISTOPHER T. DUPREY
STEVEN A. EATON
WILLIAM N. EBERLE
ADAM C. ECCLESTON
SCOTT R. EDEN
IAN D. EDGERLY
BENJAMIN J. EDWARDS
KENNETH P. ELGORT
BRANDON T. ELLISON
SCOTT D. ELWELL
ANGELA M. ERALE
JESSE J. ERICKSON
VITO J. ERRICO
JONATHAN W. ERWIN
TYLER J. ESPINOZA
JACOB M. ESTRADA
MATTHEW T. ETHERIDGE
BRIAN D. EVANS
JAMES G. FALLS III
DAVID R. FARRAR
JENNIFER L. FAUTH
DARRELL E. FAWLEY
AURLBRIO L. FENNELL
ANTHONY J. FERA
KATIE R. FIDLER
MICHAEL A. FIGER
EDUARDO M. FIGUEROA
FELIX FIGUEROA
ARI D. FISHER
SHAWN P. FITZGERALD
DEREK R. FITZPATRICK
THOMAS G. FITZPATRICK
RYAN Q. FLAHERTY
RANDOLPH J. FLEMING
CORY S. FLORENCE
JUAN FLORES
LUIS N. FLORES
VANCE C. FLOWERS
THOMAS L. FLYNN
OWEN G. S. FOGARTY
MICHAEL Z. FOOR
JOHN C. FORD
CHAD M. FORSYTHE
AMOS C. FOX
JOHN J. FRAYER
JUSTIN L. FRAZIER
JOSEPH A. FREDERICK
TARIK K. FULCHER
CURT F. FULMER
SEAN M. GAILEY
STUART E. GALLAGHER
JEFFREY R. GAMBLE
TERRY E. GAMBREL
JULIO A. GARCIA
ROCKNEE M. GARDNER
CHRISTOPHER R. GARNETT
MEGAN J. GARRETT
JAMES A. GARRISON
WILFORD L. GARVIN
JOHN P. GASSMANN
ELISABETH C. GERHARDT
JASON A. GILCHRIST
JEFFERY M. GIVENS
ERIC M. GLASSMAN
JEFFREY D. GLICK
JEFFREY L. GOINES
ANDREW M. GOLDEN
ALBERT J. GOMEZ
DANIEL E. GONZALEZ
DELVIN M. GOODE
GARY C. GOODMAN
DANIEL D. GOODWIN
BENJAMIN J. GORCZYNSKI
VINCENT C. GOTHARD
JARED G. GRAHAM
LARRY P. GRAHAM
JEREMY L. GRAY
WALTER C. GRAY
BRADLEY S. GREAVER
BRANT L. GREEN
BRIAN P. GREEN
ROBERT W. GREEN
ROBERT W. GREEN
KYLE L. GREENHECK
GERALD W. GREENLEE
DAVID W. GRIFFITH
RUSSELL P. GRIGSBY
BRIAN D. GRIMSLEY
BRENDAN W. GRISWOLD
VICTOR T. GRONENTHAL
CLINTON J. GUTIERREZ
DANIEL F. GWOSCH
BRIAN L. HAAS
TODD R. HABITZREUTHER
MATTHEW C. HAITH
DENNIS W. HALL
JASON M. HALLIGAN
DAVID P. HALPERN
JOHN D. HAMMETT, JR.
SANG K. HAN
RORY P. HANLIN
HENRY V. HANSEN
PAUL W. HANSON
TODD J. HARALSON
PAUL B. HARGROVE
STEPHEN G. HARNSBERGER
JOSE A. HARO
JACQUELINE A. HARRIS
EDWARD N. HARRISON
KELLY S. HAUX
MICHAEL E. HAVEY, JR.
JASON L. HAWKINS
AARON E. HEATH
SCOTT P. HEESEMANN
ULRICH HELLMEIER
JEREMY R. HENDRICKS
DANIEL M. HENDRIX
SEAN D. HENLEY
DEVIN M. HENRY
BRIAN R. HICKERSON
ANDREW M. HILL
DAVID C. HILLING
WILLIAM M. HILLS
RYAN A. HINTZ
SCOTT M. HINZ
CRAIG HOBBS
ANTHONY T. HOEFLER
DOUGLAS E. HOER
TROY A. HOKANSON
MATTHEW T. HOLDEN
SEAN M. HOLLARS
MATTHEW R. HOLLEY
SAMUEL D. HONE II
EDWARDARTHUR K. HOOMALU
ZACHARY T. HOOVER
BENJAMIN J. HORNER
KEVIN A. HORRIGAN
JEREMY N. HORTON
PAUL C. HORTON
MATTHEW A. HOVDE
JOSHUA A. HOWARD
RYAN D. HOWELL
LISA J. HUBBARD
JACOB J. HUBER
DANIEL R. HUFF
TY HUFFMAN
BREG A. HUGHES
JAYSON L. HUGHES
TUCKER N. HUGHES
LEE C. HUMPHREY
ROBERT W. HUMPHREY
JESSICA B. HUTTON
RICHARD W. B. HUTTON
NICHOLAS R. INGRAO
JACK B. IRBY
JEREMY L. IRVINE
RUSSELL J. ISAACS
ROBERT B. ISRAEL
MATTHEW A. IVES
MARK W. IVEY
JOSHUA J. JACQUEZ
BRIAN W. JAMES
NICHOLAS M. JAMES
MICHAEL C. JEANETTA
HEATH L. JENNI
NATHAN A. JENNINGS
BRIAN R. JENSON
CHRISTIAN R. JOHNSON
JACOB T. JOHNSON
ROLLAND H. JOHNSON
RYAN R. JOHNSON
KYLE M. JOHNSTON
SHAWN R. JOKINEN
KELLY S. JONES
MICHAEL L. JONES
RICKY R. JONES
CAMDEN S. JORDAN
STEPHEN M. JUNG
MICHAEL J. KAISER
MATTHEW J. KAPLAN
DOUGLAS K. KAPULE
ADAM M. KARR
MICHAEL R. KEASLER
CHRISTINE M. KEATING
THEODORE A. KEHLER
ADAM C. KELLER
PATRICK J. KELLEY
SHAWN H. KELLEY
DAVID R. A. KELSO
DAVID A. KENDZIOR
CHRISTIAN S. KENNERLY
ELIJAH S. KERNRUESINK
ALEXANDER A. KERR
CHAD E. KESSLING
DON Y. KIM
JONATHAN T. KIM
STEVE Y. KIM
WILLIAM J. KIMMINS
CARL A. KING, JR.

CHARLES W. KING
BRENT B. KINNEY
NATHAN G. KISH
KYLE A. KIVIOJA
JASON R. KNEIB
ANDREW M. KOCHLI
MICHAEL J. KOLLER
SHANNON E. KONVALIN
MICHAEL P. KOVALSKY
BRADLEY J. KRAUSS
WILLIAM K. KREBS
JEFFREY J. KROHN
KEVIN F. KRUPSKI
MORGAN H. LAIRD
WILLIAM R. LAMBERT
JOHN E. LANDRY
JAMES E. LANGFORD
STEVEN M. LANNI
JOSHUA A. LARSON
CLIFFORD D. LATTING
PETER A. LAWALL
JOSHUA D. LAZZARINI
JOHNATHAN D. LEE
MARK J. LEE
MICHAEL H. LEEPER
JOSHUA O. LEHMAN
MICHAEL A. LENGEL
KENYON M. LENO
DAVID J. LENZI II
JOSHUA T. LEVALLEY
LEVI M. LEWELLYN
MELISSA L. LEWIS
JUSTIN A. LIESEN
MICHAEL S. LINNINGTON
LISA M. LIVINGSTON
KEVIN W. LOCKETT
PAUL G. LOCKHART
ALBERTO J. LOCSIN
MATTHEW R. LOMMEL
NATHAN P. LONGWORTH
JASON W. LOPEZ
CHRISTOPHER G. LOSCHIAVO
CHRISTOPHER R. LOSSING
KEVIN M. LOUGHNANE
THOMAS R. LOVELESS
CURTIS T. LOWRY
DANIEL R. LUDWIG
WILLIAM C. LUKA, JR.
JOSHUA A. LYONS
JERRAULD MA
IAN B. MACGREGOR
WILLIAM T. MACH III
TANIKA T. MACIAS
BRANDON J. MACKEY
DAVID N. MACPHAIL
JOHN F. MADDEN
MORGAN MAIER
NICHOLAS J. MAKSIM
NATALIE G. MALLICOAT
JOSEPH R. MANGAN
EMBER S. MANIEGO
DONNALE L. MANN
REIMUND G. MANNECK
BENJAMIN H. MARCH
REED T. MARKHAM
ADAM M. MARSH
KEITH A. MARSHALL
JEFFREY L. MARSHBURN
ANDREW P. MARTIN
BRANDON K. MARTIN
JACOB J. MATHEWS
RONNIE L. E. MATHIS
JASON J. MATOVICH
SCOTT K. MATTINGLY
BRETT M. MATZENBACHER
JOEL D. MAXWELL
THOMAS J. MCCARTHY
DAVID A. MCCOLLUM
IAN M. MCCONNELL
CHARLES T. MCCORMICK
BENJAMEN A. MCDANIEL
EDWARD L. MCDONALD
PATRICK M. MCGUIGAN
JAMES M. MCKAY
PATRICK W. MCLAIN
DANIEL W. MCMANUS
TERENCE L. MCMILLAN
JOSEPH E. MCNAIR
WILLIAM R. MCNALLY
MATTHEW D. MCNEAL
JORGE A. MEDINA
JEFFREY B. MEINDERS
MATTHEW A. MELONI
GEORGE B. MELTON
DANIEL N. MENDEZ
THOMAS J. MENN
ERIC W. MERCER
GRIFFIN J. MERRILL
RALPH C. MERRILL
SEAN A. MERRITT
SCOTT F. MERTZ
ANTHONY A. MESSENGER
JOHN A. MEYER
JOSEPH I. MEYER
JOSHUA A. MEYER
JASON G. MICHAELS
RUSSELL J. MICHO
RYAN R. MIDDLEMISS
BRIAN M. MIDDLETON
PAUL J. MILAS
CHRISTOPHER M. MILLER
MATTHEW R. MILLER
STEVEN J. MILLER
DONALD S. MINCHEW
NICOLE R. MINER
PAUL B. MINNIE
KELLY R. MISELES
RUSSELL G. MITSCHERLING
MICHAEL T. MIXON
MICHAEL P. MOAD
WECHNER MOMPREVIL
KENT B. MONAS
DYLAN J. MONTGOMERY
APRIL M. K. MOORE
JEFFREY P. MOORE
MICHAEL B. MOORE
JOHN R. MORRIS
RONALD L. MORRIS
DOUGLAS J. MORRISON
DANIEL D. MORSE
MICHAEL J. MOYER
JONATHAN R. MRAZ
JOHN F. MULHOLLAND
RYAN A. MURPHY
WILLIAM C. MURRAY
ELIJAH A. MYERS
MICHAEL S. NAFF
JOSHUA A. NAILLON
CHAD A. NAKAMURA
SETH B. NASON
JOSEPH M. NATTER
MATHEW B. NEYLAND
KHA M. NGUYEN
COREY A. NICHOLS
CHRISTIAN C. NICOLAS
SETH R. NIEMAN
MATTHEW G. NOREUS
ERIK S. NORMAN
JASON L. NORQUIST
KELLY R. NORRIS
ERIKA A. NOYES
PATRICK J. OBRIEN, JR.
CHRISTOPHER B. ODOM
NICOLO O. OLCESE
MARCO D. OLEDAN
TREVOR P. OMALLEY
PATRICK J. OROURKE
JUAN J. ORTIZ
JOSEPH F. OSMANSKI III
RUBEN A. OTERO
JUSTIN J. OTTENWALTER
ALAN R. OVERMYER
JOSEPH E. OWENS
DANIEL V. PACE
MICHAEL J. PADDEN
LAURA E. PANGALLO
CHEYNE C. PARHAM
RALPH S. PARLIN
CHARLES R. S. PARSONS
ROBERT A. PARSONS
GREG A. PASQUANTONIO
TYLER J. PATTERSON
JAMES P. PATTON
JUSTIN S. PATTON
SEAN M. PATTON
CHRISTINA A. PAYNE
ROBERT D. PAYNE
JONATHAN L. PAYNTER
JOSEPH W. PAYTON
THOMAS E. PEABODY
DANIEL K. PECK
CHAD A. PELTIER
CHARLES E. PENN
IAN T. PEOPLES
MATTHEW A. PERDUE
DAVID PEREZ
JOSEPH D. PERRY
JEROME A. PETERSEN
ANDREW A. PFEIFFER
BRENT PFEIFFER
ANDREW R. PHILLIPS
CALEB G. PHILLIPS
JOSEPH J. PHILLIPS
THOMAS G. PIERCE
IAN C. PITKIN
LARRY M. PITTS
ROSS C. PIXLER
BRIAN P. PLOVER
JONATHAN P. PLUNDO
FRENCH D. POPE
MICHAEL A. PORGES
DANIEL J. POUTIER
JAMES M. POWERS
MATTHEW L. PRATT
SAMUEL M. PRICE III
LAURA A. PROFFIT
RICHARD P. PURCELL
WILLIAM C. PYANT
KRISTOPHER M. PYETTE
DAVID B. QUAYLE
MICHELE C. QUILLE
JOHN D. RADNOCZI
RAMON A. RAMOS
RUBEN RAMOS
BENJAMIN D. RAPHAEL
TIMOTHY M. RATLIFF
JULIAN A. RAVILIOUS
DOUGLAS W. K. RAY
RANDY D. READY
JEFFREY C. REED
TYE L. REEDY
JAMES M. REILLY
TRAVIS N. REINOLD
MIKEL E. D. RESNICK
EFRAIN REYNA
DOUGLAS W. REYNOLDS
KEVIN R. RICE
PATRICK R. RICE
RACHEL M. RICE
THOMAS C. RICHERT
ROSS M. RIDGE
TERRY L. RIESEL, JR.
BETH A. RIORDAN
ANGEL J. RIOSPELATI
JARED A. RIPPERGER
ERICH K. ROBERTS
JOHN R. ROBINSON
STEVEN S. ROBINSON
JASON L. ROCK
ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ
ERIC N. ROLES
WIDMAR J. ROMAN
JASON ROMANELLO
JONATHAN ROMANESKI
RITA C. ROSALESGONZALEZ
MICHAEL E. ROSCOE
ALBERT L. ROSS
CHRISTOPHER P. ROSSI
CHARLES P. ROWAN
TYLER J. RUND
JASON A. RUSSELL
LAWRENCE W. RUSSELL, JR.
WILLIAM A. RUSSO
KEVIN E. RYAN
LINDSAY A. RYAN
PHILIP A. SANABRIA
CESARE A. SANTAROSA
CESAR H. SANTIAGOSANTINI
PHILLIP R. SAULS
HAYDEN D. SCARDINA
KURTIS J. SCHAAF
CHARLES L. SCHAEFER
CLIFFORD K. SCHAEFER
ROBERT J. SCHAFFLING
MATTHEW B. SCHARDT
RANDY M. SCHILLING
ERIC J. SCHMITZ
CARLTON M. SEARCY
KENNETH A. SEGELHORST
JAMES L. SELF
DAVID T. SHAMS
KIRK K. SHANDS
JOSHUA B. SHAVER
BENJAMIN G. SHEAN
JEREMIA Z. SHEEHAN
JOHN T. SHELTON
JOHN J. SHERIDAN
JONATHAN L. SHERRILL
JASON M. SHICK
WOO C. SHIN
NATHAN E. SHOWMAN
ROBERT J. SHUMAKER
STEPHEN M. SIEGNER
SCOTT T. SIGGINS
JOSHUA I. SILVER
JOSHUA C. SIMS
WILLIAM R. SITZE
DANIEL A. SJURSEN
AARON K. SMITH
CHRISTOPHER D. C. SMITH
HOWARD R. SMITH
JUSTIN M. SMITH
MICAH S. SMITH
MICHAEL K. SMITH
RICHARD J. SMITH
SCOTT W. SMITH
WADE H. SMITH
MATTHEW C. SMOOSE
ANTHONY J. SNIPES
ROBERT E. SNOW
JOHN M. SOLOMON
NICHOLAS A. SOROKA
DAVID M. SPANGENBERG
GRANT M. SPEAKES
DAARON L. SPEARS
JOHN D. STAEHELI
MICHAEL P. STALLINGS
DANIEL R. STANLEY, JR.
SEAN R. STAPLER
TERENCE K. STAPLES
ANNE M. STARK
NEIL B. STARK
COREY M. STEINER
TRAVIS J. STELLFOX
DANIEL M. STEPHENS
THEODORE W. STEPHENS
BRADLEY STUBBLEFIELD
LYNN W. SULLIVAN
ADAM F. SUMMERS
BENJAMIN T. SUMMERS
JOSHUA T. SUTHOFF
STANLEY S. SWAINTEK
MICHAEL P. SWANGER
NATHANIEL L. SWANN
MARK A. SWINEY
CHRISTOPHER S. SYLVAIN
ADAM L. TALIAFERRO
NICHOLAS B. TARAN
MATTHEW M. TARAZON
GRACIETTE TAVARES
ANDREW W. TAYLOR
ANDREW M. TEAGUE
JASON C. TEBEDO
CHARLES A. TELESCO
THOMAS J. TEPLEY
ALEXANDER J. TESAR

JEREMY M. TETER
CHAD E. THIBODEAU
CHRISTOPHER R. THIELENHAUS
ANTHONY S. THIES
ANNE N. THOMAS
CURTIS A. THOMAS
DEMARIUS L. THOMAS
JOHN C. THOMAS
CHARLES E. THOMPSON
LEVI THOMPSON
GABRIEL M. THORN
MASON W. THORNAL
JAMES D. THORNTON
MARY E. THORNTON
JEREMY E. TILLMAN
TIMOTHY R. TOERBER
JOHN P. TOLL
WALTER R. TOMPKINS
TRAVIS N. TOOLE
CESAR TORRES
GERARD L. TORRES
LEHA R. TOTTENWADE
RYAN T. TRAVIS
DAVID C. TRENT
TRAVIS A. TRIPP
KYLE T. TROTTIER
ALLEN M. TRUJILLO
GARRETT P. TURLEY
CHRISTOPHER A. TURNER
JAMES R. VANCE
MATTHEW R. VANEPPS
ALAN M. VARGO
RUSSELL VARNADO
PHILLIP T. VAUGHN
LORIN D. VEIGAS
MICHAEL L. VENAFRO
DAVID W. VENEY
RICHARD W. VESPA, JR.
JOHN P. VICKERY
RONALD K. VINYARD
JOSEPH F. VOGEL
TREVOR J. VONNAHME
LUCAS R. WADSWORTH
JARED H. WAGNER
JULIE A. WAGNER
BRIAN C. WALKER
JOSHUA J. WALKER
LIAM P. WALSH
SHANNON M. WALSH
SEAN C. WALSTROM
PETER B. WALTHER
TIMOTHY C. WALTON
LINCOLN R. WARD
CHRISTOPHER M. WARDLAW
MOHAMMAD I. WASEEM
JAMES L. WATSON
JASON C. WATSON
CHRISTOPHER D. WEBB
JUSTIN T. WEBB
CAROLYN M. WEHRHEIM
IAN A. WELCH
NICKOLAS J. WELCH
DOUGLAS M. WELLS
JASON S. WENGER
MARCO P. WENNESON
ANTHONY M. WERTZ
PETER J. WETTERAUER
JACOB A. WHARTON
TERRON O. WHARTON
ANTHONY A. WHEELER
GARY M. WHIDDEN
JASON L. WHITE
JAY S. WHITTAKER
JORY E. WHORTON
DANIEL S. WILCOX
MATTHEW P. WILKINSON
CHRISTOPHER G. WILLIAMS
DORIAN J. WILLIAMS
JAMAINE J. WILLIAMS
JASON A. WILLIAMS
JOSEPH W. WILLIAMS III
TIMOTHY J. WILLIAMS
ROBERT F. WILLIAMSON
AUSTIN M. WILSON
DAVID A. WILSON
LINUS D. WILSON
JOSHUA D. WINES
PAUL S. WINTERTON
LLOYD B. WOHLSCHLEGEL
SCOTT F. WOIDA
CECIL E. WOLBERTON
MASEY V. WOLFE
THOMAS P. WOMBLE
CHRISTOPHER L. WONG
MATTHEW R. WOOD
SHAWN T. WOODARD
PHILLIP J. WORKS
GERALD F. WYNN
CANESSA R. YANCEY
AMOREENA L. YORK
SHAUN M. YOUNG
DAVID S. YU
RONALD J. YUHASZ, JR.
PATRICK H. YUN
TIMOTHY D. ZALESKY
JOSHUA J. ZARUBA
RUSSELL D. ZAYAS
LUKE A. ZECK
WILLIAM B. ZEWADSKI
ANDREW F. ZIKOWITZ
AMY M. ZOLENDZIEWSKI
SCOTT M. ZOLENDZIEWSKI
D011352
D011701
D011804
D012084

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U. S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JAMES P. EDMUNDS III
MICHAEL T. LEGENS, JR.
RUSSELL W. MANTZEL
CRAIG J. PRICE
THOMAS E. RINGO
TERRY L. STEIN, JR.
JASON L. WALLACE
PAUL B. WEBB

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U. S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LEONARD F. ANDERSON IV
MARK H. BACHARACH
TIMOTHY J. BLEIDISTEL
MICHAEL G. BRENNAN
DARRIN S. BRIGHTMON
ROBERT W. BRUCE
KIP P. BUNTEN
CHAD J. BURKE
THADDEUS COAKLEY
SCOTT A. CRAIG
SCOTT D. CROCKETT
LUIS G. DELVALLE
SARAH Q. FULLWOOD
MAX GORALNICK
THOMAS C. GRESSER II
JOHN P. HANLON
WILLIAM W. HOOPER
PATRICK S. HOULAHAN
BURL Z. HUDSON
KENNETH E. HUMPHREY
BRADLEY S. JEWITT
TROY F. LIDDI
JEFFREY P. LIPSON
THOMAS F. MARBLE
PETER C. MCCONNELL
JEFFREY J. MCNEIL
ABRAHAM M. MUNOZ
BRIAN M. OLEARY
KARL D. PIERSON
BRIAN H. ROBERTS
BRIAN P. ROBINS
STEVEN J. SINNER
JEFFREY A. STIVERS
CHRISTOPHER P. TANSEY
TERRANCE R. THOMAS III
CHARLES R. WATKINS
SCOTT A. WILLIS
DERRICK C. YOUNG
KONSTANTIN E. ZOGANAS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

WILLIAM A. GARREN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

LEANDER J. SACKEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTOPHER M. DAVIS

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 10, 2014:

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271(D):

To be rear admiral

LINDA L. FAGAN
THOMAS W. JONES
STEVEN D. POULIN
JAMES E. RENDON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. WILLIAM D. LEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. CHARLES W. RAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. CHARLES D. MICHEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 47:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. PETER V. NEFFENGER

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RUBY L. COLLINS AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL W. WAMPLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 16, 2014.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM C. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH ADAM K. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 16, 2014.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEVIN J. LOPES AND ENDING WITH MARIETTE C. OGG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 6, 2014.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO PATTI ALDERSON

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Patti Alderson, who is being honored on April 11, 2014, by the Boy Scouts of America Fort Hamilton District for her service to her community at the ''Do a Good Turn Daily'' event.

This recognition is awarded annually to an individual in the Butler County, Ohio, community who has demonstrated outstanding character and commitment to others. As a mother, caregiver, volunteer, and fundraiser, Patti has dedicated her life to the service of her family, friends, community members, and those in need.

In 1999, Patti led a group of women to establish The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty. At its founding, and in the fifteen intervening years, the Community Foundation has sought to respond to the needs of the community and provide a vehicle for volunteerism and philanthropy. Among its many initiatives, the Community Foundation has sent children to camp, established a high school-aged student philanthropy group, raised money for the local food pantry, and provided dental screenings to elementary-aged students in need.

In 2010, seeking to help the local youth, Patti stepped in and led the initiative to establish a Boys and Girls Clubs of America in the townships of West Chester and Liberty, Ohio. With hard work and persistence, the Boys and Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty in 2013 became the grateful recipient of a $750,000 grant, allowing the center to become a reality. The Boys and Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty opened in March of this year and will initially serve approximately 400 students.

I am very proud to call Patti Alderson my good friend, and I extend my most sincere congratulations to her. Her drive is unparalleled; her devotion to serving others is both unwavering and inspiring. Each day, many lives are touched by the initiatives that are the outgrowth of Patti's efforts. Thank you, Patti, for your passion and longstanding commitment to our community.

TRIBUTE TO JAY REAVIS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jay Reavis of Innovative Captive Strategies in West Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jay in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Reavis for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jay on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

CONGRATULATING MRS. LEONA DAYTON ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Leona Eunice Dayton on her 100th birthday. It is an honor to have the opportunity to recognize the life of such a distinguished citizen.

Mrs. Dayton, known to her family and friends as Bobby, was born on this day in 1914 to Amos and Lelia Brewer in the small town of Erna, Texas. As a member of the ''Greatest Generation'' she witnessed many historic events during the 20th century and played a part in making this nation great.

Bobby married her high school sweetheart, Jack Cooper Dayton, and together they embodied the entrepreneurial spirit that has defined this country and its people since its inception. With a little bit of luck and a lot of love and hard work, they began several small businesses, including the Dayton Oil Company, which they owned for over 30 years.

Throughout her life, Bobby established herself as a pillar of the community in London, Texas where she devoted herself to the service of others through Eastern Star and as Postmaster of the London Post Office. She could also often be seen at the London Methodist Church teaching Sunday School or playing piano for early morning services.

Today, she continues her commitment to others by spending her days traveling, gardening, and filling her house with love, laughter, and great food. The fruits of her life-long endeavors can be seen by the smiles on the faces of her children, five grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren as they gather to celebrate this momentous occasion.

We all, including my colleagues in the House, could learn a bit from Mrs. Dayton's commitment to family, friends, and community. I am honored to have the opportunity to help celebrate this special day. Her accomplishments throughout her life represent an important part of the American story. Again, congratulations to Leona Eunice Dayton and Happy 100th Birthday.

CONGRATULATING PAUL MONROE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my congratulations to Paul Monroe who, after 43 years of dedicated service, will be retiring from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company on Friday, April 11.

Paul began his career at the Fireman's Fund Houston office in 1971 as a loss control trainee, following his graduation with a degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas in Arlington. He subsequently became the head of the Loss Control Department in Houston before becoming trained in property casualty insurance sales and underwriting. Over the years, he made a series of transitions and promotions within Fireman's Fund, which included moves to San Antonio, Texas; Greensboro, North Carolina; and New York City. In 2002 he came to the Fireman's Fund headquarters in Novato, California and in his latest job served as Assistant Vice President for Underwriting Quality. In this capacity, he and his team were instrumental in creating a number of systems designed to enhance and provide better consistency in the underwriting process.

Successful people are typically characterized by their discipline and their desire to constantly improve and Paul exemplifies these virtues. He received his Masters in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Houston in 1976 and while living in Greensboro, he obtained his MBA. He has participated in several industry groups and has served as a Board Member of the Pennsylvania Joint Underwriting Association since 2002. His hobbies include golf and running, and he has run seven Marathons, including five in New York City. He has been happily married to his wife Druella (Dru) for 42 years and they have two grown children, Jay and Molly.

43 years is a long time and the world has changed significantly from when Paul first

started. Paul Monroe's career has spanned a remarkable period of time, and his dedication to Fireman's Fund and his adherence to the finest virtues of solid character, integrity, mentorship and personal kindness is truly inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering my praise and congratulation to Paul Monroe, and extend our best wishes for a happy retirement to Paul and Dru as they prepare for the next chapter of their life together.

IN SUPPORT OF THE UKRAINE, AZERBAIJAN, AND GEORGIA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the actions of Russia in the Crimean Peninsula.

Now is the time for the United States to show our solidarity with former Soviet states such as Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, while encouraging these nations to continue to institute democratic reforms and modernize their economies.

Countries in the Caucus region such as Azerbaijan and Georgia are located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe—a strategic location for U.S. foreign policy objectives given that Russia is to the north and Iran is to the south.

With the volatility and strategic importance of this region, the U.S. must continue to work with its allies such as Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Georgia to ensure their sovereignty is protected, especially in light of Russia's actions in the Crimean Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize the importance of our country's relationship with Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the Week of the Young Child, which is celebrated this year from April 6 to April 12. I also rise to recognize the tireless work of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which was instrumental in launching this week in 1971, and which works every day to create a brighter future for our nation's youngest learners.

Mr. Speaker, the evidence is clear: strong investments in early education are vital to America's future. Young children experience astonishing brain growth, forming more neural pathways from birth to age five than at any other point in their lives. Investment in this phase of life pays serious dividends—not just individually, but societally as well. Studies have consistently shown that each dollar invested in quality preschool yields $7 over the life of a child; and the urgent need for support in this area has never been greater.

Today, one in five American children begins their life in poverty. Among these children are the world's future doctors, scientists, teachers, astronauts, CEOs, innovators and outstanding citizens. As we observe the Week of the Young Child, these facts should give reflective pause to every member of this House. If we fail to provide each American child with a fair opportunity to succeed, we as a society will fail to reach our full potential. The stakes are high, it is incumbent upon each of us to step up and do what's unquestionably right for America's future.

I would also like to note that when paired with quality child care, early education yields immediate and long-term economic dividends. Too often, American parents are forced to choose between joining the workforce and ensuring the healthy development of their child. The Child Care Development Block Grant reduces this gap by providing a modest subsidy to eligible working parents, allowing them to purchase quality child care for their children, join the work force, and contribute to our nation's economic prosperity. Last month, I was proud to lead 111 of my House colleagues in a letter to House Appropriators supporting this critical program.

In today's day in age, Mr. Speaker, I find it unacceptable that any child's zip code would determine whether they, or their parents, have a fair chance to reach for the American Dream. I look forward to the day when true equality of access to early education is finally achieved, and I'm proud to stand with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, as well as the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children, in working to make this future a reality.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MRS. MARGARITA MUÑOZ

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a lifelong resident of my district on her upcoming centennial birthday. On April 11, 2014, Mrs. Margarita Muñoz will celebrate 100 years of life.

Born in 1914, Margarita is the middle sibling to two older brothers and two younger sisters. When she was a young girl, Margarita's family moved from Arizona to California in search of a better life and settled in downtown East Los Angeles. Margarita attended the local elementary and middle school with her brothers and sisters. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1932 where she met her sweetheart, Augustine Muñoz.

Margarita and Augustine married in 1935 and gave birth to their first son, Charles, in 1936. The young family was blessed with the birth of their second son, Robert, in 1937, daughter Dorothy in 1943, William and John in 1944 and 1950, and daughter Carol in 1955. In 1955, Margarita and Augustine moved their growing family from East Los Angeles to the city of Montebello. The children attended Eastmont Elementary and Montebello Junior High and Montebello High School. For Margarita and Augustine Muñoz, Montebello proved an ideal place to raise a family.

In 1964, Margarita's husband passed away from a sudden heart attack and was left to raise their children on her own. During this difficult time, Margarita demonstrated tremendous work ethic and resiliency; despite tremendous adversity, she succeeded in providing for her children and giving them a home in which to flourish.

Margarita's life revolved around her children. She dedicated herself to giving them the best upbringing possible and made sure to instill in them strong values. With her support and guidance, all of Margarita's children went on to be successful members of their community; among many impressive achievements, two of her children earned their masters degrees.

Today, Margarita still lives in the same Montebello home where she and her family settled in 1955. She enjoys knitting, crocheting, gardening, and of course seeing her family, which has grown quite a bit since 1935. At family celebrations and holidays she has the joy of spending time with her 18 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Margarita Muñoz represents the best in our community. Margarita exemplifies the true meaning of family, and her community is grateful to have such a role model of commitment and dedication. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Margarita a very happy 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JC RISEWICK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize JC Risewick of Seneca Companies in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like JC in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Risewick for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating JC

on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF DR. KULWANT S. BHANGOO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a respected member of my Western New York community, Dr. Kulwant S. Bhangoo.

Dr. Bhangoo is a specialist in plastic and reconstructive surgery and has a practice in Buffalo, New York. He has earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Cambridge and his medical degree from the University of East Africa, where he won the Mulgibhai Madhavani recognition which is awarded to the best student of the year. He completed his surgical training in England before coming to the Mercy Hospital of Buffalo to complete his residency in plastic surgery.

He has continued his distinguished academic record in Buffalo, where he has been published on subjects including wound healing and scar tissue and is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

The history of Western New York is the story of immigrants who have brought their experience, training and drive to enrich our community, and Dr. Bhangoo's story is no different. Yet he has remained engaged with his native India. He travels often to conduct workshops and training for surgeons in India and has been recognized for his good work with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Aesthetic Surgeons of India.

Through his hard work and generous spirit Dr. Bhangoo has changed the lives of patients and enriched the careers of surgeons on four continents. We are proud to have him in our community and look forward to many years of his continued service in Western New York.

RECOGNIZING THE 99TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, also known as the Meds Yeghern or ''Great Crime,'' to those of Armenian descent.

In the wake of World War I, the Ottoman Empire launched a campaign of terror against Ottoman Armenians. From 1915 to 1923, forced deportations displaced 2 million Armenians. Unarmed men were separated from their families and were either forced into concentration camps or taken away to be executed. Innocent women and children were systematically stripped of their possessions and driven into what is now the Syrian Desert. During these ''Death Marches'' they were subjected to starvation, sickness, and abuse amid brutal conditions. In the end, nearly 1.5 million Armenians had lost their lives in what became the first genocide of the 20th century.

Although these atrocities occurred almost a century ago, it is imperative to remember the suffering that was endured as a result of unrestrained human malice. To acknowledge this truth is necessary, not just out of respect for our fellow citizens of Armenian descent, but also in hope that we can prevent such heinous crimes from occurring in the future. Very few survivors of the genocide are alive today, which makes preserving the memory and history of this crime even more important.

Today, I call on my colleagues to join me in somber remembrance of the 1.5 million Armenians who perished during this dark period of history, and to honor the strength and resolve of the Armenian community still working to deal with this tragedy.

HONORING DR. ANNETTA CHEEK ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CENTER FOR PLAIN LANGUAGE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Annetta Cheek on her retirement as Chair of the Center for Plain Language. Annetta has been a tireless advocate for plain language. She spent 25 years as a Federal employee witnessing firsthand the government's failure to communicate effectively.

While serving as a government employee, Dr. Cheek was the chair of PLAIN, a federal interagency plain language advocacy group. In her role as chair, Annetta administered the group's website, and taught courses on plain language to different government agencies. Annetta also spent four years as the chief plain language expert on Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government.

In 2003, Annetta founded the Center for Plain Language, a non-profit organization dedicated to plain language advocacy. Annetta has served as Chair of the organization since 2003. In her role as Chair, Dr. Cheek has urged both the Federal Government and the private sector to communicate in a clear and understandable way.

Dr. Cheek's biggest success was her work to pass the Plain Writing Act into law. I was honored to work with Annetta in writing this important legislation which requires government agencies to communicate in plain language. Thanks to her great work in getting the Plain Writing Act passed millions of Americans are now receiving easy-to-understand communication from the Federal Government.

I'm very proud of Annetta, and honored to call her a friend. I congratulate her on retirement, and wish her and Charles all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO GAIL MAYFIELD HAMM

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Gail Mayfield Hamm.

Gail was a pillar of strength within San Pedro, California. She loved children, and for over three decades, she was a respected elementary school teacher at Barton Hill Elementary. She was also a long time volunteer at the Toberman Neighborhood Center, which offers beneficial programs to community including youth mentoring, a food pantry, legal services, and gang intervention. In fact, Gail was one of the founding members of the philanthropic Toberman Auxiliary, which raises money through a gift shop to fund Toberman programs.

Despite being so active in her neighborhood though, she cherished her time with her own family comprising of three surviving children, nine grandchildren, and six great grand children.

I had the honor of working with Gail while on the Los Angeles City Council and I found her dedication and good nature to be inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all the members of the House join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the life of Gail Mayfield Hamm.

CONGRATULATING THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Seattle Seahawks on being named the Washingtonians of the Year by the Association of Washington Generals. Given each year to those who have demonstrated leadership, selflessness, generosity, and compassion in their service to others, this award is a well-deserved recognition of all that the Seattle Seahawks have contributed to our community.

Though their work off the field may be less visible than their stellar on-field performances, it is no doubt equally as valuable. From individual visits by players and coaches to area hospitals, to the innovative work of the Seattle Seahawks Charitable Foundation, the team has contributed to the well-being of our community at all levels of the organization.

A shining example of this is the work of the Seattle Seahawks' ''A Better Seattle'' program. This program, in partnership with the YMCA and the City of Seattle, has invested in the future of our youth in powerful ways. Through their support of the YMCA's ''Alive & Free'' street outreach program, the Seattle Seahawks have helped to transform the lives of hundreds of youth in our area by ensuring a safer and more peaceful future. Combined with the many other youth and child focused efforts of the Seattle Seahawks, the Seahawks organization has solidified itself as one of the

greatest advocates for the welfare of young people in our region.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Seattle Seahawks on their recognition as Washingtonians of the Year. They are richly deserving of this award, and I look forward to their continued excellence on and off the field.

TRIBUTE TO ERIN ROLLENHAGEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Erin Rollenhagen of Entrepreneurial Technologies in Urbandale, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Erin in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Rollenhagen for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Erin on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSING FINANCIAL LITERACY ACT OF 2014

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, owning a home is the cornerstone of achieving the American Dream for many Americans. Homeownership is a source of pride and develops robust and stable communities. However, for many prospective first-time homeowners, the process of purchasing real estate may be confusing and daunting and may leave uninformed buyers victims of unaffordable or predatory loans.

I believe that we must support access to homeownership and the financial literacy necessary to become a successful first-time homeowner. That is why today I am introducing the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2014 which would provide a discount on Federal Housing Administration, or FHA, upfront mortgage insurance premiums of 25 basis points to first-time homebuyers who complete a housing counseling program certified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD. This bill would encourage first time homebuyers to take advantage of these critical counseling resources that can increase their financial literacy skills and capabilities.

Currently, HUD's Housing Counseling Assistance Program provides counseling to consumers on the entire spectrum of housing counseling needs: from finding and financing, to maintaining and owning a home. Studies have shown that homebuyers who receive pre-purchase housing counseling courses are nearly one-third less likely to fall behind on their mortgage, and that housing counseling can improve prospective borrowers' access to affordable, prudent mortgage loans. Consequently, an additional anticipated benefit is a reduction in delinquencies and defaults by better-informed first-time homebuyers that should serve to strengthen the FHA's Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund.

Mr. Speaker, for many Americans, their home is the largest financial asset they will ever own. Ensuring that first-time buyers have the knowledge and tools necessary to be successful homeowners is an objective that we can all share. My thanks goes out to the bipartisan group of original cosponsors who recognized the importance of this legislation, including the Democratic and Republican Co-Chairs of the Financial Literacy Caucus.

I urge my colleagues to join in our efforts to increase financial literacy by cosponsoring the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2014.

HONORING SGT. FELIX CONDE-FALCON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero.

A native son of Puerto Rico, Sgt. Felix Conde-Falcon volunteered to join the Army in 1963 and was soon stationed in Texas at both Fort Bliss and Fort Hood. He settled in the Lone Star State with his wife and young family before answering the call to fight for freedom in Vietnam.

On April 4, 1969, while serving as platoon leader in the vicinity of Ap Tan Hoa, Vietnam, Sgt. Conde-Falcon showed extraordinary leadership under heavy fire as he took out multiple enemy positions. While his heroic actions saved the soldiers serving with him, he was shot and killed just as he eliminated the final bunker. He was laid to rest in Rogers, TX.

Nearly a half century later, Sgt. Conde-Falcon was awarded the Medal of Honor. Reserved for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty, it is our nation's highest military tribute.

Were Sgt. Conde-Falcon still with us, generals, admirals, and fellow warriors of all ranks would honor the hallowed custom of saluting him. This simple gesture of respect, admiration, and courtesy speaks volumes about the reverence shown to Medal of Honor recipients.

Were Sgt. Conde-Falcon still with us, he would know how grateful his nation is for his service, his heroism, and his commitment to duty. He'd know how admired he is by his fellow soldiers. Because of his valor, many of his platoon brothers were able to return home. Some would honor promises made in the jungles of Vietnam and spend decades tracking down Sgt. Conde-Falcon's family to let them know of his bravery, leadership, and the impact he had.

Were Sgt. Conde-Falcon still with us, he would have seen his family grow and prosper. His children carried on the tradition of proud service in the military. His son Richard would receive the Medal of Honor on his behalf.

Sgt. Conde-Falcon's name, like those of over 58,000, is enshrined forever in black stone at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Those extraordinary men and women, from a multitude of races, faiths, and backgrounds, fought for a country brave enough to confront its past imperfections and hopeful enough to embrace a better tomorrow. His story, like all of theirs, was one of sacrifice and devotion to freedom.

There is no more deserving recipient of the Medal of Honor than Sgt. Felix Conde-Falcon. Despite a life cut short, this brave warrior's patriotism, valor, and commitment to service reflect the very best of both America and Central Texas. May his legacy remind us of the values and freedoms we must never cease to defend.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE APRIL 18, 2014, AS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for designation of April 18 as a day of honor for Journeymen Linemen.

Accordingly, I have introduced a resolution to recognize April 18, 2014, as National Lineman Appreciation Day in order to honor these brave men and women for their contributions to protect public safety.

Linemen are often the first responders during a storm or other catastrophic event, which means these brave men and women are often required to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes. Linemen work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines every day of the year in order to protect the nation from dangerous electrical currents.

The profession of Lineman is steeped in tradition and family, both professionally and personally. Generations ago, Linemen climbed poles using hooks and blocks, but as technology has grown through the years, inventive Linemen have pioneered advancements with innovative materials, altering the direction of line work for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the extraordinary commitment and courage demonstrated every day by the nation's Linemen.

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 143RD ARBOR DAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Arbor Day which in Illinois takes place on April 25th. This year will mark the 65th Arbor Day celebrated by the state and the 143rd in the United States. This event that is held each year to recognize and celebrate the critical role trees play in our communities and in our daily lives.

There are very few things as intrinsic to a nation as its land. Trees are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving strength to our people. That is why in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. This holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska. Since then, Arbor Day has become a holiday celebrated throughout America and the world.

In addition to their magnificent beauty, trees provide vital ecological services to humanity. They reduce the erosion caused by wind and water on our precious topsoil, reduce heating and cooling costs, moderate the earth's temperature, and provide habitats for our wildlife. In addition, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper and wood for our homes. Our dependence on trees acts as a reminder that we are eternally reliant on nature and that we must to do our best to pay back the debt we owe to our environment.

If our nation is to continue being the greatest nation on earth, it is important that we continue to safeguard what makes us great, our people and our resources. I urge each and every citizen to help make our communities greener, cleaner, and more pleasant places to live by joining me and taking the time to plant a tree. It is with great gratitude and pride that I rise to honor and celebrate Arbor Day and all that it stands for.

HONORING IOWA MIDDLE LEVEL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR GARY HATFIELD

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gary Hatfield on being selected as the Iowa Middle Level Principal of the Year. Gary serves as the principal at Taft Middle School in Cedar Rapids which is in my district. Gary was selected because of his leadership in implementing a system of learning supports for students and teachers.

Mr. Hatfield began his career as a math teacher at Wilson Middle School. In 2008, he came to Taft Middle School to serve as the principal. He received his bachelor's degree in math from Iowa State University, and master's degrees in middle school math education and educational administration from the University of Northern Iowa.

Mr. Hatfield was selected for this award by a committee of Iowa middle level principals, and he is now a candidate for National Middle School Principal of the Year. Gary has proven that he is a leader at his school and throughout the Cedar Rapids community. I'm proud to call him a constituent, and congratulate him on all of his success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE OPTIONS FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS ACT

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the bipartisan Strengthening Healthcare Options for Vulnerable Populations Act.

This legislation, which I will introduce today, extends the authorization of Medicare Advantage Dual Special Needs Plans, D–SNPs, and makes necessary improvements to this valuable program for vulnerable seniors.

Special Needs Plans, or SNPs, are a type of Medicare Advantage Plan with membership limited to a specific population with specific diseases or characteristics, and tailored benefits, provider choices, and drug formularies developed to best meet the needs of the group they serve.

Dual Special Needs Plans, or D–SNPs, are plans developed for individuals who are both Medicare and Medicaid eligible. The Medicare dual eligible population is low-income and more likely to have complex and costly healthcare needs. Nationally, it costs $300 billion to care for this population. D–SNPs are driving improved care outcomes and greater efficiency eliminating redundancies between the two programs.

There are 125,000 dual eligible individuals in Arizona and nine million nationally. More than half of the dual eligibles in my state are enrolled in a D–SNP.

D–SNPs in Arizona are well-run and have demonstrated success: 31 percent lower rate of hospitalization; 43 percent lower rate of days in hospital; 9 percent lower emergency use; 21 percent lower readmission rate; 3 percent higher preventive care services.

But D–SNPs are not just about controlling cost and improving healthcare delivery for a vulnerable population. D–SNPs, because of their innovative and targeted services, are a valuable option for seniors trying to live with dignity or people with disabilities trying to live fuller lives.

Bonnie Grant is in her 60s and lives in south Phoenix. Through her D–SNP, she has access to a transportation called Van Go. Bonnie uses the service to go shopping and other places ''instead of being stuck at home.'' She said that it helps because ''instead of being holed up in your home,'' she can be engaged in the community and enjoy her life.

The Van Go benefit is the type of creative service offered by D–SNPs that improve the wellbeing of enrollees.

Joseph Ford lives in suburban Phoenix. He was disabled in a car accident. The hands-on managed care he receives through his D–SNPs, including in-home visits, allows Mr. Ford to stay in his home and live a fuller life. Keeping individuals like Mr. Ford in their homes instead of institutional care facilities is better for the beneficiary and a significant cost savings to the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

We need creative and commonsense solutions to control the cost and improve the quality of services provided to this vulnerable population, which includes seniors and single working mothers. That is what D–SNPs are doing and that is why we introduce this bill today.

The Strengthening Healthcare Options for Vulnerable Populations Act will allow seniors to have greater choice, help drive down cost and improve outcomes.

First, this bill extends authorization for D–SNPs and requires that plans fully integrate Medicare and Medicaid services, while providing states with flexibility to make the plans work for their citizens. This long term authorization will create stability in the SNP program, thereby allowing states, the federal government and the private sector to begin to develop consistent strategies for addressing care for dual eligibles. Beneficiaries will also know that the plan they have chosen will not be taken away.

Second, the bill directs CMS in coordination with State Medicaid Directors to develop a clearly defined role for state Medicaid agencies in contracting and oversight of integrated D–SNPs.

Third, the legislation follows the recommendation of National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) to designate the Medicare-Medicaid Coordinating Office within CMS as the dedicated point of contact to assist states with ongoing D–SNP administration issues, including eliminating redundancies and improving coordination of Medicare and Medicaid services and streamlining the flow of information to beneficiaries. The bill would also allow HHS to adjust Medicare's processes, timelines and requirements to improve the seamless delivery of patient-centered services across the care continuum.

Fourth, the bill provides additional protections to beneficiaries by requiring CMS, in coordination with states, to establish a streamlined dispute resolution process and by requiring Medicare to continue to provide coverage during the dispute process.

Lastly, our legislation improves the Medicare Advantage star ratings program to better evaluate and incentivize D–SNP performance. The bill directs CMS to take the necessary steps to recognize and incentivize performance by plans who serve more difficult or complex populations like the dual population.

Ensuring that vulnerable seniors continue to have access to these valuable plans is an important part of ensuring that they can live out their golden years with dignity.

The Strengthening Healthcare Options for Vulnerable Populations Act extends an important program for one of Arizona's most vulnerable populations. This bill ensures that seniors and others in these plans will be able to keep the managed care services they have selected. This bill provides states with greater flexibility to control cost and provide improved

services. Finally, this bill can help control cost for a very expensive population nationally while at the same time improving healthcare outcomes.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA STACKHOUSE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Andrea Stackhouse of Neumann Monson Architects in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Andrea in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Stackhouse for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Andrea on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING GARIFUNA-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the 217th anniversary of the forcible transfer of the Garifuna people from St. Vincent to Central America, which is to be observed on April 12, 2014. Each year this day serves as an important reminder of the rich history and heritage that is an intrinsic part of this community, and of the history of the United States. This commemoration is the culmination of Garifuna-American Heritage Month, which celebrates the important and unique contributions of the Garifuna community to my home borough of the Bronx, to New York City, and to our nation as a whole.

The Garifuna community has a unique heritage, language, and culture. As descendents of West African slaves, Venezuelan Caribs and Arawaks, Garifuna community has long been an important part of several nations, including Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Nicaragua. The Garifuna people first arrived in New York City in the 1930s as part of the merchant marines, and their numbers quickly grew in several neighborhoods. The Garifuna people are now a long established part of the fabric of New York City, and of my district in the Bronx. Today, I am proud to be able to pay tribute to their history and their future.

Mr. Speaker, Garifuna-American Heritage Month celebrates the unique cultural contributions and ethnic pride this community has provided to the melting pot that is New York City. I am confident that this month will continue to exist as an important cultural landmark celebration for many years to come. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the significance of April 12th in the history of the Garifuna people, and in recognizing their contributions to New York City and to our nation.

HONORING MAINE'S PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maine's Public Safety Dispatchers for their essential service to our communities in times of emergency. Maine's public safety telecommunicators are committed to putting the safety and interests of the community before themselves, and I would like to commend them for their invaluable hard work and commitment to ensuring our safety.

These unsung heroes are our country's ''unseen first responders.'' They are the men and women who answer the calls of those citizens asking for help with a promise that help is, in fact, on its way. We place our trust in these individuals every day of the year and rely on their knowledge and professionalism as they make critical decisions, obtain information, and quickly dispatch needed aid. Regardless of the call, they always answer with compassion, persistence, and patience. As a result, their work is imperative to our country's citizens, police, fire and emergency medical assistance personnel.

They remain calm in times of crisis and helpful in times of hurting. Their voices guide a young mother through infant CPR, talk an accident victim out of going into shock, and provide comfort to those who have been harmed or injured as they wait for emergency personnel to arrive. Yet, they seldom witness the product of their good work because they do not see the young mother's face when her infant begins to breathe again or the accident victim's face as first responders come into sight. It is for these reasons that they deserve our special appreciation and recognition.

In addition to the services they directly provide to the general public, they also handle governmental communications related to forestry, conservation, highway safety, and natural disasters. This means that while most individuals seek shelter during a flood or blizzard, the public safety telecommunicators are at their posts ensuring that everyone in their communities, including the police officers and firefighters, return home safely.

These telecommunicators are selfless, skilled, and often overlooked. Their daily service to the public goes without due recognition by the many beneficiaries of their services. Today, I would like to take a moment and extend my deepest gratitude on behalf of the state of Maine and applaud them for their honorable service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognition and appreciation of the many public safety telecommunicators of Maine.

HONORING THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the East Bay Regional Park District (the District) for 80 years of creating beautiful parkland and open spaces in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The District has over 114,000 acres, 65 parks and 1,200 miles of trails, which allow people to enjoy nature, outdoor recreation, and environmental education experiences.

Through its Healthy Parks, Healthy People Campaign, the District has worked to promote awareness of the parks, trails and events they offer to both counties. The District has always been forward thinking in planning how to manage and conserve our nation's resources while also providing the public with a variety of recreational activities.

East Bay Regional Parks has been a key participant in conservation for eighty years. The Park District has been created a master plan for the East Bay to preserve our resources through good management while also providing the public with a variety of recreation and outdoor activities.

I ask my colleagues to congratulate the East Bay Regional Parks on its 80th birthday and to recognize its invaluable contributions to our natural resources and our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CLEBURNE COUNTY 911

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today ask for the House's attention to honor the Cleburne County 911 for their outstanding service to the citizens of Cleburne County.

The second week of April is designated as National Public Safety Communicator Week. This is a time to honor the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community. The Cleburne County 911's mission states that they strive to provide effective public safety services through the appropriate dispatch of

fire, police, medical, and rescue units with the least possible delay. They live up to this mission each and every day.

Like all of East Alabama's 911 public safety personnel, Cleburne County's Public Safety Communicators provide local citizens with an invaluable service. They offer peace of mind, and they provide the highest level of emergency communications service possible.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Public Safety Communicators at the Cleburne 911 for their dedication to protecting the citizens of Cleburne County.

HONORING IOWA ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR RYAN DAVIS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ryan Davis on being selected as the Iowa Assistant Principal of the year. Ryan serves as the assistant principal at Vinton-Shellsburg High School in my district. Ryan was selected because of his commitment to student success, his vision of student learning and his work with parents and the community.

Mr. Davis began his career as a science teacher in Minnesota. In 2008, he came to Vinton as the assistant principal and at-risk coordinator. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa, his master's degree in educational leadership from Southwest State University and his certificate in education administration from Saint Mary's University.

Mr. Davis was selected for this award by a committee of Iowa assistant principals, and he is now a candidate for National Assistant Principal of the Year. Ryan has proven that he is a leader at his school and throughout the Vinton-Shellsburg community. I'm proud to call him a constituent, and congratulate him on all of his success.

TRIBUTE TO SHANE STARK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Shane Stark of Carrier Access in West Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Shane in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Stark for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Shane on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

RECOGNIZING OAK LAWN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL'S DRAMA TEAM

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oak Lawn Community High School's Drama team for winning two state championship titles at the Illinois High School Association's Drama & Group interpretation State finals.

On March 29th the drama team was in Springfield to compete at the Illinois High School Association Tournament. Oak Lawn was awarded first place in the drama finals for their performance of ''The Normal Heart'' by Larry Kramer. Cast members included Taylor Lindemann, Leonardo Quezada, Joe DeLaMora, Lauren Montesano, Danny Swanberg, Jonathan Cortez, Charlie Doria, Carl Seibel, Vaughn Smith, Josh Cash, with Riley Faille as the student director.

In addition to the first place in the drama final, Oak Lawn took first place in the group interpretation finals for their performance of ''She Kill Monsters'' by Qui Nguyen. Cast members include Laura Akouris, Erin Beland, Kaeley Clark, Cameron DeLaMora, Paul Harris, Valentina Lopez, Tina Maciaga, Joey Probst, Emily Salomone, Andrew Waterstraat, with Julia Bugaj as the student director.

This tremendous achievement is made possible through the hard work and enthusiasm of the students, and the dedicated guidance of their coaches. This tournament showcased the tremendous talent and dedication that is fostered in the Oak Lawn drama program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding talent of the Oak Lawn Community High School's drama team, and to congratulate them on their winning performances.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF BERNICE HUDSON WASHINGTON

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Bernice Hudson Washington, a beloved public servant remembered for her extraordinary display of compassion and kindness as a life-long addiction and home service counselor in the city of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Bernice Hudson Washington passed away on Sunday, April 6 at the age of 84. While I join the Tuscaloosa community in being deeply saddened by her passing, I know her legacy is one that will live on in the lives of those she touched through her work as a counselor.

Mrs. Washington was the proud mother of a daughter, Alice Page of Northport, grandmother of Sonja Henley and Vanraybern Thames and stepmother of Betty Dickerson.

After helping her brother to overcome alcohol addiction, Mrs. Washington was drawn into a lifelong career counseling and empowering those who suffer from addiction. She began her career as an addiction counselor in 1972 when she joined the inaugural staff at Indian Rivers Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center.

Mrs. Washington established the Insight Center, a center that offered preventive programs for alcoholics and drug addicts, in 1974. She directed the Insight Center until her retirement in October 1994. The Insight Center was dedicated in her honor on May 29, 1993, as the Bernice Hudson Washington Insight Center.

Mrs. Washington spent 20 years as a certified addiction counselor at the Insight Center. During this time, she expanded the concept of addiction treatment by helping the families of addicts to overcome the difficulties associated with addiction.

Mrs. Washington's opened her home to recovering addicts providing them with home-cooked meals and games of checkers and dominoes on the weekends.

Mrs. Washington also served as resident commissioner for the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority and provided invaluable counseling services to first-time homeowners. The housing authority dedicated a nine-house development for new homeowners in her honor in 2012 as the Bernice Hudson Washington Estates.

At the dedication ceremony for the Bernice Hudson Washington Estates, one of the new homeowners explained his admiration for Mrs. Washington to a local reporter, ''She molded me and my mom, my thinking and the type of person that I am,'' he said. ''If God can give me just a little bit of what she did to inspire people, I'll be so grateful.''

Mrs. Washington best explained her motivation: ''It meant a whole lot to me to be able to help give some of these folks that I work with a chance to have some of the stuff that I had,'' she told a local reporter. ''Because we'd share what we had with others, we grew up doing that—sharing. So it meant a lot for me to just keep doing what my father was doing for others. That's all I know—to give.''

Mrs. Washington has been described by family members and community leaders as a true public servant with a contagious spirit who, through her actions, inspired those around her to serve others.

Mrs. Washington has made an indelible mark on the city of Tuscaloosa and the state of Alabama. Today, we pay tribute to her resolute dedication and concern for those who suffer from addiction and her extraordinary contributions to first-time homeowners.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Bernice Hudson Washington for her inspirational servant leadership. We are truly grateful for this extraordinary public servant.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. CLARENCE ROSTAD

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of Mr. Clarence Rostad of Big Timber, Montana. Clarence Rostad was born on April 28th, 1914, in Big Timber, Montana, to George and Susanna Rostad. Clarence and his ten siblings grew up on the East Fork of the lower Sweet Grass Creek and on the family's ranch on the Boulder River near McLeod. It was here that his love for ranching and farming truly developed.

Clarence attended school at Big Timber Grade School. After a few years of working on the ranch, he attended college classes at Montana State College. He also served his country in the United States Army. In 1946 he married his beloved wife Ruth, whom he shared 57 years on their ranch on the Boulder River. The two raised six children and regularly hosted their 14 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Clarence loves his ranch on the river—but even more, he loves welcoming others to enjoy the beauty of the mountains and the blue-ribbon river surrounding his ranch. Clarence's desire to welcome strangers to the ranch resulted in having friends of multiple generations in the same family—all of whom have enjoyed the ranch and the company of Clarence's hospitality, as well as him serenading them with his harmonica.

One of Clarence's great loves in life, in addition to his family and ranching, is his love for God. As evidenced in his patience and love for his family and ranching, Clarence is a strong man of faith in his Lord Jesus Christ. As described by his family, his love of raising sheep and cattle has truly blessed him with the heart of the Good Shepherd.

Today, one of Clarence's greatest desires is to honor God through playing sacred music on his harmonica. Having learned to play his harmonica in the solitude of the foothills and mountains in the Boulder River valley, Clarence has the great ability to play complex tunes despite not having any formal music education. Clarence keeps his mind refreshed and his heart renewed by playing music of faith that expresses his love for God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of Clarence, who has led an outstanding life dedicated to loving God, his family, and loving his neighbor as himself. I wish him many more joyful years of health and happiness.

CELEBRATING THE LAUNCH OF FRESH NEW START

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, several years ago I had the privilege of employing a brilliant and dedicated young staffer named Francis B. Gibbs. Francis was one of my first campaign staffers and I was privileged for him to come with me to Washington as I began my congressional career in 2001. He was a trusted aide and a true friend who always gave me the straight answer. He left my office to become Legislative Director, then Chief of Staff for U.S. Representative Connie Mack and later served as Chief of Staff for the Florida Department of Transportation. Rooted in principle, Francis was an honest, committed public servant, friend to many, and devoted husband to LeAnne and father to children Couper and Riley. He faced a world of possibility and wasn't afraid to tackle challenges head on.

So it was devastating when he received a cancer diagnosis that turned his world—and that of his family—upside down. It was a challenge that, despite every effort, he ultimately was unable to overcome. Francis passed away on May 17, 2013, at the age of 40, leaving behind grieving family and friends who could only ask themselves the age-old question: ''Why?''

Struggling with the ''why'' and feeling overcome by the pain that comes with losing someone you love so much can be debilitating. Our human nature tells us to withdraw from the world, to isolate and self-protect. And as hard as it is to pick ourselves up and carry on, it is the only way that beauty can be born from ashes.

LeAnne Holdman Gibbs did just that. In the midst of her own pain, this extraordinary young widow and mother of two young children decided that she needed to honor Francis' wish for her and reconnect with the world after a year of cancer-caregiving. So she took a group of girlfriends on a trip to Florence, Italy, using the trip to renew and refresh, to rediscover passions, and to dream about her future.

But it didn't end there. Before his death, Francis and LeAnne talked about how she might use her own experience to inspire other young women who were in a similar situation. As she began her own widowhood journey, she was surprised and frustrated to find that there were so few resources dedicated to serving young cancer widows who had been their spouses' primary caregivers. She was determined to do something about that, and has since dedicated herself to supporting such women.

The concept for a not-for-profit corporation was born.

With tremendous courage, hard work, and help from a core group of friends, LeAnne founded Fresh New Start, an organization ''that seeks to refresh and renew the young woman who has lost her husband to cancer and to offer encouragement and support as she both starts and endures her journey through widowhood.'' Fresh New Start will sponsor trips/retreats for selected candidates and up to three adult friends to give other young cancer widows the opportunity to ''renew, refresh, and restart.'' The corporation will also serve these women by providing connections to other young cancer widows and additional resources for them and their caregivers.

Fresh New Start officially launched on the first day of spring—March 20, 2014. I am proud of LeAnne for honoring Francis' memory by launching Fresh New Start and offer my congratulations on the creation of an organization that will benefit many young widows for years to come and honor the legacy of a friend I miss dearly, Francis B. Gibbs.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE W. KOCH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend George W. Koch who passed away on January 26, at the age of 87.

George William Koch was born on April 8, 1926, in Cincinnati. After serving in the Navy during World War II, he received a bachelor's degree in business in 1948, a bachelor of laws degree in 1950 and a juris doctor degree in 1950, all from the University of Cincinnati.

After working as an assistant city attorney in Cincinnati, George became director of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants before joining Sears and then the Grocery Manufacturers of America.

George led the Grocery Manufacturers of America, GMA, trade association from 1966 to 1990. He was an inspiring leader who led the GMA to become one of the most influential and effective trade associations in America. Last year, George W. Koch received the first-ever Grocery Manufactures Association's Leadership in Public Policy and will name the award in his honor going forward.

As consumers, we all benefit from George's leadership in promoting good practices at stores and grocery chains across America.

Among his countless achievements, George is responsible for leading the initiative at GMA to introduce the Universal Product Code in 1974, and the development of tamper-resistant packaging in the wake of the Tylenol poisonings of 1982.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Helen Lawton Koch; his six children, Jorie Koch Kenny, Daniel, Patrick, Robert, Monte, and Lucy Lawton Koch; and 14 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend George W. Koch and to wish his family peace and solace during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO CHRYSTAL TAMILLO

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Chrystal Tamillo of

Flemings Steakhouse in West Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Chrystal in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Tamillo for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Chrystal on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes earlier this week in order to attend the memorial services held for the victims of the tragic shooting at Fort Hood, TX, last week. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

April 7, 2014:

Rollcall No. 165, Motion to Recommit H.R. 1872—''nay.''

Rollcall No. 166, Passage of H.R. 1872—''yea.''

April 8, 2014:

Rollcall No. 167, Motion to Recommit H.R. 1871—''nay.''

Rollcall No. 168, Passage of H.R. 1871—''yea.''

Rollcall No. 169, Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 544—''yea.''

Rollcall No. 170, Adoption of H. Res. 544—''yea.''

April 9, 2014:

Rollcall No. 171, Substitute Amendment No. 1—''nay.''

Rollcall No. 172, Substitute Amendment No. 2—''nay.''

Rollcall No. 173, Substitute Amendment No. 3—''nay.''

Rollcall No. 174, Passage of H.R. 4414—''yea.''

HONORING DR. ROBERT EDWARD PAINE, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Dr. Robert Edward Paine, Jr.—also known as Dr. Bob or Grandoc—of Salem, Virginia, who ''completed his earthly tour-of-duty'' on Wednesday, March 19.

Born on April 28, 1925 in Roanoke, Dr. Paine was an athlete, student, veteran, caregiver, volunteer, friend, lifelong learner, and more. He graduated from Jefferson High School, and then went on to graduate from the University of Richmond before completing requirements for his MD degree from the Medical College of Virginia.

During World War II, Dr. Paine served in the U.S. Navy Reserves and during the Korean War, served on the staff of Fleet Air Atlantic.

Dr. Paine had internships and residencies at Norfolk General and ''old'' Lewis-Gale Hospital, and he also did post-graduate work in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He had a solo practice in Salem for 15 years, and had the first EKG machine in town. In 1967, Dr. Paine set up the first alcohol and drug rehabilitation program at the Salem VA hospital, where he continued volunteering even after his retirement.

Dr. Paine tended patients at seven area hospitals and medical centers over the years, and taught students at area hospitals as well. He also served as a volunteer physician with such groups as the Andrew Lewis High School football team, Boy Scout Troup 54, the 1964 National Boy Scout Jamboree medical team, and the Red Cross.

Throughout the years, Dr. Paine was active with Salem Presbyterian and later St. Paul's Episcopal, Friends of the Salem Library, the Salem and Roanoke Valley Historical Societies, the Salem Museum, the Salem Sports Foundation, the City of Salem Long-range Planning Committee, the Military Order of World Wars, the Mayflower Society of Virginia, the Magna Carta and Jamestowne Societies, and the Island Ford Hunt Club (for the camaraderie and nature). He also was a 32nd-degree mason with Lakeland Lodge, and a member of Scottish Rite and Kazim Temples.

Roanoke Valley's 1982 Father of the Year for Family Life, Dr. Paine and his wife Alice had two children, Robert Parson Paine and Emily Paine Carter.

Those who knew him well are heard to talk of Dr. Paine's wit, generosity, kindness, humor, determination, and humility, all of which have made the Roanoke Valley a better place to live. My thoughts and prayers go out to Dr. Paine's family and loved ones. His love for his family, friends, neighbors, and community will always be remembered and cherished in Salem and throughout the region.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WIGGSY SIVERTSEN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to express our deepest gratitude and heartfelt congratulations to Wiggsy Sivertsen on the occasion of her retirement from San Jose State University where she has been a Personal Counselor and Licensed Clinical Social Worker for forty five years.

Wiggsy Sivertsen has given generously of her time and considerable talent to the students at San Jose State, supporting them in their personal struggles and helping them achieve their professional goals. The student evaluations on an online site speak volumes about this extraordinary woman. ''Awesome teacher and subject! Best class I have ever taken in college.'' ''Concerned/outgoing/extremely funny/sensitive. Busy woman that will make time for you.'' These are only two of many, many outstanding evaluations.

Wiggsy Sivertsen earned a Bachelor's degree from San Jose State University and a Master's degree in Social Work from Tulane University. In the early 1980's, Wiggsy, fearless and ahead of her time, cofounded Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) to advocate for members of the LGBT community to address burgeoning discrimination against the LGBT community. She envisioned and designed BAYMEC to educate our communities and advocate for the rights of all.

Wiggsy has spent thousands of hours lobbying elected officials for hate-crime legislation, marriage equality, and other LGBT rights. In addition to BAYMEC, she founded two other LGBT advocacy groups: Advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth, a legal organization; and Open Mind Network, Inc, an organization which is an educational platform to inform organized groups of the legitimate rights of LGBT communities. She has also worked side-by-side with several community organizations and law enforcement to achieve these goals.

Wiggsy's contributions to our country have been recognized by the Civil Liberties Union ''Don Edwards Defender of Constitutional Liberty'' Award, and the California State Special Recognition Award for Service to the Lesbian and Gay Community. She was also recognized by the San Jose Mercury News as one of ''The Millennium 100, Pillars of Their Communities''.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in thanking Wiggsy Sivertsen for her extraordinary career as an educator at San Jose State University, and for her unswerving commitment to social justice for all, particularly the civil rights of the LGBT community. Her contributions will live on as her lasting legacy, and we honor her for strengthening our community immeasurably and making our country a more just and equitable one.

TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY WHIPPLE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Timothy Whipple of Iowa Economic Development Authority in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Timothy in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Whipple for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Timothy on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

COLUMBIA REGIONAL CENTER OF INNOVATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable economic partnership under way in the Pacific Northwest, where the Columbia River Gorge joins the states of Oregon and Washington. This initiative, the Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation, is aimed at streamlining the region's education to prepare its students for the modern workforce, in turn, bringing economic growth and development to the region.

With economies originally based firmly in agriculture and natural resources, communities within the Columbia Gorge have become a center for a burgeoning technology sector, anchored by a Google data center in The Dalles, Oregon, and a Boeing subsidiary, Insitu, in Bingen, Washington. Quality of life, outdoor recreation, and natural beauty helped attract those employers.

While regional prosperity beckons, challenges remain. The cost of housing in the area makes it difficult for persons on low to moderate incomes to live where they work. There are significant infrastructure concerns, most notably two interstate bridges serving the central Columbia Gorge. And most importantly, the continued growth of the region's technology sector requires a skilled workforce. This is a special challenge in a region where 80,000 people are dispersed over a rural area roughly the size of Massachusetts. Innovation, creativity and collaboration are essential to address these common challenges.

The Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation is a cross-sector partnership that brings together private industry, economic development, a regional housing authority, workforce training, K–12 school districts, early childhood education, community colleges, the land-grant universities of Oregon and Washington, and other regional public and private universities to find solutions to these challenges. The result of this partnership is improved cooperation across the state line; innovative strategies to construct ''attainable housing'' for the region's workforce and tackle infrastructure concerns; and promoting job creation through improved access to industry-specific skills.

This dialogue will continue on Friday, April 18, when the first-ever Columbia Gorge Education and Industry Summit takes place on The Dalles Campus of Columbia Gorge Community College, and on May 16, 2014, when the first-ever Columbia Gorge Bi-State Legislative Summit will bring together state lawmakers from Salem and Olympia. The goal is to recognize the Columbia Gorge as a bi-state region with common concerns, which can best be resolved through improved cooperation across the state boundary in partnership with the federal government, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, and the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending local leaders of the bi-state Columbia Gorge for their innovation and courage in addressing the economic challenges that still confront their region. Their hard work deserves our recognition.

WORKER'S MEMORIAL DAY RESOLUTION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on April 28, millions of workers worldwide come together to recognize Worker's Memorial Day. Worker's Memorial Day commemorates those who have been injured or killed on the job. My own family experienced tough times when my Dad was permanently injured in a workplace fall when I was very young.

Over the past several decades in the United States we have made great progress in preventing injuries and deaths at the workplace. However, there is still work to be done as each year more than 5,000 Americans are killed due to workplace related injuries, and millions more experience occupational injuries and illnesses. Work related accidents are still too common in the United States. An average 16 Americans are killed each day due to workplace injuries. It is clear we must continue work towards ensuring that every workplace is a safe one.

While in the United States we have improved workplace safety in recent decades, the numbers across the globe are overwhelming. It is estimated that nearly 2 million workers die each year due to work related accidents or diseases worldwide. More people are killed due to workplace injury or disease than are killed in war.

As a member of Congress, I will continue to fight for workplace safety. I'm also committed to recognizing Worker's Memorial Day and the millions of workers across the world who have given their lives while on the job. That is why I'm proud to have co-introduced a resolution honoring Worker's Memorial Day with Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. We must continue to honor the millions of men and women who have given their lives for the continued progress of humankind. As long as I'm in office, I will continue to work towards strengthening the middle class and advocating for workplace safety.

RECOGNIZING THE ALARMING MORTALITY RATE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN BREAST CANCER PATIENTS RESOLUTION

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, April has been designated Minority Health Awareness Month, and I want to shine a spotlight on a crucial minority women's healthcare issue—the alarming mortality rate of African-American women from breast cancer. In the last few months, both the New York Times and Los Angeles Times featured articles about the disparity in mortality rates between African-American and white women with breast cancer.

The New York Times wrote ''After her doctor told her two months ago that she had breast cancer, Debrah Reid, a 58-year-old dance teacher, drove straight to a funeral home. She began planning a burial with the funeral director and his wife, even requesting a pink coffin. . . 'I was just going to sit down and die.' '' That is heartbreaking.

Much progress has been made over the last two decades to increase awareness, screening, and treatment of breast cancer, but unfortunately this progress has not been made for all women. In the 1980s, the mortality rate for African-American and white women were nearly identical.

Today, shockingly, African-American women are 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than white women. Much of this difference results from a lack of screening, access to life-saving treatments, and quality of treatment.

Additionally, the higher difference in the death rate from breast cancer varies by region. In my city of Los Angeles, sadly, an African-American woman with breast cancer is 70 percent more likely to die than a white woman. This is not true in other cities, such as New York, where the disparity is nominal. Clearly, this demonstrates that public health improvements can be made to improve the survival rates for African-American women.

Therefore, I am introducing a resolution to highlight the high mortality rate for African-

American women confronting breast cancer. My hope is that this resolution will bring awareness to this injustice to ensure that quality screening and treatment is available for all women, regardless of race. This is an issue of life and death and we must take every action available to ensure that every woman has access to the resources and treatment she needs to survive.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL DANIEL D. PICK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly great American on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army. On April 18, 2014, Colonel Daniel D. Pick will relinquish his command of Commandant of the Defense Language Institute for the Presidio of Monterey and retire from the Army after 29 years of exemplary service. It is my great pleasure to have had the opportunity to get to know this soldier scholar. He truly represents for me the highest qualities of military leadership: courage, vision, integrity, and keen understanding of the broader world that we live in. Peace is best served when we can bridge cultures. In light of his commitment to military language capacity, his own language and cultural skills, and his experience as a diplomat and soldier overseas, Colonel Pick is the personification of this truth.

In 1987, Colonel Pick graduated from the University of Washington and began his Army career as an active duty military intelligence officer. His early career took him many places, including serving as a scout platoon leader and battalion S2 in 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment in Garlstedt, Germany. In addition, he had a deployment to Operations Desert Shield/Storm in January 1991 as S2 3/66 Armor Battalion. Following his graduation from the Military Intelligence Officer Advance Course, Colonel Pick served with 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) as Commander, Military Intelligence Detachment and Group S2.

Colonel Pick became a Middle East Foreign Area Officer (FAO) in 1996. His FAO assignments include: Kuwaiti Land Forces Advisor, OMC–Kuwait; FAO Assignment Officer, Army Human Resources Command, WAD.C.; Executive Officer, Human Intelligence Team, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Northern Iraq; Army attaché, U.S. Embassy, Amman, Jordan; Policy Officer, Office of the Secretary of Defense; and FAO Program Director, Defense Language Institute.

Colonel Pick holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization from the University of Washington, a Master of Military Studies from Marine Corps University, Quantico, and a Master of Arts degree in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University. He speaks Arabic, Persian-Farsi, Persian-Dari, and Assyrian. He is a graduate of Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Defense Language Institute Basic Arabic Course, Jumpmaster Course, Military intelligence Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Ranger School and Airborne School. In addition, his decorations include the Combat Action Badge, Bronze Star Medal with an oak leaf cluster, and Iraq Campaign Medal with arrowhead device.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in extending our most sincere gratitude for Colonel Pick's service to our Nation. The United States is a more secure and fruitful place as a consequence of his efforts. I want to wish Colonel Pick, his wife Karen, and children Dalton and Lauren, all the best as he transitions from active duty to what will surely be an active and fruitful second career of continued public service. And while the Army is losing one of its most capable officers, the Monterey Bay region is retaining one of its most capable citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT DON CARTER

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a man who has dedicated much of his life to the educational system in Kern County.

Superintendent Don Carter recently announced his retirement after 38 years of service, serving as Kern High School District Superintendent over the past 10 years. A graduate of West High School, Don went on to earn his master's degree from California State University, Bakersfield and an Ed.D from the University of La Verne. In 1976, Don joined the teaching staff at Bakersfield High School as a math and science teacher before eventually becoming the school's assistant principal and principal. After serving as the district associate superintendent for instruction, he was promoted to Superintendent in 2004.

Though his tenure at Kern High School District is coming to an end, his impact will be long-lasting. Serving California's largest high school district, Don was responsible for the oversight of 18 high schools and over 3,700 employees. A strong advocate of academic achievement, Kern High School District's performance index improved every year under Don's tenure, including the significant improvement in the number of graduates that met entrance requirements for the University of California and California State University systems.

As a proud former student of Superintendent Carter, I know personally of his dedication and steadfast commitment to ensure that every student he taught, and every student within our high school district, had the opportunity to achieve academic success. On behalf of a grateful community, I am honored to thank Don Carter for his dedication to our youth and I wish him a well-deserved retirement.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARJORIE KECK

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marjorie Bertha Keck, who passed away on April 6, 2014, at the age of 93. She was a beloved wife and mother to four children who was known in recent years for saying, ''Growing old isn't for wimps!''

She was all about family. Whether it was hosting boat rides on the bay or a day at the ballpark with the Oakland A's, Marjorie would always find a way for family and friends to relax together amongst their busy lives.

As a devout follower of the Lord, her family and friends rejoice that she is reunited with her beloved husband Lee, and is in the arms of her Savior. She will be missed by all, but her spirit and love will always be with us.

TRIBUTE TO JASON WHITE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jason White of Warren County Economic Development in Indianola, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jason in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. White for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jason on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

99TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

The 9th Congressional District of Michigan, which I represent, is home to a vibrant Armenian-American community. Every member of this community has been tragically affected by the Armenian Genocide, despite the distance of time. I am proud to call them my friends. And I am proud to stand with them today.

This time every year, we pause in solemn remembrance and honor the victims who perished at the hands of the Ottoman Empire 99 years ago. The Armenian Genocide, an intentional and systematic campaign of mass murder, began with the deliberate targeting of 300 Armenian leaders and culminated in one and a half million dead and 500,000 forcibly exiled from their homes.

And while the primary purpose of Armenian Remembrance Day is to remember, it also serves another important purpose. Indeed, the act of remembering, the commitment to never forget, sends a clear message to the world that we cannot abide a culture of impunity. That we will not gloss over historical atrocities. That we must not fail to hold to account those responsible for gross human rights violations. If we fail to remember horrific acts like the Armenian Genocide, we doom ourselves to repeat the most tragic chapters of history.

Accordingly, during my time in Congress, I have cosponsored House resolutions that have clearly stated the U.S. record regarding the true nature of the Armenian Genocide—an officially orchestrated ethnic execution of innocent men, women and children.

In closing, I respectfully request that all my colleagues join me today in honoring the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

HONORING APRIL GREEN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, April Green.

Born April Smith, Ms. Green was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia to Janet Smith Thomas on April 12, 1969. Raised by Janet and Daniel Thomas in Jacksonville, Florida, she was educated in the public school system, graduating from Sandlewood High School in 1987. Upon completion of high school she attended Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia where she majored in biology and played on the basketball team. April then enlisted in the Air Force Reserve, and shortly after enlisting was deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Storm, where she served in the Medivac Unit as a medical assistant.

After serving her country and completing college at Georgia Southern she returned to Jacksonville, Florida and began a career in banking. After many years at Barnett Bank of Florida, reaching the position of Vice President of Loans, April was called upon to serve in a different capacity. In 2003 she was contacted by her pastor, Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Sr. to provide leadership in the role as the church administrator and chief financial officer. At Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, April oversees the day to day operation of the church staff, finances and development. Bethel is the oldest African American Church in the State of Florida with a membership of approximately 11,000.

Always wanting to give back to the community and having a passion to assist kids with their quest to attend college and further their education, April started the Jacksonville Pistons, a non-profit organization that would accomplish that goal. She created a traveling basketball organization for boys and girls between the ages of 8–17 with an emphasis on academic achievement and personal growth. To date she has mentored over 200 kids whom attended college.

As she celebrates her 45th birthday, I speak for the entire Fifth District in thanking April Green for all her hard work serving the Jacksonville Community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed the House's vote on Mr. MULVANEY's Substitute Amendment to H. Con. Res. 96. The Substitute Amendment that Mr. MULVANEY called for was the President's Budget for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2024.

I was unfortunately not present while the voting occurred. However, I would like the RECORD to reflect that it was my intention to vote "no" on the President's Budget.

NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING ALLIANCE COMPLAINT AGAINST SAFEGUARD PROPERTIES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the National Fair Housing Alliance and the Toledo Fair Housing Center filed a Federal housing discrimination complaint with the Department of Housing and Urban Development against Safeguard Properties headquartered in Ohio. Safeguard is the Nation's largest privately held mortgage field services property preservations company. Their business model involves maintaining and marketing bank owned, foreclosed homes (REO properties). The National Fair Housing Alliance and its member organizations have recently gathered evidence that shows that companies like Safeguard are neglecting and failing to maintain foreclosed homes in minority and low income neighborhoods.

In Toledo, Dayton, Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Memphis, Safeguard has failed to prevent blight from entering into the neighborhoods that are most venerable in our country. In an Office of the Inspector General report they were named as one of the preservation companies that would provide inaccurate information and would manipulate photos of foreclosed properties that it managed in their reports to Fannie Mae. We cannot allow these big corporations to continue taking advantage of the American people. I would encourage more States and representatives to investigate situations like this and send a message to these companies that we will not sit back and allow them to profit off of the suffering of the American people any more.

HONORING IOWA SECONDARY PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AIDDY PHOMVISAY

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Aiddy Phomvisay on being selected as the Iowa Secondary Principal of the year. Aiddy serves as the principal at Marshalltown High School which is in my district. Aiddy was selected because of his work in creating a culture of high expectations for all learners.

Mr. Phomvisay began his career as a ninth and tenth-grade teacher for the Ames Community School District. In 2008 he came to Marshalltown to serve as the principal. He received his bachelor's degree, master's degrees in curriculum and instruction and educational leadership, and his superintendent certification from Iowa State University.

Mr. Phomvisay was selected for this award by a committee of Iowa secondary principals, and he is now a candidate for National High School Principal of the Year. Aiddy has proven that he is a leader at his school and throughout the Marshalltown community. I'm proud to call him a constituent, and congratulate him on all of his success.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE VANDE HOEF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Julie Vande Hoef of Clive, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 600 business leaders and growing.

Julie Vande Hoef currently serves as Policy Advisor to Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds. She maintains a wide breadth of expertise on several policy issues including agriculture, natural resources, financial services, insurance, cultural

affairs, and trade. Growing up on a family farm in Jackson County, Julie's family endured and survived the 1980s farm crisis. Since then, Mrs. Vande Hoef has immersed herself in government service to promote policies that benefit the people of Iowa. Before working for the Office of the Governor, Julie served Iowa Congressman Jim Leach as a Legislative Assistant, directed government affairs for Policy Works, and was a member of the Greater Des Moines Partnership's government affairs committee. Mrs. Vande Hoef has also donned a bulletproof vest in Iraq as she represented the United States and instructed women and minorities on the merits of democracy. Amidst all her impressive accomplishments and continued service to our state, Julie's top priority remains being the best wife and mother she can be to her husband Dustin and their son Tyson. In all aspects of her life, Mrs. Vande Hoef is an example of service, hard work, and Iowa values that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Julie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Vande Hoef for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Julie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING REV. DR. ALBERT LOUIS PATTERSON, JR. OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, SENIOR PASTOR OF MOUNT CORINTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, COMMUNITY LEADER, AND GODFATHER OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Rev. Dr. Albert Louis Patterson, Jr., an amazing leader who touched and changed the lives of thousands for the better through his pastorship of the Mount Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, which he led for 36 years. This beloved man of God was requested to join our Lord on Wednesday, April 9, 2014.

The Rev. Dr. Albert Louis Patterson, Jr., or ''Dr. Pat'' as he was affectionately known by many, trained and mentored hundreds of preachers of the gospel. Among his peers, he was regarded as the acknowledged master and 'Godfather of Expository Preaching.' One of his proteges, the Rev. Robert Earl Houston, put it best:

He wasn't just an expository preacher. He was a preaching lyricist of the highest order. To hear Dr. Patterson was to hear gumbolistic preaching—he hit you with the text, oratory, poetry, interrogative statements, engagement, tenacity for the truths of the text, humor and truth. You would leave a preaching moment with Dr. Patterson in awe.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share just a few of the highlights of the remarkable career of this extraordinary preacher, pastor, theologian, husband and a father of three children.

His traveling companion was his beloved wife, Melba and he had three children—Anthony, Albert III, Alan, and Alette.

Rev. Patterson was recognized three times by his peers as a ''Living Legend.'' He taught and preached at the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and lectured for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, for the Promise Keepers, and the Preachers Division, National Baptist Congress.

Rev. Patterson was named by Ebony Magazine as one of America's greatest black preachers and was inducted into the Morehouse College Hall of Preachers. Rev. Patterson pastored congregations in California and Texas and was the author of three books: ''Joy For the Journey''; ''Wisdom in Strange Places''; and ''Prerequisites for a Good Journey.''

Mr. Speaker, the Rev. Dr. Albert Louis Patterson lectured at the Morehouse College of Religion, the American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee and the Mid-American Theological Seminary. He conducted revivals in more than 25 cities and preached more than 100 sermons and lectures in the National Baptist Convention.

The Rev. Dr. Albert Louis Patterson lived a consequential life in the service of his community, his family, and our country. He has gone on to receive his great reward, a place in the Lord's loving arms.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones.

I ask that a moment of silence be observed in memory of the Rev. Dr. Albert Louis Patterson, Jr., of Houston, Texas.

THE WORLD WAR II MERCHANT MARINER SERVICE ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this Congress matter of utmost importance—The World War II Merchant Mariner Service Act, which was included in the omnibus veteran's bill, FIR 2189. The bill passed the House on October 28th, 2013.

The World War II Merchant Mariner Service Act directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for Veterans status of an individual who performed service in the Merchant Marines during World War II.

The Merchant Marine is a civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Navy, but not a uniformed service, except in times of war when, in accordance with the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, Mariners are considered military personnel. In an effort to support the American war effort during World War II, they became an auxiliary to the United States Navy. Their mission was to transport bulk war materials including food, clothing, and weapons, as well as troops to all areas of conflict as well as domestic coastal installations.

During their missions in open waters, Merchant Marines often encountered the enemy and took hostile fire. Almost 250,000 Merchant Marines served during World War II and approximately 10,000 were killed while serving and protecting the United States.

In 1977 President Jimmy Carter signed into law the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977. This bill granted authorization to the Secretary of Defense to determine the service performed by an ''organized group of citizens'' to be considered ''active service'' for purposes of Veterans benefits and established the Department of Defense Civilian/Military Service Review Board and Advisory panel. In 1988, President Reagan signed a bill into law granting veteran status to merchant mariners who served in war. Moreover, the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act of 1998 expanded Merchant Marine Veteran benefits to include burial in a National Cemetery.

I am proud that the Borough of Manhattan Community College is working on a documentary titled ''The Sea of My Brother'' about my constituent Gabriel Frank, an 85-year-old veteran of the World War II and Korea, who served in the merchant marine for 23 years, and whom I had the honor and privilege to meet.

The film follows the fight of Gabriel and others for the passage of a bill in Congress, H.R. 1936—Honoring Our WWII Merchant Mariners Act of 2013, to provide a benefit to veterans who served in the US Merchant Marine during 1941–1946. From rallying his fellow veterans to meeting with politicians, Gabriel and his comrades passionately fight to win this dignity for their community.

Today, elderly veterans continue their fight for this recognition. Their strong, positive and fighting spirit will not let them give up as they choose to advocate for their fellow veterans, leaving a legacy of inspiration for all.

I am urging the Senate to act on their Omnibus Bill so this important legislation can be acted into law.

HONORING NEW MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker: I rise today to honor 32 high school students from Highland High School and Moriarty High School that will represent New Mexico this month in the We the People National Finals, a three-day academic national civics competition on the U.S. Constitution. During the competition these exceptional students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of constitutional principles in simulated congressional hearings before panels of judges.

The We The People program of constitutional study was initiated in 1987 and since its inception more the 30 million students have benefited from the program. The program divides students into teams where they are able to learn together and challenge each other. Surveys have shown that these students are more civic minded, politically active and have a better understanding of how the government functions.

Highland High School was the winner of the New Mexico We the People state competition and Moriarty High School is a wild card entry. I commend these students and their dedicated teachers and coaches for participating in this instructional program that fosters attitudes that students need in order to participate as effective, responsible citizens.

School: Highland High School; Teacher: Bob M. Coffey; Students: Ethan Alley; Ezra Geilin Baldwin; Dakson Byle; Kathryn Cook; Giuseppe DeLeers-Certo; Diana Garcia; Hannah Glasgow; Brendan Heath; Rachel Lentz; Angelina Malagodi; Pilar Martinez; Gabriel Pereira De Medeiros; Morgan Roberts; Alexandra Shomaker; Sahleah Tubbeh; Francisco Viramontes; Rosemary White.

School: Moriarty High School; Teacher: Amy Page; Students: Arianna Abrams; Peter Brown, Shelbee Geyer; Mason Howells; Tyler Cruzz Howse; Brian Landes; Emily Montano; Alexander Neverdousky; Allison New; Alicia Page; Rachel Pozzi; Jenna Purpura; Tony Ramirez; James Saunders; Cassandra Scott; Griffin Woolery; Donzlynn Worthington.

I congratulate these outstanding students and thank them for their contributions to New Mexico.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to my trusted, long-time friend, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. Zev is retiring at the end of this year after forty years of exceptional public service.

I first met Zev more than four decades ago when he headed California Students for Soviet Jews at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA). It was clear at that time that Zev was driven by idealism, an inherent sense of fairness, and a commitment to public service. And, it was clear that he was a pragmatic problem solver and knew how to get things done.

Zev started his career in elected office in 1975 at the age of twenty-six after winning a hard fought grassroots campaign for a seat on the Los Angeles City Council against a much more experienced candidate who had the strong support of the Democratic political establishment.

Zev chaired the Los Angeles City Council's Finance Committee and worked very hard and very creatively to find solutions to difficult budgetary problems. As chair of the Police, Fire, and Public Safety Committee, he fought against the Los Angeles Police Department's use of choke-holds and against the department's intelligence activities, which included spying on critics of the department and individuals who held liberal political beliefs.

Two of the most intractable problems Zev tackled on the City Council were unrestrained commercial development and traffic congestion. He co-authored Proposition U, which proposed to halve the size of new buildings allowed on most of the city's commercial and industrial property. The initiative passed by a wide margin in 1986. He then worked for Proposition O, which passed in 1988 and blocked Occidental Petroleum Corp.'s long battle to drill for oil along the Los Angeles coastline.

Zev served on the Los Angeles City Council until 1994 when he won a seat on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. A strong environmentalist, Zev made major significant progress in protecting precious county land. He sponsored the 1996 Proposition A park bond to protect open space and develop urban parks and inner-city recreation programs countywide. He led the effort to acquire more than 7,000 acres of county parkland and worked hard on the purchase of the 588-acre King Gillette Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains from Soka University.

As the largest, most populated county in the United States, Los Angeles County has complex transportation needs. Zev has championed a diversity of transit alternatives to most efficiently and cost-effectively meet the needs of the different communities and geographic make-up of the County. He has worked to bring to densely populated areas subway access and to less densely populated areas light rail and busways. He advanced the Orange Line busway in the San Fernando Valley, which has been tremendously popular. He has fought for the new light rail Expo Line, which, upon completion, will travel from Downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica. And, he has been a driving force to extend the subway to the Westside of Los Angeles.

Zev also led the effort to rebuild and modernize the world famous Hollywood Bowl amphitheater which re-opened in 2004, and he was instrumental in the development of Walt Disney Concert Hall, the home of the L.A. Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also helped fund major investments in the L.A. County Museum of Art and the County's Museum of Natural History.

On health care, Zev has worked to secure the viability of our nation's second largest public health system and pushed for reforms that have brought access to care for millions of vulnerable individuals. He led the push for more primary care and strong partnerships that endure today between LA County's public system and primary care clinics throughout the County. He has been a tireless advocate for implementation of the Affordable Care Act and its expansion of Medicaid. Medicaid expansion alone has brought health coverage to more than 300,000 uninsured individuals in LA County.

One of Zev's most passionate goals has been the end of homelessness in LA County. In 2007, he initiated Project 50, a pilot project using a ''housing first'' approach for the most chronically homeless individuals on Skid Row. Project 50 was so successful that the VA created Project 60 in Los Angeles and uses the ''housing first'' model to work with veterans who are chronically homeless veterans. Zev showed that it is not only possible to help the dispossessed regain their dignity and their lives, but that it can be done while saving taxpayer dollars.

Zev's extensive accomplishments as County Supervisor have touched every part of LA County and improved the lives of every County resident. LA County, the State of California, and our nation owe Zev a debt for his tireless work. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Zev for his exceptional service and extending to him, his wonderful wife Barbara, and their two children, Mina and David, our very best wishes for the future.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LEO ALEXANDER VOSKAN

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and service of Leo Alexander Voskan.

From the day he was born in New York in 1915, Leo had a keen thirst for adventure. The son of Armenian immigrants who came to the United States in search of a better life for their family, Leo spent his childhood on the waterfront in New York City.

By the time Leo reached High School, he had developed into quite the athlete and was the quarterback for his high school's football team and was also a member of the school's track team. His physical talents extended beyond the athletic field and onto the stage. As an avid dancer, Leo taught dance for the Arthur Murray Studio and was also a competitive dancer at the famous Rainbow Room in New York's Rockefeller Center.

While attending New York City College following High School, Leo was forced to leave school and assume the responsibilities of the family's manufacturing business due to his father's failing health.

With World War II looming on the horizon, Leo voluntarily enlisted into the U.S. Army for both patriotic and family reasons. Leo's goal was to keep his younger brother George out of the military as long as he possibly could so that he could maintain the family business while Leo went overseas to fight.

While serving as a member of the U.S. Army's Signal Corps, his superiors recognized his leadership potential and sent him to Officer's Candidate School where upon his commission he earned the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

Leo was in command of a Combat Engineering Platoon that participated in the Normandy invasion, where despite his leadership; many of his men were lost including his Company Commander. Leo was given a battlefield promotion and assumed Command of the entire Company.

In Normandy, Leo's Company fell under the command of General George Patton and went on to liberate France and eventually fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Leo was also involved in the liberation of several concentration camps across Nazi Germany.

Upon returning home Leo and his brother George resumed their roles in the family's manufacturing business. During this period, Leo also met the love of his life, Joan. Leo and Joan soon married, moved to the New Jersey suburbs and began their family. Leo was a loving father to four children, Craig, Gail, Lynn and Diane who tragically died of pneumonia at the age of three.

In 1952, Leo moved his family to Longwood, Florida to start an orange grove business which was devastated in the freeze of 1958. Always the determined entrepreneur, Leo continued his professional life by starting several businesses's including, a night crawler supply company and a pallet manufacturing company which helped sustain his family. Leo was also passionate about politics and teaching others about business including real estate licensing.

Leo's zest for life will always be treasured by those who knew him and his service to our nation will never be forgotten. Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing the distinguished life and service of Leo Alexander Voskan.

HONORING SADIE AND DOUG HODO

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Doug and Sadie Hodo of Texas. In light of their commitment to Christian higher education in Texas, Houston Baptist University is dedicating the Sadie and Doug Hodo Residence College on their campus.

Dr. Doug Hodo served as the second President of Houston Baptist University from 1987 to 2006. During that time, Dr. Hodo's wife, Sadie served as First Lady of Houston Baptist University.

It is a true honor to acknowledge Doug and Sadie Hodo's service and dedication to Houston Baptist University as well as their commitment to Christian higher education.

Under the leadership of Dr. Hodo, Houston Baptist University developed new academic programs and expanded its campus facilities. During his service as president, he created an integrated leadership team that resulted in informed decision making and effective internal communication processes for the University. As First Lady of Houston Baptist University, Sadie Hodo served the university with grace and distinction.

On February 18, 2014, the Houston Baptist University Board of Trustees unanimously approved the dedication of the residence college to Doug and Sadie Hodo. The dedication will take place on April 28, 2015.

Sadie and Doug Hodo's visionary leadership and extraordinary love for students built Houston Baptist University to be the great University that it is today—and they kept Christ at the center of both the University and their own lives while doing so.

God bless Sadie and Doug Hodo and God Bless the United States of America.

UCONN BASKETBALL WINS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise with enormous pride to congratulate the University of Connecticut men's and women's basketball teams on a season of unprecedented athletic achievement.

Under coaches Kevin Ollie and Geno Auriemma, the Huskies won both national championships, making UConn the only school to complete this feat twice.

The men's team pulled off a gritty title run, defeating St. Joe's, Villanova, Iowa State, Michigan State, Florida, and Kentucky and shocking the nation as a seven-seed. And the women's team continued a tradition of dominance, winning their ninth national championship and going 40–0 this season.

This double victory takes more than talent to accomplish. It takes perseverance, sacrifice, and a commitment to the team ideal, and the men and women of UConn have shown each in surpassing measure.

They have shown that, through hard work and dedication to a common goal, anything is possible. I congratulate both teams on two amazing victories, and I look forward to seeing them in action again next season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on April 9 and 10, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending to representational activities in my congressional district, including attendance at the memorial services for the victims of the tragic shooting at Fort Hood and thus unable to return in time for rollcall votes 171 through 177.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 171 I would have voted ''no'' (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Rep. Mulvaney of South Carolina Substitute Amendment No. 1).

2. On rollcall No. 172 I would have voted ''yes'' (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Congressional Black Caucus Budget, Rep. Moore of Wisconsin Substitute Amendment No. 2).

3. On rollcall No. 173 I would have voted ''yes'' (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Progressive Caucus Budget, Grijalva of Arizona Substitute Amendment No. 3).

4. On rollcall No. 174 I would have voted ''no'' (April 9)—(H.R. 4414, Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014).

5. On rollcall No. 175 I would have voted ''no'' (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Rep. Woodall of Georgia Substitute Amendment No. 4).

6. On rollcall No. 176 I would have voted ''yes'' (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Democratic Alternative Budget (Rep. VAN HOLLEN—Budget)).

7. On rollcall No. 177 I would have voted ''no'' (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Republican Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Resolution (Rep. RYAN—Budget)).

TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE POWELL NEAL

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Frankie Powell Neal.

Frankie was a loving woman and a devout Christian. She was dedicated to serving others in all aspects of her life. For over 30 years, she cared for our veterans as a nurse at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital and Harbor UCLA Medical Center. Frankie was also the matriarch of a great family that includes three children, eight grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren.

I have the distinguished honor of having a strong relationship with her son, Long Beach City Councilman Steve Neal. I know that she would be proud of his achievements and service to the great residents of the community in which he serves.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the House join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the life of Frankie Powell Neal.

HONORING IOWA ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR KIM TIERNEY

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kim Tierney on being selected as the Iowa Elementary Principal of the year. Kim serves as the principal at Denver Elementary School which is in my district. Kim was selected because of her leadership in implementing professional learning communities.

Mrs. Tierney began her career as a teacher in the Waukee Community School District. She has been the Principal at Denver Elementary for six years. She received her bachelor's degree in elementary and middle school education from the University of Northern Iowa, and her master's degree in educational leadership from Iowa State University.

Mrs. Tierney was selected for this award by a committee of Iowa elementary school principals. The National Association of Elementary School Principals will also honor her as a National Distinguished Principal this fall in Washington, D.C. Kim has proven that she is a leader at her school and throughout the Denver community. I'm proud to call her a constituent, and congratulate her on all of her success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 4, 2014, I was unable to be

present for recorded votes. I would have voted: ''no'' on rollcall vote No. 157 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 539), ''no'' on rollcall vote No. 158 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 539), ''yes'' on rollcall vote No. 159 (on agreeing to the Connolly amendment to H.R. 1874), ''yes'' on rollcall vote No. 160 (on agreeing to the Israel amendment to H.R. 1874), ''yes'' on rollcall vote No. 161 (on agreeing to the Cicilline amendment to H.R. 1874), ''yes'' on rollcall vote No. 162 (on agreeing to the Jackson Lee amendment to H.R. 1874), ''yes'' on rollcall vote No. 163 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 1874, with instructions), and ''no'' on rollcall vote No. 164 (on passage of H.R. 1874).

TRIBUTE TO TYLER DE HAAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Tyler De Haan of Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 600 business leaders and growing.

Originally from Storm Lake, Tyler obtained his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Northwestern University in Orange City and his master's degree in Public Administration from Drake University. As Principal Financial Group's Internal Wholesaler, Tyler has excelled at his role by implementing a new customer relationship management system while increasing the efficiency of his sales territory and sales totals as a whole.

Outside of work, Mr. De Haan is an active leader in the Iowa Republican Party serving in leadership roles with the Dallas County Republicans and the 3rd Congressional District Executive Committee. He has also been extensively involved in countless candidates' races as well as organizing the nationally influential Iowa Caucuses. As a member of the Waukee United Methodist Church, Tyler serves on the Finance Committee and as worship leader. Mr. De Haan has also volunteered his time to assist with several fundraising events for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. Tyler resides in Urbandale with his wife Stacie and their daughter Isabelle. In all aspects of his life, Mr. De Haan is an example of service, hard work, and Iowa values that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Tyler in the U.S. Congress and it is with great pride I applaud Mr. De Haan for utilizing his talents to better both his community and our great state. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Tyler on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

SENATE—*Friday, April 11, 2014*

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CARL LEVIN, a Senator from the State of Michigan.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, be with us not only in great moments of experience but also during mundane and common tasks of life. Through the power of Your Spirit, may our Senators run without weariness and walk without fainting. Give them the wisdom to be patient with others, prompt to appreciate the virtues of their colleagues. Rule in their hearts, keeping them from sin and sustaining their loved ones. Lord, surround our Senators with the shield of Your favor, accomplishing in their lives more than they can ask or imagine. We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 11, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CARL LEVIN, a Senator from the State of Michigan, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LEVIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time now be considered expired, and that on Monday, April 28, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to vote with no intervening action or debate on Calendar No. 574; further, that upon disposition of the nomination, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Executive Calendar No. 613, and that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be yielded back, and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nomination; that if confirmed the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, April 28, 2014, upon disposition of Executive Calendar No. 613, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 648; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote, with no intervening action or debate, on the nominations; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SHERYL H. LIPMAN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 585.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sheryl H. Lipman, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sheryl H. Lipman, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Angus S. King, Jr.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF STANLEY ALLEN BASTIAN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 586.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Stanley Allen Bastian, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk on this nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stanley Allen Bastian, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Maria Cantwell, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Angus S. King, Jr.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MANISH S. SHAH TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 587.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Manish S. Shah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk on this nomination, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Manish S. Shah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Angus S. King, Jr.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF DANIEL D. CRABTREE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 588.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Daniel D. Crabtree, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion to send to the desk, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Daniel D. Crabtree, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Angus S. King, Jr.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CYNTHIA ANN BASHANT TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 589.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk on this nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mark L. Pryor, Mark Begich, Robert Menendez, Tom Harkin, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Angus S. King, Jr., Claire McCaskill, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JON DAVID LEVY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 590.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Brian Schatz, Heidi Heitkamp, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Mazie K. Hirono, Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Angus S. King, Jr., Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this week we celebrate the 30th annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Victims of Crime Act. It is a time to recognize the losses faced by victims of crime and their families, and to acknowledge the efforts of those who work so hard to ensure the protection and well-being of crime victims in Vermont and across the nation. It is also a time to reflect on all that we have accomplished together over the past three decades, and to focus on what more we must do to support and protect victims of crime. I have long supported victims of crime through the Victims of Crime Act, and I was proud to cosponsor the Senate resolution supporting the mission and goals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2014.

One of our most effective tools to serve and support victims is the Crime Victims Fund. In 1984, the Senate voted to pass the Victims of Crime Act—VOCA—which created the Fund. The Fund is rightfully sustained by criminal fines and penalties, not by taxpayer dollars, and provides funding and support for victim services across the country. These services include funding for victim assistance, and compensation programs to help with medical, funeral, and burial costs, mental health counseling, and lost wages.

In 1996, after the Oklahoma City bombing, I supported the creation of an Antiterrorism Emergency Reserve Fund to support communities in the wake of acts of mass violence. These funds provide emergency relief and assistance in the wake of tragedies that might otherwise overwhelm the resources of the State's crime victim compensation and victim assistance services. That Emergency Reserve Fund has been used to support communities in the aftermath of shootings at Virginia Tech, Aurora, and Newtown, and most recently to cover longer term victim assistance for the marathon bombing victims in Boston. The Office of Victims of Crime also provides funding directly to other federal agencies to support assistance to victims of mass violence and terrorism, including the Department of the Army following the 2011 Fort Hood shooting.

The Crime Victims Fund has a long history of supporting victims of crime. I am grateful that in the Fiscal Year 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, we were able to raise the cap on the Fund by $15 million. This is a historic and hard-won achievement that translates to more money for victims' assistance grants. Yet despite the increase, support for direct victim assistance remains 13 percent behind where funding levels were 15 years ago. As a result, 1.3 million fewer victims today are receiving help funded under VOCA. It is clear that more work remains to be done on behalf of victims of crime.

This year, I led a letter with Senator CRAPO requesting that the Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies set the cap on obligations from the Fund as high as possible. As States are forced to tighten their belts, victim services are being cut all over the country. Without Federal assistance from this trust fund, victims' compensation programs and victims' assistance programs and services would be unavailable to many.

I am also proud to be the lead sponsor of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act, which is another important measure that strengthens crime victims' rights and improves crime victims' services. This bipartisan bill was voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee in October 2013 and every Democratic Senator has cleared this bill for immediate passage by the Senate. This is a strong, comprehensive bill that has the support of many Senators, including Senators CORNYN and MCCONNELL. There is no reason that this important bill should not be passed as soon as possible.

This legislation reauthorizes the original Justice for All Act of 2004. The programs created by the Justice for All Act have had an enormous impact, and it is crucial that we reauthorize them. This legislation strengthens key rights for crime victims, reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, includes provisions to improve the quality of indigent defense, and increases access to post-conviction DNA testing to protect the innocent. It strengthens the rights guaranteed to crime victims in the criminal justice process and ensures that basic services, like the rapid testing of rape kits, help victims receive the justice, safety and closure they deserve. This legislation also increases authorized funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program. This vital program assists forensic laboratories in performing the many forensic tests that are essential to solving crimes and prosecuting those who commit those crimes so that victims have peace of mind knowing that justice will be served. I urge my fellow senators to support the passage of this vital legislation.

I was also extremely proud when the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 was signed into law last year by President Obama. This is legislation, which I introduced with Senator CRAPO, reauthorized the critical Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA. When we enacted VAWA 20 years ago, it sent a powerful message that we will not tolerate crimes against women, and the law forever altered the way our Nation combats domestic and sexual violence. Just as it did nearly 20 years ago, this reauthorization offers support to the victims of these terrible crimes and helps them find safety and rebuild their lives. It was crafted with a great deal of input

from victims and the tireless professionals who work to support them every day, and I am grateful for their support and assistance.

The VAWA reauthorization takes responsible and moderate steps, in this case to protect immigrant and Native women, and ensuring services to all victims, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This legislation also includes new protections to prevent stalking and campus assault. It is particularly fitting to talk about this in April, which is also Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

I am glad that the Senate was able to quickly move on this bipartisan bill and ensure it was passed in a timely manner. The reauthorization of VAWA was approved by the Senate by an overwhelming vote of 78–22. This is an issue that has and should continue to transcend partisanship, and we did just that last year when an overwhelming majority of the Senate voted in favor of VAWA. I hope we can continue to work together to support women's and victims' rights in the future.

This includes supporting the Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act, another bipartisan bill that I introduced in March. This legislation represents a comprehensive and commonsense approach toward guaranteeing the effectiveness and scientific integrity of forensic evidence used in criminal cases. It is critical that Americans have faith in their criminal justice system, and this legislation aims to achieve that by promoting national accreditation and certification standards and stronger oversight for forensic labs and practitioners. The Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act ensures that reform efforts will be guided by experts and practitioners with both criminal justice expertise and scientific independence, and it establishes consistent standards in the forensic science disciplines. I am glad to be working with Senator CORNYN on this important effort.

I have always supported and will continue to support victims' rights. As we recognize the horrific losses victims of crimes have endured, it is important that we work towards lessening the effects of these tragedies and help victims can recover and rebuild. I look forward to working with my fellow Senators on both sides of the aisle to ensure that crime victims are never forgotten, and that they have our strong and enduring support.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD CODY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last month, I spoke on the Senate floor about a friend from my hometown of Montpelier, VT, GEN Richard Cody. General Cody left Montpelier—one of our Nation's smallest State capital—to serve his country, beginning as a student at West Point. He had an outstanding military career serving all over the world and culminating with his service as Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

General Cody recently returned to Vermont, where he was honored by his alma mater, Montpelier High School. Prior to the testimonial dinner saluting him, General Cody went back to the high school, where he inspired students with his patriotism and commitment to making a positive difference in the world. In fact, his student audience was so inspired with this tremendous leader that he received a standing ovation at the end of his remarks.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article by Amy Nixon published in the April 5, 2014, edition of the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus in honor of General Cody's return to Vermont.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus, Apr. 5, 2014]

GENERAL WELCOMED BACK TO CAPITAL

(By Amy Nixon)

MONTPELIER.—Gen. Richard Cody, a retired four-star general who came up through the ranks at Montpelier High School, returned to his alma mater Friday afternoon to share with students, staff and faculty his story, as well as inspiration for how the coming generation of young Americans can serve their nation as leaders, whether or not they choose to wear a uniform.

Cody is a graduate of the Class of 1968, and the message board in front of the high school was changed to welcome him back for the day's events. After high school he went on to West Point and ascended through the ranks to become a four-star general and the 31st vice chief of staff of the Army. He retired in 2008, and serves today as the chairman of the board for ''Homes for our Troops,'' a national nonprofit organization which builds handicapped-accessible homes for disabled veterans and their families.

Cody served in the Army for 36 years, and was one of fewer than 40 four star generals in all of the armed forces combined at the time of his retirement.

His visit was sponsored by the Montpelier High School Boosters, who are also hosting a dinner tonight in Cody's honor at the Capitol Plaza Hotel as part of their Celebration of Excellence program. A short film presented to Cody at his retirement, about eight minutes in length, was shown, with photos of him as a young boy growing up here to his high school sports accomplishments in newspaper headlines of the day, his high school photo, shots of him during his career in the Army and during his time at West Point, at his wedding, with his children, and with the troops with whom and for whom he served for nearly four decades—including several returning soldiers whose bodies had been tangled by war, and were in military hospitals with the General visiting their bedsides.

Cody was known as the ''G.I.'s General,'' and at one time former President George H.W. Bush introduced Cody, quipping, ''Take a good look at him. I'm glad he's on my side!''

The film ended with Cody stating, ''You can't ever leave the Army, you just take the uniform off.''

After the film, Cody shared stories of what it was like to be the second in command of the U.S. Army, with more than 1.1 million American men and women in active duty, the reserves and National Guard being his responsibility.

''It's great to be back at Montpelier High School with the Solons,'' he said, offering a walk-back through his life before and after the Army by way of providing some life lessons to the hundreds of young people sitting before him in the same seats he once sat in.

''I think back on all the things I learned in the schools here,'' began Cody, saying as he came of age and entered West Point, the United States was in troubled times, with riots playing out in Detroit and elsewhere and an unpopular war in Vietnam being waged. He said he enrolled at West Point with a desire to learn to fly helicopters, thinking he'd be back home in Montpelier in five or six years working at his family's car dealership washing cars and changing oil. Instead, he rose through the ranks and ended up in the halls of the Pentagon.

''I had no idea that I would spend four decades in uniform and travel all over this world,'' he told students, coming down off the stage with a microphone in hand to answer questions after he spoke for some time.

Cody credited his upbringing and family, and his teachers and coaches here with helping him to succeed, saying many of the people who supported him through the years in the city's schools ''saw potential in me,'' and encouraged him, as he encouraged the students before him in the assembly to ''choose the harder right over the easier wrong.'' He told the group that really everything they need to know in life they learned as little kids, from saying please and thank you to not cutting line, to holding hands with a friend going out to recess, to sharing toys, and cleaning up your toys when you're done. He urged the high schoolers to be kinder to one another, to support one another, to honor and respect the people in their company now—and always.

''My hope is you will reach the highest potential you have, no matter what it is,'' said Cody. ''Do what's right when everybody else wants you to do something different,'' he urged. He told the students to ''seek the whole truth versus the half truth'' in life.

Having traveled the world, including war zones in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, Cody said ''People want what you have,'' from clean water to plentiful food, sewers that work, books, schooling—including for females—and peace and safety. ''This is a great country. We need to make it better.''

''What type of American citizen do you want to be?'' Cody asked. He urged them to be the type that ''goes into this world to make a difference.'' He told them to be the people who can look themselves in the mirror ''and say, I 'did good.' ''

Shelby Copans, 18, a junior, asked the general about the lessons he learned, and he responded, ''As a leader, you have to believe every day that everyone in your unit will do well. Everybody has great potential. . . . It's your job to help them reach that potential.'' He also said he learned to not play favorites, ''because that really erodes team work.''

''Respect for each other,'' was another critical component, he said.

Students asked him about the Middle East, about the recent shooting at Fort Hood by a military man, and conflicts around the world.

Of Aghanistan, he said, ''It's not any better today than it was on 9/11, and I could make the case it's worse.'' Some of the hopes to

really change conflicts in other parts of the world are so deep culturally they are things that will take a century to try to change, but the U.S. over and over works to reduce violence, to ''stop things from boiling over,'' he said.

A major problem worldwide, he said, is the lack of job opportunity for young people, leading to unrest and recruitment by terrorists.

Samantha Flanagan, 15, a freshman, asked Cody about the recent shooting at Fort Hood, where Cody was twice stationed. That shooting left four dead, including the shooter, all members of the military.

Cody said the man was likely suffering from post traumatic stress, saying, ''When you mix guns and you have medical issues and mental health issues, it's tragic. We need to figure out why can't we get medical and mental help they need to them faster?''

In closing, Cody told students, ''You don't have to join the military to serve this country. You can serve this country in many ways, but if you go into the military, you'll grow faster.''

''Treat each other well, take care of each other,'' he said, thanking those in the auditorium as they rose to their feet, applauding their hometown hero.

As the event closed, it was announced that Cody is donating a new custom-made, illuminated scoring table to his alma mater.

After the auditorium event, Cody was given a tour of the high school, and there was a reception for him in the library. Later Friday afternoon, Cody was celebrated during a meet and greet at VFW Post 792, an event sponsored by the Montpelier High School Boosters and the American Legion Post 3.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LOSS OF THE USS ''THRESHER''

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, 51 years ago the USS *Thresher*, a nuclear-powered attack submarine built and maintained at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, left safe harbor on what was to be her final voyage. She was manned by a crew of 16 officers, 96 sailors, and 17 civilians. Just 1 day later, on the morning of April 10, 1963, the USS *Thresher* was declared lost with all hands, the largest loss of life in a submarine accident to-date.

I rise today to commemorate the loss of the *Thresher* and her crew, but also to highlight an important legacy that was borne of this tragedy. In the aftermath of the *Thresher* sinking, the United States Navy redoubled its submarine safety certification efforts, resulting in the establishment of the Submarine Safety and Quality Assurance Program, known as SUBSAFE. Today, SUBSAFE is regarded as one of the most comprehensive military safety programs in the world and safeguards the vessels that carry our U.S. Navy personnel to the far depths of the oceans in defense of our freedom. In the time since the SUBSAFE program was implemented, no SUBSAFE certified submarine has been lost at sea.

The legacy of the *Thresher* and ensuing efforts to improve submarine safety is a testament to the devotion of all submariners past and present and to the commitment of those who support them from land. In order to preserve this example of duty for future generations, I have joined with members of the New Hampshire and Maine Congressional delegations, both past and present, to support the authorization of a memorial to the USS *Thresher* on the grounds of the Arlington National Cemetery. A memorial consistent with the Cemetery's vision of serving as ''A national shrine—A living history of freedom—Where dignity and honor rest in solemn repose'' is a fitting tribute to those lives lost.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me today in remembering the USS *Thresher*. As we remember with profound sorrow the loss of her gallant crew, we must also recall the countless lives that have been saved as a result of this sad event.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 96. Concurrent resolution establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

The message also announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation: Mr. DENT of Pennsylvania.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 743(b)(3) of Public Law 113–76, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Commission on Hunger: Mr. Jeremy Everett of Waco, Texas, Dr. Susan Finn of Columbus, Ohio, and Mr. Robert Doar of Brooklyn, New York.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following concurrent resolution was discharged from the Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 300 of the Congressional Budget Act, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 96. Concurrent resolution establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 96. Concurrent resolution establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1352, a bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–152).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 410. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Res. 413. A resolution recognizing 20 years since the genocide in Rwanda, and affirming it is in the national interest of the United States to work in close coordination with international partners to help prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and mass atrocities.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2256. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land and mineral rights on the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana and other culturally important land into trust for the benefit of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr.

COONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KING, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 423. A resolution designating April 2014 as ''Financial Literacy Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 424. A resolution supporting the mission and goals of 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of, and services available to assist, victims and survivors of crime in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 772

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 1135

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1135, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal a certain exemption for hydraulic fracturing, and for other purposes.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1908

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1908, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 2100

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2100, a bill to promote the use of clean cookstoves and fuels to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2125, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2204

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2204, a bill to establish the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee.

S. 2221

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2221, a bill to extend the authorization for the Automobile National Heritage Area in Michigan.

S. 2244

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2244, a bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2252, a bill to reaffirm the importance of community banking and community banking regulatory experience on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, to ensure that the Federal Reserve Board of Governors has a member who has previous experience in community banking or community banking supervision, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 423—DESIGNATING APRIL 2014 AS ''FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH''

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KING, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 423

Whereas according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (referred to in this preamble as the ''FDIC''), at least 28.3 percent of households in the United States, or nearly 34,000,000 households with approximately 67,888,000 adults, are unbanked or underbanked and therefore have not had the opportunity to access savings, lending, and other basic financial services;

Whereas according to the FDIC, approximately 30 percent of banks reported in 2011 that consumers lacked understanding of the financial products and services banks offered;

Whereas according to the 2013 Consumer Financial Literacy Survey Final Report of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling—

(1) approximately 40 percent of adults in the United States gave themselves a grade of C, D, or F on their knowledge of personal finance, and 78 percent of adults acknowledged that they could benefit from additional advice and answers to everyday financial questions from a professional;

(2) 26 percent of adults in the United States, or approximately 61,000,000 individuals, admitted to not paying their bills on time;

(3) only 40 percent of adults in the United States reported keeping close track of their spending, a percentage that has held steady since 2007; and

(4) more than 40 percent of adults in the United States, or over 100,000,000 individuals, said not having enough ''rainy day'' savings for an emergency is their greatest financial concern, while a slightly lower percentage said that their greatest financial concern is not having enough money set aside for retirement;

Whereas the 2013 Retirement Confidence Survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that only 13 percent of workers were ''very confident'' about having enough money for a comfortable retirement, which is a sharp decline in worker confidence from the 27 percent of workers who were ''very confident'' in 2007, while approximately 54 percent of workers say they or their spouses have not calculated the amount of money they need to save for retirement;

Whereas according to a 2014 ''Flow of Funds'' report by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, outstanding household debt in the United States was $13,100,000,000,000 at the end of the fourth quarter of 2013;

Whereas according to the 2014 Survey of the States: Economic and Personal Finance Education in Our Nation's Schools, a biennial report by the Council for Economic Education—

(1) only 24 States require students to take an economics course as a high school graduation requirement;

(2) only 22 States require testing student knowledge of economics; and

(3) only 17 States require students to take a personal finance course either independently or as part of an economics course as a high school graduation requirement;

Whereas according to the Gallup-Operation HOPE Financial Literacy Index, only 52.3 percent of students in the United States have money in a bank or credit union account;

Whereas expanding access to the safe, mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing finances and building wealth;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and to become responsible workers,

heads of household, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas increased financial literacy empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions and reduces the confusion caused by an increasingly complex economy;

Whereas a greater understanding of, and familiarity with, financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth;

Whereas in 2003, Congress determined that coordinating Federal financial literacy efforts and formulating a national strategy is important; and

Whereas in light of that determination, Congress passed the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act (20 U.S.C. 9701 et seq.), establishing the Financial Literacy and Education Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2014 as ''Financial Literacy Month'' to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe Financial Literacy Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 424—SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF 2014 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, WHICH INCLUDE INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE RIGHTS, NEEDS, AND CONCERNS OF, AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST, VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 424

Whereas in 2011, there were approximately 6,000,000 victims and survivors of violent crime and more than 17,000,000 victims and survivors of property crime in the United States;

Whereas according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, nonfatal violent crime in the United States increased by 17 percent and property crime in the United States increased by 11 percent between 2010 and 2011;

Whereas according to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, ''law enforcement agencies throughout the nation reported an increase of 1.9 percent in the number of violent crimes brought to their attention for the first 6 months of 2012 when compared with figures reported for the same time in 2011'';

Whereas a just society acknowledges the impact of crime on individuals, families, schools, and communities by protecting the rights of crime victims and survivors and ensuring that resources and services are available to help rebuild the lives of such victims and survivors;

Whereas despite impressive accomplishments between 1974 and 2014 in increasing the rights of, and services available to, crime victims and survivors, and the families of such victims and survivors, many challenges remain to ensure that all crime victims and survivors, and the families of such victims and survivors, are—

(1) treated with dignity, fairness, and respect;

(2) offered support and services regardless of whether such victims and survivors report crimes committed against them; and

(3) recognized as key participants within the criminal, juvenile, Federal, tribal, and civil justice systems in the United States when such victims and survivors report crimes;

Whereas crime victims and survivors in the United States, and the families of such victims and survivors, need and deserve support and assistance to help cope with the often devastating consequences of crime;

Whereas 2014 marks the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as ''VOCA''), which is the hallmark of the commitment of the Federal Government to supporting rights and services for victims and survivors of all types of crime;

Whereas VOCA established the Crime Victims Fund, which is paid for by criminal fines and penalties, rather than by taxpayer dollars;

Whereas the Crime Victims Fund has collected more than $20,400,000,000 from criminals to be used exclusively to help victims and survivors of crime;

Whereas during each year between 1984 and 2014, communities across the United States have joined Congress and the Department of Justice in commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week to celebrate a shared vision of a comprehensive and collaborative response that identifies and addresses the many needs of crime victims and survivors, and the families of such victims and survivors;

Whereas Congress and the President agree on the need for a renewed commitment to serving all victims and survivors of crime in the 21st century;

Whereas the theme of 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, celebrated during the week of April 6 through April 12, 2014, is ''30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice'' and highlights the many challenges that confront crime-victim assistance, justice, and public safety; and

Whereas the people of the United States recognize and appreciate the continued importance of—

(1) promoting the rights of, and services for, crime victims and survivors; and

(2) honoring crime victims and survivors and individuals who provide services for such victims and survivors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the mission and goals of 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing individual and public awareness of—

(A) the impact of crime on victims and survivors, and the families of such victims and survivors;

(B) the challenges to achieving justice for victims and survivors of crime, and the families of such victims and survivors; and

(C) the many solutions to meet such challenges;

(2) recognizes that crime victims and survivors, and the families of such victims and survivors, should be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect; and

(3) recognizes the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601 et seq.).

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is, Short on Gas: A look into the propane shortages this winter.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510–6150, or by email to John_Assini@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact, Abigail Campbell at (202) 224–4905, or John Assini (202) 224–9313.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1317 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (135) beginning Ranya F. Abdelsayed, and ending Fireno F. Zora, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2014.

PN1374 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Christopher David Frederick, and ending Julio Maldonado, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1375 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (11) beginning James Benjamin Green, and ending Geoffrey W. Wiggin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1376 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (23) beginning Scott Thomas Bruns, and ending Janelle Weyek, which nominations were

received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1377–1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (42) beginning Roberta Mahoney, and ending Ann Marie Yastishock, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1378–1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (93) beginning Julie Ann Koenen, and ending Brian Keith Woody, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1379 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (112) beginning Kathleen M. Adams, and ending Sean Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1380 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (121) beginning Kate E. Addison, and ending William F. Zeman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1381–1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (193) beginning Gerald Michael Feierstein, and ending David Michael Satterfield, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1382 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (242) beginning Matthew D. Lowe, and ending Wilbur G. Zehr, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1383 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (277) beginning Kevin Timothy Covert, and ending Paul Wulfsberg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1384–1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (380) beginning Beata Angelica, and ending Benjamin Beardsley Dille, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1418 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (59) beginning Mark L. Driver, and ending Karl William Wurster, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1419 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (6) beginning Scott S. Sindelar, and ending Christine M. Sloop, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 423.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 423) designating April 2014 as ''Financial Literacy Month.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and there be no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 423) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

APPOINTMENT AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Friday, April 11 through Monday, April 28, Senators LEVIN, ROCKEFELLER, REED, and GILLIBRAND be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate's recess, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Friday, April 25, from 10 a.m. until noon.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the Friedland nomination as provided under the previous order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be up to four rollcall votes on Monday, April 28. Votes will be in relation to the Friedland, Weil, and O'Regan nominations.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 35.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:14 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 28, 2014, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE KATHLEEN SEBELIUS.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate:

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RANYA F. ABDELSAYED AND ENDING WITH FIRENO F. ZORA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 9, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER DAVID FREDERICK AND ENDING WITH JULIO MALDONADO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES BENJAMIN GREEN AND ENDING WITH GEOFFREY W. WIGGIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT THOMAS BRUNS AND ENDING WITH JANELLE WEYEK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERTA MAHONEY AND ENDING WITH ANN MARIE YASTISHOCK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JULIE ANN KOENEN AND ENDING WITH BRIAN KEITH WOODY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATHLEEN M. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH SEAN YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATE E. ADDISON AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM F. ZEMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GERALD MICHAEL FEIERSTEIN AND ENDING WITH DAVID MICHAEL SATTERFIELD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW D. LOWE AND ENDING WITH WILBUR G. ZEHR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEVIN TIMOTHY COVERT AND ENDING WITH PAUL

WULFSBERG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BEATA ANGELICA AND ENDING WITH BENJAMIN BEARDSLEY DILLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK L. DRIVER AND ENDING WITH KARL WILLIAM WURSTER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT S. SINDELAR AND ENDING WITH CHRISTINE M. SLOOP, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

SENATE—*Monday, April 28, 2014*

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of history, strong to save, remind us that You are not an indifferent spectator to the progress and pathology in our world. Help us, dear God, to view our world as You see it, becoming Your ambassadors of reconciliation. Empower us to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us, and to pray for those who maliciously use us.

Today, guide our Senators through all their deliberations, keeping ever before them the vision of a better world that is yet to be. May they work for justice and peace, advancing Your kingdom on Earth.

Sustain us all with the knowledge that our prayers are not in vain.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 354, S. 2223.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 354, S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 354, S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Jeff Merkley, Patrick J. Leahy, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Thomas R. Carper, Christopher A. Coons, Bill Nelson, Al Franken, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, the Senate will be in morning business until 5:30 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be up to four rollcall votes. The first vote will be on the confirmation of the Friedland nomination to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit. The next vote will be a cloture vote on the Weil nomination to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, and then a confirmation vote on the Weil nomination. The last vote will be a vote on confirmation of the O'Regan nomination to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SEEMINGLY REAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Nevada, and especially Las Vegas, is home to the best entertainment on the planet. Those who visit Las Vegas and Reno know they will find the best musical, theatrical, and comedic performances anyplace on Earth. Some of the most popular performers in Nevada are magicians and illusionists who entertain their audiences by making the impossible seem real. Through misdirection, these performers distract viewers from what they know to be true and instead funnel their attention to something entertaining—and it is really fake.

It seems that the Republican party has decided to follow in Houdini and Copperfield's footsteps and employ a bit of misdirection of its own. For example, last week the Wall Street Journal reported that the Republican Party has a newly adopted campaign strategy to defeat Senate Democrats. They are going to attack me because their attacks and fabrications regarding the Affordable Care Act have borne little fruit.

In Senate races across the country, Republicans will avoid the issues that matter most to Americans and instead will try to focus attention on a Senator who is not even up for election—and that Senator is me.

What are those issues that Republicans so desperately want to avoid? How about immigration? That bill was introduced a year ago, and it passed the Senate many months ago. It is a good piece of legislation and the vast majority of the American people think it is a good idea. Yet instead of explaining to the American people why this bipartisan bill sits idle in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, they want to change the subject.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives refuses to allow a vote. If a vote were allowed to occur, it would pass overwhelmingly. It is a good piece of legislation. Not only is it fair and equitable, but it would also reduce the debt by $1 trillion.

While struggling American families plead to Congress for help in providing work or getting paid fair, livable wages, House Republicans prefer to talk about anything other than what is relevant? Why? Because their billionaire sugar daddies are not interested in helping middle-class Americans.

Charles and David Koch are not concerned with the long-term unemployed families, and so the Republicans they sponsor in the House of Representatives are content to do nothing. These

billionaire oil barons don't care that working women are being deprived of fair wages.

My daughter—or the Presiding Officer's wife—can do the exact same work as a man but only get 77 cents while the man gets paid $1. We want to change that. The Koch-driven Republican Congress refuses even to allow us to have a vote on it. They have started filibusters here in the Senate time and time again on this issue, and they will not bring this matter to a vote in the House either.

As the Senate turns its attention to increasing the Federal minimum wage, which we moved to earlier today, is there any question as to whether Republicans will once again do the Koch brothers' bidding? Of course not. They are not going to give millions of Americans a fair shot at earning a decent wage.

Eighty billion dollars is not enough for these two brothers. Evidently the Kochs think that $10.10 is too much for a hard-working American with a family to take care of. If a person works 40 hours at $10.10, you just hit the magic spot where you are no longer in poverty. They refuse to allow millions of Americans the opportunity to get out of poverty and to give millions of Americans a raise.

The Republicans in Congress yawn at the idea of giving the American middle class a fair shot at financial stability and instead have chosen to distract the American people by attacking me. Like all illusions, they are using misdirection to call the American people's attention away from reality and attempting to buy America with their billions.

The Koch brothers and their accomplices continue to put millions upon millions of dollars into attacking anyone and anything that stands in their way of getting richer—and already rich they are.

Senate Democrats refuse to stand idly by while two megarich individuals attempt to create an American oligarchy.

I have spoken on the Senate floor against the Koch brothers' attempts to rig the system in their favor because it comes at the expense of families in Nevada and families across this great country. In response, one of the Kochs' puppet organizations announced its plans to run ads against me in the State of Nevada.

I am not running for anything for a few more years. As I said before, being the target of a couple of rich billionaires is not going to intimidate me.

Shockingly, the leadership of the Republican Party has decided to follow suit with their new campaign strategy. It is obvious their previous strategy of attacking ObamaCare has proven to be a miserable failure. Over 8 million Americans have chosen the coverage of the Affordable Care Act, plus 3 million more who are on their parents' insurance because of the Affordable Care Act. Up to 6 million people are on their way to having health care because of Medicaid, which is also as part of ObamaCare.

For example, in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 413,000 people have already signed up for the State-sponsored health care they have in Kentucky. So with one failed strategy behind them, Republicans and their benefactors are trying something new, but it is still the same smoke-and-mirrors routine they tried in the past. Divert and obstruct is what they do.

To those Republicans who would rather bash me than speak out about what matters most important to their constituents, I say fire away.

To Charles and David Koch and their radical henchmen, feel free to attack me as much as you want. I can take it. Don't expect the American people to be fooled by this newest sleight of hand strike. Ultimately voters will see the new tactic for what it is—a distraction that is keeping American families from getting a fair shot at financial stability.

In the meantime Senate Democrats will continue to speak against the shadowy influence of two power-drunk billionaires and their devoted followers on Capitol Hill.

Most importantly, Senate Democrats will continue working on meaningful legislation that will get our Nation's middle class back on track.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders and their designees.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum and ask to have the time charged equally against both the majority and minority.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MAREN SANCHEZ

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, in just a couple of hours in Milford, CT, at 7 p.m. this evening there will be a vigil that will bring together many different members of the Milford community to celebrate, mourn, and grieve the life of a beautiful young woman who suffered a senseless and brutal death last Friday morning. In this inexplicable act of violence, she was killed by a fellow classmate shortly after 7 in the morning.

Jonathan Law High School was turned into a crime scene as members of the emergency responder team—first the police and then the medics—sought to save her life. Tragically and unfortunately, they were unable to do so. The evening that was to be their junior prom instead became a vigil.

We will perhaps never know what prompted this horrific and unimaginable act of brutality. This horrific event has united and brought together people who are now mourning Maren's death.

We know with certainty what a wonderful human being Maren Sanchez was, and we also know this community has shown strength and courage by coming together and uniting to help each other—particularly those students who knew her. We also know with certainty how gifted, talented, compassionate, and caring she was as the manager of sports teams, a gifted singer, an athlete, school president, and an honor student. Her whole future was ahead of her. Most remarkably, she was a person of consummate caring and compassion for her fellow students. Those students struggle today to make some sense of this violence, to derive some meaning and maybe some comfort.

I went to Jonathan Law High School yesterday for part of the afternoon and spoke with Chief of Police Keith Mello, whose men and women have helped the community so deeply; the mayor of Milford Ben Blake, who has demonstrated leadership in this crisis; the superintendent of schools and principal of Jonathan Law High School; and the many teachers and parents and students and the grief counselors and therapists who came to speak with those students and help them to think and live through this horrible tragedy.

What is remarkable and so impressed me yesterday was the love and caring that people from disparate parts of this community showed for each other and continue to show in this testing time. This is a time of extraordinary adversity and tragedy. People who might otherwise be strangers are drawn together by the thread of grief and will reform the fabric of a community by simple acts of caring. They are united today in their grief and bewilderment. They are seeking to honor Maren's legacy and sustain it with the very qualities of courage, strength, caring, and compassion she demonstrated throughout her life. Those qualities of caring, compassion, courage, and strength will

see them through this tragedy as they come together for the vigil tonight.

We can all honor the legacy of this remarkable young woman by looking for ways to make the world better, as she sought to do, and filling it with song and color, the lust for life, and the joy and pride in her contemporary accomplishments.

We need to search for steps we can take to make our schools better and safer. The time to talk about policy or steps to better school safety will come, and I hope we will all be a part of that continuing effort in exploring how to protect anyone and everyone who comes to school, which should be a haven of safety and insulated from violence—particularly against the most vulnerable members of our community. But those policy responses can wait until after the days of grief and mourning have passed as we celebrate this remarkable young life. She was described by members of her class as an angel. Her cousin Edward Kovac said on Friday:

Maren should be celebrating at her prom this evening with her friends and classmates. Instead, we are mourning her death and we are trying to understand this senseless loss of life.

He said:

She was a bright light full of hope and dreams. In fact, she was among the brightest of lights, full of the most wondrous hopes and dreams.

So today my heart and prayers are with her family, her friends, the Milford community, as they gather for this vigil tonight. Separated by distance, I will be with them in spirit, as I know my colleagues who know of this tragedy will be as well. This kind of tragedy is indecipherable, incomprehensible to young men and women—16-year-olds—but equally so to all of us of any age. My hope is that we will honor Maren Sanchez's legacy, that our hearts and prayers will go to her family, her parents, and all who knew her and all who would like to have known her because she was such a remarkable and wonderful human being.

Thank you. I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, we are told that this week, on Wednesday, we are going to have a vote on the so-called minimum wage, the so-called 40-percent increase in the minimum wage. This is part of a jobs plan by my friends on the Democratic side. Now, it is not a plan that is intended to pass anything, and that was revealed in a New York Times article by my distinguished friend from New York, Senator SCHUMER, who may be an architect of this. It is to highlight political differences, which is a fair thing to do in the Senate. But lest anyone think that someone is trying to pass a law here, they should not be confused by that.

We have had three hearings on the minimum wage in the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, of which I am the ranking Republican member. We have had time to have those three hearings, but the chairman of the committee, the Senator from Iowa, has said we do not have time to markup the bill in committee or consider any amendments to this idea with better proposals to create jobs. It was reported in one of the Hill newspapers that somebody said: Well, why don't you have time for amendments on the minimum wage, and he said: Well, there might be embarrassing amendments. I think there probably would be votes on embarrassing amendments—embarrassing only if you voted against them.

So let me talk a little bit about this proposal by my Democratic friends to create jobs by raising the minimum wage.

Now, they are on the right issue. The issue is jobs. We have been home in Maine and Tennessee and around the country, and too many people are having a hard time finding a job. Too many people have been out of work for more than 6 months. We call them the long-term unemployed. Mr. President, 10.5 million people are unemployed right now. Unemployed Americans have been out of work an average of 9 months. That is beyond the time for unemployment compensation, on the average.

It is hard to find a job. It is hard to create a job. It is especially tough on people in their forties and fifties and sixties.

Family incomes are lower than we would like for them to be. The critical problem is, there are too few jobs, especially for low-wage workers. Then, we saw a report this morning that said that most of the jobs created since 2008 have been lower-wage jobs rather than higher-wage jobs.

So the issue is right. It is jobs. The American people want it to be easier to find a good-paying job. The Democratic proposal we are going to vote on this week as a solution to the jobs problem is a proposal that will eliminate 500,000 jobs. Now, let me say that again in case anyone thought I misread my page of notes. We are talking about jobs, and the Democratic proposal—this is the big deal this week. We are not going to do anything in the Senate this week of any significance on the floor, so far as I know—a few nominations—except have a procedural vote Wednesday on the minimum wage proposal, and the Democratic proposal to make it easier to find a job is to eliminate 500,000 jobs.

In case you think I am making this up, let me quote where I got this piece of information. This is from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. The Congressional Budget Office is something we set up by law because we will make our Republican points and we will make our Democratic points, and we may shade it a little bit this way or a little bit that way. So we say to the CBO: You tell us the truth as best as you can tell. They are nonpartisan. We do not always like what they say. This is what they said about the Democratic proposal to create more jobs:

Once fully implemented in the second half of 2016, the $10.10 option [to raise the minimum wage] would reduce total employment by about 500,000 workers, or .3 percent. . . .

That is according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Should we believe the Congressional Budget Office?

Senator HELLER, the distinguished Senator from Nevada, asked Janet Yellen, President Obama's recently confirmed head of the Federal Reserve Board, what her thoughts on the CBO study and the impact of raising the minimum wage would be. This is what she said. I quote President Obama's new Fed chief, Janet Yellen:

The CBO is as qualified as anyone to evaluate that literature.

And she said:

I wouldn't want to argue with their assessment.

So there we have the Congressional Budget Office saying it will reduce 500,000 jobs and the new head of the Federal Reserve Board—appointed by the President, confirmed by the Senate—saying she ''wouldn't want to argue with their assessment.''

We will be hearing more from Democrats this week about the number of people whose wages will be raised by the minimum wage. There will be that. But the CBO also reported that $4 out of $5 earned from the increase in the minimum wage will go to workers in families who are above the poverty level. Mr. President, $4 out of $5 will go to workers in families who are above the poverty level, and nearly one-third of those families who would benefit from the minimum wage increase already earn more than three times the poverty level.

This reminds me of ObamaCare in this way: According to a recent Washington Post story, only about 1 in 4 people signing up for ObamaCare were previously uninsured. About three-quarters of people with ObamaCare insurance already had insurance before

we went through all the turmoil of the last 3 or 4 years.

In the same sort of way, the minimum wage is said to benefit low-income Americans, but only 1 in 5 of the dollars from an increase will go to families below the poverty line. And that is not all.

In addition to cutting 500,000 jobs and providing 80 percent of the benefits to families above the poverty level, the Democratic jobs proposal imposes one more burden on the only Americans who are capable of solving this problem, and that is the job creators.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD following my remarks the testimony of Laurie Palmer of Waterville, ME, who owns four Burger King franchises with approximately 140 employees. I say to the distinguished Presiding Officer, I had no idea he might be presiding today, but I am glad to have a Maine story.

Ms. Palmer says in her testimony:

An increase in the minimum wage will directly and negatively impact my ability to create new jobs while limiting the benefits available to my current employees. I currently employ 60 people who work an average of 25 hours per week and earn the current minimum wage as defined by Maine law—$7.50 per hour. All but a handful of these people were hired within the last 6 months. Mathematically, an increase in the federal minimum wage would cost me an extra $3,900 per week or $208,000 per year . . . my net income for last year was approximately $35,100—with an extra $208,000 in expenses, I will very likely be forced to close my business.

She also notes, ''One hundred percent of my current staff starting at minimum wage are under 25.''

Republicans believe that if we want to create jobs, there is a better way. We would like to offer our ideas through the Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee. But as I mentioned, we only had time for three hearings. Although we are able to spend a whole week on this on the floor for one procedural vote, we are not allowed to offer amendments in the committee and, so far as I know, here because there might be embarrassing amendments.

Let's consider what those embarrassing amendments might be. They might be about the earned-income tax credit. Senator RUBIO of Florida, and Congressman PAUL RYAN, have all suggested the earned-income tax credit is a better way to make sure the lowest earning workers in America have a better wage if we are going to get the government involved in it.

Of course, if we are going to do that, we are going to have to deal with some problems, including the Internal Revenue Service estimate that 21 or 25 percent of the payments are improperly made in 2012. We could consider the proposals that, rather than giving those earned-income tax credits out in a lump sum each year, they might be given out with each paycheck.

But the Congressional Budget Office also said something about earned-income tax credits. They said one-third of low-wage workers would be in families [benefiting from the minimum wage increase] whose income was more than three times the Federal poverty level in 2016. By contrast, said CBO, an increase in the earned-income tax credit would go almost entirely to lower income families. CBO also noted that the earned-income tax credit encourages more people in low-income families to work, a value we should encourage.

So if our goal as a country is to provide a minimum wage for working Americans, why is it fair to assess the cost of that goal on just the Americans who create the jobs? Of course it makes creating the jobs harder, but even more importantly, why should not every one of us who pays taxes share in the burden of increasing America's workers' pay? That is what happens with the earned-income tax credit.

There is another proposal, a bipartisan one. We call it the 30-to-40-hour workweek. Senator COLLINS of Maine is one of the principal sponsors. The Senator from Indiana I believe is the lead Democratic sponsor. It is a bipartisan proposal that would, in effect, be a 33-percent pay increase for millions of American workers who already have seen their hours cut because of ObamaCare. It is a way to prevent—to say it another way—millions more workers from getting a 25-percent pay cut.

The reason all of this occurs is because ObamaCare defined full-time work as 30 hours. We would like to change it to 40 hours. ObamaCare says employers with 50 or more full-time workers must offer government-approved insurance or pay a fine. Full time is defined as 30 hours or more. That sounds as though it was written in France.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says 74 percent of their members say the health care law makes it harder for their firms to hire workers. Changing the definition of full time to 40 hours would make it easier to hire. Senators COLLINS and DONNELLY have introduced the Forty Hours is Full Time Act. It would change the definition of full time in the law to 40 hours per week. We could be discussing that this week. We could have brought that up in our committee, had we been allowed to, or the SKILLS Act.

There are 47 separate Federal jobs programs for which taxpayers are spending $18 billion. The Government Accountability Office says 44 of those programs are duplicative. The SKILLS Act, passed by the House, consolidates 35 Federal programs and creates a single workforce investment fund. Members of the Senate have been working with Members of the House to see if we can agree on a revision of the Workforce Investment Act. We are making good progress.

If we can do a better job spending those dollars across America, that would be a good way to help create more jobs in America or at least make them easier to obtain. But we do not have time for that in our hearings. We could spend time debating amendments to transform long-term unemployment compensation into job training. But we do not have time for that amendment.

Today, Americans have been out of work for an average of 9 months. They need new skills. They need skills that help them get a job. Then ask almost anyone on either side of the aisle what is the best long-term way to make sure that children of low-income families are prepared for a good job. Almost every Governor I know is focused like a laser on this. That is the chance to go to the best possible school.

I have introduced legislation that would allow States, such as Tennessee or Maine, to take their money from approximately 80 existing federal elementary and secondary education programs and turn it into $2,100 scholarships that would follow 11 million low-income children to the school they attend. We could create $2,100 scholarships for 1 out of 5 school-aged kids in America.

When I say ''schools they attend,'' that could include a private school, if the State decided that. But this would not be a Federal mandate to that effect. The State would make that decision. It would simply make sure these Federal dollars follow the child to the school the child attends. If the State wants it to be public, if the State wants it to be on this corner, that is up to the State. We could offer and discuss that amendment.

Why not give elementary and secondary children a ticket to a better school? We give them a ticket to a childcare development center. We did that in a bipartisan way last month. We have tickets to college. We call those Pell grants. Why not help them go to better schools?

Then there are other amendments that we think, on our side of the aisle, have more to do with creating jobs than a so-called minimum wage proposal that the Congressional Budget Office says will destroy 500,000 jobs. For example, we could build the Keystone Pipeline, which passed the Senate last year during our budget discussions 62 to 37. That would create jobs.

We could pass trade promotion authority. President Obama has asked us to do that. Both in Europe and in Asia, the President has a chance to negotiate trade agreements that would create more jobs in America as we ship automobiles and soybeans from Tennessee and other places to the rest of the world. But the majority leader of the Senate says: No, that is dead for this year.

We could debate a proposal to reform the National Labor Relations Board. I

do not like the fact that they have become more of an advocate than an umpire, with micro unions, with ambush elections, with undermining state right-to-work laws. But Democrats come back and say: Well, when the Republicans are in power, they are more of an advocate for employers. Maybe there is some truth to that. Let's pass a law saying: It would be better to create jobs in America if employers and employees could count on the NLRB to be a fair and unbiased tribunal, an umpire, not an advocate.

We could create jobs in America and slow the spread of jobs to Europe from America by repealing the medical device tax. That also passed the Senate last year, 79 to 20, which means there are lots of Democrats for it as well as lots of Republicans. So as I say, the only thing embarrassing about these amendments to a jobs bill would be voting against them.

On the most important issue facing the country, surely we can do better than the stale, bankrupt idea that will be voted on this week on the floor of the Senate, that according to the office we are supposed to trust for advice, the Congressional Budget Office, would, No. 1, destroy 500,000 jobs; No. 2, concentrate most of the benefits on those above the poverty line; No. 3, make it more expensive to create jobs; and, No. 4, tax only some taxpayers for a policy designed to benefit the entire society.

This kind of thinking is right in line with ObamaCare, Dodd-Frank, and all of the other policies that have spread a big wet blanket of rules and regulations over our free enterprise system and made it harder to create a job and harder to find a job in the United States of America. That is why we have 10.5 million people unemployed in America today for an average of 9 months. It is this constant parade of ideas that increases the big, wet, smothering blanket of rules and regulations over the free enterprise system and that does nothing to make it easier to create jobs and easier to find a job.

There are better ideas. Reform refundable tax credits to benefit all low-income workers; replace long-term unemployment compensation with job training; change ObamaCare's workweek definition from 30 hours to 40 hours to encourage full-time work; use existing Federal education dollars to give children of low-income families a $2,100 scholarship to choose a better school. All of those would create an environment in which the job creators could create more jobs and in which these who want them could find a job more easily.

That is what we should be about, instead of pretending we can pass a law in America and give many people a higher income. We can do that. We can do that. But when we do it, make no mistake about it, we are destroying 500,000 jobs and giving benefits to people above the poverty line instead of below.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT FROM LAURIE ANNE PALMER, BURGER KING® FRANCHISEE, WATERVILLE, MAINE

Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Alexander and members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony today. My name is Laurie Anne Palmer and I own Waterville Burger Corporation which runs four Burger King® restaurants in the Waterville area of Maine. I would like to note that I am a small business owner; my views are my own and may not reflect those of the Burger King® brand.

In 1972, my father, David Palmer, purchased the only existing Burger King® restaurant in Maine. Over the next 8 years, my mother and father expanded to 5 restaurants around Portland and Waterville, Maine. After selling their Portland stores, my parents formed Waterville Burger Corporation and began growing their operations in the Waterville area, eventually turning the company over to me in 1996. As a teenager and into college, I had worked part time in their restaurants, so it was a natural fit for me to take over upon their retirement. I've always considered my parents' employees as my second family, and I still do so today.

In 1998, I was forced to close one of my restaurants. This restaurant was located in Boothbay Harbor, Maine—a very seasonal small fishing town. The State of Maine's Department of Transportation had rerouted the tourist traffic off I–95 resulting in a bypass of the town. My other restaurants were supporting this restaurant financially and it just did not make sense to continue to lose money at that location. I have invested significant time and money in my four remaining stores, including transferring $25,000 of my personal savings this year alone into the business to keep it afloat. I will always do what it takes to keep my company healthy. Personal sacrifice is the first step in cutting costs. I learned this from my parents and will continue this method of operation. I am proud to employ 140 people, 30 of which are full time and 110 are part time.

I am here today to talk to you about the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013 (S. 460). As I understand it, this bill seeks to increase the federal minimum wage from $7.25 per hour to $10.10 per hour, which equates to a 39.3 percent increase. It would also increase the cash wage for tipped employees from $2.13 per hour to $7.07 per hour, a 232 percent increase. If this legislation becomes law, small business owners like myself—who already face minimal profit margins—will either be forced to recoup the costs elsewhere or close their businesses entirely. In a business that has been solely owned and run by my family, this possible outcome would be devastating not only for me, but for my second family—my employees.

THE FRANCHISE MODEL

It is important to understand that, as a franchisee, the business model under which I operate is much different than other small business owners. By signing a franchise agreement, my businesses must carry certain trademarks and other identifiers consistent with the Burger King® brand. Burger King® Corporation also receives a monthly royalty fee of 3.5 percent and a monthly advertising fee of 4 percent of my gross sales.

As a franchisee, I am often seen as an agent of the brand and not a small business owner. In fact, my salary comes from the net income generated after royalty and advertising fees, payroll, supplier bills, utility bills, and other costs associated with running my business. My net income last year was $35,100. In particularly slow months, I didn't receive a salary at all. In the months devastated by weather I had to contribute money into the business. Further, I am currently preparing my business for the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which is going to cost me thousands of dollars, if not more.

It is crucial to understand that, as a franchisee, government mandates are paid out of my pocket—not that of my franchisor. That's why additional proposals like an increase in minimum wage will put yet another financial strain on my business—one that's already struggling to keep its doors open.

QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANT (QSR) INDUSTRY

As a franchisee in the QSR industry, my profit margins are minimal. As a businessperson, I look at the penny profits of the products I sell. Data from a P&L benchmark report prepared by my purchasing cooperative, Restaurant Services, Inc. (RSI), shows that, from November 2012–October 2013, the average net profit per Burger King® Restaurant was approximately $78,000. An increase in the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour ($2.85/hour) for a small business owner employing 10 minimum wage workers working 40 hours per week is an increase of $59,280 per year. Simple math reveals that an increase in minimum wage to $10.10 per hour would reduce the average net income of a Burger King® franchisee to $18,720 per year—a figure lower than the 2014 federal poverty level for a family of three. For a franchisee like me whose net profits are less than half of the $77,000 average, it would simply put me out of business.

Further, a calculation of profits per employee reveal that those in the QSR industry like me cannot afford to absorb the impact of costs such as a minimum wage increase. In fact, a study from the University of Tennessee's Center for Business and Economic Research concluded that the average net income—or profit—per employee for those in the hospitality industry is $754—significantly lower than almost every industry in the United States (see attached PPE Executive Summary). An increase in minimum wage to $10.10 per hour would cost me $5,928 for each full-time (40 hours per week) minimum wage employee per year ($2.85 × 40 × 52)—a figure far below the income generated per employee. Again, the math shows that I simply cannot afford this minimum wage increase and, unless I can recoup the costs somewhere else, will go out of business.

IMPACT ON MY BUSINESS

An increase in minimum wage will directly and negatively impact my ability to create new jobs while limiting the benefits available to my current employees. I currently employ 60 people who work an average of 25 hours per week and earn the current minimum wage as defined by Maine law—$7.50 per hour. All but a handful of these people were hired within the last 6 months. Mathematically, an increase in the federal minimum wage would cost me an extra $3,900 per week or $208,000 per year ($2.60 × 25 × 60 × 52). As I mentioned above, my net income for last year was approximately $35,100—with an extra $208,000 in expenses, I will very likely be forced to close my business.

In order to remain in business and continue to employ over 140 individuals, these

costs must be recouped somewhere. Most likely, I will be forced to cut employee hours, increase menu prices and/or freeze all possible new hires. The industry has developed equipment engineered to reduce labor hours in the restaurant—an increase in minimum wage would make the purchase of this equipment a more likely consideration. These employees are my second family—many of them have worked for me for over 10 years. A small handful have even been with me for over 20 years. Having to cut their hours or even lay off employees would be almost as devastating to me as it would to my employees.

While an increase in the minimum wage doesn't take into account the overwhelming financial burdens of ACA implementation, I have additional costs that are cutting into my already minimal profits. Increases in food and energy costs have been rising steadily over the last several years. I must additionally consider the fact that my higher paid employees will also be seeking an increase in pay as a result of an increase in minimum wage. My payroll costs are at 30 percent of my net sales with the current wage structure. Simply put, another costly government mandate such as an increase in minimum wage may be the nail in my business's coffin.

THE ACTUAL ''MINIMUM WAGE''

In truth, the ''minimum wage'' is not a floor—it is an opportunity for those who may neither want nor have access to other employment. It is a ''starting wage'' in which primarily young, inexperienced workers are given the training and experience they would have not otherwise received. As a result of hard work and dedication, many quickly receive pay increases and are promoted within the organization.

The majority of my employees have been promoted due to their hard work and dedication and now serve as managers in my restaurants. In fact, my four General Managers began their careers with me earning the minimum wage and have worked their way to the top position in each of my restaurants. All of my hourly managers began by earning the minimum wage and have each worked hard to earn a management position. I strongly believe in developing the talent of individuals.

One hundred percent of my current staff starting at minimum wage are under 25. In fact, 47 percent of federal minimum wage restaurant employees are teenagers, while 71 percent are under the age of 25. The average household income of a restaurant worker that earns federal minimum wage is $62,507. Minimum wage income is often a supplement to family wages or as ''spending money'' for younger workers.

An increase in the federal minimum wage will likely and directly hurt those it was intended to benefit. By increasing costs, small business owners like me will be forced to eliminate entry-level jobs and redistribute tasks to more senior employees. The availability of job opportunities for those who need it the most will decrease and unemployment will likely rise. In sum, a minimum wage increase will hurt both small business owners and their potential employees across the country—the last thing we need in an already stagnant economy.

I'm proud of the opportunity I offer my employees and of course I wish I could pay them more, but my industry business model makes it very difficult. As I referenced previously, this is a labor intensive business with tight margins. It is challenging enough competing with McDonalds, Wendy's and others, but when mandates like ACA and this proposed wage hike are thrust upon me, I get scared, I really do . . . for me and my employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to explain the effect of a minimum wage increase on my business.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ISRAEL

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, every Member of this body has expressed our bipartisan commitment for the United States to stand resolutely with our friend and ally, the nation of Israel. Doing so is right, and it is overwhelmingly in the national security interests of the United States of America.

It was therefore with great sadness that I read this morning about the comments of Secretary of State John Kerry, who reportedly suggested at the Trilateral Commission that Israel could become an apartheid state if his proposed two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process fails.

Secretary Kerry has long experience in foreign policy, and he understands that words matter. Apartheid is inextricably associated with one of the worst examples of state-sponsored discrimination in history—the apartheid system in South Africa that was ultimately brought down by the heroic resistance of Nelson Mandela inside the country, supported by a concerted campaign of diplomatic and economic sanctions by the international community.

There is no place for this word in the context of the State of Israel. The term ''apartheid'' means apart, different, and isolated—the state of the victims of apartheid with which the Jews are tragically all too familiar. The notion that Israel would go down that path—and so face the same condemnation that faced South Africa—is unconscionable. The United States should be aggressively asserting that Israel can never be made an apartheid nation while America exists and stands beside her because America will be with Israel regardless of the status of the diplomatic process.

Fifteen months ago, almost to the day, John Kerry was confirmed by this body by a vote of 94 to 3. Despite my preference for giving the President the Cabinet members of his choice, I found that I could not join the vast majority of my colleagues and support his nomination because I was convinced that as Secretary of State, John Kerry would place what he considered to be the wishes of the international community above the national security interests of the United States.

I fear that with these most recent ill-chosen remarks, Secretary Kerry has proven these concerns well founded. Rather than focusing on our clear national security interests—which is continuing to guarantee Israel's security through our unquestionable commitment to it—Secretary Kerry has instead repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to countenance a world in which Israel is made a pariah because it will not sacrifice its security to his diplomatic initiatives; likewise, he has previously suggested that Israel might probably be subject to boycotts for the same grounds.

It is no wonder Israel's Defense Minister remarked in January that ''the only thing that can 'save us' is for John Kerry to win a Nobel Prize and leave us in peace.''

Indeed, my colleague, the senior Senator from Arizona, has suggested that the foreign policy carried out by Mr. Kerry is the equivalent of a ''human wrecking ball.'' The fact that Secretary Kerry sees nothing wrong with making a statement comparing Israel's policy to the abhorrent apartheid policies of South Africa—and doing so on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day—demonstrates a shocking lack of sensitivity to the incendiary and damaging nature of his rhetoric.

Sadly, it is my belief that Secretary Kerry has proven himself unsuitable for the position he holds and, therefore, before any further harm is done to our national security interests and to our critical alliance with the nation of Israel, that John Kerry should offer President Obama his resignation and the President should accept it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MICHELLE T. FRIEDLAND TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, more than 2 weeks ago, the Senate voted to end the filibuster on the nomination of Michelle Friedland of California to fill a judicial emergency vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. That vote was the fourth time this year that the Senate had to overcome a Republican filibuster of a highly qualified circuit court nominee. In stark contrast, the Senate confirmed 18 of President Bush's circuit nominees within a week of being reported by the Judiciary Committee.

The Ninth Circuit is the busiest circuit court in the country. It has the highest number of appeals filed, the highest pending appeals per panel and the highest pending appeals per active judge. It also takes far longer than any other circuit court to resolve an appeal. The delay in resolving these appeals hurts the American people. After the confirmation last month of John Owens and what I expect will be today's confirmation of Michelle Friedland, the Ninth Circuit will be operating at full strength for the first time in more than 9 years. This is an important milestone, but we should not stop there. There are five additional circuit court nominees awaiting Senate confirmation. I hope that Senators who care about Americans having access to the courts will allow the Senate to confirm these nominees without further delay.

Michelle Friedland is an exceptionally talented attorney, who like the other 19 judicial nominees confirmed earlier this year, could and should have been confirmed last year. She was first nominated last August and after her hearing was delayed due to the Republican shutdown of our government, she finally came before the Judiciary Committee for a hearing in early November.

In January, Ms. Friedland's nomination was voted out of the Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support and she has the strong support of both of her home state Senators—Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER. Nevertheless, we were once again forced to follow the costly ritual of filing and voting on cloture and wasting valuable floor time. There is no good reason we could not have voted to confirm Ms. Friedland last year, and there is no good reason that we did not have a vote to confirm her 2 weeks ago. Meanwhile, it is our Federal judiciary and the American people who suffer from these delays.

If confirmed, Michelle Friedland would increase the gender diversity on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She would be the seventeenth woman to ever sit on this appellate court. In comparison, 83 men have been appointed to the Ninth Circuit over the course of its history. Her confirmation will bring the percentage of active female judges sitting on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to nearly 38 percent. Her confirmation will also mark the first time since the 29th judgeship was added in 2007, that it has had a full complement of active judges serving on this busy appellate court.

I hope my fellow Senators will join me today to confirm Michele Friedland to the Ninth Circuit so that she can get to work for the American people.

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to express my opposition to the nomination of Michelle Friedland to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Although Ms. Friedland has a fine resume, it is not her work experience that concerns me but, rather, her views on many issues—views that should give anyone reason to question her appointment as a U.S. Circuit Court judge. Most troubling to me is Ms. Friedland's views that the International Court of Justice preempts U.S. law, despite the Supreme Court's repeated rejection of this notion. For those who don't know, the International Court of Justice is the judicial arm of the United Nations and Ms. Friedland believes decisions from this court should be binding on state courts in the U.S. I am thankful that the Supreme Court hasn't agreed with her and I'm fearful that her appointment to the Ninth Circuit will give her the opportunity to surrender U.S. sovereignty to foreign courts and international law.

Another reason we, as legislators, should oppose Ms. Friedland is that she has expressed views that indicate judges are free to legislate from the bench. As we all learn in grade school, the legislative branch creates the laws, the executive branch enforces them, and the judicial branch interprets them. Despite this, Ms. Friedland believes laws have no force unless a judge says they do. So when legislators, elected by the people, pass a law or a constitution is amended, the new law has no power until a judge deems it enforceable and a constitution, state or U.S., does not create any rights unless the judiciary says it does. This is a dangerous notion that tells me that Ms. Friedland is likely to only enforce laws and constitutional rights with which she agrees.

It is for these reasons that I am opposed to this nomination.●

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question occurs on the nomination.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO). and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted ''nay,'' and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 108 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Menendez	Walsh
Feinstein	Merkley	Warner
Franken	Mikulski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—40

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Heller	Scott
Coats	Hoeven	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Kirk	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—9

Begich	Harkin	Moran
Boozman	Inhofe	Pryor
Coons	Landrieu	Rubio

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the rest of the votes tonight be 10 minutes in duration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 109 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Menendez	Walsh
Franken	Merkley	Warner
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Warren
Hagan	Murphy	Whitehouse
Harkin	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—42

Alexander	Collins	Grassley
Ayotte	Corker	Hatch
Barrasso	Cornyn	Heller
Blunt	Crapo	Hoeven
Burr	Cruz	Inhofe
Chambliss	Enzi	Isakson
Coats	Fischer	Johanns
Coburn	Flake	Johnson (WI)
Cochran	Graham	Kirk
Lee	Portman	Shelby
McCain	Risch	Thune
McConnell	Roberts	Toomey
Murkowski	Scott	Vitter
Paul	Sessions	Wicker

NOT VOTING—7

Begich	Landrieu	Rubio
Boozman	Moran	
Coons	Pryor	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 51, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I have many concerns with the nomination of Dr. David Weil to be the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor—DOL.

The Wage and Hour Division is an important agency that oversees the enforcement of more than a dozen laws that govern just about every private sector employment relationship in America. To fill this position, we need someone who can be trusted by both employees and employers to enforce the law without bias, and we need a qualified manager. Unfortunately, I think Dr. Weil fails to meet that standard.

My greatest concern is about his ability to be impartial in carrying out the duties of his office. This role requires that he be a neutral arbiter of law. But we have a number of writings and lectures by Dr. Weil that suggest he may use the power of government to pursue how he thinks the employer/employee relationship should be defined.

Dr. Weil has written a new book called ''The Fissured Workplace: Why Work Became So Bad for So Many and What Can Be Done to Improve It.'' In this book, he suggests the Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division—the division he is nominated to lead—could look for ways to expand its current interpretations of labor law and should target employers who use certain business models. In addition, in his book, Dr. Weil singles out a number of major employers, such as Marriott, Time Warner, Bank of America, Walmart, Hershey, AT&T, Verizon, Subway, Hyatt, Apple, and FedEx. Dr. Weil states that current labor laws and traditional regulatory enforcement allow companies such as these to ''have their cake and eat it too,'' because they use common business models such as subcontracting and supply chains and, therefore, can push liability for compliance with workplace statutes off to other entities that are in their business model.

He further says that companies use multilayer business models ''to avoid unionization,'' and appears to be critical of that, stating that employers ''she[d] employment'' to find ''more subtle ways to shift away from a highly unionized workforce or move work to forms of employment that are both legally and strategically difficult for unions to organize[.]''

Dr. Weil has been critical of the franchising industry as a whole. For example, Dr. Weil believes the Wage and Hour Division should investigate corporate entities for wage and hour violations at individual franchises/locations even though a direct employer-employee relationship may not exist. He recommends investigating industries that employ significant numbers of low-wage workers, such as the fast food, hotel/lodging, and construction industries.

The franchising industry has been an incredible engine of economic growth in this country and, according to the International Franchise Association, has created hundreds of thousands of successful small businesses, employing over 8 million individuals. Many of these businesses are owned by people who started on the bottom rung of the economic ladder, making minimum wage, and worked their way up all the way to the top. Many of them are owned by women and minorities. For so many people, franchising has been the path to the American Dream.

Take, for example, Laurie Palmer of Waterville, ME, who owns four Burger King franchises and employs approximately 140 people. She is already worried about the prospect of closing her business with possible minimum wage increases and the cost of Obamacare. The last thing she should be worrying about is being singled out for a wage and hour investigation simply because she is a franchisee.

Dr. Weil's responses to written questions while his nomination was before the HELP Committee also raised several questions about his policy positions. He gave non-answers to some pretty simple questions.

He would not answer yes or no when asked if he supports instructing Wage and Hour Division investigators to presume a worker is an employee even if the employer has told investigators the worker is an independent contractor. In other words, if an employer hires an independent contractor, Dr. Weil may feel that he has the discretion to decide that person is really an employee.

This is important because, just this month, a Texas Federal district court judge slapped DOL, and ultimately the taxpayer, with half a million dollars in costs for a failed wage and hour lawsuit. The Wage and Hour Division unsuccessfully tried to claim that a company's independent contractors were employees. After multiple investigative missteps noted by the court, including a wage and hour investigator improperly shredding and burning interview notes and incorrectly assessing a $6 million penalty against the company, the court found ''DOL failed to act in a reasonable manner'' and did not believe a reasonable person would conclude the folks in question were employees. If Dr. Weil is confirmed, I hope he reads the court's decision closely to ensure this type of investigative behavior does not happen again.

Dr. Weil's writings suggest he may have a bull's eye on industries that use subcontracting and franchising. And he would not answer yes or no when asked to commit to treating all complaints equally based on the merits instead of the industry. Instead, he committed to giving the agency's investigators guidance on how to prioritize complaints, but made no indication of what complaints he thinks should be a priority.

I am also concerned about Dr. Weil's lack of management experience. If confirmed, Dr. Weil will be charged with supervising the work of more than 1,800 employees in 54 field offices covering all of our states and territories, with a $224 million budget. Dr. Weil has no management experience beyond supervising small teams of people at Boston University and Harvard.

Several outside groups, including the Associated Builders and Contractors, the International Franchise Association, and the National Restaurant Association have also expressed their opposition to Dr. Weil. The Wall Street Journal underscored its concerns with Dr. Weil by describing him as ''a lifelong, left-wing academic with labor union sympathies, no private-sector experience or legal training, and limited management experience.''

Last, I will note that this position has not had a confirmed Administrator since the Bush Administration and this fact cannot be blamed on Republican delays or use of the filibuster. The President has nominated two individuals to this position, both of whom voluntarily withdrew before any HELP Committee votes were scheduled. The last nominee withdrew his nomination in August of 2011—a full 32 months ago.

After waiting this long, we need to get this right. I cannot support a nominee who has advocated expanding current law beyond what Congress intended, nor could I support a nominee who is a proponent of targeting industries and employers who use certain business models rather than being responsive to complaints of breaches of the law or one that has the underlying goal of increasing unionization without regard to the desires of employees themselves. Therefore, I cannot support Dr. Weil's confirmation.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for the nomination of Dr. David Weil to serve as Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor.

The Wage and Hour Division oversees some of the most fundamental protections for American workers: it ensures that people are paid fairly in accordance with our minimum wage and overtime laws. It protects vulnerable children when our child labor laws are abused. It ensures that workers can spend time with their families when a new baby is born or a health crisis is looming. In short, this relatively unknown agency plays a huge role in how Americans experience their day-to-day working lives.

However despite this important mission, this critical agency was unfortunately allowed to atrophy during the last administration. The division took a backseat approach that relied almost exclusively on complaint-driven enforcement—relying on the questionable assumption that vulnerable workers know their rights and will approach the agency to report violations of the law—rather than taking a more proactive approach to educate workers and seek out industries and populations where abuses are likely to happen. Furthermore, even this complaint-driven system was often poorly managed—the Government Accountability Office issued a harshly critical report finding that Wage and Hour ''frequently responded inadequately'' to those complaints that it did receive.

The current administration has corrected these problems and beefed up enforcement, revitalizing this essential agency. It has improved the complaint process and encouraged ''strategic enforcement'' that is geared to efficiently using limited resources to maximize compliance with the law.

With this new vision, the division has made great strides. Over the past 5 years, the Wage and Hour Division has returned more than $1.1 billion in stolen wages to workers whose rights were violated. They have done the best job ever of targeting their investigations to the workplaces that have the most violations, even when the workers felt too threatened or too disempowered to complain. The Division also successfully completed vital regulations to expand minimum wage and overtime protections to nearly 2 million home health aides. As a result of the division's efforts, these hardworking people will soon get the most basic of worker protections, and our country will benefit from a more stable and reliable workforce to assist people with disabilities and our elderly loved ones live full and independent lives.

There are certainly more challenges ahead for Wage and Hour. In addition to implementing the new minimum wage rules for home care workers in a careful and thoughtful manner, the division will be tasked with developing an important new Obama administration initiative to update our outdated overtime rules. I am a strong supporter of this effort. Too many Americans are working longer and harder without anything to show for their efforts in their paycheck. Often low-wage and modestly paid workers can be forced to work long hours without overtime compensation because the threshold for determining which workers are automatically eligible for overtime pay is set too low. It is long past time to update these rules, to prevent abuses of low-wage workers and ensure fair compensation for those who work long hours.

The Wage and Hour Division will also be tasked with implementing any minimum wage legislation passed here in Congress. While we will, of course, set the contours of the law here in Congress, the Wage and Hour Division will be tasked with ensuring that employees and employers are educated about the new law and that employers are complying with its requirements.

In facing these critical challenges, I can think of no one better to lead the Wage and Hour Division into the future than Dr. David Weil. Dr. Weil is one of the Nation's leading experts on enforcement of wage and hour, safety and health, and other workplace regulations. He has spent the last 20 years teaching at Boston University's School of Management, where he has done extensive empirical research on the prevalence of wage and hour violations and the effectiveness of different enforcement strategies. Because of his expertise, he has been called on to work extensively with Labor Department officials for many years to help them improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Wage and Hour Division. He has served as a consultant to the Department of Labor under both Democratic and Republican administrations, and has also advised both Democratic and Republican officials at the State level. His expertise on these issues is indisputable.

Dr. Weil also approaches these issues from a unique perspective. He has spent two decades as a professor of management at a business school, teaching a course on strategic decision-making for businesses. This insight into businesses' decision-making process will be invaluable to working at the Wage and Hour Division—both to understand businesses better and to work with them more effectively. Dr. Weil also has extensive experience in collaborating with a variety of groups, often playing a role of mediator and advisor—skills that will help him work effectively with both worker advocates and the business community to advance the mission of the Wage and Hour Division.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have taken issue with Dr. Weil's scholarship promoting strategic enforcement. I will confess that I find these criticisms hard to understand. The basic idea that Dr. Weil has articulated is that we have limited enforcement resources, and that we should target those resources—to the best of our ability—to industries where there is an objectively verifiable pattern of noncompliance and where workers are particularly vulnerable to abuse.

This is a commonsense approach, especially in times of tight budgets. We need to be trying to get the best bang for our enforcement buck, and Dr. Weil

has some great ideas for how to do that. I would think all the fiscal conservatives in this Chamber would be applauding his suggestions to build a more efficient and effective Wage and Hour Division. This sort of innovative thinking and strategic and efficient planning will be a tremendous asset to the agency.

Indeed, a group of Dr. Weil's peers, respected academics at a variety of universities, strongly agree with this conclusion. They note: David is one of if not the nation's leading expert on enforcement of safety and health, wage and hour, and other workplace regulations. He has done extensive research on the effectiveness of different enforcement strategies and has worked intensively with Labor Department officials for many years to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies he will be entrusted to administer. The letter also notes his ''long history of public service,'' including his work with current and former agency leadership on both the Democratic and Republican sides. I ask unanimous consent to have the text of this letter printed in the RECORD.

As this letter confirms, while Dr. Weil has never worked directly for the division, he is intimately familiar with its mission and operations. He knows the Department, he knows the laws, and he can hit the ground running to move this important agency forward.

It is clear that Dr. Weil is an exemplary candidate to administer the Wage and Hour Division. It is unfortunate that the Wage and Hour Division has been without a Senate-confirmed leader for many years now, and I am glad that we will soon be able to change that. I thank Dr. Weil for his willingness to go through this process, and for his commitment to public service. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this nomination and allow it to move forward quickly so that Dr. Weil can get to work doing the important business of the Wage and Hour Division.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OCTOBER 29, 2013.

Hon. TOM HARKIN,
Chairman.
Hon. LAMAR ALEXANDER,
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HARKIN AND RANKING MEMBER ALEXANDER: We are all academics who study different aspects of employment relations and public policy. Each of us has worked in and/or advised the Department of Labor and other federal and state government agencies in both Democratic and Republican administrations. While we do not all share the same views on employment policy issues, we share a tremendous respect for David Weil and believe he would be an excellent Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor.

David is one of if not the nation's leading expert on enforcement of safety and health, wage and hour, and other workplace regulations. He has done extensive research on the effectiveness of different enforcement strategies and has worked intensively with Labor Department officials for many years to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies he will be entrusted to administer.

He brings a long history of public service to this position. Among other things he worked closely with the late John Dunlop, Secretary of Labor in the Ford Administration, on a major study of work practices and productivity in the apparel and textile industries. He currently serves as Co-Director of the Transparency Policy Project at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He is recognized by his colleagues at Boston University as an extremely competent, fair, and thorough administrator.

For the past eight years he has served as the neutral Chair of the Dunlop Agricultural Labor Commission, a position that requires gaining and maintaining respect and trust from diverse groups of employers, contractors, employees, immigrants, and unions.

For all these reasons, we are pleased to endorse the President's nomination of David Weil to be the Administrator of the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division. Please feel free to contact any of us if we can be of further help to your Committee.

Sincerely,

Richard Freeman, Professor, Department of Economics, Harvard University;

Harry Katz, Dean, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University;

Lawrence Katz, Professor, Department of Economics, Harvard University;

Thomas Kochan, Professor, MIT Sloan School of Management;

David Levine, Professor, Haas School of Business, University of California-Berkeley;

Lisa Lynch, Dean, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University;

Robert McKersie, Professor Emeritus, MIT Sloan School of Management;

Paul Osterman, Professor MIT Sloan School of Management;

James Rebitzer, Chair, Dept. of Economics, Law & Policy, School of Management, Boston University.

NOMINATION OF DAVID WEIL TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. This should be the last vote this evening. The next vote will be by voice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor?

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 110 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Menendez	Walsh
Franken	Merkley	Warner
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Warren
Hagan	Murphy	Whitehouse
Harkin	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—42

Alexander	Enzi	McCain
Ayotte	Fischer	McConnell
Barrasso	Flake	Murkowski
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Burr	Grassley	Portman
Chambliss	Hatch	Risch
Coats	Heller	Roberts
Coburn	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Vitter
Cruz	Lee	Wicker

NOT VOTING—7

Begich	Landrieu	Rubio
Boozman	Moran	
Coons	Pryor	

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF KATHERINE M. O'REGAN TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the O'Regan nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Katherine M. O'Regan, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Katherine M. O'Regan, of New York, to

be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, at 11 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session, and that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, and 590; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of those nominations, all postcloture time be considered expired; that following the series of votes, the Senate resume legislative session; further, that on Wednesday, at a time to be determined by me, after consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that upon disposition on Wednesday, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss partly the state of our economy but more precisely the state of our workers. Working Americans are in some sense being attacked from both ends. We have seen an orchestrated attempt to cut safety net programs where a low-income worker making $9, $10, or $11 an hour might be eligible in some cases for SNAP or is surely eligible for the earned income tax credit.

Opponents strongly say that programs such as SNAP foster a culture of dependency and do not reward work. Those same elected officials—some of whom, I might add, have voted to raise their own pay—oppose efforts to ensure that hard work is reworded with fair pay. Last fall one House Republican said: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

I am all for quoting Scripture. I do not think it should be used to vilify hard-working people. Detractors of SNAP, opponents of the minimum wage, cannot have it both ways. By raising the minimum wage, it means, frankly, fewer people will be eligible for SNAP, because if their wages are higher, they cannot and should not be eligible for certain benefits. So we create opportunities for Americans to earn a living wage and no longer need those benefits.

One hundred years ago in January, Henry Ford, in 1914, announced that he was going to pay his workers $5 a day. Nobody thought, when they looked at Henry Ford and his life, nobody thought he was doing it out of the kindness of his heart. But that did not matter; he decided to pay everybody in his plant $5 a day because he understood that paying them more would mean a more prosperous workforce who could then, presto, have the money in their pocket to begin to buy a car, to buy a Model T or to buy one of Henry Ford's cars.

We should be taking a page from Ford's playbook. Productivity has increased 85 percent in this country since 1979. It used to be as productivity went up, wages went up. Since World War II, between 1945 and 1973, productivity went like this: Wages pretty much paralleled the increase. In other words, workers who were producing more for their boss would get part of the wealth, would share in the wealth they were helping to create for their company, for their boss.

So while productivity has increased 85 percent in the last 35 years, inflation-adjusted wages increased 6 percent, and the value of the minimum wage fell 21 percent. Think about that. Productivity went up 85 percent. Profits went up significantly. Wages went up only 6 percent. The value of the minimum wage fell 21 percent. The value of the minimum wage, since 1968, is actually one-third less today—the minimum wage today is worth one-third less in buying power of the minimum wage in 1968.

Simply put, workers, while they are earning more for their bosses, they are making their companies more profitable, workers are not seeing the wealth they helped to create. Fundamentally, the contract—not literally a legal contract but the contract we once had in this country was, if you work hard, if you take responsibility, if you are productive, if you do things according to sort of society's mores, you would benefit. You would benefit in higher wages. You would benefit in a higher standard of living.

In the aftermath of the recession, the job growth, the increase in jobs, has been in the low-wage job sectors. Men and women who lost good-paying middle-class jobs, generally through no fault of their own, are returning to work at low-wage jobs, jobs that make it difficult to support a family.

Enrollment for programs such as SNAP has grown. I hear some of my sort of tea party colleagues complain that more and more people are getting SNAP. They are, because wages are not going up, because the minimum wage has less buying power than it used to. So many workers that were union, middle-class workers now are making lower wages 45 million people. So, yes, the number of people who are receiving SNAP benefits, food stamps has gone up.

In 2011, 45 million people relied on those benefits. SNAP spending increased, but that is a reason to pass the minimum wage. Increase their wages and fewer people will need that. Too many people who work harder than ever are barely getting by despite their best efforts. That is why millions of fast-food workers in cities across the country took to the streets in December for a National Day of Action, asking for and demanding an increase in the minimum wage.

More than half of frontline fast-food workers, more than half of those who work more than 40 hours per week, earn so little that they are forced to enroll their family in public assistance. Think of all the companies, all the companies where workers are making such low wages and they are getting food stamps.

So I come to the floor to talk about the minimum wage and to specifically discuss support for the Fair Minimum Wage Act. Majority Leader REID has been supportive of this measure, as have most of my colleagues in this Chamber. We have not yet been able to corral 60 votes, which is what we need to break a filibuster, from those who I think are far out of step with the country, with their constituents, who oppose the minimum wage.

The Fair Minimum Wage Act would raise the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour in three 95-cent increments. In other words, it is $7.25 now. Upon the President's signature, it would be $8.20. One year later it would be $9.15. Then one year later it would be $10.10 an hour. The bill also—this is important to note because it is rarely talked about. The bill also raises the Federal minimum wage for tipped workers from the current $2.13 an hour to 70 percent of the regular minimum wage. If you work in a restaurant, if you are a server, if you push a wheelchair at an airport, if you are a valet, if you are working in a hotel where you get tips, in most cases those employers are only required to pay the subminimum wage, assuming that you are going to get up to the minimum wage with tips.

It does not always happen that way. It is a Federal law that it should, but it does not always happen that way. As

Senator DURBIN and I were talking earlier, it is not so easy to enforce that. So if you are in a diner and you are talking to your server, the chances are that your server is making significantly less than the minimum wage, maybe higher than $2.13—that is the law—but maybe no more than $3 or $4 an hour.

If you are in an airport and you see someone pushing an older person in a wheelchair, usually down the concourse, or someone who is disabled for whatever reason, they are only making $3, $4 or $5 an hour.

The tipped minimum wage, $2.13, has not been raised since 1991. So every time we have raised the minimum wage—we did it bipartisanly; President Bush signed it in 2007. We did one a few years before that—I was in the House then—bipartisanly. The Presiding Officer from Indiana supported these minimum wage increases. But every time we have raised the minimum wage since 1991, the $2.13 subminimum wage, the tipped wage, has been stuck. It has never been raised. This will raise the tipped wage.

Let me share a couple of letters. I got a letter from Tom in Cuyahoga County, the county I live in, in Northeast Ohio:

Senator Brown, I'm a 50 year old food service worker with a college degree, and I make $7.40 an hour. I just closed my retirement account that had $2,500 in it to pay my bills—and it's still not enough to cover everything. Now with that money gone, I should be able to qualify for food stamps. I only have the most basic bills, and I don't have any credit card debt or loans. How much longer do we have to wait for a livable wage?

The people whom I have met who are working minimum wage or close to minimum wage, $8-, $9-, $10-an-hour jobs, are people who often hold two jobs. They are working hard. They have so little to show for it. For somebody who is willing to work as most people in this country do, they should have a livable wage.

We know there are many more stories such as Tom's that all of us will hear if we go out in our States and listen. Pope Francis I exhorted his parish priests to go out and ''smell like the flock.'' The illusion of the Old and New Testaments and sheep and shepherds was obviously what he was referring to, but he was also referring to the fact of how important it is for people in his church, in the Roman Catholic Church, the priests, the people who minister to people, should understand how people live.

It is an important admonition for politicians too. I think more of my colleagues should get out of Washington and ''smell like the flock'' as Pope Francis said, meet people trying to make a go of it on a minimum wage, put food on their table to support their families, to put a little aside maybe for retirement someday; all of those are so important.

When we are seeing people working harder and harder, and, frankly, getting paid less and less money for it because of the decline of the buying power of the minimum wage, we know it is time for change.

I ask my colleagues to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act. It will pull millions of people out of poverty. It will help our economy because it will put money in people's pockets that they will immediately spend, generating other economic activity and creating jobs.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today as we convene, I call to the Senate's attention today's commemoration of the Holocaust. The Holocaust was the systematic genocide of 6 million Jews and countless others, carried out by Adolf Hitler and his minions.

Today is Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a reminder that we must continue to fight against genocide, racism, hatred, and violence. Yet with Holocaust Remembrance Day also comes the hope provided us by the survivors.

I think of my friend the late Tom Lantos, a Congressman from California. Tom was a Hungarian Jew and a survivor of the Holocaust—and a survivor he was. I had the good fortune of traveling to Hungary and meeting with him there, and he showed us a number of places where he escaped from the Nazis. It was a remarkable story, and he was a remarkable man.

He once said: ''I like to work hard to make this a better country, to provide a just government for our people and make sure we have learned from the past.'' Tom Lantos' statement should apply to all of us.

Today we remember those who were lost, honor those who survived, and share our grief with the families who suffered the tragedy of Nazi Germany during the Holocaust.

Let us remember the words of Congressman Lantos who, in spite of all he suffered, had great hope and faith that we would work to stop genocide in the future.

IATSE LOCAL 720 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the 75th anniversary for the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts, IATSE, Local 720. Local 720 was chartered on February 23, 1939, by the nine original members—Mickey Burton, Barney Deussen, Clyde Gilbert, Harry Beuford, Arden Lusch, Rudy Rear, Harry Keller, Wally Roper, and Howard Folley. Since that time, because of the hard work and dedicated service of its founding members and their predecessors, it has grown to represent over 2,500 professionals in the entertainment industry, performing over 50,000 dispatches and receiving $60 million in gross wages in the last year alone.

The union may have started with nine stagehands, but today it represents some of the most highly trained and skilled technicians in the country, including theatrical carpenters, electricians, riggers, audio/video technicians, video projectionists, camera operators, grips, gaffers, trade show technicians, audio engineers, stitchers, hairstylists, and make-up artists. It is the hard work and passion of these members that helped make Las Vegas the Entertainment Capital of the World.

For 75 years Local 720 has fought for the rights of Nevadan workers. I applaud and celebrate with IATSE Local 720 on their 75th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MARKO MEDVED

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it has come to my attention that one of our finest Civil Engineer Corps officers, CAPT Marko Medved, who is the officer in charge of Construction, Marine Corps Installations West, has announced his retirement from the U.S. Navy.

Captain Medved was born and raised in St. Paul, MN. He and his wife Maria Nagy, reside in San Diego, CA, with their children Jack, 15, and Carly, 13,

I ask unanimous consent that his biography be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CAPTAIN MARKO MEDVED, P.E., CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CONSTRUCTION MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS WEST

CAPT Medved's first duty assignment was onboard USS *Leftwich* (DD 984), home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where he served as the Damage Control Officer, Missile Officer and Fire Control Officer. He deployed with *Leftwich* to serve in Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1989–1990 and returned again to the Persian Gulf in 1992–1993.

CAPT Medved transferred to the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) in the summer of 1993. He reported to his first CEC assignment at Resident Officer-in-Charge of Construction, Puerto Rico Area, in January 1994. Here he managed construction contracts in the U.S. Virgin Islands and at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads. CAPT Medved was then reassigned to the Public Works Department (PWD) where he directed the Technical Management Division, then Customer Service for the Base Operating Support Contract. In October of 1997,

CAPT Medved joined the ''Professionals'' of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Five, leading a Detachment for Training to assist in disaster recovery in Sao Miguel, Azores, Portugal. He later deployed to Okinawa as Charlie Company Commander and Air Detachment Commander. Upon completion of graduate school in August 2000, he reported to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Readiness and Logistics) staff to serve as Action Officer for Range Planning and Base Realignment and Closure. During the 107th Congress, CAPT Medved served as a Legislative Fellow for Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi, working on Defense Appropriations. He then served as the Public Works Officer at Naval District Washington, Indian Head, Maryland—the Center for Naval Energetics, until June 2005. Shifting coasts, CAPT Medved lead the Coastal Integrated Process Team at NAVFAC Southwest, supporting bases in San Diego, Ventura County and Monterey. In his next assignment as the Assistant Regional Engineer for Navy Region Southwest, he led the facilities programs for naval bases and reserve centers across six states. Deploying as an Individual Augment, he served as the Public Works Officer for Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, where he supported Marine and Army Division Commanders in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

CAPT Medved graduated with distinction from Annapolis with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering in May 1989. He later attended postgraduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning a Master of Science degree in Construction Engineering and Management in August 2000. In the summer of 2011, he completed the Advanced Management Program at the Duke Fuqua School of Business. He holds qualifications in Seabee Combat Warfare and Surface Warfare, is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community, and is a registered Professional Engineer in Virginia. CAPT Medved's awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), and the Combat Action Ribbon.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide—a tragedy that has left a dark stain on the collective conscience of the world.

Between 1915 and 1923, more than 1.5 million Armenians were marched to their deaths in the deserts of the Middle East, murdered in concentration camps, drowned at sea, and forced to endure unimaginable acts of brutality at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

The Armenian Genocide—along with the Holocaust is one of the most studied cases of genocide in history. Countless experts have documented the atrocities that occurred, compiling an overwhelming body of historical evidence on the Armenian Genocide.

However, successive U.S. administrations have refused to call the deliberate massacre of the Armenians by its rightful name, continuing only to refer to it as an annihilation, massacre, or murder.

It has been nearly a century since the Armenian Genocide began and each day that goes by without full acknowledgement by the United States prolongs the pain felt by the descendants of the victims, as well as the entire Armenian community.

For years, I have been urging both Democratic and Republican administrations to finally acknowledge the Armenian Genocide for what it was—genocide. I do so again today.

The United States has often led the international community in speaking out against violence and suffering wherever it occurs. But tragically, our Nation is on the wrong side of history when it comes to the Armenian Genocide. I hope that this year we right this terrible wrong once and for all.

It is time for the United States to join the list of countries from Argentina to France as well as 43 U.S. States that have unequivocally affirmed the Armenian Genocide.

Genocide is only possible when people avert their eyes. Any effort to deal with genocide—whether past, present or future—must begin with the truth.

So this April 24, as we pause to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide and to celebrate the many contributions Armenian Americans have made to our great nation, I hope that the United States will finally and firmly stand on the right side of history and call the tragedy of 1915–1923 by its rightful name.

TRIBUTE TO H. SAWIN MILLETT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on May 30, H. Sawin Millett will step down as commissioner of the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, one of many positions he has held during a remarkable career of more than 55 years of dedicated service at all levels of government. I rise today to join the people of Maine in thanking him for his many contributions as he retires to his family, his farm, and his beloved hometown of Waterford, ME.

Sawin has served five Maine Governors—Republican, Democratic, and Independent—and in the cabinets of four. His energy, expertise, and commitment to responsible and accountable government have been applied to such diverse areas as education, finance, and mental health services.

Sawin served six terms in the Maine legislature and was lead House Republican on the Appropriations Committee during the last three. His institutional knowledge and keen understanding of the State budget process and fiscal operations has been invaluable to our State. Building on his early career as a teacher, coach, and principal, he was the first executive director of the Maine School Management Association and an assistant professor at the University of Southern Maine.

It is fitting that Sawin's life in public service began at the local level, serving as selectmen in the towns of Dixmont and Waterford, and as a town meeting moderator.

The appreciation of Sawin's service crosses party lines. When the announcement of his retirement was made, both sides of the aisle were united in praise for this generous mentor and effective leader who has always been devoted to the people of Maine.

I have had the privilege of knowing Sawin for many years. We served together in the cabinet of Gov. John McKernan, and I was fortunate to have him on my State staff during my first term in the Senate. I also have had the pleasure of knowing his wonderful wife Barbara, who has been a strong and loving partner for more than 57 years. On behalf of the people of Maine, I wish them health and happiness in the years to come.

LET FREEDOM RACE CELEBRATION

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise to thank the great people at the Charlotte Motor Speedway for their hard work in honoring our Nation's military and veterans' families. This Memorial Day Weekend, the 55th Let Freedom Race Celebration at CMS will bring together more than 100,000 military guests to celebrate our military heroes and honor their service. This Memorial Day tradition will, once again, showcase our military strength by demonstrating patriotic unity and pride for those who served in our Armed Forces to protect us.

Over the 55 years of the Memorial Day weekend celebration at Charlotte Motor Speedway, millions of race fans have joined together to celebrate America's military heroes and honor their service. Generations of men and women have worn their Nation's uniform with pride and put their lives on the line to protect and preserve our most precious commodity: freedom. Many of them paid the ultimate price and should always be remembered for their sacrifice. I commend all those at Charlotte Motor Speedway, and the wider racing community, for their continuing support of our men and women in uniform.

Please join me in recognizing those at the Charlotte Motor Speedway for their efforts in promoting the Let Freedom Race Celebration each May.

COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Columbus State Community College in recognition of its 50th anniversary and the opportunities it has provided to students throughout Ohio. On September 30, 1963, Columbus State was founded in the basement of Central High School in Columbus, OH. Since its inception, Columbus State has grown tremendously by expanding

its enrollment and academic offerings from an initial 67 students to more than 25,000 students. The diverse student body has come from more than 130 countries and all of Ohio's 88 counties.

The mission of Columbus State is ''to educate and inspire, providing [its] students with the opportunity to achieve their goals.'' This mission is vital to the Columbus community. Throughout its 50 years, Columbus State has provided exemplary educational opportunities through more than 200-plus degree and certificate programs. It has awarded nearly 50,000 degrees and has a nearly $1 billion annual impact on the local economy. The school also provides several transfer options and continuing education opportunities to students.

I have visited Columbus State and seen firsthand the excellent education and training it provides to students, including the resources available through the Center for Workforce Development. The center collaborates with companies in the Columbus region to address workforce needs through innovative approaches to education and customized training. It is helping to ensure that students are prepared with the skills they need for the jobs of the 21st century.

I am pleased to honor Columbus State Community College and congratulate everyone who was a part of making its first 50 years a success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO IVÓN PADILLA-RODRÍGUEZ

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Ivón Padilla-Rodríguez, an honors program student at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Ms. Padilla-Rodríguez was selected for a prestigious 2014 Harry S. Truman Scholarship from among the Nation's most competitive applicants. The award is given annually for those of demonstrated leadership and public service. She is the fourth student in UNR's history to receive the award. Her hard work is deservingly rewarded through the scholarship, as she plans to utilize the funds toward her goal of becoming a legal advocate.

Focused, bright, and driven are just a few of the words used by Ms. Padilla-Rodríguez's mentors and colleagues to describe her attributes. Overcoming homelessness and becoming a Truman Scholar are far from her only accolades: this year she was also named one of the 10 Top College Women by Glamour Magazine, and in 2011, she secured $100,000 as a scholarship from Dr. Pepper in one of their annual Tuition Giveaway challenges.

A dedication to the community is evident through her commitment to adolescent outreach. In 2012, Ms. Padilla-Rodríguez co-founded Spotlight, a free improvisational theater program in Reno for youth, and she even carried her improvisational talents to Costa Rica, where she shared the skills with orphans while studying abroad.

Above all, Ms. Padilla-Rodríguez has maintained a dedication to her studies. A junior honors student, she is double majoring in English and history, and working toward a minor in philosophy of law, ethics, and politics. In all of her free time, she conducts research at UNR's Latino Research Center on immigration reform. She has been invited as one of 60 college students in the Nation to present her research on Capitol Hill later this month.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ivón Padilla-Rodríguez on all of her successes thus far.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries, on Friday, April 11, 2014.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Health, Labor, Education, and Pensions, on Friday, April 11, 2014.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2262. A bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5318. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Consolidation of Permit Procedures; Denial and Revocation of Permits'' ((RIN0579–AD76) (Docket No. APHIS–2011–0085)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5319. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Spirulina Extract'' (Docket No. FDA–2012–C–0900) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5320. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food'' (Docket No. FDA–2001–F–0049, Formerly Docket No. 01F–0047) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5321. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Advisory Committee: Bone, Reproductive and Urologic Drugs Advisory Committee'' (Docket No. FDA–2014–N–0355) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5322. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Air Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills; State of Missouri'' (FRL No. 9909–45–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5323. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Stephen P. Mueller, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5324. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Transportation'' ((RIN0750–AH90) (DFARS Case 2012–D057)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5325. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress On Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5326. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5327. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Certain Consumer Products'' (RIN1904–AD08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5328. A communication from the Chief of the Permits and Regulations Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and

Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of the Regulation that Excludes U.S. Captive-Bred Scimitar-Horned Oryx, Addax, and Dama Gazelle from Certain Prohibitions'' (RIN1018–BA47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5329. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Mazama Pocket Gophers'' (RIN1018–AZ37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5330. A communication from the Chief of the Recovery and State Grants Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Island Night Lizard from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife'' (RIN1018–AY44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5331. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Olympia Pocket Gopher, Roy Prairie Pocket Gopher, Tenino Pocket Gopher, and Yelm Pocket Gopher, with Special Rule'' (RIN1018–AZ17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5332. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2013–2014 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations'' (RIN1018–AZ87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5333. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Jaguar'' (RIN1018–AX13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5334. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Species Status for the Georgetown Salamander and Salado Salamander Throughout Their Ranges'' (RIN1018–AY22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5335. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Status for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken'' (RIN1018–AY21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5336. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Special Rule for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken'' (RIN1018–AY21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5337. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2014 Season'' (RIN1018–BA02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5338. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''NRC Assessment Program for a Medical Event or an Incident Occurring at a Medical Facility'' (Management Directive 8.10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5339. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 9908–53–Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5340. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Reasonable Further Progress Plan and 2002 Base Year Emission Inventory'' (FRL No. 9908–51—Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5341. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter'' (FRL No. 9909–57—Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5342. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Clean Data Determination for the Baton Rouge Area for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 9909–53—Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5343. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri'' (FRL No. 9909–43—Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5344. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 9909–51—Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5345. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances; Withdrawal'' (FRL No. 9909–25–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5346. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Underground Storage Tank Program: Codification of Approved State Program for South Carolina'' (FRL No. 9909–12—Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5347. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Alaska; Revised Format of 40 CFR Part 52 for Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL No. 9908–23—Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5348. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates'' (Notice 2014–27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5349. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Application of the Windsor Decision and Rev. Rul. 2013–17 to Qualified Retirement Plans'' (Notice 2014–19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5350. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; McConnellsburg, PA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0558)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5351. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Revisions to Headboat Reporting Requirements for Species Managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council'' (RIN0648–BD49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5352. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Big Skate in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD120) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5353. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the Policy and Licensing Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Service Rules Governing Public Safety Narrowband Operations in the 769–775/779–805 MHz Bands'' (WT Docket No. 96–86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5354. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD111) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5355. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of a group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State (OSS 2014–0491); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5356. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Central African Republic'' (RIN1400–AD56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5357. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Changes to Authorized Officials and the UK Defense Trade Treaty Exemption; Correction of Errors in Lebanon Policy and Violations; and Adoption of Recent Amendments as Final; Correction'' (RIN1400–AD49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5358. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–035); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5359. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–018); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5360. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–190); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5361. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–149); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5362. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–136); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5363. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of April 11, 2014, the following reports of committees were submitted on April 25, 2014:

By Mr. NELSON, from the Special Committee on Aging:

Special Report entitled ''Pushing the Envelope: Publishers Clearing House in the New Era of Direct Marketing'' (Rept. No. 113–153).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 2260. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–09154).

S. 2261. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, to remove provisions that are no longer applicable, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–09155).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from the tax on early distributions for certain Bureau of Prisons correctional officers who retire before age 55, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, and Mr. MORAN)):

S. 2258. A bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2259. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow for data collection about military-connected students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2260. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2261. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, to remove provisions that are no longer applicable, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BENNET, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2262. A bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2263. A bill to appropriately limit the authority to award bonuses to employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2264. A bill to designate memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 357

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 357, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 466

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 466, a bill to assist low-income

individuals in obtaining recommended dental care.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 878

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 942

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1239

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to expand the research and awareness activities of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to scleroderma, and for other purposes.

S. 1510

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1510, a bill to provide for auditable financial statements for the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1562, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 1635

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1635, a bill to amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to extend the period during which supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits are temporarily increased.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to support early learning.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to amend section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants, similar retail food establishments, and vending machines.

S. 1828

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1828, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 1839

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1839, a bill to make certain luggage and travel articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 1956

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1956, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to review the discharge characterization of former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged by reason of the sexual orientation of the member, and for other purposes.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. BURR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2022

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2022, a bill to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, and for other purposes.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2075, a bill to prohibit a reduction in funding for the defense commissary system in fiscal year 2015 pending the report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

S. 2118

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2118, a bill to protect the separation of powers in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2223

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States

relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 1603, to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes; S. 1818, to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes; S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes; S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes; and S. 2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee (202) 224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing to receive testimony on: ''Indian Education Series: Ensuring the Bureau of Indian Education has the Tools Necessary to Improve.'' Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing to receive testimony on: ''Wildfires and Forest Management: Prevention is Preservation.'' Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2262

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2262, introduced earlier today by Senators SHAHEEN, PORTMAN, and others is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2262) to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

Mr. BROWN. I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders to be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that at 11 a.m. the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order; further, that following the votes, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; and, finally, that the majority control the time from 2:15 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. and the Republicans control the time from 3:30 p.m. until 4:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, there will be six rollcall votes starting at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 29, 2014, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

MICHELLE T. FRIEDLAND, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DAVID WEIL, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

KATHERINE M. O'REGAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Monday, April 28, 2014*

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 28, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

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

Bless abundantly the Members of this people's House as they return from a long recess, when millions of Americans remembered who they were as men and women of faith. Their prayers must certainly include hope that our Nation's ongoing challenges might be met with wisdom in solutions forged by all those who represent them.

During this season of new growth, may Your redemptive power help those who have been elected by their fellow citizens to see new ways to productive service, fresh approaches to understanding each other, especially those across the aisle, and renewed commitment to solving the problems facing our Nation.

May they, and may we all, be transformed by Your grace, and better reflect the sense of wonder, even joy, at the opportunities to serve that are ever before us.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST FOR MOX REPORT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in February, the President, sadly, announced his plan to terminate the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, also known as MOX, at the Savannah River Site.

The administration blamed the cost estimate as the reason to halt construction. Shutting down this project halts environmental cleanup, which is converting weapons-grade plutonium into green fuel.

South Carolina and Georgia are at risk of being a nuclear waste dump site, breaking a nonproliferation agreement with Russia. This highly exaggerated cost was assessed in a report that is closed to the public.

Constituents living in Aiken and Barnwell Counties, adjacent to Georgia, deserve to know the truth. I am grateful that the Aiken Standard has filed a Freedom of Information Act request in pursuit of the cost analysis.

We should be working together for environmental cleanup, for nonproliferation compliance, and for national security to support the Savannah River Site in its vital mission with dedicated employees.

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

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, we solemnly reflect on the 6 million Jews who were systematically murdered by a madman known as Hitler and his Nazi followers.

We remember the children torn from the arms of their parents as they marched to the gas chambers. We remember the teenagers who were forced to dig their own graves. We remember the men and women who perished in labor camps from disease and starvation.

This day is a tribute to the enduring memory of the destruction of humanity during the Jewish Holocaust. It is a forceful reminder for generations to come: never forget, and never again.

ARMY RESERVE 106TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the United States Army Reserve, which this week celebrates 106 years of service defending our country.

For generations, the Army Reserve has played an essential role in the defense of this Nation. These citizen-soldiers are also actively engaged citizens in every community throughout the country. They continue to be a true testament to America's All-Volunteer Armed Forces.

Most reservists must strike a balance between family life, full-time employment, and the growing demands of serving in our Nation's professional Army. This upcoming weekend I will have the honor of meeting with several Army Reserve units throughout Pennsylvania to highlight the important role that these men and women play in our national defense and also our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Army Reserve for continuing to play an important role in the defense of our great Nation.

I rise and reiterate how very proud we are of these men and women and all that they do for our country and to wish a special 106th birthday to our Army Reserve.

GROUNDBREAKING OF THE CONNECTICUT TREES OF HONOR MEMORIAL

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

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, last week Connecticut broke ground on a new memorial to honor the 65 men and women who died serving our country in the war on terror.

Like all memorials, this beautiful place will serve both as a source of comfort for loved ones, as well as a lasting reminder of the cost of freedom. That cost is measured in lives, but also in promises kept.

We have a duty to honor our veterans and support their families. That is why I am a proud author of the Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act. My bill would assist home caregivers of all veterans injured during their service, allowing them to recover in the comfort of their own homes.

I stand with the VFW and the DAV to do my part to ensure that we care and honor all those who so bravely serve our country.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 3383.

IF YOU LIKE YOUR DOCTORS, YOU CAN KEEP YOUR DOCTORS, BUT WE WON'T PAY THEM

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, just late last week there was a news story that healthcare.gov was still not finished. The back-end portion, the part that deals with payments to doctors and hospitals, still has not been constructed.

Now, that was odd because just the week before the President held a big press conference down at the White House and said, Mission accomplished; everything we wanted to do has been done.

Well, how do you reconcile these discrepancies? What, in fact, is the timeline for this to be accomplished?

Mission accomplished: the patients, the doctors, and the hospitals who are going to end up the ones on the hook for these payments that are not going to be received, I wonder if they feel the same way.

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Workers' Memorial Day, which is today, and honor those Americans who have lost their lives.

From steel mills to nursing homes, offices to construction sites, we must work to strengthen safety measures for all those who still face hazards in the workplace. We must ensure that workers in all areas are able to do their jobs in a safe environment. That includes agriculture.

Whether in a factory or on a farm, even one death on the job is too many. But in central New York, we are seeing far too many farmworkers being hurt and killed. In fact, two died in farm accidents in a single week recently. That is why I support the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's local emphasis program. My office and I have worked hard to ensure that dairies know the standards and have a reasonable time to comply.

But on this Workers' Memorial Day, let's dedicate ourselves to making our farms safe workplaces and support OSHA's efforts to do so.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore THORNBERRY on Thursday, April 10, 2014:

S. 2195, to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 10, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 10, 2014 at 5:32 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 994.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 11, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 11, 2014 at 11:33 a.m.:

Appointments: National Commission on Hunger.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for both documents and testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM DIRECTOR OF APPROPRIATIONS, THE HONORABLE CHAKA FATTAH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Michelle Anderson-Lee, Director of Appropriations, the Honorable CHAKA FATTAH, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, for testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

MICHELLE ANDERSON-LEE,
Director of Appropriations.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1610

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 4 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings

today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

DIGITAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 994) to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 994

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014'' or the ''DATA Act''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) by disclosing direct Federal agency expenditures and linking Federal contract, loan, and grant spending information to programs of Federal agencies to enable taxpayers and policy makers to track Federal spending more effectively;

(2) establish Government-wide data standards for financial data and provide consistent, reliable, and searchable Government-wide spending data that is displayed accurately for taxpayers and policy makers on USASpending.gov (or a successor system that displays the data);

(3) simplify reporting for entities receiving Federal funds by streamlining reporting requirements and reducing compliance costs while improving transparency;

(4) improve the quality of data submitted to USASpending.gov by holding Federal agencies accountable for the completeness and accuracy of the data submitted; and

(5) apply approaches developed by the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board to spending across the Federal Government.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''this Act'';

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as paragraphs (2), (4), and (7), respectively;

(iii) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.'';

(iv) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(3) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term 'Federal agency' has the meaning given the term 'Executive agency' under section 105 of title 5, United States Code.'';

(v) by inserting after paragraph (4), as so redesignated, the following:

''(5) OBJECT CLASS.—The term 'object class' means the category assigned for purposes of the annual budget of the President submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, to the type of property or services purchased by the Federal Government.

''(6) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term 'program activity' has the meaning given that term under section 1115(h) of title 31, United States Code.''; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Treasury.'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (3), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(ii) in paragraph (4), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) shall have the ability to aggregate data for the categories described in paragraphs (1) through (5) without double-counting data; and

''(7) shall ensure that all information published under this section is available—

''(A) in machine-readable and open formats;

''(B) to be downloaded in bulk; and

''(C) to the extent practicable, for automated processing.'';

(D) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(E) in subsection (e), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(F) in subsection (g)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(2) by striking sections 3 and 4 and inserting the following:

''SEC. 3. FULL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, and monthly when practicable but not less than quarterly thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall ensure that the information in subsection (b) is posted on the website established under section 2.

''(b) INFORMATION TO BE POSTED.—For any funds made available to or expended by a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency, the information to be posted shall include—

''(1) for each appropriations account, including an expired or unexpired appropriations account, the amount—

''(A) of budget authority appropriated;

''(B) that is obligated;

''(C) of unobligated balances; and

''(D) of any other budgetary resources;

''(2) from which accounts and in what amount—

''(A) appropriations are obligated for each program activity; and

''(B) outlays are made for each program activity;

''(3) from which accounts and in what amount—

''(A) appropriations are obligated for each object class; and

''(B) outlays are made for each object class; and

''(4) for each program activity, the amount—

''(A) obligated for each object class; and

''(B) of outlays made for each object class.

''SEC. 4. DATA STANDARDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—The Secretary and the Director, in consultation with the heads of Federal agencies, shall establish Government-wide financial data standards for any Federal funds made available to or expended by Federal agencies and entities receiving Federal funds.

''(2) DATA ELEMENTS.—The financial data standards established under paragraph (1) shall include common data elements for financial and payment information required to be reported by Federal agencies and entities receiving Federal funds.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The data standards established under subsection (a) shall, to the extent reasonable and practicable—

''(1) incorporate widely accepted common data elements, such as those developed and maintained by—

''(A) an international voluntary consensus standards body;

''(B) Federal agencies with authority over contracting and financial assistance; and

''(C) accounting standards organizations;

''(2) incorporate a widely accepted, nonproprietary, searchable, platform-independent computer-readable format;

''(3) include unique identifiers for Federal awards and entities receiving Federal awards that can be consistently applied Government-wide;

''(4) be consistent with and implement applicable accounting principles;

''(5) be capable of being continually upgraded as necessary;

''(6) produce consistent and comparable data, including across program activities; and

''(7) establish a standard method of conveying the reporting period, reporting entity, unit of measure, and other associated attributes.

''(c) DEADLINES.—

''(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, the Director and the Secretary shall issue guidance to Federal agencies on the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(2) AGENCIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), not later than 2 years after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, each Federal agency shall report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(B) NONINTERFERENCE WITH AUDITABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by the Secretary of Defense, the Director may grant an extension of the deadline under subparagraph (A) to the Department of Defense for a period of not more than 6 months to report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(ii) LIMITATION.—The Director may not grant more than 3 extensions to the Secretary of Defense under clause (i).

''(iii) NOTIFICATION.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security

and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives of—

''(I) each grant of an extension under clause (i); and

''(II) the reasons for granting such an extension.

''(3) WEBSITE.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, the Director and the Secretary shall ensure that the data standards established under subsection (a) are applied to the data made available on the website established under section 2.

''(d) CONSULTATION.—The Director and the Secretary shall consult with public and private stakeholders in establishing data standards under this section.

''SEC. 5. SIMPLIFYING FEDERAL AWARD REPORTING.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, recipients of Federal awards, including State and local governments, and institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall review the information required to be reported by recipients of Federal awards to identify—

''(1) common reporting elements across the Federal Government;

''(2) unnecessary duplication in financial reporting; and

''(3) unnecessarily burdensome reporting requirements for recipients of Federal awards.

''(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, the Director, or a Federal agency designated by the Director, shall establish a pilot program (in this section referred to as the 'pilot program') with the participation of appropriate Federal agencies to facilitate the development of recommendations for—

''(A) standardized reporting elements across the Federal Government;

''(B) the elimination of unnecessary duplication in financial reporting; and

''(C) the reduction of compliance costs for recipients of Federal awards.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The pilot program shall—

''(A) include a combination of Federal contracts, grants, and subawards, the aggregate value of which is not less than $1,000,000,000 and not more than $2,000,000,000;

''(B) include a diverse group of recipients of Federal awards; and

''(C) to the extent practicable, include recipients who receive Federal awards from multiple programs across multiple agencies.

''(3) DATA COLLECTION.—The pilot program shall include data collected during a 12-month reporting cycle.

''(4) REPORTING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each recipient of a Federal award participating in the pilot program shall submit to the Office of Management and Budget or the Federal agency designated under paragraph (1), as appropriate, any requested reports of the selected Federal awards.

''(5) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date on which the pilot program is established.

''(6) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the pilot program terminates under paragraph (5), the Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program, which shall include—

''(A) a description of the data collected under the pilot program, the usefulness of the data provided, and the cost to collect the data from recipients; and

''(B) a discussion of any legislative action required and recommendations for—

''(i) consolidating aspects of Federal financial reporting to reduce the costs to recipients of Federal awards;

''(ii) automating aspects of Federal financial reporting to increase efficiency and reduce the costs to recipients of Federal awards;

''(iii) simplifying the reporting requirements for recipients of Federal awards; and

''(iv) improving financial transparency.

''(7) GOVERNMENT-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director submits the report under paragraph (6), the Director shall issue guidance to the heads of Federal agencies as to how the Government-wide financial data standards established under section 4(a) shall be applied to the information required to be reported by entities receiving Federal awards to—

''(A) reduce the burden of complying with reporting requirements; and

''(B) simplify the reporting process, including by reducing duplicative reports.

''SEC. 6. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.

''(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Inspector General of each Federal agency, in consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States, shall—

''(A) review a statistically valid sampling of the spending data submitted under this Act by the Federal agency; and

''(B) submit to Congress and make publically available a report assessing the completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data sampled and the implementation and use of data standards by the Federal agency.

''(2) DEADLINES.—

''(A) FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the Director and the Secretary issue guidance to Federal agencies under section 4(c)(1), the Inspector General of each Federal agency shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1).

''(B) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—On the same date as the Inspector General of each Federal agency submits the second and fourth reports under sections 3521(f) and 9105(a)(3) of title 31, United States Code, that are submitted after the report under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1). The report submitted under this subparagraph may be submitted as a part of the report submitted under section 3521(f) or 9105(a)(3) of title 31, United States Code.

''(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2) and after a review of the reports submitted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and make publically available a report assessing and comparing the data completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data submitted under this Act by Federal agencies and the implementation and use of data standards by Federal agencies.

''(2) DEADLINES.—Not later than 30 months after the date on which the Director and the Secretary issue guidance to Federal agencies under section 4(c)(1), and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 4 years after the date on which the first report is submitted under this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1).

''(c) RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOARD DATA ANALYSIS CENTER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish a data analysis center or expand an existing service to provide data, analytic tools, and data management techniques to support—

''(A) the prevention and reduction of improper payments by Federal agencies; and

''(B) improving efficiency and transparency in Federal spending.

''(2) DATA AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall enter into memoranda of understanding with Federal agencies, including Inspectors General and Federal law enforcement agencies—

''(A) under which the Secretary may provide data from the data analysis center for—

''(i) the purposes set forth under paragraph (1);

''(ii) the identification, prevention, and reduction of waste, fraud, and abuse relating to Federal spending; and

''(iii) use in the conduct of criminal and other investigations; and

''(B) which may require the Federal agency, Inspector General, or Federal law enforcement agency to provide reimbursement to the Secretary for the reasonable cost of carrying out the agreement.

''(3) TRANSFER.—Upon the establishment of a data analysis center or the expansion of a service under paragraph (1), and on or before the date on which the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board terminates, and in addition to any other transfer that the Director determines is necessary under section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, there are transferred to the Department of the Treasury all assets identified by the Secretary that support the operations and activities of the Recovery Operations Center of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board relating to the detection of waste, fraud, and abuse in the use of Federal funds that are in existence on the day before the transfer.

''SEC. 7. CLASSIFIED AND PROTECTED INFORMATION.

''Nothing in this Act shall require the disclosure to the public of—

''(1) information that would be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act'); or

''(2) information protected under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Privacy Act of 1974'), or section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''SEC. 8. NO PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.

''Nothing in this Act shall be construed to create a private right of action for enforcement of any provision of this Act.''.

SEC. 4. EXECUTIVE AGENCY ACCOUNTING AND OTHER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS AND PLANS.

Section 3512(a)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and make available on the website described under section 1122'' after ''appropriate committees of Congress''.

SEC. 5. DEBT COLLECTION IMPROVEMENT.

Section 3716(c)(6) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' before ''Any Federal agency'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by striking ''180 days'' and inserting ''120 days''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) The Secretary of the Treasury shall notify Congress of any instance in which an agency fails to notify the Secretary as required under subparagraph (A).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of S. 994, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, or DATA Act.

As chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I have looked to tackle major problems pervasive in the Federal Government.

Over the past 4 years, our committee, the majority and the minority, has taken up and moved several bills designed to reform the Federal Government.

Majority Leader CANTOR has worked with leaders on both sides of the aisle to take most of those reforms and advance them through the full House, often on a unanimous basis.

All Members of the House can be proud of the work we have done to improve the Federal Government. Without a doubt, the most important transparency reform we have pushed over the last 4 years has been the DATA Act. The DATA Act is but a first shot of a technological revolution that will transform the way we govern.

Just 3 weeks ago, the GAO's Comptroller General Gene Dodaro came before our committee and testified that the status of the Federal data programs is abysmal. Agencies have no standardized performance metrics for their programs. Agencies cannot tell us how many programs they have. But most importantly, agencies do not and usually cannot tell us how much taxpayer money has been spent on any given program.

The spending information that is provided is often incomplete, out-of-date, and very often inaccurate. The American people deserve to know if their taxpayer dollars are being wasted or whether they are being spent wisely. Even the meager amount of performance information collected today is useless if it cannot determine how much resources any given program truly consumes.

This information disadvantages not only Congress, but in fact the President's administration. Presidential administrations one after another consist of but a few thousand officials to oversee a workforce of nearly 2 million people and trillions of dollars.

Regardless of political party affiliation, each Congress and every President is frustrated by this large, permanent, unaccountable class of bureaucrats.

□ 1615

Some scholars have even deemed the permanent bureaucracy as the ''fourth branch'' of the Federal Government.

In order to better oversee the Federal Government, Congress, and even the President and his appointees, must better leverage the technology available today. The DATA Act will allow us to do just that.

I introduced the first version of the DATA Act in 2011. Its inspiration came from a relatively small expense in the Obama administration's 2009 stimulus spending bill, a bill that I overall did not approve of but which did have this important accountability standard.

The stimulus temporarily established an entity called the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board. The Board was chaired by a respected inspector general, Earl Devaney. Under Chairman Devaney's leadership, the Board established direct reporting requirements for stimulus projects and standardized Federal agency reporting. This allowed inspector generals and other law enforcement agencies to more effectively prosecute fraud and prevent improper payments.

Furthermore, this information was made available to the public online in an easy-to-download, easy-to-manipulate format so that journalists, academics, and government watchdogs could more easily analyze stimulus spending.

I met with Vice President JOE BIDEN in November of 2010, prior to even becoming the chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Despite possible disagreements on some aspects of the stimulus, we found ourselves very much in support of the Recovery Board's successes and knew that it could be replicated across the entire Federal Government.

I want to thank Vice President BIDEN for his continued public and private support for the kinds of reforms embedded in this legislation today, and particularly for continuing to be a champion of the Recovery Board's work and the transparency it brought.

In order to do what we agreed to back in 2010, the Federal Government would need standardized data and reporting by all Federal agencies and improved recipient reporting. That is the only way that you could accomplish this, and legislative action was needed.

After months of working with leading experts in the field of standardized reporting, I introduced in July of 2011 the first version of the DATA Act, H.R. 2146. Later that year, I joined with Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS to refine the legislation and mark it up through our committee.

I want to thank Representatives on both sides of the aisle here today for the bipartisan nature in which we worked on this kind of transparency work. It is technical. It is sometimes hard. Of course, it is a pushback from bureaucrats, but it is what Congress is supposed to do: make the institutional changes that make government more accountable.

In April 2012 we brought it to the floor on a bipartisan basis and passed the first version of the DATA Act unanimously. While a companion version, S. 3600, was introduced by Senator MARK WARNER of Virginia and Senator ROB PORTMAN of Ohio that year, the Senate did not act on either it or the House-passed bill.

Last year we reintroduced the DATA Act as H.R. 2061 and approved it unanimously out of our committee. We made significant changes to streamline the bill, but we maintained the focus on its core elements. Simultaneously, Senator WARNER and Senator PORTMAN introduced a new Senate companion, S. 994, the bill before us today. The House acted quickly again and approved H.R. 2061 by a vote of 388–1.

Knowing that the legislative calendar was short, House and Senate sponsors worked with Senator CARPER and Senator COBURN in a preconference process that ensured the bill would be taken up by the full Senate and which anticipates our passage here today.

We also were able to bring to the table those reformers in the administration—both political appointees and career civil servants—to offer technical improvements to the bill, and they are incorporated in this legislation.

While the bill does not contain all reforms the House advanced in its two previous votes on the DATA Act, the bill before us today does contain the core elements of the two prior versions of the bill and maintains the most important step: common data standards and recipient reporting.

The DATA Act is more than just better tools to fight waste and fraud. It requires agencies to report their financial information in standard formats program by program. The DATA Act also gives policymakers in Congress and in the executive branch better information to make better decisions. More importantly, we give the American people better information to evaluate our performance.

In addition to the strong data standards and requirements for agencies to

produce program-by-program information, the House-Senate agreement contains two key provisions from previous versions of the DATA Act.

First, the bill authorizes the Treasury Department to establish a cutting-edge data analysis center modeled specifically after the successful Recovery Operations Center, also known as the ROC. This is the center I spoke earlier about that was established by now-retired but still-distinguished friend of government Earl Devaney as part of the Recovery Board's stimulus transparency efforts.

This new center will build on the innovative technology and ideas of the ROC and expand their use throughout the Federal Government. The DATA Act specifically provides for the transfer of that technology still in place at the ROC.

This new Treasury Department data analysis center will be a vital tool for law enforcement agencies and the IGs in their criminal and other investigations. The new center will also serve agencies who strive to prevent improper payments.

Second, the DATA Act agreement before you today establishes a pilot program to develop consolidated reporting for recipients of Federal funds. And I want to emphasize that, Madam Speaker. Federal recipients, people who get taxpayer money, will now have a transparent and consolidated way to send the information as to how they are spending it so you and the public will know.

Hundreds of billions of Federal taxpayer dollars are spent every year by State, local, tribal governments, universities, and private institutions. These institutions end up inevitably wasting millions of taxpayer dollars complying with duplicative and complicated reporting requirements.

At the end of a 2-year pilot program where some recipients will report to a single entity in a standardized manner, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget will issue guidance to all Federal agencies on how to streamline and consolidate reporting requirements. Just like with stimulus funds, the same data standards that apply to Federal agency reporting will apply to recipient reporting.

The DATA Act will give the American people the ability to track how we spend their tax dollars. Instead of sifting through PDFs—a form of visual, nondata-based standard—posted online that only let's you see a picture of the spending—and many different formats—you now will in fact have all Federal spending information available for bulk download in a single, machine-readable format.

That is a big mouthful, Madam Speaker, but what it really means is that both individuals and entities, large and small, will be able to create tools where, on your iPhone or Android, you will be able to ask a question and get back an answer as successfully as the programs that have previously been made available.

The DATA Act will give lawmakers and public watchdogs powerful tools to identify and root out fraud, waste, and excess spending in the government. It will put at the American people's fingertips today the kind of information that only long and arduous research could unveil.

More importantly, by simply opening up this information, we will enable journalists, academics, and even private sector businesses to use the data to create products that will deliver real value to the American people.

This is just one example:

The National Weather Service some years ago did just what we are proposing by opening up their data, making it freely available to the public some years ago. Today it supports a multibillion-dollar weather analysis industry, and every American with a smartphone or a computer can find out what the weather is and what it is forecasted to be at any location in America. That wouldn't be possible without that open data standard.

I am very proud that it was a start, but there is more to do.

The DATA Act will have the same ability to create jobs, which is why this bill is so important. It is endorsed by dozens of private sector technology companies.

New York University Business School Professor Joel Gurin wrote in a recent book that ''the value of government open data is that it's a long-term, permanent resource that innovators can use for decades, developing new ideas and new companies as technology makes them possible.''

That is a mouthful, but it says what we need to say, which is that this is going to create new industries that are able to leverage the information that today is not available to the American people and not available to the innovators in Silicon Valley and around America.

I ask that my colleagues join with me today in sending this bill to the President for his signature, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am pleased to rise in support of S. 994, the DATA Act. This is a landmark piece of bipartisan and bicameral legislation that will change the way the government operates.

I applaud the sponsor of S. 994, Senator MARK WARNER, who put a lot of passion and hard work into this legislation; as did the principal sponsor here, whom you have just heard from, House Oversight Committee Chairman DARRELL ISSA, who put considerable energy into this bill over more than one session; as well as Senate Chairman TOM CARPER of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee; and House Oversight Committee Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS, who worked very diligently to get us to the House floor today.

The DATA Act will provide the public with information about how the government is spending money, pure and simple. This will hold agencies accountable for their spending, and it will result in a more effective government.

On April 8, 2014, the Comptroller General of the United States, Gene Dodaro, testified in support of this legislation. Here is what he said: ''I think the DATA Act is one of the biggest single things that could be done in order to provide more transparency on the costs of these program activities.''

The Comptroller General went on to say that the DATA Act would ''standardize the data''—and that is the operative word, ''standardize the data''—''so that you would be able to compare data across agencies, which you can't do right now. It would also provide more consistent information and at a lower program spending level that we found to be a big obstacle in us identifying additional savings opportunities.''

The DATA Act will require the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish government-wide data standards. This will improve the quality of the data that agencies make available about their spending.

Under this bill, spending data will be available through a single Web site. The bill will require that spending data be available for each agency and each program activity in a searchable, downloadable format.

The DATA Act is a bipartisan bill across both Chambers that will improve transparency and, in turn, make government work better. I urge every Member to support this legislation.

□ 1630

I would like, again, to express my strong support for this bill and to thank Chairman ISSA for his many efforts to get it passed and through committee more than once.

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

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, in closing, this last weekend, the Associated Press talked about the waning days of this Congress and expected to have a do-nothing Congress.

That is easy to say, but in this case, today, we are showing, on a bipartisan, bicameral basis, with our friends in the Senate, that there are major pieces of legislation that will save countless billions of dollars and provide better information to the American people and to the watchdogs who want to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in our government.

So this is not a controversial bill because it has taken years of hard work to get it right. But, in fact, this is a major piece of legislation.

I want to close by thanking Senator CARPER, Senator COBURN, Senator PORTMAN, and Senator WARNER, the author of the bill today, in addition to Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, and of course, my ranking member, Congressman CUMMINGS.

This has been bipartisan. It is one of the many pieces of bipartisan legislation that take a long time, they hold a lot of hearings, but at the end of the day, the American people can trust that the American people's work does get done, in spite of some of the things we are unable to do. This is a major piece of legislation.

I want to thank, lastly, leadership for bringing this to the floor today in a timely fashion so that we can get it to the President's desk for signing next week.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 994.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CLARIFICATION OF RULES APPLYING TO HUMAN OCCUPANCY OF PENTHOUSES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDINGS

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4192) to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4192

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

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF RULES APPLYING TO HUMAN OCCUPANCY OF PENTHOUSES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDINGS.

(a) PERMITTING HUMAN OCCUPANCY OF PENTHOUSES WITHIN CERTAIN HEIGHT LIMIT.—The eighth paragraph of section 5 of the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'', approved June 1, 1910 (sec. 6–601.05(h), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by striking ''penthouses over elevator shafts,'' and inserting ''penthouses,''; and

(2) by striking ''and no floor or compartment thereof shall be constructed or used for human occupancy above the top story of the building upon which such structures are placed'' and inserting ''and, except in the case of a penthouse which is erected to a height of one story of 20 feet or less above the level of the roof, no floor or compartment thereof shall be constructed or used for human occupancy above the top story of the building upon which such structures are placed''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill hereto under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, in 1910, the Height of Buildings Act was signed into Federal law. That bill, in fact, envisioned a prevention of New York-style skyscrapers from being erected here in the Nation's Capital. That bill is every bit as important today as it was in 1910.

The District of Columbia has a unique visual requirement. We should not, cannot, and will not obstruct the Mall and the major parts of this historic city.

It is important that we maintain the skyline and the access, and we do so in every single consideration in this city. The memorials and monuments and public safety must be considered.

However, over the last two Congresses, the committee has been working on several small modifications that, really, time has said its time has come. After 100 years, the current legislation makes a small but meaningful change. Let me put it in words the American people can easily understand.

One hundred years ago, they put a limit on the height of these buildings, and then they put 20 feet beyond that limit of occupancy for water towers, coal stacks for the chimneys, and, of course, the tops of elevators. Those water towers, elevator shafts, chimneys, they were certainly pretty hideous, but they were necessary.

It is now 100 years later, and, in fact, the absence of other uses for these buildings often means that these tops of these buildings are not considered to be an aesthetically important part, and there is no funding and no source of revenue to make them better.

Under this modification to the Height Act, we allow for what have been called penthouses but, in fact, are simply industrial rooftop air conditioners and the like to be covered, wrapped, if you will, by architecturally pleasing structures.

These structures may be occupied. They may be offices, cafeterias, or, in the case of a residential apartment complex, it could be a top apartment.

Under the legislation, they have to have a setback. The setback is roughly 1 foot per foot of height, or 20 feet of setback if they go to the full 20 feet. So these are not a monolithic increase and, in fact, a setback consistent with that 100-year-old law.

Last Congress, the committee held numerous hearings on the Height Act and listened to countless witnesses. I subsequently wrote to the National Capital Planning Commission, often called the NCPC, and the mayor's office, asking them to jointly study modifications to the Height Act and recommend any changes they saw appropriate. For those who are unaware, NCPC is the regional planning commission that includes representatives of both the Federal interests and local interests.

The Height Act study is impressive. Aside from the research work, a series of meetings were held featuring considerable input from experts and the general public alike. Afterward, the mayor's office and NCPC provided separate recommendations.

The mayor's specific recommendation: increase the height limits in downtown. The mayor also recommended that the city and NCPC work together to be able to use the city comprehensive plan as a tool to adjust height limits outside the L'Enfant city region.

This is not in today's proposal. Ultimately, only after considering these broader changes, NCPC's only recommendation from the overall plan submitted by the mayor is, in fact, the modest proposal before you today.

Let's understand: the height of buildings in this city will not change by 1 foot under this act, but the beauty of the tops of buildings and the usability will.

The revenue to the city can increase because of the value of these top floors, and, yet, we will cover up mechanical penthouses that, today, are simply elevator shafts, rooftop air conditioners, water towers and the like.

So long as that ratio of setback and the other provisions of the 100-year-old act are maintained, the city will have the ability to approve structures.

But let's understand: those structures will still go through a rigorous program before they can be approved, and they will continue to be consistent with the 1910 Height Act.

NCPC itself recommended that human occupancy be allowed in such rooftop penthouses, so long as the setback ratio was maintained and that

the penthouse does not exceed one story and that no more than 20 feet of height be maintained.

Our bill does everything in the NCPC recommendation. So this bill simply gives the city a little more latitude in allowing human occupancy in penthouses where ugly mechanical penthouses already exist and are allowed.

I would like to have gone a little further on this bill, and I am very candid. There are areas well outside the city, as most people interpret it, far up in Northeast, where there are railroad tracks and industrial buildings, and down in Southeast, an area that ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON has worked tirelessly to improve, that could have been given additional options for higher buildings because they are outside of the area of concern for the Mall and monuments.

The city is not prepared to take that authority yet, and Congress is not prepared to give authority that, in fact, its city council is not prepared to handle. That is the consensus that came from the city council in their own resolution, and we respect that if the city does not want an authority, we are not going to thrust an authority on them.

So, with respect to the Height Act, let me close by saying there will always be somebody who doesn't want a law changed, who, in fact, wants the buildings shorter. There are people who want their private home to be able to see all the way to the Mall. I would love to own one of those homes, quite frankly.

A few feet away from here I would like to be able to walk out onto the Speaker's deck, his balcony. I would like to be able to see the White House, but I can't because the Treasury building was built in front of it and others.

This legislation will not cause any of those shortcomings that have occurred in the past; just the opposite. It will beautify the tops of buildings if the city approves those specific projects, while maintaining the absolute limit that has been on these buildings since 1910.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4192, and I appreciate the initiative of the chairman, Chairman ISSA, who has just spoken, who has always observed the self-government rights of the District of Columbia, and puts forward this bill in the same spirit of home rule.

This legislation will amend the Height Act of 1910, which limits the height of all building in the District of Columbia. The District is prohibited, under the Home Rule Act, from permitting any structure anywhere in the city in excess of the height limitations contained in the Height Act.

The current law permits structures above the top story of buildings, including so-called penthouses, to exceed the height limitations, but no human occupancy is permitted in mechanical penthouses, and it gives the District the authority to set the maximum height for such structures.

Currently, the structures have a height limit of 18.6 feet. The legislation will allow human occupancy of these penthouses. In addition, the legislation will mandate a 20-foot maximum height, one story, and a 1 to 1 setback for penthouses. The absolute height of any penthouse used for human occupancy will be 20 feet.

I thank Chairman ISSA for examining the Height Act when he saw that it had received little congressional oversight in the century of its existence.

I supported Chairman ISSA's request that the District of Columbia and the National Capital Planning Commission conduct a joint study of the Height Act because more than 100 years had passed since the heights of D.C. buildings were systematically discussed in the Halls of Congress.

The District and the NCPC came to different conclusions as to whether or how the Height Act should be amended, but agreed with respect to removing the prohibition on human occupancy of penthouses, and setting a maximum height of 20 feet, or one story, for penthouses.

The mayor and D.C. Council expressed divergent views, but I encouraged them to work together to find common ground. I am pleased that the mayor and council chairman reached an agreement with regard to penthouses, and that agreement, in essence, is before the Congress today.

Under today's bill, the city, through its local zoning process, will have the home rule ability to permit human occupancy of penthouses if it would desire. However, this bill is not a mandate directing the city to make any changes to penthouses or to its existing comprehensive plan, or local zoning laws, more generally.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman ISSA for working to give the District of Columbia more authority. I also deeply appreciate the chairman's work in so many other ways, for budget autonomy, and his strong support on many occasions for home rule, which he has raised as a factor in connection with the Height Act as well.

I support the passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1645

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I thank both of my colleagues. I am extremely pleased with the sensitivity that is expressed for the people of Washington, D.C., because that is what we should have here.

This is an amendment to the bill regarding the height of Washington, D.C., buildings that passed in 1910, as changing the height restrictions that were put in place in 1899; and as my colleague from the District of Columbia had pointed out, this really hasn't been discussed in detail in over 100 years.

I recently had someone here in Washington tell me that: Gee, as property gets so valuable here in Washington, you are going to see, at first, exceptions made to the height restrictions, then soon followed by a lifting of those restrictions because the money will be just too much for either party to turn down.

I am so grateful that the height is not being changed, as the chairman said, by one inch; but I am very concerned about beginning to make these exceptions for residence levels, even though ''residence'' is the change, basically, in essence, and I have looked at the change. I have reviewed the prior law.

But, Madam Speaker, I am concerned that this is the camel's nose going under the tent. You are beginning to put residences above the height that was previously allowed. It may dress some up, it may change some in ways that we are not crazy about, but I am just concerned about changing the height restrictions, even with these exceptions, after 114 years of being in existence.

So as a result, I thank the chairman and my friend from the District of Columbia, like I say, for their sensitivity, but I like the height restriction because of the emphasis that continues to be pushed.

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

Mr. ISSA. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank the gentleman from California.

Madam Speaker, I am concerned about beginning the exceptions that may move in a direction that we don't wish to have. The chairman mentioned that no one is granting that kind of authority, and nobody is seeking it, yet; and I want us to stop it before we have to get to that ''yet.''

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I just want to thank the gentleman for speaking in favor of the bill.

I understand his concern. I do want to indicate that no exception is really being made in this bill. The height can go no higher than it can go right now, and somebody in the District of Columbia can't make an exception because the Congress of the United States controls heights still under this bill.

Of course, we have our local zoning laws in the District, so there are many, many parts of the District where you can't begin to go as high as the Height Act.

I am a third-generation Washingtonian, and I must say that I adore the

residential quality of this city, which is essentially built on the notion of private homes and not large-scale apartments. The city really did not want to dislodge that, and that has not occurred here.

There may still be some disagreement among residents, but I do know that when the council, which expressed some real disquiet at any change, has finally been able to come to an agreement, that there is not enough of a change here to warrant dissent within the city and had come to an agreement that—and when, in addition, those who have been most adamant about maintaining the Height Act, including the organization which has been the real guardian of the Height Act, the Committee of 100, says it has no objection to this compromise, I think we have finally reached a compromise of the kind that we would like to see more often occur right here in the House of Representatives.

And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I want to urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4192, and I want to close by reminding people that this is, in fact, the best vetted piece of legislation for Congress to pass in cooperation with the city in my tenure.

Thirteen D.C. city councilmen signed on to a sense of council-introduced resolution in November that stated: The Height Act should not be amended at this time.

All 13 now support this modest recommendation, and I understand the additional member also would. I am glad that the city council is seeing this modest reform as in their favor—their benefit to enhancing the beauty of those buildings, those few buildings that reach the maximum of the Height Act.

In closing, I think it is important that we echo what Delegate NORTON just said. The vast majority of homes and buildings in the District of Columbia are far lower than the Height Act. In fact, it is a relatively small part of what some people sometimes call K Street and some other corridors, where the infrastructure of the city has pressed to occupy more densely.

My hope is, by maintaining the height, the total occupancy, these penthouses will enhance that property, in many cases, with cafeteria or public access areas while still continuing to induce people to make reasonable changes in outlying areas if, in fact, additional capacity is needed either for residents of this city or, in fact, the thriving businesses of this city.

Madam Speaker, we seldom come to you with a 100-year-old bill that hasn't been dusted off. We come to you today with a 104-year-old bill, which has not been dusted off and not for a lack of a reason.

The water towers of 1910 are gone. It is time for us to use this space to maintain a view that is unmarred by highrises, but is, in fact, enhanced by the architectural creation, invention, and ingenuity of the architects who work and strive to make the buildings of Washington, D.C., pleasant and functional.

With that, I urge passage and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4192, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

GOVERNMENT REPORTS ELIMINATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4194) to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4194

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SEC. 101. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) INFORMATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES ON COMMODITY PROMOTION PROGRAMS.—Section 501 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7401) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively.

(b) UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES REPORT AND RELATED MEETING.—Section 108 of the Act of August 28, 1954 (commonly known as the Agricultural Act of 1954; 7 U.S.C. 1748) is repealed.

(c) FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY ACT ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 1546 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4207) is repealed.

(d) PEANUT BASE ACRES DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION.—Section 1302(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8752(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(e) OTHER BASE ACRES DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION.—Section 1101(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8711(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(f) BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM REPORT.—Section 333B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b) is amended by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsections (f) through (h) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively.

(g) RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS PROGRAM REPORT.—Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking ''(k)'' and inserting ''(j)''; and

(2) by striking subsection (j) and redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as subsections (j) and (k), respectively.

(h) REPORT ON EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEES TO EMERGING MARKETS.—Section 1542(e) of

the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624; 7 U.S.C. 5622 note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(1) EFFECT OF CREDITS.—''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2).

(i) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION QUARTERLY REPORT.—Section 13 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714k) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(j) EVALUATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM FINANCING OF LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED FOOD PRODUCTS.—Section 310B(g)(9)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)) is amended by striking clause (iv) and redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv).

(k) UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT REPORTS.—Section 17B of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87f–2) is repealed.

(l) LISTING OF AREAS RURAL IN CHARACTER.—Section 6018 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (122 Stat. 1933; Public Law 110–246) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(a) RURAL AREA.—''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

(m) NOTIFICATIONS TO CONGRESS ON RELEASE OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRODUCERS OPERATING UNDER MARKETING AGREEMENTS AND ORDERS.—Section 8d(2) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608d(2)) is amended by striking ''The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives not later than 10 legislative days before the contemplated release under law, of the names and addresses of producers participating in such marketing agreements and orders, and shall include in such notice a statement of reasons relied upon by the Secretary in making the determination to release such names and addresses.''.

(n) PLANT PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER PREVENTION ACTION PLANS REPORTS.—Section 420(c) of the Plant Protect Act (7 U.S.C. 7721(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(o) QUARTERLY EXPORT ASSISTANCE REPORTS.—Section 603 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5713) is repealed.

(p) RURAL COLLABORATIVE INVESTMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) SECRETARIAL REPORT ON REGIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARDS.—Section 385C(b)(7) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009dd–2(b)(7)) is amended—

(A) by adding ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (B);

(B) by striking ''; and'' at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (D).

(2) REPORT BY REGIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARD TO NATIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARD AND THE SECRETARY.—Section 385D(a)(7) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2009dd–3(a)(7)) is amended—

(A) by adding ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (C); and

(B) by striking subparagraph (D) and redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D).

(q) STATUS REPORT FOR FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM.—Subsection (j) of the Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(r) STATUS REPORT FOR FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT.—Section 702 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5722) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(s) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROPS STATUS REPORTS.—Section 3205 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5680) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(t) SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA TIMBER REPORTS.—Section 706 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act is repealed.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SEC. 201. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) EFFORTS AND PROGRESS IN BECOMING DESIGNATED AS SEA GRANT COLLEGE OR INSTITUTE.—Section 207 of the National Sea Grant Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1126) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION STANDARDIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 3(c) of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2001 (15 U.S.C. 278g–5 note) is repealed.

(c) ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO SEA GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 208(a) of the National Sea Grant Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(a)) is amended by striking the fourth sentence.

(d) TIP ACTIVITIES.—Section 28(g) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n(g)) is repealed.

(e) TIP ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 28(k)(5) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n(k)(5)) is repealed.

(f) NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ACTIVITIES.—Section 212 of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5611) is repealed.

TITLE III—CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

SEC. 301. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) REPORTS BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO THE CORPORATION.—Section 182 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12642) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(b) SERVICE-LEARNING IMPACT STUDY.—The National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12565) is amended by repealing part IV of subtitle B of title I.

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SEC. 401. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACTS.—

(1) DISPLAY OF ANNUAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR SOVEREIGNTY ALERT MISSION.—Section 354 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 10 U.S.C. 221 note) is hereby repealed.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT ON RELIABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—Section 1008 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–107; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) is amended—

(A) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking ''(b) or''.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 10.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT ON EMERGENCY AND EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES.—Section 127 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d).

(2) REPORT ON ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO FOREIGN NATIONS TO ACCOUNT FOR MISSING U.S. PERSONNEL.—Section 408 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (f).

(3) INCLUSION OF NET FLOOR AREA IN REQUESTS TO BUILD MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING.—Section 2826 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''(a) LOCAL COMPARABILITY.—''; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(c) AMENDMENT TO SMALL BUSINESS ACT COMMERCIALIZATION READINESS PROGRAM.—Section 9(y)(5) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(y)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (B);

(2) by striking ''authorized to—'' through ''establish goals'' and inserting ''authorized to establish goals''; and

(3) by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a period.

TITLE V—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SEC. 501. REPORT ON IMPACT AID CONSTRUCTION JUSTIFYING DISCRETIONARY GRANT AWARDS ELIMINATED.

Section 8007(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7707) is amended by striking paragraph (7).

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SEC. 601. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 983(d) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16323(d)) is repealed.

(b) STRATEGIC UNCONVENTIONAL FUELS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Section 369(i)(3) of Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15927(i)(3)) is repealed.

(c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT.—Section 342(a)(6)(C)(v) of Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313(a)(6)(C)(v)) is repealed.

TITLE VII—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SEC. 701. GREAT LAKES MANAGEMENT COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 118(c)(10) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(10)) is repealed.

TITLE VIII—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SEC. 801. REPORT RELATING TO WAIVER OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA ELIMINATED.

Section 1405 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2799aa–1 note) is amended by striking subsection (c).

TITLE IX—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SEC. 901. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) EXPENDITURES OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Section 1904 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6574) is repealed.

(b) USE OF RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BY STATES AND LOCALITIES REPORT.—Section 901 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 191) is repealed.

(c) HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT FUNDS AUDIT.—

(1) ELIMINATION OF AUDIT.—Section 902(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15542(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (5).

(2) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY TO RECOUP FUNDS RESULTING FROM PRIOR AUDITS.—Section 902(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15542(c)) is amended by inserting after ''subsection (b)'' the following: ''prior to the date of the enactment of the Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014''.

(d) STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE AUDIT AND REPORT.—Section 3011 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5710) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(e) SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND PROGRAM AUDIT AND REPORT.—Section 4107 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 4741 note) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(f) HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT.—Section 6303(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1490e note) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 902. REPORTS MODIFIED.

(a) NATIONAL PREVENTION, HEALTH PROMOTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL.—Subsection (i) of section 4001 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–1) is amended by striking ''The Secretary and the Comptroller General of the United States shall jointly conduct periodic reviews'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall conduct periodic reviews''.

(b) POSTCARD MANDATE.—Section 719(g)(2) of title 31, United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: ''The Comptroller General shall make each list available through the public website of the Government Accountability Office.''; and

(2) in the second sentence, by inserting ''of Congress'' after ''committee or member''.

(c) ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD FOUNDATION.—

(1) USE OF PRIVATE AUDITOR.—Section 107 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 807) is amended to read as follows:

''AUDITS

''SEC. 107. (a) CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE AUDITOR.—The Board shall enter into a contract with an accredited private auditor to conduct an annual audit of the financial records of the Board and of any corporation established under section 106(i), and shall ensure that the auditor has access for the purpose of the audit to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Board or such corporation (or any agent of the Board or such corporation) which the auditor reasonably determines to be pertinent to the Congressional Award Program.

''(b) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON AUDIT RESULTS.—Not later than May 15 of each calendar year, the Board shall submit to appropriate officers, committees, and subcommittees of Congress a report on the results of the most recent audit conducted pursuant to this section, and shall include in the report information on any such additional areas as the auditor who conducted the audit determines deserve or require evaluation.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO COMPLIANCE WITH FISCAL CONTROL AND FUND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES.—Section 104(c)(2)(A) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 804(c)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''The Comptroller General of the United States'' and inserting ''The accredited private auditor conducting the annual audit of the financial records of the Board pursuant to section 107(a)''; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''the Comptroller General'' and inserting ''the auditor''.

(d) ANNUAL GAO REVIEW OF PROPOSED HHS RECOVERY THRESHOLD.—The third sentence of section 1862(b)(9)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(9)(B)(i)) is amended by striking ''for a year'' and inserting ''for 2014''.

TITLE X—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SEC. 1001. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF PRODUCTS MADE WITH DOG OR CAT FUR.—Section 308 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1308) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) PORT OF ENTRY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT STUDY AND NATIONAL LAND BORDER SECURITY PLAN.—The Border Infrastructure and Technology Modernization Act of 2007 (title VI of division E of Public Law 110–161; 6 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 603 and 604.

(c) FEES FOR CERTAIN CUSTOMS SERVICES.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 13031 of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–272; 19 U.S.C. 58c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(9), by striking subparagraph (C) and redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C); and

(B) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(II) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D);

(ii) by striking paragraph (4); and

(iii) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (f) of such section is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''paragraph (5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''paragraph (5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)''.

(d) MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.—Section 346 of the (Public Law 107–295) Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (14 U.S.C. 88 note), and the item relating to such section in the table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act, are repealed.

TITLE XI—DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 1101. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPENDING PLAN FOR TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE.—The first sentence of the second paragraph under the heading ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Transformation Initiative'' in title II of division A of Public Law 111–117 (123 Stat. 3093), as amended by section 2259 of title XII of division B of Public Law 112–10 (125 Stat. 197), is amended by striking '': *Provided*, That'' and all that follows through ''Government Accountability Office''.

(b) SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS REPORT.—Section 218 of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division C of Public Law 112–55; 125 Stat. 699) is repealed.

TITLE XII—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 1201. ROYALTIES IN-KIND REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 342(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15902(e)) is amended by striking subsection (e).

TITLE XIII—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

SEC. 1301. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) OLDER AMERICANS ACT.—Section 515 of the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. 3056m) is repealed.

(b) ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT.—Section 207 of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3205) is repealed.

TITLE XIV—OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

SEC. 1401. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE.—Section 2(5)(E) of the Senate resolution advising and consenting to ratification of the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) of November 19, 1990, adopted at Vienna May 31, 1996 (Treaty Doc. 105–5) (commonly referred to as the ''CFE Flank Document''), 105th Congress, agreed to May 14, 1997, is repealed.

(b) REPORTS ON COMMERCE WITH, AND ASSISTANCE TO, CUBA FROM OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 108 of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6038) is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 108.

(c) IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OF CONCERN WITH RESPECT TO THE DIVERSION OF CERTAIN GOODS, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGIES TO OR THROUGH IRAN.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 302 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8542) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 303(b) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 8543(b)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''a report—'' and inserting ''a report notifying those committees of the designation of the country.''; and

(B) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2).

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 302.

TITLE XV—DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEC. 1501. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARD REGIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION IN SOUTH ASIA.—Section 620F of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2376) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(b) REPORT ON TIBET NEGOTIATIONS.—Section 613 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 613. TIBET NEGOTIATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The President and the Secretary should encourage the Government of the People's Republic of China to enter into a dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives leading to a negotiated agreement on Tibet.

''(b) COMPLIANCE.—After such an agreement is reached, the President and the Secretary should work to ensure compliance with the agreement.''.

TITLE XVI—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 1601. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) REPORTS OF AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES COMMITTEE.—Section 106(p)(7) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (H); and

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (H).

(b) ANNUAL SUMMARIES OF AIRPORT FINANCIAL REPORTS.—Section 47107(k) of title 49, United States Code, is repealed.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES.—Section 60130 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(d) ANNUAL REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM FOR INNOVATIVE FINANCING OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT.—Section 182 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2515; 49 U.S.C. 44502 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(e) REPORTS ON JUSTIFICATIONS FOR AIR DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONES.—Section 602 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2563), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents contained in section 1(b) of that Act, are repealed.

(f) ANNUAL REPORT ON STANDARDS FOR AIRCRAFT AND AIRCRAFT ENGINES TO REDUCE NOISE LEVELS.—Section 726 of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (114 Stat. 167; 49 U.S.C. 47508 note) is amended by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 1602. REPORTS MODIFIED.

Section 1138(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''at least annually, but may be conducted''.

TITLE XVII—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SEC. 1701. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON THE NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.—Section 2 of Public Law 108–215 is repealed.

(b) REPORT ON VOTING ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LOAN PROPOSALS.—Section 701 of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262d) is amended by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) through subsection (g) (as added by section 501(g) of Public Law 96–259) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively.

(c) REPORT ON NEW IMF ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING RATES AND MATURITIES.—Section 605 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999 (112 Stat. 2681–223), as enacted into law by section 101(d) of division A of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105–277), is amended by striking subsection (d).

(d) REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS.—The Government Securities Act Amendments of 1993 (Public Law 103–202) is amended—

(1) by striking section 203; and

(2) in the table of contents for such Act, by striking the item relating to section 203.

TITLE XVIII—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SEC. 1801. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSALS INVOLVING CONTRACTING FOR PERFORMANCE BY CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL OF WORK PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED BY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES.—Section 8110 of such title is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

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

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON PROCUREMENT OF HEALTH-CARE ITEMS.—Section 8125 of such title is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON STAFFING FOR NURSES AND NURSE ANAESTHETISTS AT DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.—Section 7451(e) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (5); and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

(d) ANNUAL REPORT ON USE OF AUTHORITIES TO ENHANCE RETENTION OF EXPERIENCED NURSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of such title is amended by striking section 7324.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the item relating to section 7324.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4194, the Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014. The Government Reports Elimination Act is part of the committee's efforts to reduce waste and duplication in the Federal Government.

It eliminates 69 unnecessary agency reports to Congress and eliminates or streamlines 10 required GAO, Government Accountability Office, mandates.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 4194 will save several million dollars. That doesn't sound like a lot in the Federal budget, but think of the key people who have to prepare those reports. The people that are most knowledgeable of what is going on are often the people taken away for these reports.

These reports were vetted by sending out a questionnaire to every chairman and every ranking member in the House, asking them do they still need these reports. After going through multiple rounds, we determined that these were the reports that no Member of Congress or no committee any longer needed.

This is a modest reform. I would have liked to have done a few more. In fact, I would like to make sure that, in every Congress, every 2 years, a similar bill be brought, asking are those reports still needed and eliminating the ones that are not.

I am assured that if we do so, as we create 69 new reports every year, we can eliminate 69 old reports, saving millions of dollars, but more importantly, freeing up the most valuable people often in the executive branch that must participate in the preparation of these.

The GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 directs agencies and the OMB to work together to identify duplicative and outdated reports to Congress. In January of 2013, the Office of Management and Budget posted that list on their Web site, www.performance.gov, and these reports come from that list.

Madam Speaker, I think enough has been said. The American people want us not to waste their money. Congress is determined that we should eliminate unnecessary reports. The Office of Management and Budget has produced a list. We have culled through that list, worked with all the chairmen, and today give you this list of savings.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I rise in support of this important legislation. I am pleased to join my colleagues and Chairman ISSA today in support of H.R. 4194, the Government Reports Elimination Act, as amended.

Congress often requires reports from executive branch agencies, and these reports can be a valuable tool to scrutinize performance and assess agency goals. However, with the passage of time, reporting requirements can become outdated and unnecessary.

Congress and the executive branch recognized in the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 that improved coordination across the Federal Government benefits the taxpayer and government alike.

Pursuant to that act, the Office of Management and Budget publishes a list of plans or reports that are produced by the executive branch pursuant to congressional mandate. The act requires the administration to identify potentially outdated or duplicative plans and reports and provide views for their elimination.

In January 2013, the Office of Management and Budget produced a list that identified over 300 congressionally-mandated plans and reports as potentially outdated or duplicative. Majority and minority staffs of our committee worked together to identify specific reports that are currently produced, but should be eliminated.

H.R. 4194 would eliminate the statutory requirements to prepare reports that are produced by 18 Federal agencies. Implementing H.R. 4194 would reduce the administrative costs to these agencies by reducing the number of reports that must be prepared and printed.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing the bill reduces the costs that are subject to appropriation by about $1 million over the next 5 years. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private sector mandates and would impose no costs on State, local, and tribal governments.

H.R. 4194 provides for greater efficiency for a more effective Federal Government with the elimination of duplicative or unnecessary reports.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I am pleased to yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1700

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R.

4194, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4194, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS STUDY

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 298) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 298

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

SECTION 1. BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS STUDY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

(1) In 1994, the Mills Springs Battlefield in Pulaski and Wayne Counties in Kentucky was designated as a National Historic Landmark by the Department of the Interior.

(2) The Battle of Mill Springs was the first significant Union victory in the western theater of the Civil War.

(3) The outcome of the Battle of Mill Springs, along with Union victories at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson paved the way for a major battle at Shiloh, Tennessee.

(4) In 1991, the National Park Service placed the Mill Springs Battlefield on a list of endangered battlefields, noting the impact of this battle to the course of the Civil War.

(5) In 1992, the Mill Springs Battlefield Association formed, and utilizing Federal, State, and local support has managed to preserve important tracts of the battlefield, construct an interactive visitor center, and educate the public about this historic event.

(6) There is strong community interest in incorporating the Mill Springs Battlefield into the National Park Service.

(7) The Mill Springs Battlefield Association has expressed its desire to give the preserved battlefield as a gift to the United States.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

(1) MILL SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD.—The term ''Mill Springs Battlefield'' means the area encompassed by the National Historic Landmark designations relating to the 1862 Battle of Mill Springs located in the counties of Pulaski and Wayne in Kentucky.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) STUDY.—Not later than 3 years from the date funds are made available, the Secretary shall conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield in Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System.

(d) CRITERIA FOR STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct the study authorized by this Act in accordance with 8(b) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(b)).

(e) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study shall include an analysis of the following:

(1) The significance of the Battle of Mill Springs to the outcome of the Civil War.

(2) Opportunities for public education about the Civil War in Kentucky.

(3) Operational issues that should be considered if the National Park System were to incorporate the Mill Springs Battlefield.

(4) The feasibility of administering the Mill Springs Battlefield considering its size, configuration, and other factors, to include an annual cost estimate.

(5) The economic, educational, and other impacts the inclusion of Mill Springs Battlefield into the National Park System would have on the surrounding communities in Pulaski and Wayne Counties.

(6) The effect of the designation of the Mill Springs Battlefield as a unit of the National Park System on—

(A) existing commercial and recreational activities, including by not limited to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, and on the authorization, construction, operation, maintenance, or improvement of energy production and transmission infrastructure; and

(B) the authority of State and local governments to manage those activities.

(7) The identification of any authorities, including condemnation, that will compel or permit the Secretary to influence or participate in local land use decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal lands if the Mill Springs Battlefield is designated a unit of the National Park System.

(f) NOTIFICATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.—Upon commencement of the study, owners of private property adjacent to the battlefield will be notified of the study's commencement and scope.

(g) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Upon completion of the study, the Secretary shall submit a report on the findings of the study to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. At this time, I yield whatever time he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky, Mr. HAL ROGERS.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, we have dozens of historic sites and landmarks that demonstrate our Nation's proud history to thousands of visitors every year. I am pleased that one of these sites is the Mill Springs Battlefield, which sits in my home county of Pulaski and my birth home county of Wayne, Kentucky. The bill we have before us would give the National Park Service 3 years to complete a study on including this historic battlefield into the National Park System.

The Battle of Mill Springs is a source of great pride and interest to my constituents especially. In late 1861, Confederate forces had advanced into Kentucky on its southern border, and on January 19, 1862, they launched an attack on the Union Army camp that was stationed at Logan's Crossroads, later to be called Mill Springs. After a heavy night of marching, the Confederate troops attacked but were driven back, with their commander, Brigadier General Felix Zollicoffer, being killed in the fighting. In the confusion, the Union troops received reinforcements and were able to repel another Confederate attack, this time driving them back into Tennessee.

Although this battle did not generate the number of casualties seen at such battles as Antietam or Gettysburg, it was a critically important battle and one of the first major Union victories in the Civil War. As a border State in the conflict between the North and South, Kentucky sat at a dangerous and strategically critical crossroads, with both sides vying for control of its territory. In fact, President Lincoln has been quoted as saying, ''I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky.'' Victory in the Battle of Mill Springs held off the Confederate advance into Kentucky and laid the groundwork for later Union successes at Fort Donelson, in now Nashville, Tennessee, in February 1862, and at Shiloh, in April, under General Ulysses S. Grant.

Despite the importance of this battle, like many battlefields throughout the country, the site of the Battle of Mill Springs became threatened over the years by disrepair and development. In the early 1990s, the U.S. Department of the Interior classified the site of the Battle of Mill Springs as one of the most endangered battlefields in Kentucky. It might have slipped into the pages of history with no living monument to it had it not been for a group of concerned citizens in the community who came together in 1992 out of concern that the site would be lost forever.

Today, thanks to the Mill Springs Battlefield Association, along with determination from State and local officials and the Civil War Trust and the National Parks Conservation Association, hundreds of acres of battlefield land have been diligently preserved. Through a partnership of public and private funds, the association has constructed a fantastic 10,000-square-foot Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum, established interpretive signage, and led driving and walking

tours of the battle. Above all, they have created a vibrant tourist attraction which hosts thousands of visitors and students each year, preserving the memory of this historic battle for generations to come. Periodically, Madam Speaker, there is a reenactment of the Battle of Mill Springs with thousands of participants from all across the country.

After years of work preserving this precious historic site, the Mill Springs Battlefield Association has expressed its desire to turn the site over to the National Park Service and the people of the United States so that the joy of learning and history will be enjoyed by many more people through the years. This bill, H.R. 298, will start this process by evaluating the feasibility of adopting this important site into the Park Service. I am proud to associate myself with this effort and to have this battlefield and generous group of citizens in my district.

Madam Speaker, our Nation has been truly blessed. We have a remarkable array of natural beauty which people from all over this country and the world flock to see. Additionally, we have a great number of historical sites which have been dutifully and faithfully preserved so that new generations can appreciate what this country has been through and what their forefathers cared for. The Mill Springs Battlefield is a jewel of this group and will be an excellent addition to the National Park Service.

I am proud of the work that they have done, and I look forward to many years of this site being an inspiring and educational attraction for our Nation. So I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

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

I would congratulate the gentleman from Kentucky on his eloquent description of Mill Springs and its significance in our history in the Civil War. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1993, but the gentleman makes an eloquent case that it should be upgraded from a National Historic Landmark to look at as a part of the National Park System.

This bill would allow the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study in anticipation of making this a part of the National Park System. And I want to congratulate the gentleman on his advocacy and thank him for his dedication to protecting and promoting this resource.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, and I would like to thank the gentleman from my home State, Mr. ROGERS, for his advocacy of this important issue, and I appreciate Mr. YOUNG yielding me some time to talk about this legislation that I am proud to cosponsor, which would study the feasibility of including the historic Mill Springs Battlefield within the National Park System.

Perhaps nowhere more than the Commonwealth of Kentucky does the maxim that the Civil War ''pit brother against brother'' ring truer. While it never seceded, a slaveholding Kentucky had rival Union and Confederate governments and was represented by the central star of the Stars and Bars. It is no exaggeration to say that Kentucky families and communities were often split along blue and gray lines.

A border State at the nexus of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, Kentucky was of vital strategic importance to both the Union and Confederate causes. As Chairman ROGERS pointed out, President Abraham Lincoln noted, ''I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky.'' The loss of the Commonwealth would have been a significant blow to the cause of keeping the Union intact.

Both sides recognized this, and so in the first 2 years of the war, some of the bloodiest fighting occurred in the Commonwealth. Major hostilities in the Bluegrass State were bookended by the Union victories at Mill Springs in January 1862, which largely ended the Confederacy's eastern Kentucky offensive, and the Battle of Perryville in October of that year, which ended the Confederacy's hope of victory in the Kentucky Campaign.

The Battle of Mill Springs is notable not only as the first major battle and Union victory in Kentucky, but also the first battle of the Western Theater in which a Confederate general—Brigadier General Felix Kirk Zollicoffer—would be killed in action.

Inclement weather the night before the battle had slowed the Confederate infiltration of the area costing them the benefit of a surprise attack. Despite early success by Confederate troops, a Union rally in the fog and gun smoke that clouded the dense woods sowed confusion and disarray among the rebels.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. BARR. I thank the gentleman.

As the Confederate lines fell back, Brigadier General Zollicoffer was separated and mistakenly approached the 4th Kentucky Infantry and, believing them to be his own troops, was cut down.

The result of the battle of Mill Springs was a hasty retreat by Confederate forces across the Cumberland River back into Tennessee. In hindsight, it was the last opportunity for the Confederacy to gain a foothold in eastern Kentucky. For the Union Army, which had been humiliated at the Battle of First Manassas in the summer of 1861, the battle was its first major victory of the war and a needed boost to morale.

In 1991, the National Park System placed Mill Springs Battlefield on its list of the Most Endangered Battlefields. Today, thanks to the coordinated efforts of the Mill Springs Battlefield Association and several other public and private organizations, the battlefield has been largely restored and now offers walking and driving tours, as well as a 10,000-square-foot visitor center and museum.

H.R. 298 is an important step to recognize and build upon the good work of these organizations and passionate Civil War history enthusiasts from eastern Kentucky and throughout the country. While the feasibility study would only be a first step in the process, inclusion in the National Park System would help ensure that the story of Mill Springs and the battlefield itself are preserved and maintained for future generations and that the memories and sacrifices of the fallen are never forgotten.

Again, I commend Chairman ROGERS on his efforts to preserve this piece of American and Kentucky history, and I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 298.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I have no requests for further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 298, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

NEW PHILADELPHIA, ILLINOIS, STUDY ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 930) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia town site in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 930

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''New Philadelphia, Illinois, Study Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Frank McWorter, an enslaved man, bought his freedom and the freedom of 15 family members by mining for crude niter in Kentucky caves and processing the mined material into saltpeter;

(2) New Philadelphia, founded in 1836 by Frank McWorter, was the first town planned and legally registered by a free African-American before the Civil War;

(3) the first railroad constructed in the area of New Philadelphia bypassed New Philadelphia, which led to the decline of New Philadelphia; and

(4) the New Philadelphia site—

(A) is a registered National Historic Landmark;

(B) is covered by farmland; and

(C) does not contain any original buildings of the town or the McWorter farm and home that are visible above ground.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term ''Study Area'' means the New Philadelphia archeological site and the surrounding land in the State of Illinois.

SEC. 4. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the Study Area.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of the Study Area;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Study Area as a unit of the National Park System;

(3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the Study Area by—

(A) Federal, State, or local governmental entities; or

(B) private and nonprofit organizations;

(4) consult with—

(A) interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities;

(B) private and nonprofit organizations; or

(C) any other interested individuals;

(5) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives considered under paragraph (3); and

(6) determine the effect of the designation of the Study Area as a unit of the National Park System on—

(A) existing commercial and recreational activities, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and on the authorization, construction, operation, maintenance or improvement of energy production and transmission infrastructure; and

(B) the effect of the authority of State and local governments to manage those activities; and

(7) identify any authorities, including condemnation, that will compel or permit the Secretary to influence or participate in local land use decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on nonfederal land if the Study Area is designated a unit of the National Park System.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 8 of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK) who authored this bill.

Mr. SCHOCK. I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska for yielding me this time, and for his leadership on the committee to make these bills law.

Mr. Speaker, New Philadelphia, Illinois, was the first town founded and built by a freed slave, and it happened before the Civil War.

Today, this historic town in my district deserves designation as a national park, and H.R. 930 will pave the way for official recognition.

The man who founded New Philadelphia was Frank McWorter, a Kentucky slave who worked to buy his own freedom and that of his wife and 15 family members. At a time of immense cultural and political hostilities over the issue of slavery, the McWorter family and other citizens of New Philadelphia built a town where free African Americans and European settlers lived and worked side by side.

Due to their hard work and strong faith, the scourge of racial violence never gained a foothold in the town, despite the upheaval around them. Think of the significance of that. The people of New Philadelphia built the dream of Martin Luther King a full 127 years before his immortal words were spoken on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Long before the Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of American schools, these Illinoisans were teaching their children in the same classrooms, letting them play in the same parks, and drawing water from the same wells. The story of New Philadelphia is a proud heritage for central Illinois, and it deserves to be shared with all Americans.

Today, we are honored to have a direct descendant of Frank McWorter here in the gallery, Sheena Franklin. This family, this town, are examples of the best of America, and they accomplished it during the worst of our times.

I also want to especially thank members of the New Philadelphia Association, especially Charlotte King, who have worked for more than a decade to document, preserve, and restore the extraordinary history of the town. It is through their efforts that this unique chapter in our history can be preserved for generations as a national park, and I look forward to continuing to work with them toward that goal.

This legislation is another step in the direction of racial justice. It is another sure stitch in the healing process for a Nation once divided so bitterly and tragically over the issue of slavery. I urge passage of H.R. 930.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from referring to occupants in the gallery.

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

This bill by the gentleman from Illinois, he has already eloquently described the history and the purpose. It is an extraordinary history in New Philadelphia, and it certainly deserves more national recognition. In this case, the gentleman's legislation, H.R. 930, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the New Philadelphia archaeological site and the surrounding land. It would require the Secretary to evaluate the national significance of the study area and determine the feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the national park system. Therefore, we support this legislation.

I thank the majority and the gentleman from Illinois for bringing this up, and urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 930, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HUNA TLINGIT TRADITIONAL GULL EGG USE ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3110) to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3110

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Huna Tlingit Traditional Gull Egg Use Act''.

SEC. 2. LIMITED AUTHORIZATION FOR COLLECTION OF GULL EGGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') may allow the collection by members of the Hoonah Indian Association of the eggs of glaucous-winged gulls (Laurus glaucescens) within Glacier Bay National Park (referred to in this Act as the ''Park'') not more frequently than twice each calendar year at up to 5 locations within the Park, subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(b) APPLICABLE LAW.—For the purposes of sections 203 and 816 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 410hh–2, 3126), the collection of eggs of glaucous-winged gulls within the Park in accordance with subsection (a) shall be considered to be a use specifically permitted by that Act.

(c) HARVEST PLAN.—The Secretary shall establish schedules, locations, and any additional terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the harvesting of eggs of glaucous-winged gulls in the Park, based on an annual harvest plan to be prepared by the Secretary and the Hoonah Indian Association.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3110 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to permit members of Hoonah Indian Association to harvest sea gull eggs in portions of Glacier Bay National Park, subject to terms and conditions the Secretary deems necessary.

This traditional Native subsistence harvest had been conducted long before the establishment by Congress of the national park, where the practice was subsequently forbidden by law.

In 1980, Congress passed the Alaska Lands Act, which, among other things, provided for the subsistence use of natural resources on public lands in Alaska by rural residents. The traditional harvest of sea gull eggs in Glacier Bay National Park, however, remained off limits.

A study conducted by the National Park Service determined the local Native people should be able to resume their harvest of sea gull eggs at specific locations in the park. Accordingly, I introduced H.R. 3110 to authorize the Hoonah Indian Association and the Secretary of the Interior to develop a plan for the traditional Native collection of certain gull eggs.

Under H.R. 3110, the Hoonah Indians may harvest the eggs not more frequently than twice each calendar year at up to five locations within the park, subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be necessary.

On February 5, 2014, the Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs of the Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on H.R. 3110 where the National Park Service testified in support of this bill. On February 27, the Natural Resources Committee ordered the bill reported by unanimous consent.

This bill allows a group of Natives in Alaska to resume an important cultural tradition and to pass it on to future generations. I urge the House to pass the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The collection and the consumption of gull eggs is an integral part of the culture of the Tlingit people of southeast Alaska. Eggs were gathered at rookeries long before Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve were ever established.

The provisions of this bill are in accord with the recommendations of a study mandated by Congress on the issue, and the bill is widely supported throughout the environmental and conservation communities, as well as the Alaska Native community. The harvesting of gull eggs would only have a minor impact on the gulls, but the cultural benefits that would be realized by the Native community would be great.

I applaud the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for his leadership on this issue, and I ask my colleagues to stand with him in support of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no other requests for time, and so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3110, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NORTH TEXAS INVASIVE SPECIES BARRIER ACT OF 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4032) to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4032

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. COMPLIANCE WITH LACEY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1981.

Section 5 of Public Law 112–237 (126 Stat. 1629) is amended by inserting after ''zebra mussels'' the following: ''and other fish, wildlife, and plants present in Lake Texoma that are prohibited under section 3 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 3372) or under section 42 of title 18, United States Code''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), the author of the bill.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4032, the North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act of 2014. This bill is a prime example of how both sides of the aisle can work together for the good of our citizens.

As we know, water is our most vital resource and one of our primary needs, and I am grateful for Congressmen SAM JOHNSON and PETE SESSIONS for their sponsorship of this bill to enhance water resources for the people of north Texas. I also would like to thank Chairman HASTINGS of the Natural Resources Committee and committee staff for their work on this measure and for bringing this bill to the floor today, and I thank the gentleman from Alaska.

Many lakes across America have been infested with various invasive species. In the State of Texas, our lakes have been infested with zebra mussels. I am sure many of you have seen these in your States. They started in New York and have worked their way down to Texas lakes.

In December 2012, the House and Senate were successful in passing the North Texas Zebra Mussel Barrier Act, which became public law. This law permits the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority to pump water from

Lake Texoma into the Wylie, Texas, water treatment plant, where the water will be cleaned of zebra mussels without being in violation of the Lacey Act.

It is safe to say that wherever zebra mussels are found, their partner in crime—quagga mussels—are more than likely to be found as well. Today's bill, H.R. 4032, expands the exemption from zebra mussels to all aquatic invasive species and plants, and will enable the North Texas Municipal Water District to do its job. It does not encourage extra pumping that would harm Lake Texoma's current low water levels. Such action will better serve more than 1.5 million north Texans in a manner that provides safe water and much-needed jobs.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation that provides safe and clean water to north Texans.

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

H.R. 4032, the North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act, provides a very specific and necessary exemption to the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

The bill would allow the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority to transport water that contains potentially invasive species from the Oklahoma side of Lake Texoma into Texas. However, all water would be kept in closed conveyance systems and would be fully treated, with all zebra mussels, quagga mussels, and other potentially harmful aquatic life being fully removed before being released into any water body.

□ 1730

Two years ago, we passed legislation that allowed the water district to pump water containing zebra mussel larvae from Lake Texoma, but now, quagga mussels have emerged as a threat there as well.

These species are the bane of many a power plant and municipal water plant operator. Hundreds of millions will be spent in the near future to deal with these problems in intake and outflow pipes and other infrastructure.

They also harm our fisheries by crowding out native species and taking their food. They are driving out our native mussels toward extinction. The Lacey Act is vital to our Nation's interests because it prevents—or hopefully prevents the spread of undesirable, injurious species like zebra and quagga mussels. A strong Lacey Act is vital to our economy and our environment.

That said, Texas needs access to this water. The aforementioned entities have a comprehensive plan for ensuring that these water transfers do not cause invasive species to spread.

For those reasons, we will support H.R. 4032; but we need to remember that this bill, which was put forward as a remedy to a very difficult and a very unique situation, is not a precedent for broad-spread exemptions to the Lacey Act.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alaska, the former chairman of the committee.

I also want to thank the gentleman RALPH HALL and the gentleman SAM JOHNSON, also from north Texas, that joined with me in this important bill.

I want to thank my friends on the Democratic side, in particular Mr. DEFAZIO, for his not only effort and understanding, but an effort in making sure that water resources all across this country, the needs of the people, are understood.

Mr. Speaker, we are under increased problems all across this country, distressed because of the lack of water. We have lots of areas of the country that are undergoing tremendous changes, and that means that local people have to make accommodations; but that also means that, many times, they have to work with the Federal Government, in this case, through the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

I would like to also thank the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the North Texas Municipal Water District for their hard work on this important issue. The opportunity for us to resolve this issue means that 1.5 million north Texans who need to make sure that they have adequate, safe, and good water resources, that we can continue a plan in north Texas that we agreed to. We agree this is the right thing to do.

We also agree that we are after the good Lord to help us out with some rain; but in the meantime, the Lord also says those that help themselves, that that is the right way to do it.

We are trying to work together. Today, as Mr. HALL has said, it is an opportunity to see Republicans and Democrats, those people in Washington who have come to represent the American people, many of us just for our own district, but all of us working together can work to resolve differences and problems that sometimes occur back home for the benefit of so many other people.

Today, I want to thank the chairman of the committee, DOC HASTINGS, for carefully reviewing, understanding, looking at what we are trying to do, and making sure that, if we showed up with a bill that had been well vetted back home where we had agreement, where we knew what we were talking about and tried to make it as narrow as was necessary, but large enough to handle the issue, that we could move forward with this.

This is the kind of leadership in Washington, D.C., quite honestly, that we need, where we are challenged back home appropriately, where we have to bring our ideas to Washington, where we have to, in essence, think with each other, and then come up with a good plan. This is true of not just Republicans and Democrats in this instance, but also true of the Corps of Engineers.

I want to thank the administration for their help in this effort. Many times, people can jump in the way of a great idea to help people. In this case, it didn't happen.

I am in full support of H.R. 4032 as it stands tonight. Many people in north Texas will perhaps not even know what we are doing, but this will be a sigh of relief for those who do know what we are doing this week and head into the very, very difficult summer months. This way, people can plan forward and do the right thing.

I want to thank Mr. YOUNG for not only allowing me to be on the floor today, but for him scheduling time to have a bunch of Texans come and plead their case. It is my hope this Congress, this House of Representatives, will in fact support and agree to this.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. If the gentleman will listen for a moment, big brothers have to think of little brothers. Alaska is the big brother, and Texas is the little brother.

This is a good bill. I want to compliment the Texas delegation supporting Mr. HALL especially, Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. JOHNSON.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4032, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENSION OF NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM ACT TERMINATION DATE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4120) to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4120

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

SECTION 1. NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM ACT TERMINATION DATE EXTENDED.

Section 4(f) of the National Law Enforcement Museum Act (Public Law 106–492) is amended by striking ''13 years'' and inserting ''16 years''.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The provisions of this Act shall take effect as if this Act were enacted on November 8, 2013.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4120 provides a 3-year extension to allow the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund to begin construction of the National Law Enforcement Museum.

This fund has expended almost $30 million in private funds to complete the design, obtain approvals, and move all of the utilities on the site in preparation for construction.

However, the authority to begin construction has expired, and this extension will provide the time necessary to secure adequate private funds to complete construction of the National Law Enforcement Museum.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for his advocacy on this issue. It is critical that we recognize the sacrifice of law enforcement officers on an ongoing day-to-day basis here in the United States of America, those who have sacrificed and given their lives in the past and those who will continue to serve selflessly into the future.

In 1984, Congress authorized the Memorial Fund for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Nine years later, Congress passed the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to establish a National Law Enforcement Museum adjacent to the existing memorial in Judiciary Square.

Raising money, even for the most meritorious of causes, in developing a design acceptable to all of the affected parties, is laborious and time consuming. Tremendous effort has been expended on this. They are making great progress, but they need a little bit more time.

This legislation brought to us by the gentleman from Maryland would extend the deadline by 3 years, which most parties feel will be adequate to see the museum to completion.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), and my friend, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), for bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I have cosponsored this legislation with my dear friend FRANK WOLF, with whom I have served for 33 years. He will be leaving. His father was a policeman in Philadelphia, so he has a strong attachment to this bill as well.

Our bipartisan bill would enable the construction, as has been said, of the National Law Enforcement Museum to move forward.

In 2000, Congress passed the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to authorize the development of plans for and the construction of a museum to honor the nearly 20,000 local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty since 1791.

All of them, Mr. Speaker, put their lives in danger to serve their communities and their country, leaving us with an enduring example of service and sacrifice. They are a part of our domestic defense corps.

While we honor their memory each year at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in May and on the west front as well, Congress agreed that a museum would be a fitting way to tell their stories year-round, especially to the many school children who are expected to visit us every year and who will visit this museum as well.

We extended the original authorization, as has been said, in 2010, and now, after years of work to obtain permits, receive design approvals, and secure outside funding, the National Law Enforcement Officers Museum Fund is ready to break ground. The funds, of course, are private, but this is a public good and a public end.

But first it is up to Congress, therefore, to reauthorize this project through 2016, so we can see this magnificent museum completed.

In closing, let me congratulate Craig Floyd, who worked in the Congress, who has spearheaded this effort for a very long time. His leadership, his vision has made it possible for us to be on the cusp of realizing this museum's establishment.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to approve this legislation; and, again, I thank Mr. YOUNG and Mr. DEFAZIO for bringing it to the floor.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment Mr. HOYER for his work and Mr. WOLF. They testified before the committee. I asked the question about the extension as far as the length of time. They have assured me that it will be completed. I hope it will be completed. This is a memorial that should be open for the general public. Our police officers are sometimes overlooked.

I urge the passage of this legislation as quickly as possible, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4120.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PRISON SHIP MARTYRS' MONUMENT PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1501) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1501

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

SECTION 1. PRISON SHIP MARTYRS' MONUMENT STUDY; REPORT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Preservation Act''.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall complete a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System.

(2) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with section 8(c) of the National Park System General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)).

(3) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study shall include—

(A) an analysis of operational issues that should be considered if the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument were to be designated as a unit of the National Park System;

(B) an analysis of the feasibility of administering the Prison Ships Martyrs' Monument, considering its size, configuration, and other factors, including an annual cost estimate;

(C) an analysis of the economic, educational, and other impacts of the designation of the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument as a unit of the National Park System;

(D) an analysis of the effect of the designation of the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument as a unit of the National Park System on—

(i) existing commercial and recreational activities, and on the authorization, construction, operation, maintenance, or improvement of energy production and transmission infrastructure; and

(ii) the authority of State and local governments to manage those activities; and

(E) an identification of any authorities, including condemnation, that will compel or permit the Secretary of the Interior to influence or participate in local land use decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal lands if the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument is designated as a unit of the National Park System.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.—Upon commencement of the study, owners of private property in or adjacent to the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument shall be notified of the study's commencement and scope.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall transmit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing the conclusions of the study required by subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1501 authorizes the National Park Service to conduct a study of the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Brooklyn, New York, to determine its eligibility to become a unit in the National Park Service.

The Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park is a memorial to the more than 11,500 American prisoners of war who died in captivity aboard 16 British prison ships during the American Revolutionary War.

The study authorized by this legislation will determine if the site meets the test of national significance and provide different Federal, local, and nongovernmental management proposals. The study is informational. Congress would still have to act on separate legislation to designate the monument as a park.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us brought by the gentleman from New York has tremendous merit. This is a chapter of history that many of us have forgotten or didn't learn in school, but the 11,500 lives that were lost aboard British prison ships while our country fought for its independence during the Revolutionary War is certainly a very, very important national and nationally significant site.

□ 1745

The site has been managed by the New York Department of Parks and Recreation, but the gentleman from New York has rightly pointed out in his advocacy that this should actually be a site that has national significance. He therefore has authored—and hopefully today we will successfully see passed—H.R. 1501, which would direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete a study within 1 year on the feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn, New York, as a unit of the National Park System. I would hope that this legislation would be broadly supported.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Oregon for yielding, for his support, and for his leadership, as well as to Mr. YOUNG.

Mr. Speaker, the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument pays homage to American Revolutionary War heroes and patriots who lost their lives while fighting for our Nation's independence.

This structure was first erected in 1908 to memorialize and contain the remains of 11,500 patriots from the Revolutionary War who died while in British custody on ships anchored in the East River, immediately adjacent to Brooklyn, New York. The British maintained approximately 16 prison ships during the war, which became necessary after the limited land-based prison space reached capacity shortly after New York City fell to the British in August of 1776. These prisoners of war were housed in inhumane conditions; disease was rampant; and food and water were scarce. Each ship typically contained more than 1,000 men and boys.

More Americans died in British captivity than in all of the battles of the Revolutionary War combined. Many perished on these prison ships. The deceased represent patriots from all Thirteen Colonies and of more than a dozen nationalities. Accordingly, this is one of the only international war monuments in the world. The individuals housed on the prison ships could have obtained their freedom had they acceded to requests to join the British forces. However, very few opted to save their own lives, instead believing in the promise of America.

According to a written newspaper account of the situation:

> American prisoners suffered so egregiously, in part, because the British refused to recognize them as enemy soldiers, which would have, of course, amounted to legitimizing the colonial government, and therefore denied them the basic rights ordinarily accorded to prisoners of war.

It was not until 1908 that their remains were properly memorialized in a 149-foot-tall Doric column atop a 95-foot hill in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, beneath which is the crypt.

During the Great Depression, the monument as a whole fell into disrepair due to a shortage of funds, neglect, and a lack of public interest. The monument originally had four bronze eagles mounted to the corner granite posts. After repeatedly being vandalized, these eagles were removed, never to be returned to the park again. This is emblematic of the overall treatment of the monument, treatment that continued for much of the previous century.

In 2005, as part of a $3 million reconstruction project, which took 18 months, the condition of the monument improved somewhat. However, it is still under great threat as vandals continue to deface the property. This monument should be a place to memorialize forgotten martyrs and Revolutionary War heroes. Instead, it is now more frequently used as a skate park and as a casual recreation space.

To that end, the potential designation of the crypt and the monument as a unit of the NPS should be studied given its national significance and the ability of the NPS to protect our national treasures. The story of these brave heroes—with the atrocities they suffered—has been described as one of the least known accounts of the American Revolution. I respectfully urge my colleagues in the House to support H.R. 1501. Preserve the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument, and help illuminate the sacrifices made by these forgotten patriots and American Revolutionary War heroes.

Again, let me thank the distinguished gentleman, the ranking member, for his support and for his leadership as well as that of Mr. YOUNG's.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1501, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER of Florida) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4414, EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–422) on the resolution (H. Res. 555) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4414) to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4192, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4120, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

CLARIFICATION OF RULES APPLYING TO HUMAN OCCUPANCY OF PENTHOUSES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4192) to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 367, nays 16, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 178]

YEAS—367

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Polis
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—16

Amash
Brooks (AL)
Frelinghuysen
Gohmert
Griffith (VA)
Holding
Hudson
Poe (TX)
Posey
Rooney
Sanford
Schrader
Stutzman
Upton
Weber (TX)
Whitfield

NOT VOTING—48

Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Campbell
Clay
Deutch
Ellison
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey (GA)
Grayson
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hastings (WA)
Hinojosa
Jenkins
Jordan
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Labrador
Lankford
Lee (CA)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Marino
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McHenry
Miller, Gary
Owens
Pastor (AZ)
Peters (MI)
Pocan
Rahall
Richmond
Rogers (MI)
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Schwartz
Sires
Smith (TX)
Waters

□ 1857

Messrs. WHITFIELD, HUDSON, and FRELINGHUYSEN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. FLEMING and Mrs. LUMMIS changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENSION OF NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM ACT TERMINATION DATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4120) to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 179]

YEAS—384

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—47

Bishop (UT)
Bridenstine
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Campbell
Clay
Deutch
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey (GA)
Grayson
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hastings (WA)
Hinojosa
Jenkins
Jordan
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Labrador
Lankford
Lee (CA)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Marino
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McHenry
Miller, Gary
Owens
Pastor (AZ)
Peters (MI)
Pocan
Rahall
Richmond
Rogers (MI)
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Schwartz
Sires
Smith (TX)
Waters

□ 1906

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Financial Services:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In light of recent events, I am writing this letter to respectfully request to be removed from my position on the House Financial Services Committee. Upon a successful resolution of pending legal matters my intention is to resume said position as an active member of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL G. GRIMM,
Member of Congress, Eleventh District of New York.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there were a number of votes that I missed because I was unavoidably detained for the memorial services at Fort Hood, Texas, on April 9, 2014, and for honoring President Lyndon Baines Johnson on April 10, 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall vote No. 171, the substitute amendment of Mulvaney, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 172, which involved the budget resolution on the Congressional Black Caucus budget, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote No. 173 on the Progressive Caucus budget, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote No. 174 on the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 175 on the Woodall of Georgia substitute budget amendment, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 176, the Democratic alternative for Mr. VAN HOLLEN, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote No. 177, the Republican fiscal year 2015 budget resolution of Mr. RYAN, I would have voted ''no.''

This concludes the votes that I missed due to the memorial at Fort Hood and the honoring of President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FAITH, GRACE, AND ACHIEVEMENT OF SISTER FRANCESCA ONLEY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, my friend, Sister Francesca Onley, has served as president of Holy Family University for 32 years and is recognized as an outstanding and effective administrator. She led the expansion of the institution in Philadelphia while maintaining the integrity of its educational philosophy. Sister Francesca guided Holy Family to its university status. She expanded enrollment and grew the endowment fund substantially.

Sister Francesca also attained leadership positions in educational associations, including charter president of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education, the prestigious International Association of

University Presidents, and the United Nations Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace.

She addressed the Commission's goal to nurture peace concepts through education by establishing outreach programs in Africa. Sister Francesca is being honored in Philadelphia for a life of faith, grace, and achievement. Her family, friends, and associates look forward to the future accomplishments of this most remarkable woman.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to highlight an important program for resiliency and preparedness.

America's PrepareAthon! is taking place this Wednesday as a reminder to communities across the country that while we hope for the best, we must prepare for the worst.

In California, 1,108 wildfires have been reported this year—well above the year-to-date average. In 2003 and 2007, wildfires devastated communities in the San Diego region, especially affecting the 52nd District communities of Scripps Ranch, Tierrasanta, Rancho Bernardo, and Poway and claiming 29 lives.

The PrepareAthon! is a national day to refocus our attention on emergency planning and resiliency, as well as exercises and drills that can save lives in a disaster. Last year, I introduced the bipartisan STRONG Act to equip communities, State and local governments with better information and data on preparedness so we don't reinvent the wheel with every disaster.

While there is debate in this Chamber about climate change, there isn't among scientists. We must prepare our communities, families, and businesses for the hurricanes, more powerful storms, and wildfires becoming more common and powerful every day.

MR. PUTIN: THE AGGRESSOR IN EASTERN EUROPE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week I traveled with a bipartisan delegation to see firsthand the situation on the ground in ''Putin's Ukraine.'' The Napoleon of Siberia has driven his tanks over the administration's ''reset'' button. He launched a blitzkrieg-style aggression, stole Crimea, and he doesn't appear to be through.

The West's timid response to Putin's aggression has failed to stop his crusade to restore the former Soviet empire. He does not fear the United States. With our response so far, why should he?

Instead of retreating, Putin has brought back his imperialistic tactics from the old Soviet playbook. The consensus on the ground is that the worst is yet to come. It is time for the administration to stand up against Putin.

We must implement sanctions that actually work where it will hurt Russia's economy the most—and start with the financial and energy sectors. We must expedite the approval of U.S. natural gas export permits so Ukraine and other European countries can buy American instead. And we can end Russia's monopoly and stranglehold over Europe when it comes to energy. We need to put the Russian bear back in the cage.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING YOM HASHOAH, HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. GARCIA. I rise today to recognize Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

All over the world, people like south Floridian David Mermelstein, who is currently in Poland on the March of the Living, are honoring the memories of all those who suffered and died.

We must also redouble our commitment to the survivors who are still with us. This past Sunday, I had the privilege of attending a Yom Hashoah ceremony at the Miami Beach Holocaust Memorial and hearing from the survivors.

It is unacceptable that billions are still owed to deserving survivors and that many insurers have made it nearly impossible for beneficiaries to collect their payments. These are men and women who suffered from unimaginable physical and emotional pain and who carry their injuries and scars with them to this day. We must do right by them.

I urge my colleagues to honor the dead as well as the living and take action to return what is due to the Holocaust survivors.

□ 1915

CONGRATULATING CLEMENTS RANGERS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago, the Clements men's soccer team left our home Sugar Land, Texas, with a dream. A few days later, they came home living their dream. They were the Texas 5A State champions.

The Rangers were underdogs in the finals. But, behind a raucous crowd, and led by Coach Todd Ericson, the Rangers crushed defending champion Coppell by a score of 3–0.

The Rangers started a new tradition. They did something no Ranger team had done before: they won State. And they gave me a new tradition, because every time they win a championship in the future, I get to rearrange the Styrofoam cups in the chain link fence that surrounds Clements High School off Elkins Drive.

Ranger pride is alive and well in Sugar Land, Texas. They are the 2014 Texas 5A State soccer champions.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, April 26 marked World Intellectual Property Day, and this year's theme, ''Movies: A Global Passion,'' truly represents the importance of innovation and creativity to my district and to our entire country.

Today, this industry extends beyond Hollywood studios to the millions who are involved in the filmmaking process. Whether it is working in the industry, or watching films on the big screen, people of all ages are captivated by movie magic.

Not only does the industry bring enjoyment across the globe, it is a huge economic engine for California and the entire United States. Intellectual property protections will ensure the film industry continues to fuel the economy and keep jobs right here in the United States of America.

Today, let's celebrate the ingenuity of the film industry and continue to defend the intellectual property rights that let us all experience a little magic.

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Coon Rapids Lions Club for celebrating their 60th anniversary this year.

Since its inception, the Coon Rapids Lions Club has played an integral role in the community. Over the course of its history, more than 500 members have donated their time, money, and energy in supporting endeavors that benefit the local area and its residents. For instance, the Lions Club has helped youth in Coon Rapids by financially supporting school, scouting, athletic organizations, and by founding literacy

programs that have provided over 110,000 books to students. They have also donated tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships to local high school and college students.

In addition, the Coon Rapids Lioness Club will also be marking their 45th anniversary of service this year as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Coon Rapids Lions and Lioness clubs are proof of how civic groups can absolutely make a difference in their community and make our community a better place. Their service deserves our thanks and praise.

SAD WEEK IN AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the last week there was an unseemly, sad connection between a Supreme Court decision, the comments of Mr. Bundy, and the comments of the Los Angeles owner in the NBA. Justice Sonia Sotomayer had it right with respect to the affirmative action decision: the Court's decision perpetrated harm to African American, Hispanic, and Native American students, but it also provided a harm to Michigan's public schools when they were trying to ensure the next generation of diverse persons who could in fact be part of a new America.

Mr. Bundy's comments about government subsidies and wouldn't we be better off as slaves and picking cotton were outrageous, disgraceful, and disgusting.

Sadly, sports groups, the National Basketball Association that brings people together, the owner decided to talk about not putting Black people and others together in a public setting. America must move beyond that, and we as Members of Congress and others must stand against it and denounce it. This was a sad week. I hope we will move beyond it. I hope we will get better, and I hope we will denounce those ugly, racist, outrageous comments.

CELEBRATING SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to wish a happy and healthy 85th birthday to Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin.

For 23 years, Sister Jeanne served as the fifth president at Barry University, and made it the fourth-largest private university in my home State of Florida. It is because of Sister Jeanne's vision and enthusiasm in taking on such a challenging responsibility that Barry University has now expanded from 16 to 55 buildings on its campus, and increased its enrollment to more than 9,000 while maintaining its goal of academic excellence.

Sister Jeanne has also been an active member of our community in civic and professional associations, and has been the recipient of several accolades related to her work. She became the first woman to be a member of both the Orange Bowl Committee and the Non-Group of Miami-Dade County. The south Florida community is truly blessed to have the benefit of Sister Jeanne's experience. Her tenacity is a beacon of hope to us all.

Happy birthday, Sister Jeanne, and many more.

CONGRATULATING UNION COLLEGE DUTCHMEN HOCKEY TEAM

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Union College Dutchmen hockey team and congratulate its players on winning their first NCAA Division I national championship.

The Dutchmen wrapped up a dream season on April 12, defeating Minnesota by a score of 7–4 in the finals of the Frozen Four. Union College, a school of just 2,200 students from Schenectady with a stress on academic excellence, a college that doesn't even give out athletic scholarships, overcame the Big 10 giant to become national champions.

The Union Dutchmen are a reminder that it does not matter how big you are or whether the average person can pronounce the city you represent; persistence, selflessness, and willpower can achieve great things.

From Schenectady, that lights and hauls the world, to the Union hockey team that lit up the scoreboard and hauled the campus into national attention, I thank the Union hockey program, its players, their parents, head coach Rick Bennett, President Ainlay, his administration, faculty, and staff for inspiring us all with an unforgettable season.

Go, Dutchmen.

SECRETARY KERRY SHOULD NOT BE SPEAKING FOR NATION

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, today Secretary of State Kerry accused the Jewish people of Israel of risking guilt for the crime of apartheid. He said that about Israeli Jews whom the U.N. unanimously provided a nation after the worst genocide in history. Secretary Kerry is both ignorant of history and of the offense of apartheid. Our Secretary of State has effectively cursed Israel.

It is not Israel who sent suicide bombers against Palestinians, nor denied the right of Palestinians to work in Israel, nor advocated for completely wiping them off the map, nor taught their children in their textbooks to hate others like vermin or rats, nor named landmarks and holidays for murderers with suicide bombs, nor launched rockets every day, hoping to terrorize and kill innocent people. It is Israel that has fought against such racism and hatred.

Secretary Kerry stands for those who support the destruction of Israel. He should not be speaking for this Nation. He needs to stand down before he brings judgment upon us all.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the state of knowledge about climate change and the impact it will have on our Nation.

Secretary of State John Kerry called climate change ''the greatest challenge of our generation.'' Al Gore was the first to call us to action more than 30 years ago. Even with his courageous leadership, we still have not taken the necessary actions.

The number of Americans who do not believe in climate change has increased since last year, and this is unacceptable. Our citizens need to be informed about climate change and the very real consequences it holds for all of us. This is why I introduced the Climate Change Education Act of 2014.

The Climate Change Education Act will create formal and informal education opportunities for all age groups. It will ensure people understand the complexity and seriousness of the problems we are facing. It will also give them ways to start fighting climate change. Climate change impacts every ecosystem on Earth—our oceans, forests, rivers, lakes, and everything that lives in them.

IMPORTANCE OF TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WENSTRUP). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, tonight Republicans from the Ways and Means Committee, from the Agriculture Committee, and from the Rules Committee intend to speak with the American people and to you, Mr. Speaker, about the importance of trade and trade policies, the implications of growing jobs in not just America, but also our world role where we work with other Nations to ensure that the benefits and the great

things that we not only create here in the United States but also use as trading elements around the world, that each of these issues will be thoughtfully discussed and appropriately given an item of what I believe is encouragement as this United States Congress moves forward into its last few months of this second session.

We believe that trade is important. We believe that as the United States continues to grow in its respect for others, that we share intellectual property, but expect the same back from others. We trade with our partners around the globe with an expectation of not only a good product but also an even playing field as we deal with others around the world.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this important topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because we want and need to understand more about the implications of trade, a pro-trade growth agenda, and the opportunities that lie before not just the American people but the United States House of Representatives to further understand this key and critical issue that is a part of job creation for the American people.

Expanding trade throughout the globe creates economic growth and good-paying jobs here at home. Trade works because it allows America to be globally efficient and to compete all around the globe trading our products for others. And when America competes, I believe America wins, and the world is a better place. History shows that allowing greater access to a global marketplace for American exports has always been a powerful engine for economic growth and job creation.

□ 1930

Trade provides new opportunities for businesses and spurs innovation and entrepreneurs.

Opening our market to world imports also helps increase the purchasing power of American consumers. I believe there is a balance here, and it is part of this balance and the miracle of having a pro-growth trade agreement which we Republicans wish to speak about tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to welcome a young man who sits on the Ways and Means Committee, a relatively new Member, a second term Member, from Indiana.

TODD YOUNG represents not only an opportunity for him to bring forth ideas from the heartland of America, but also his expertise as a member of the United States military, ideas about world affairs, and most of all about jobs in America. I would defer to the gentleman at this time, Mr. YOUNG.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the chairman from Texas, for his leadership on this and so many other issues.

I am a passionate proponent of free trade because we have the most productive workers in the world, the most productive businesses in the world. Frankly, we need to open up new markets for our commodities, for our manufactured items, for our services. That is what this initiative is all about.

Trade promotion authority, or TPA as it is popularly known, reflects decades of debate, cooperation, and compromise between Congress and the executive branch in finding a pragmatic accommodation to the exercise of each branch's respective constitutional authorities over trade policy.

I applaud our Ways and Means Committee Chairman CAMP, as well as Chairman SESSIONS and Chairman NUNES, for all of their hard work pushing renewal of trade promotion authority. In January, they together introduced the bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act, which updates and expands negotiation and consultation requirements.

For me, supporting trade is a no-brainer. It is important back home in Indiana, where over 8,000 companies exported from locations within the State in 2011. Eighty-five percent of these companies were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Indiana's export shipments of merchandise in 2013 totaled a whopping $34 billion. Fifty-four percent of Indiana's exports go to countries with whom the U.S. currently has a free-trade agreement.

Trade is important for the strength of our entire country's economy. Trade supports in total more than 38 million jobs across America. U.S. exports accounted for 14 percent of America's gross domestic product in 2012 alone.

TPA is the only way we can successfully bring international trade negotiations to a close and unlock job creating opportunities for these U.S. exports.

The administration has laid out a bold 2014 trade agenda and is currently negotiating a regional free-trade agreement, TPP, with 11 Asia-Pacific countries; another regional trade agreement, TTIP, with 28 member counties of the European Union; and TISA, a trade and services agreement with 22 other countries.

Combined, U.S. negotiations related to the Asia-Pacific and EU agreements would open markets with nearly 1 billion consumers, covering nearly two-thirds of the global economy and 65 percent of global trade. TISA covers about 50 percent of the global economy and over 70 percent of global services trade.

As a cochair of the House TTIP Caucus, the ongoing U.S.-EU negotiations are a particular interest to me. The transatlantic economy is the largest and most integrated in the world, comprising 50 percent of global GDP and generating approximately $5 trillion in total commercial sales each year.

The EU and U.S. account for 30 percent of world trade, and $2.7 billion of goods and services are traded bilaterally each day. There are a lot of numbers, but all these things speak to the power of trade and its importance, not just to my home State of Indiana, but the United States of America.

I want to further emphasize that Europe is, by far, the largest market for U.S.-outbound investment, so I continue to work hard there in conjunction with my colleagues.

By one estimate, approximately 15 million workers are employed as a result of transatlantic trade. As for my home State of Indiana, in 2012, the EU purchased goods worth $9.1 billion or 25 percent of our overall Indiana exports.

In 2011, Hoosier services worth $2.4 billion went to the EU. That is 32 percent of Hoosier services exports. So successful implementation of TTIP is estimated to increase Indiana exports to the EU by roughly 33 percent and could boost net employment by up to 13,780 Hoosier jobs.

Currently, major Indiana exports to the EU include pharmaceuticals, aerospace products and parts, and medical equipment and supplies.

Again, I am a strong advocate of free trade, free markets. I think that trade agreements have the opportunity to strengthen our economy by creating new global markets and supporting existing ones.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support the bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act, so we can further and hopefully finalize many of these ongoing negotiations and bring final trade agreements before Congress for approval.

I once again thank the chairman.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for discussing not only the impact in Indiana, but with the knowledge that Indiana, in fact, is really a microcosm of what this country really looks like, where you come from a strong manufacturing base, you come from a strong base of agriculture, you come from a strong base of the heartland of this country that wants and needs to be economically viable; and by growing jobs, which means that you can continue to pay for your schools, you can continue to pay for your roads and bridges, but more importantly, I believe, an innovative opportunity where you are allowed to compete around the globe with your ideas, your products, and your services.

I applaud the gentleman not only for his service to the United States military, but I applaud you for your service

to the people of Indiana, as you have served us so ably during your tenure here in Congress, and a hearty congratulations. I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to have Republicans who have not only a background in agriculture, in understanding the United States military, which is the world, the world we live in, how America has neighbors and partners all around the world; but also, we continue to have people who come, once again, from the heartland of this country who see firsthand how important trade is.

They come from agricultural areas, they come from areas that have strong natural resources and reserves that are, I am sure, God-given, but an opportunity for us as Americans to benefit by virtue of living in the greatest Nation in the world.

One of those people that sits on our trade team and is perhaps one of the most active and thoughtful members is a young woman from South Dakota.

Congresswoman KRISTI NOEM has just returned from a trip that she took representing the United States Congress. I would defer to the gentlewoman now for her discussion on not only TPP Japan, but also agriculture and the things which she represents so well.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I want to thank him for the honor of being a part of this group today that is talking about TPP and the importance of trade in the region.

I did have a chance to get back this morning from a weeklong trip in Asia discussing trade and the importance of the TPP—Trans-Pacific Partnership—the European Union trade negotiations, and the ways that we can expand trade that would benefit our economy.

The first step to seeing these benefits in these agreements is renewing trade promotion authority, and then we set our goals and our priorities in these agreements. This was a big topic of conversation throughout the week as we met with leaders from Japan—including Prime Minister Abe—South Korea, and then also with the leaders in China and the People's Congress.

Time and time again, America has reaped the benefits of completed trade agreements in our country. For me, the profound impacts that we have seen in agriculture are particularly interesting.

We have seen an 18 percent increase in ag exports since we have signed the agreement with Panama. There has been a 68 percent increase in agriculture exports to Colombia since passing trade agreements with those countries.

We have also generated new business in other sectors of the economy, like manufacturing and the service industry. We have created jobs here at home, while benefiting those people across our country and economies abroad and built relationships with them that we certainly reap the benefits for when it comes to foreign policy and security issues as well.

In my home State of South Dakota, we have seen export support and create jobs and higher wages for our economy, including our State's number one industry: agriculture.

Currently, South Dakota agriculture exports total more than $3 billion annually, and they support over 20,000 jobs on and off the farm. It is estimated that more than one in five jobs in South Dakota depend on international trade.

Those plants that do export goods pay higher wages, they hire more people, and they do it a lot faster than those who don't. Soybeans, corn, wheat, feed grains, and livestock grown in South Dakota are already shipped to countries around the world. We can increase that by growing our access to markets through free-trade agreements.

As we are working towards trade promotion authority and negotiating the trade agreements, I think of the enormous benefits that it can have for our country. Especially as our economy struggles to recover, increasing exports in trade and markets across the Asia-Pacific and Europe is essential.

Japan is one of those countries that is included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership talks and is already one of the largest purchasers of U.S. corn and soybeans. With a good TPP agreement, we could see an increase in grain and livestock exports to Japan and the entire region. That would spark economic activity throughout our country as well.

Of course, we need to ensure that we get it right. I have asked for assurances from our U.S. trade representative that we won't close the TPP negotiations with Japan unless they agree to eliminate trade barriers to agriculture.

I appreciate that the bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act outlines trade negotiation objectives. It includes prioritizing agriculture. We need to ensure that food safety and animal and plant health measures are restrictions justified based on sound science. Ultimately, we need to ensure that we have an agreement that is fair to our agriculture producers.

When I had the opportunity to travel to Asia last week and discuss some of the ways that our country and Japan and China and others in the region can mutually benefit from trade agreements, I made it very clear how important the ag industry is in finalizing any final trade deal and some of my concerns that we already had with existing barriers.

We are making progress. We need to give those who are negotiating some of the agreements in the region the tools that they need to get this job done. This is one of the main topics I heard from leaders involved in these discussions. It is something these leaders see as key to coming to an agreement on these free-trade agreements, and it is key to agreeing on how a final deal will impact the agriculture sector.

I think a lot of folks don't realize that Japan has the number three economy in the world, behind the United States and China. If we can finalize an agreement with them, it will set the table for TPP and also for the region on how our discussions go forward with China as well.

It will open up new opportunities in China where 1.3 billion people call home. There is no way that China can continue to feed its own people and will rely on outside sources for their proteins, for their grains, to make sure their people are well fed into the future.

In fact, some of the discussions I had with businesses and government officials was the difference between USDA beef and United States beef and South Dakota beef than what they are currently enjoying today.

As incomes have risen in China and people are making more money, they have a desire for more proteins in their diet. Today, their main source from that protein is from Australian beef; but yet, every day, they ask: When can we get USDA beef?

That is what these agreements would bring, not only open markets for us and increase our exports, but bring the Chinese people the kind of goods, food, and services that they want to enjoy as well. Fifty percent of the people in this world live in that region. It is a market that we can't ignore and that we need to prioritize into the future.

We need to take this first step, so that we can continue reaping the benefits of trade in South Dakota, in the United States, and across the world. It is imperative for job growth here at home and for prosperity for all of the countries involved.

Historically, when you have looked at free-trade agreements with other countries, the prosperity of all the countries involved have risen after those agreements have come forward and been done and completed.

I believe that as we focus on this issue, as we approve TPP, as we negotiate agreements that work for all of our countries involved and we finalize with TPA authority, we will certainly get an agreement that is good for all of our countries and beneficial to create jobs here in the United States.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this discussion tonight.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman NOEM very much for not only taking time to come here and speak with us, but in particular the references that you make to your home State, a State which you represent so

proudly and which you not only carry the flag of South Dakota with you, but really on behalf of all Americans that live not just in rural areas, but who, every single day, get up and go to work to make this country stronger, to take our products and services and goods overseas to make sure that the agriculture products are clean and the very best products available.

I think one of the most interesting things that you said was really the point which we do understand, and that is the world thirsts for American-made products.

The world understands firsthand how important your industry—your agricultural industry is in South Dakota and throughout the Midwest, the very best of not only beef—I did include Texas in there, I hope—but the very best of agricultural products that go around the world and then, as you travel to see people, thirst for those products.

□ 1945

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would just like to expand on that a little bit because a lot of our discussions that we had with the Prime Minister of Japan and also with the leadership in China was the fact that, not only as we negotiate these trade agreements our economies are linked in creating jobs and prosperity for both of us, but then it helps our foreign policy as well. We recognize how much we need our allies in the region to come alongside us. We recognize that it sets the table for agreements that we have with China and for keeping peace throughout a region that, right now, the United States is very focused on, where we have had to be a leader of strength in order to keep peace and to keep presence. By having trade and interactions with their leadership and their people dependent upon us for their food and their protein sources, it certainly is going to be beneficial for us today, tomorrow, and long into the future if we can continue to do that and to make these trade agreements finalized.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentlewoman.

Perhaps more important than that is that you build a friendship between groups of people who really not only share cities, where we have sister cities that grow up and are born of each other, but it is a merging together of America to make us closer with the rest of the world and then our values of not only the rule of law, of intellectual property, but also, I think, of the thing of which we know most—trade policies. A tariff is a tax, and we are reducing taxes, or tariffs, and taxes—costs—on people for products, goods and services and food. That is where I believe agricultural products from America will be king around the world.

Mrs. NOEM. Very true. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SESSIONS. I want to thank the gentlewoman for taking the time to join us tonight.

We are also joined by a young man who, from the very beginning of his time here, was described by his Governor as one of the brightest young men in Minnesota. ERIK PAULSEN is a young man who came to the United States Congress as a seasoned and experienced thoughtmaker but also as a person who understood the global implications of Minnesota, whether it be with medical products and devices that are made or whether it be with other agricultural products.

I yield at this time to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), the gentleman from the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Let me just thank the chairman for his leadership not only on the Rules Committee but for leading the bipartisan free-trade caucus and leading that effort in knowing and understanding the value of trade and the value of exports.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important issue to Members. It is good to take time on the floor to talk about this because international trade, I will tell you, is a vital part of my economy, to Minnesota's Third Congressional District. The chairman just alluded to that. Statewide in Minnesota, global trade supports almost 750,000 jobs. That is a pretty big number. It is all about exports. It is about selling where 95 percent of the world's consumers are living outside of the United States. Despite our successful economic relationships with a lot of countries around the world—we have good agreements with Korea and Colombia and Panama—there is no doubt that a lot more can be done now. It really begins with passing this bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act, which will renew and update Trade Promotion Authority.

Why is that important?

It is important so we can make headway and get forward momentum on the TPP and the TTIP negotiations. This ensures that we will accomplish several very, very important goals as a part of increasing transparency in trade negotiations and of empowering Congress, of empowering ourselves. This is why there is bipartisan support. It will specifically direct the administration to pursue congressional prerogatives through congressionally mandated negotiating objectives. It will establish very robust consultation and access to information requirements before, during, and after the negotiations so that we have a very open and transparent process with all Members of Congress and the public. More importantly, it also preserves the congressional prerogatives that are there, giving Congress the ability to vote and giving Congress the final approval to any trade agreements through procedures and providing an up-or-down vote, which is really critical. Our trading partners are certainly looking for that authority to move forward.

I want to commend the chairman, who has had a role in that legislation, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, as well as in the Senate, with bipartisan support in making sure the administration will be negotiating a deal that covers the issues that are most important in today's economy. The reason it is important, Mr. Speaker and others, is that this is not simply about focusing on tariffs. We always know that trade negotiations and agreements focus on tariffs. This is about import quotas and other nontraditional barriers to trade because the regular, traditional barriers are no longer enough. This is about finding 21st century solutions to streamline trade and end these nontariff barriers so we can interconnect regulations across our borders and reduce foreign regulatory barriers to our exports.

You have got the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which, of course, my colleague from South Dakota spoke so eloquently on, in which we have got 11 countries participating with emerging markets. Yet the area of negotiation that I am most interested in right now is TTIP, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, with our Atlantic friends. This is one of those opportunities, I think, as cochair of the TTIP Caucus, along with Congressmen NEAL and KEATING and YOUNG, in which I want to make sure that the ongoing negotiations are going to move forward, because the transatlantic economy is our largest in the world. It is the most integrated in the world. It is 50 percent of the world's GDP. It is generating about $5 trillion in total commercial sales each year—30 percent of global trade. Mr. Speaker, those are big numbers as well, and we have known for years that a trade agreement between the United States and the European Union is the right thing to do.

I remember, back in the summer of 2012, I authored a bipartisan letter with 50 different Members of Congress bipartisanly supporting such an agreement. Then, last year, we had the launch of the Business Coalition for Transatlantic Trade. We had a chance to meet with our Ways and Means counterparts and introduce the resolution calling for swift action on TTIP. Then as I mentioned, earlier this month, we launched that TTIP Caucus, which is the chance to move forward, I think, significantly. I will tell you what it means to Minnesota: $4.5 billion in Minnesota goods are purchased by European countries right now; 42,200 Minnesota jobs are supported by European investment annually; if we pass TTIP, it is estimated that another 3,000 jobs are going to come on hand. This is

about higher wages and a healthier economy, and that direct investment is absolutely going to be helping us right here at home.

These TTIP negotiations present a huge opportunity to tackle these nontariff barriers, as I mentioned earlier, such as regulations that will needlessly impact and increase the cost of trade between the U.S. and Europe right now. Yet everyone knows getting to this agreement is not going to be easy. There are some real differences between our economies and our continents, such as the way we approach regulation, but all indications are, it seems—and I think the chairman would agree—that the negotiators are moving full speed ahead. They want to continue to make progress towards a final agreement. The next round of negotiations is actually set to take place this next month, but we can't get there unless we pass the TPA.

Passing this Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act is going to make sure we are protecting intellectual property and that we are setting high standards. Other countries around the world are going to be forced to look at what the United States and the EU are doing, and then we can make sure that the bad actors are following our lead by setting those high standards.

So, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Chairman, I just want to commend you for hosting the time today, and I want to thank the chairman again for the opportunity to discuss trade and the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act as well as the importance of trade to both of our States and to the entire country. I know it is important to Minnesota and to my economy back home.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. PAULSEN, I want you to stick around for just another minute because I really want to engage you in speaking about exactly what you just said.

We know TPA is that process—Trade Promotion Authority—whereby Congress gives authority to the President of the United States. Then, once that is done, the President and the trade ambassador go to the world, and there are two different processes which have been started now: one in Asia and one, essentially, that is in Europe. These really offer America a chance to become a better and a bigger player in the world and to even get a better deal in working so that the consumers of the world get a better opportunity.

Is that really the way you see this working?

Mr. PAULSEN. Absolutely. I think you just pretty much laid it out. That is the way we do see this working. This is a win-win for the opportunities for our companies to engage in a healthier economy and to employ more people, but also for consumers to benefit on the other side.

I mean, I know that, without a doubt, South Korea, Panama, and Colombia were significant trade agreements and that they had been languishing on the sidelines for a long period of time, but with bipartisan support, we were able to pass them all. Now we have got a chance to show and prove that America is back on the playing field. We know the benefits of trade. I know, when I had a chance to visit South Korea, they spoke about the Costco in South Korea and about their interest in selling American goods and how that was the number one Costco in the world, essentially, after the free trade agreement because they want to buy American. This is about exporting. It creates more jobs at home; it keeps the innovation here at home; and it sells where the customers are.

We can't get to these agreements, though, unless we get this Trade Promotion Authority, which makes sure every Member of Congress is going to have a hand in seeing the negotiations process forward to the tune where we have not had that type of involvement among individual Members of Congress in the past. This is very important, I think, for Congress to exercise its congressional prerogative and, at the same time, to work in partnership with the administration in moving some very important initiatives forward.

Mr. SESSIONS. In continuing our dialogue here—and I appreciate the gentleman's taking time to do this—American-made products, whether they be manufacturing, whether they be medical instruments, whether they be pharmaceuticals, all have to go through a really pretty stringent viewpoint from a perspective of regulators, who look at things that we have in our marketplace and, certainly, that travel across State lines; but once these products and services are made available and become generally available in the United States and once people learn how to use them, we create a thirst for the rest of the world to be able to buy our products.

There is a figure that we deal with—and I know the gentleman is a strong, strong supporter of our trade working group. Essentially, 38 percent of what we manufacture and build—our output here in the United States—is something that gets into a trading partnership one way or another. Almost 40 percent of the output of the United States is based one way or another off trade, of our making sure the rest of the world gets a chance to get those products also, which lowers prices in our country on a per-unit basis. Perhaps more importantly, it keeps our jobs here in the United States. That has got to be good for somebody from Minnesota.

Mr. PAULSEN. Yes.

I should just mention here that the first trade agreement that really dealt with the opportunity to negotiate on medical devices specifically was the Korea free trade agreement, which recently passed. Medical devices is kind of near and dear to my heart because it is so prevalent in Minnesota. We have one of the strongest ecosystems in the medical device community in the country—in fact, in the world. These are high-valued manufactured products that are improving lives, that are saving lives, and there is a regulatory scheme that is often surrounding it, of course, making sure these devices are approved before they move forward.

We have the opportunity, I think, now, Mr. Chairman, with some of these trade agreements that are moving forward to not only negotiate the tariffs—making sure that these manufactured products are going to be available to others around the world and also lowering costs for our consumers—but also to know that the regulatory environment can be set up in a way that, if we have oversight committees—for instance, in the EU and in the United States and if we have got a device that is on track to be approved, say, by the FDA in the United States—we can make sure that, if our oversight committees agree on the other side of the continent, on the other side of the Atlantic, that they can sign off on it. So you save a tremendous amount of time in moving forward and in having those goods be available pretty quickly to a lot of consumers around the world, which is going to help, again, the economy; it is going to grow jobs; and it is going to help patient care around the world. That is one area in particular that Minnesota will and has benefited.

Mr. SESSIONS. In continuing our dialogue, the gentleman sits on this awesome and the most powerful committee here, the Ways and Means Committee. The committee on a regular basis hears from people in the United States who do a lot of business overseas, and one of the things which they talk about is intellectual property—the rule of law and following contracts to make sure that what you agreed to is equally agreed to by the others.

Would you mind taking just a minute to talk with us tonight about the importance of intellectual property, how the world can capture this idea and how it can, in fact, increase not only the value of products but make sure that the product which is actually bought and sold is the real product as is the company that stands behind it.

Mr. PAULSEN. This is an area, I think, in which the United States really stands out and shines. If anything, we are known for our innovation. It is really part of our DNA in terms of having a patent system that protects intellectual property, the rule of law. There are many other countries around the world that don't have those same standards, and that is where the benefit of trade agreements can help bring in high-standard agreements. It is so that other countries can be forced to follow these agreements.

Intellectual property protects the ideas. That protects the innovation. That protects the invention and the dreamers who are coming up with all of these ideas, and that is critical. There are some countries that are lagging behind. We have had frustrations, I know recently, with China by which they have targeted U.S. information technology. They have targeted renewable energy, and they have targeted biopharmaceuticals and other products for the express purpose of creating local production opportunities for Indian companies, for instance, and that is a violation of intellectual property in many respects.

Having these trade negotiations is going to ensure that we can keep that conversation moving forward and having those high standards. It is going to protect our jobs here at home for the dreamers, the thinkers, and the folks who create and innovate these new ideas and these new products.

□ 2000

And so, when you have unfair and you have harmful practices that are happening in other countries—maybe it is India, maybe it is China—that is ultimately going to damage the long-term health of the economic health of both of our economies when we are having that type of a situation.

Mr. SESSIONS. I guess, lastly, what I would like to do is engage the gentleman on really a broader perspective, and that really is the idea of American exceptionalism; how we have the greatest military in the world, our United States military; men and women, working together all around the globe to make sure that really there is fairness; and that our friends and neighbors and allies have an opportunity to live in a free world, as part of this process, American exceptionalism, where we are able to go and compete anywhere with our goods and products and services and to let the world have that advantage.

Would you mind taking just a second and speaking specifically about American exceptionalism?

Mr. PAULSEN. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think what you are alluding to is that fact that America can compete and win at any level if we are on a level playing field. If the rules are even, if the rules of the game are set the same, Americans can compete and win. That is, again, going to help improve our economy, help grow jobs here at home.

In terms of American exceptionalism, there is no doubt that, when you have got a free flow of goods going across borders, it is going to help our foreign policy, it is going to help us lead from a position of strength. There is someone who famously said at one time:

If goods are not crossing borders, guns will.

Having that trade connection is very, very important. It helps us have diplomatic conversations. It helps us, as America, lead the rest of the world, showing that we are strong, we are leading out front.

Again, if you have two pretty significant trade agreement opportunities being negotiated right now, coming close to conclusion, I think we can wrap those up within the year, if we pass Trade Promotion Authority, both in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and with the TTIP negotiations going on in Europe; and that will cover, by and large, two-thirds of the economy in the world, and all the other countries will follow our lead.

This is a huge opportunity, as the chairman knows, for our companies and our economy back home.

Mr. SESSIONS. Well, I am just most impressed with not only your thoughtful consideration and your hard work, but really the things which I see that you bring to the table are words and ideas on a regular basis; that is you talk about we need to make sure that we have a stable environment where good decisions can be made, instead of in a vacuum, they can be made on the fly and, secondly, growth.

One of the things which I read on a regular basis, a young man named Peter Roff, who is with U.S. News and World Report, and he talks about how growth is important. You have to grow your economy. You have to go and continue in the hunt, so to speak, to make sure that more and more people not only buy your products, but the next generation of those products come out also.

I want to thank the gentleman for his thoughtful leadership, where you come to the meetings and you have a real thoughtful handle on stability, making sure business knows what the rules are, making sure we build great neighbors and have good contracts and have great relationships, and then the generation and the next generation of goods and services where we can make things even better for the next generation.

I want to thank you very much for being here tonight. I know that you want to get back to the office and call your family and tell them the exciting Special Order that you were a part of tonight. I am sure your wife will be very, very excited about that, Congressman PAULSEN.

Mr. Speaker, we have had an opportunity tonight to speak, Members of Congress who come really from the heartland, we have had people come from Indiana, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Well, I am a Texan, so I guess I would call myself from the heartland of this great Nation also, at least from the center of the country.

As we talk about what we are attempting to do, I think that it is important for you to know, Mr. Speaker, that the things which you have led our Congress in trying to perform, the strong leadership of JOHN BOEHNER from the very top, in trying to say that we need to grow our economy, that part of that job creation comes as a result of trade agreement.

So that is why we are here tonight, to talk openly with Members of Congress and you, Mr. Speaker, about the need for America to understand why we must pass Trade Promotion Authority, TPA. TPA is a mechanism. That is all it is. It is a mechanism to begin the starting point whereby we give the administration, whether they be Republican or Democrat, but we give the President its marching orders in developing trade agreements.

We say to the President of the United States that we believe that growing our economy, we believe that having trade agreements, we believe that having agreements that make things so much easier and better for us not only to make sure that agricultural products, that other markets become available to us, but that we also understand that, as we engage in this, not only do we want to grow our own marketplace, but the world has an opportunity to reduce the taxes, the trade barriers that are on, many times, their products and services because American products weren't available.

Perhaps we could talk about receiving products that they have back into our country and the consumer being a winner. We have to worry about environmental protection. Here in the United States, we believe that we are trying to be responsible in what we do, not only in production manufacturing, our day-to-day energy needs, but I think we also see where we could share many products that we have in the United States, notwithstanding we have seen many industries—energy industries selling our products and services overseas.

We talk about intellectual property. Intellectual property is not hard to understand. It is the opportunity to make sure that, if you have an agreement—and it might be because you have something that you have gotten as a patent, it could be a scientific citation that the world, when they are going to use that product, service, or that idea, that they give respect to not only making a payment, if that is required, or supporting the standard as required by rule of law.

Market access, market access is so important. It is important that we have an opportunity to make sure that the goods and services, which we present to another country as we enter their ports of entry or to their customs, that our products and services are to the highest standard that they would be, based upon a contract or an agreement as we enter those countries.

We would want to make sure that our products and services were not held at bay by that foreign nation because of some perception about our product or

because they were trying to protect their home product, their home base. It opens up markets and gives us market access.

Physical goods, to make sure that we would be able to reduce tariffs on all sorts of products, whether it be clothing, whether it be manufacturing, whether it be pharmaceuticals, we need to make sure that the products which are passed are timely and fairly handled, not only in these two different types of trade agreements, but that it is a good deal for the American person who wishes to go sell, whether it be an agricultural good or a physical good that may be manufactured in this country.

Lastly, services, services which I think America has not only excelled at, but been able to make sure that we are able to promulgate effective ways of doing business, to where people can continue to have a great product and make that product even better—the second, third, and fourth generation of products that would be sold and available with the protections under intellectual property and rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are talking about, the marketplace of the world becoming open to American goods and services and America and its consumers gaining that benefit also.

So TPA ensures that Congress promulgates itself more fully by incorporating ahead of time discussions with the administration. You heard the gentlewoman from South Dakota say that she had a discussion with the trade negotiators, and she negotiated with them and said: Here is my understanding about what I think is in America's best interest.

She didn't say what was in South Dakota's best interest. She didn't say what was in her own personal interest. She looked at a more global perspective and said: I think, in looking at this agreement, this is a piece, a part of what should be included.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is also why this administration, when they do consult with us—and Ambassador Froman does come up on the Hill on a regular basis, and we should remember that he is an active, intelligent, thoughtful man who is not just learning his job, but learning the nuances about how he protects America and goes across the world and negotiates what is in our best interest; what was a good deal for others, our trading partners, to make sure that they will want to take up the goods and services, the exchange, the ideas, the tough things that come from these trade negotiations.

So this topic is timely because these two major trade agreements are on the horizon. The world is speaking about TTIP, and it is speaking about TPP. The United States is currently negotiating TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

The discussions that take place in Asia are all about how we can form better, longer-lasting partnerships, whereby the people of their countries and the people of the United States of America better themselves, lowering taxes, getting new products and services, and having a chance to make sure that we become friends in the process.

TPP is comprehensive, and it is ambitious, and it covers really an active and growing Asia-Pacific region. As you think about it, Mr. Speaker, you will recall from your days in the United States Army and your service as a member of the military, where you went and were a part of other countries that desperately wanted and needed not only goods and services, but really the tranquility of America and what we would bring to them, the exceptionalism that we can pass on to these other people to make their life better.

It will bring together 12 countries on both sides of the Pacific Ocean in hopes of tracking and putting traditional trade barriers away and overcoming those and giving a chance to where we can make sure that the consumer becomes king.

The TPP would cover 40 percent of all global output. It would ensure that participating countries conduct business, really just as we do, in an open, thoughtful, transparent way; and we would make sure that we reduce tariffs, regulations, while respecting intellectual property.

Meanwhile—and we have heard more about this, the European Union, through TTIP, it would create a trade agreement that literally encompasses about half of the global wealth in the world.

In other words, we would be doing business with a region that is larger than the United States of America. We would be trying to ship our goods and services and do business with half of the world's wealth, open markets that would allow them an opportunity to have American-made products.

Currently, $2.7 billion is traded daily between the United States and the EU, which is about 30 percent of world trade. We think creating this historic opportunity would mean that we can grow that amount of trade, grow our ability here in the United States to not only have more output and employ more people, but to pay for the next generation of products and services to where they continue to meet the needs of others, not just here in the United States.

So combined, these two agreements would give American businesses and consumers, we believe, unprecedented access to global markets. That is why the Republican Party and its members are on the floor tonight, members of the Ways and Means Committee, members of the Agriculture Committee, and at least one member of the great Rules Committee.

I, as chairman, have an opportunity, as a result of the chance to have jurisdictional elements in this, to be firsthand at these discussions where we can push and talk about how important trade is and these basic agreements to empower and work with all parts of the United States government.

Obviously, our great young chairman of the Ways and Means Committee is very much up to this task, and DAVE CAMP has been leading not only America with an understanding about what is in our best interest, but how we have growth, how we move forward, and that is exactly what TPA is all about.

□ 2015

So, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that we have a plan. We have ideas which we not only well understand, but what we are trying to make sure is that we understand that 38 million jobs are supported by trade—38 million American workers—and that in 2012 our goods and services supported an extra 9.8 million jobs as a result of the growth.

These are all important ideas, Mr. Speaker. They are ideas that move our country, they move countries forward, but at the same time giving us new goods and services that on a per unit basis can drop because we are sharing them with the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like for you to know that Members of this United States Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, support members of the United States military, as you served your country so ably. We give thanks and pause every single day to not only the freedoms that we have, but to know that young men like you who have served our military and come back home and married and have beautiful young babies and represent a future in this country to where we believe that there is no problem bigger than a solution, but that by working together, having stability under rule of law, intellectual property, and growth, that we can continue to lead the world through American exceptionalism and the world can have an opportunity to have that little part of America, whether it be a great steak from Texas or South Dakota or perhaps jeans manufactured somewhere here in the United States or, if lucky enough, something from the great State of Ohio that said, ''Made in America.''

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

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: WEALTH CREATION AND THE OPPORTUNITY GAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to once again have this opportunity to stand on the House floor as part of the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour.

For the next 60 minutes we will have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people about an issue of great significance: the growing wealth gap in America that is stratified along racial lines. It is a wealth gap that should concern all of us here in the House of Representatives, and certainly people who are concerned about the well-being of this country in its entirety should be alarmed by any segment of this country being left behind across any measure of economic status.

We will get into that throughout the duration of this CBC Special Order. Certainly, I am glad to be joined by the distinguished gentleman from Nevada, my good friend, the coanchor of this CBC Special Order, Representative HORSFORD.

I will just begin by making the observation that it has often been stated that when Wall Street catches a cold, communities of color get the flu.

We know that in 2008, when the economy collapsed and plunged us into the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, Wall Street had a high fever; and as a result, as one might expect, communities of color all across the country have been suffering from economic pneumonia. In fact, a study that was prepared by the Center for Global Policy Solutions illustrates the point that communities of color were hurt the worst by the Great Recession and have benefited the least as a result of our recovery.

And so the wealth gap, broadly defined across measures such as home ownership and access to good-paying jobs, retirement savings, has gotten worse, exacerbated by the shock of the Great Recession and the disproportionate lack of certain communities benefiting from the recovery that has taken place. So these are some of the topics that we are going to explore during this Special Order.

I am pleased that we have been joined by a very distinguished member of the freshman class, my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey, one of the best-dressed Members of the House of Representatives. I am surprised today that I do not see him with his classic bow tie. He is the ranking member of the CBC freshman class, but I believe he arrived here a little bit earlier.

I am pleased to yield to my good friend, Representative PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. I would like to thank the gentleman from New York for that kind introduction.

I want to also say that we are here tonight on a very serious issue in tonight's Special Order. As so aptly put by the gentleman from New York, it feels like pneumonia in a lot of communities that we represent. I would dare to say that we might even need to call it an epidemic, because it has risen to epidemic proportions.

Mr. Speaker, this Nation is supposed to be the land of opportunity, the land of equality. We are a Nation that says that if you work hard and you do the things you are supposed to do and you do everything that we ask you to do, you too can be successful and provide a better life for you and yours. That is the promise of America.

Unfortunately, for too many in this country, this promise has been broken.

Generation after generation, millions continue to experience generational poverty in this country—and this is especially true for people of color.

Too many of the people in the district I represent in New Jersey have worked their entire lives. They have endured hard labor. They have worked two or three jobs. They have made minimum wage their entire lives. Yet they are still in poverty. The same is true for their parents before them and their grandparents and their great-grandparents.

Unfortunately, for too many people of color, the opportunities to succeed and move beyond circumstances of poverty are too little and far between. This leads to the wealth gap we see today. That wealth gap, Mr. Speaker, is unconscionable.

In the 21st century, African Americans own just 5 cents for every dollar of wealth Whites own. More than 62 percent of African American households do not have assets in a retirement account. The median income of an African American is just over $33,000, barely above the poverty line. And African Americans are less likely to own homes, with just 44 percent of African Americans owning homes compared to 74 percent of Whites.

In New Jersey alone, the poverty rate has grown to a staggering 28 percent. Many economists believe that this is an underestimate of the number of people falling into poverty in New Jersey.

How can those who are clawing just to get by even begin to think about creating wealth for their children or future generations? How can a single mother who works 40 or more hours a week still find herself in poverty? How does she begin to dream about saving for her children's college education or to save for a home or to plan for her retirement? The simple answer is they can't. And the racial wealth gap will continue to grow even wider.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much Congress can do to change the course of this country and to help those who are working hard and playing by the rules.

The priorities we place within our national budget determine whether we strengthen our economy and grow our middle class or whether we create a greater wealth gap between the haves and the have-nots.

This Nation has a clear choice, Mr. Speaker. The Ryan Republican budget cuts hundreds of millions of dollars in vital education investments, ends the Medicare guarantee for seniors, and it will cost this country more than 1 million jobs next year alone. And if that is not bad enough, the Ryan Republican budget asks working and middle-class Americans to pay for the thousands of dollars in tax breaks given to the wealthiest among us. That is why, in good conscience, I cannot support such a budget.

At a time when too many people are still desperately struggling to make ends meet, I know that the people in my home State of New Jersey deserve better. I believe that all Americans should demand better as well.

In contrast, the budgets that the Democrats and the Congressional Black Caucus have proposed recognize the dangerous course this country is on and work to move us forward rather than divide us deeper.

The Democratic budget builds ladders of opportunities to grow our middle class by investing in education, strengthening Social Security and Medicare, and protecting the 8 million people who, for the first time, now have access to affordable, lifesaving health care.

The proposals within the Democratic budget would restore the American promise that if you work hard, you can succeed. And not only can you succeed for yourself, but you can generate wealth and create a better life for your children and your grandchildren.

That is the choice that each Member in this Congress has to make, and it is a choice every American has to make. This choice will determine the direction of this country, not only for this generation, but for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is not a zero-sum game. We all can be winners with the right kind of focus and investment; and in doing so, we will strengthen this country for future generations.

As I stated and made clear, we are talking about people that have played by the rules and have worked hard, working 40 hours-plus, and yet still find themselves on the margins. We are not even talking about the hundreds of thousands of citizens that I represent that we don't even want to help with programs such as SNAP anymore.

I am not even talking about the needy in this country, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about the people that play by the rules and that are doing everything that they have been asked to do in this great Nation and still find themselves on the margin.

□ 2030

So we will continue to raise these issues. We will continue to talk to the

American people and get them to understand that we cannot continue down the path that we are headed. It is bleak. It is grim. It is a total U-turn in where this country has gone.

I can only think of the statements that have been made by several individuals in this country that are distasteful and disgusting over the past several weeks. We need to keep the American Dream alive for everyone.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend and the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey for his very thoughtful and eloquent remarks and observations, and for pointing out that, while we can have disagreements, of course, here in this Chamber on matters of policy, we should all share the same objective as it relates to making sure that every American has got a robust, full, complete access to the opportunity to robustly pursue the American Dream.

As this report and the Color of Wealth Summit will illustrate later on this week, that is not necessarily the case right now in America, where you have such a disparate reality between the wealth in certain communities where the dividing line is race.

It is a wonderful thing that this great country is becoming increasingly diverse. I think our diversity is one of our great strengths.

But the reality of the situation is that if certain communities, the African American community, the Latino community, other communities of color, find themselves left behind, locked out, unable to advance economically in the numbers that they should because of barriers, institutional and historical, that have existed or been erected that we have yet to tear down, that is something that should alarm all of us because it relates to the ability of America to fulfill its promise as we move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we have been joined by a very distinguished Member of the Congress, someone who has been a champion on issues of fairness and equality and justice for all Americans, and certainly for the district that he represents in Baltimore and in Maryland.

Let me now yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. Thank you very much. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding. And I want to thank you and Mr. HORSFORD and the Congressional Black Caucus and certainly Mr. PAYNE for being here tonight.

We are, indeed, at a critical moment in our country's history. As I listened to my colleagues talk about the wealth gap, you know, a lot of times when we address these issues, people say the words, ''Here they go again,'' almost as if to say, let's dismiss this issue; this is an issue that is limited to a limited number of people.

But the problem is, as we listen to the things that have been said here tonight, this is not a Black problem, this is not a Hispanic problem; this is an American problem.

We have to keep in mind that when you have this kind of gap, these kind of gaps, what happens is the driving force that makes our economy run is placed in a position where they cannot make the purchases that are necessary. When I say purchases, I am not talking about purchases of washing machines and dryers and curtains and things of that nature. I am talking about being able to properly educate their children.

A lot of what has been talked about here tonight is whether you can place your children in a position to do better than what you did. So what we are talking about is trying to figure out ways to close that gap so that everybody rises, as opposed to—it has been said, when you have got a wealth gap of 5 or 6 cents for Hispanics and African Americans, as compared to Whites, what that means is that, slowly but surely, you have one part of your society that simply is not participating at any reasonable level.

So the question is, how do we address those issues?

I know that the Black Caucus budget goes in that direction. But one of the things that I have concentrated on quite a bit is the whole situation with the loss of wealth with regard to property.

African Americans and Hispanics, quite often, their wealth is tied up in property. Over the past few years, we have seen a tremendous loss of that wealth.

You talked about it a little bit earlier, about how when America has a cold—is that what you said—then we have pneumonia.

So what has happened is that, disproportionately, African Americans and Hispanics have lost a lot of that wealth in property because they lost their property. And when they lost that property, they no longer had collateral to make business loans, to even get loans for their kids, or to do the things that they really wanted to do to make their lives better.

But just as significantly, they were losing jobs at the same time. So as quiet as it is kept, you have a situation where a lot of Hispanics and African Americans were trying to help their relatives.

So not only were they losing their houses, but then whatever savings they may have had, or the little extra income that they may have had that they could have put aside for a rainy day, or in an effort to create some wealth, it simply was disappearing.

Then we have had some major settlements with regard to these mortgage lenders, and the mortgage lenders have come in and basically, pretty much admitted, through these settlements, that they wronged a lot of people.

As a matter of fact, in my city, in Baltimore, there were certain mortgage companies that admitted that they were pushing people into subprime situations, that they could have done even better, and these were African Americans, by the way, and giving them all these loans, ''no doc'' loans and things of that nature, and the next thing you know, the people had lost all they had.

So the question now becomes, with two major settlements, what did they get?

As we are doing our research on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and looking at some of this, what we have noticed is that a lot of the people who suffered the most got the least out of the settlements.

There are still settlements that are going to take place, so what we are trying to do is study the settlements that have been resolved to learn from those so that future settlement monies will go to the people who actually were harmed. That is just one area.

But again, we have got to do everything in our power to close this gap. This is our watch. We are here today. We are the ones who must guard the progress that has been made.

Quiet as it is kept, slowly, but surely, we have seen some of that progress go in the opposite direction in a downward spiral. So what we are here to do is to make sure that not only do we stop that slide for African Americans and Hispanics, because, like I said, if we stop that slide there, then the entire economy does well, then all of us do well, and that is what it is all about.

So I want to thank the Congressional Black Caucus for doing this. This is so important. We must be the voice, and we must constantly pound the drums because so often I think what happens—and I will close on this—is a lot of times people see things going in the opposite direction and they say, we will get to it tomorrow, or we will wait another day, or somebody else will deal with it, or maybe somebody else will speak up about it.

So what happens is nobody does anything. Nobody says anything. And the next thing you know, 10 years have passed, 20 years, and you look back and you say, Wow, there was a lot of slippage there.

But you know what?

That slippage also represents people. I heard Congressman PAYNE talk about people in his district. I have heard you talk about yours and Congressman HORSFORD. These are people. These are people whom we represent. These are people who get the early bus, the ones who go through trying to make it possible for not only their children but their grandchildren to do well.

So again, I want to thank you.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland for his very thoughtful remarks and observations, and for pointing out that if we

can find a way to make sure that, collectively, the African American community is uplifted, the Latino community is uplifted, that we can close the racial wealth gap that exists in America across these different measurements, whether that is home ownership or access to good-paying jobs or retirement security, savings accounts, whatever the case may be, that if we can close this gap that exists, that America, overall, benefits, particularly as we become a more diverse country.

Now, 50 years ago our President, Lyndon Baines Johnson, came to this very floor and, before a joint session of Congress, declared a war on poverty. As a result of this legislative effort, there were several things that were put into place that have benefited Americans over time. Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start, the school breakfast program, the Food Stamp Act, Job Corps, minimum wage enhancement, college work study—all of these programs were part of the effort to create a great society.

Over the last 50 years, as a result of the war on poverty, significant progress has been made. Tens of millions of Americans have been lifted out of an impoverished condition and set on a pathway toward the middle class. But we know that there is still a long way to go.

In fact, the middle class, broadly defined, has taken a huge hit in the aftermath of the collapse of the economy, and that hit has disproportionately and adversely impacted communities of color, and the African community in particular.

We are here to illuminate the fact that, in our humble opinion, that is bad for America as a whole.

I am pleased that my good friend, and the coanchor of this CBC Special Order, has joined us today, the distinguished gentleman from the Silver State, who has worked incredibly hard on behalf of the district that he represents.

Let me now yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD).

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend, my colleague, the gentleman from the great State of New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for his leadership and for coanchoring this hour, and for focusing the efforts of the Congressional Black Caucus and the attention on such an important and pressing matter as the issue of the decline of opportunities for millions of Americans.

So often people ask the question, why do you have to talk about race?

Why do you have to raise issues in the context of the disproportionality of issues as it applies to race?

□ 2045

If there is any question about why that is the need or why there is a need to do that, unfortunately, the events over the last week and the comments by individuals over the last week indicate why these issues are still so prevalent in our country.

They talk about the original sin being slavery in this country, and the fact is so much of the disparate treatment of color is based on some institutional issues that are so pervasive in a number of different areas.

For me, it is necessary because I represent a district that is very diverse, like many Members in this body. My district is home to Cliven Bundy, the rancher that has received so much national attention, not just because of the issues around his use of public lands, even though he had failed to pay the grazing fees and was prohibited from being on that land, but because of the racist, hate-filled words that he talked about pertaining to African Americans.

The fact that he said that people didn't take the time to understand his way of life in a town in Nevada's Fourth Congressional District, but yet he would profile another community based on the fact that he just drove by and looked and observed their situation and then judged and made the judgment that maybe they were better off under slavery.

Maybe it is the recent remarks by the owner of the L.A. Clippers, the fact that, in a private conversation, he would talk about what his true feelings are about the people who have made him such a wealthy individual; and yet it is that hate-filled racist view that we are here to expose today.

So when we talk about opportunity, it is fundamental. It is a fundamental tenet of our great Nation, and we still are trying to live up to that ideal of an equal opportunity for every individual.

So just like I advocate for constituents who live out in Bunkerville and Mesquite, in Moapa Valley, in Virgin Valley as part of my congressional district, in rural areas that may not have a lot of diversity, just as they are concerned with the armed militia that are still in their communities tonight—and I have spoken up and asked law enforcement agencies to help remove those armed militias from that local community that just wants to return to normal—I am also here to speak up for communities throughout my district that are very diverse, that have Latino communities and African American and Asian American communities that are faced with this opportunity gap issue that we are here to talk about.

This is not a one-way conversation that we are having. We want to invite those of you who are watching on C–SPAN or those of you who are following us on Twitter at #CBCtalks to get involved in the conversation. Tweet us your comments about what this opportunity gap means to you.

The ability to work hard and achieve success, no matter what part of society you were born in, this is what has produced the world's largest middle class and has propelled all of us to be the most powerful and wealthy country in the world; and it has also been an economy that works for everyone, in that it grows wealth from the middle out. That has produced our country's most prosperous times, and that is what we are here to defend tonight in this conversation.

But in the past two decades, in particular, and particularly during our Nation's recovery from the great recession, as my colleague from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) illuminated, the promise of opportunity is not materializing for millions of Americans.

It is not because these individuals don't want that opportunity. It is not because there is a lack of willingness or hard work on behalf of individuals. The question is: What is keeping so many people from that same opportunity?

More and more Americans are falling out of the middle class and into poverty while those in poverty are unable to climb beyond the first rung of the economic ladder.

Just last week, we learned from The New York Times that America no longer has the wealthiest middle class in the world, falling behind our neighbors to the north, Canada; and this should not come as a shock to anyone, given the troubling economic trends of the past decade or so.

We have to recognize that these income inequalities and a shrinking middle class is a crisis for our Nation and one that will not go away if we do not act. In fact, it is a crisis that will only grow worse and will ultimately catch up to our ability to sustain our position as the world's wealthiest country.

Now, as my colleague from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the ranking member, just said, it is not an easy crisis to solve, and no single policy will address all of the factors that are contributing to the growing opportunity gap, but one issue that I want to speak about specifically is the fact that experts have consistently and nearly universally identified the area that will go the furthest in providing expanded opportunities for all, and that is education and particularly early education.

Positive social and cognitive development starts very early, and children who are encouraged to actively learn, starting from when they are as young as 3 or 4 years old, experience tremendous long-term benefits.

Research also shows that high-quality early childhood education can provide children from poor working class backgrounds with the similar early learning experiences as children from wealthier backgrounds.

Now, why is this important? The enrollment and graduation rates by race

matter. For those individuals who belong to the Asian American community, they have the highest graduation rates, at nearly 70 percent. Among the White population, it is about 62 percent. Among the Latino community, it is 51 percent.

But for African Americans, according to the 2005 cohort, we have just a 39.9 percent graduation rate compared to enrollment. So if we are going to change these statistics, we have to start at the beginning, and that is an investment in education, in early childhood education.

Now, we can't do that by supporting the budget by Congressman PAUL RYAN, which would cut investments in Head Start, which we know greatly helps all children develop social and cognitive skills that they otherwise might not receive at home.

In addition to early education investments, it is critical that we invest in our middle schools and high schools, so that every student has an opportunity to succeed and to be prepared to go to college and ultimately graduate with a college degree.

Still, to this day, schools are not even close to receiving equal amounts of funding; and that is why groups, such as the Children's Defense Fund, talk about be careful what you cut and that our budgets reflect our values, that if we don't invest properly in education, in early childhood education, then we are not going to get the type of return on investments and improved outcomes through high school graduation and college. Low-income African American students, in particular, suffer the consequence from these circumstances.

If I could talk about this chart for just a moment, dealing with the access to a full range of courses in math and science among the White, Asian, Latino, and African American population—again, this is an issue of access.

If students aren't being exposed to a curriculum in science, technology, engineering, and math, then they are not going to be able to learn or perform or graduate in these areas.

In this chart, we see an incredibly reduced rate for African Americans when it comes to math and science courses. Only 57 percent of African American students have access to a full range of math and science courses. These are subjects that have major impacts when it comes to college readiness and achievement scores on standardized testing.

Now, in my home State of Nevada, the graduation rate discrepancy between White students and students of color is striking: 72 percent for Whites, 55 percent for Latinos, and a staggeringly low rate of 48 percent for African Americans.

Nevada's high school graduation rate is the lowest in the Nation. In fact, today, they just released the most recent high school graduation statistics for every State in the country, and Nevada was at the bottom.

It contributes greatly to our State receiving the lowest opportunity score in the country by Opportunity Nation, which factors in economic, educational, and community conditions that affect people's ability to succeed and climb the economic ladder.

So if we don't address education and invest in education, then we are never going to really be able to truly close this wealth gap that exists.

That is why the CBC and the Democratic alternative budgets both propose investing billions of dollars—in fact, reinvesting because, under the budgets that were passed when we were in the majority in this House, the funding was there for school and the training of our teachers to properly address the growing opportunity gap between high-income and low-income students; but under the GOP here in the House, they have slashed those budgets. It is time for us to reinvest.

The Republican budget ignores the long-term opportunity gaps that arise in our Nation's low-income schools. It would pull the rug out from under as many as 3.4 million disadvantaged students and 8,000 schools across the country. It cuts 29,000 teachers and teacher aides, educating disadvantaged students by 2016. The GOP budget cuts 170,000 vulnerable children out of Head Start, as I said.

So it is pretty clear to me that the differences between the House Republican budget and the Democratic priorities stand when it comes to investing and providing opportunities to the next generation of middle class workers, but it starts with education. That is why we need to fulfill that promise of opportunity for all and allow those who work hard and who play by the rules to climb that economic ladder and to achieve economic stability in their lives, no longer living paycheck to paycheck.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend for that very comprehensive presentation and, in particular, for focusing in on the importance and the significance of investing in education in order to create a bright future for everybody.

Certainly, we cannot continue to allow so many people across this country to find themselves trapped in a dysfunctional public school system that essentially dooms them to life sentences of disadvantage and despair and fails to adequately prepare them for the challenges of a 21st century economy.

Now, we are here today talking about the racial wealth gap in America; and invariably, there will be some commentator who is going to make the observation: There they go again, members of the Congressional Black Caucus taking to the House floor, speaking about race.

Actually, it is not that frequent an occurrence, but we are compelled to do so today; and then, as my good friend made the observation: Who should we allow to talk about race in America? Should we just leave it to Paula Deen to talk about race in America? Does that reflect positively on this great country?

□ 2100

Should we just allow Cliven Bundy to talk about race in America? Does that paint our country in the best possible light? Or should we just leave it to Donald Sterling to talk about race in America? Does that reflect the views of the great many good-hearted people across this country? Of course we shouldn't. And so we are here today to illuminate a problem that we think America should deal with for the good of the country—not just the African American community, because there is a significant gap in terms of wealth generation, creation, and maintenance that threatens the economic security of this country.

Let me just briefly highlight a few points along this spectrum, one, in terms of the unemployment rate is a significant difference. The White unemployment rate is 5.8 percent in this country, as this chart illustrates. The Latino unemployment rate is 7.9 percent, and the African American unemployment rate is 12.4 percent.

In terms of annual median income, you see the same type of disparity. The average median income for White Americans is $57,009. The average median income for African Americans is $33,321. And in terms of overall wealth, for White families, $113,149, but for African American families in this great country, the average collective wealth is $5,677. That means for every $100 in a White household, a similarly situated African American household only has $5. That is a problem for America that we should all feel compelled to confront, and that is why the Congressional Black Caucus wants to invest in education and job training, invest in transportation and infrastructure, invest in research and development, invest in technology and innovation, and invest in preserving the social safety net so that you can lift up communities left behind by the recession, but also collectively lift up America for the good of everyone.

It is now my honor and my privilege to yield to the very distinguished gentleman from New York, a prominent member of the Ways and Means Committee, someone who has given so much of his life to public service and made such a difference for so many people in Harlem, in New York City, in the country, and, in fact, across the globe, the Lion of Lenox Avenue. I am proud to now yield to Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL.

Mr. RANGEL. I want to thank you so much for pulling together this special

hour. I got from New York a little late, and in working, I turned on the TV and saw these eloquent spokespeople, and I am just so glad I got here in time before our time has expired. So all of those that made this possible, it starts my new week down here with a breath of fresh air.

Last Sunday, I participated in ceremonies at Grant's Tomb. That is General Grant. That is President Grant. And his great-great-grandson was there to speak on Grant's not wanting slavery. They even had a few people dressed up in Union uniforms, which I had not seen before. But at the conclusion of listening, just a few generations ago, this guy talking about General Grant and President Grant, it convinced me that in some parts of the United States of America, they don't believe that the Union won. The reason I come to that conclusion is that, as I never saw that many Union uniforms, I have never seen so many Confederate flags that represent groups that are proud of the fact that they call themselves the Tea Party. And then I was thinking, because it was a long ceremony, where do these Tea Party people, what areas of the country are they most comfortable? And I reached the conclusion they are from that part of the country that the States owned slaves. And then I thought, well, are they Democrats or Republicans? They used to be not only Democrats, but they fought against every civil rights bill we had here.

I never thought in the 54 miles I marched with Dr. King from Selma to Montgomery that we ever would get the civil rights and the voting rights, but when we got it, somehow the Dixiecrats disappeared. And all of a sudden, they came up in the South as Republican, Republicans that really hate this President as much as their predecessors probably hated Abe Lincoln. And it was all about slavery—all about slavery. And if you go to the parts of South America and the Caribbean islands, Mexico, all you see are remnants of slavery—even Puerto Rico.

But here in this country where we thought we had broken out of the Civil War, what the heck does it take for people to understand that you shouldn't hate the President so much that you are ready to destroy the Republican Party, the entire Congress, but most of all the people of this great country? We have been able to take people of all colors, all blood, all languages, and they didn't come here and just fall in love with each other. They hardly knew each other. But somehow they set aside these differences and in 300 or 400 years became the power of the world.

That power just wasn't in dollars and cents and the ability to have more than any other country in wealth, but it was hope. It was the ability to believe that no matter what level of the economy you were in, you could achieve. This could not be said for many of the countries in Europe. That is why they loved their countries, but they cared more for their families here.

And now we have millions of people whose complexions look more like the people who were here when Columbus so-called discovered them. And then you find a hatred which defies economics and sound politics against people who want to come to this country, who have invited constructively as we say in the law because they came, they got paid, everyone was happy, but the more that came, the more that wanted to come, their complexion started changing the complexion of the Nation.

And why they refuse to allow the President to try to remove this cancer from America, why they don't understand that we just can't afford to destroy everything this country stands for? We are talking about immigration laws so that we can bring more talent. But, most of all, most of my colleagues, we are talking about education. How the heck can we allow party differences with the President to agree that we have got 2 million human beings locked up in jail? Most of them have—the only people they ever hurt was themselves. The cost of keeping them incarcerated—cops, courts, food, and health care—is mind blowing compared to the infinitesimal fraction of America's education as paid to by this Congress. So much of the setbacks has to do with the stigma of having come from slaves rather than slave owners.

But the thing is, if a nation like ours is going to maintain any degree of similarities, we have to all pull together and not be divided by color, sex or where a person has been born or the language that they speak.

So I came over wondering what can 43 people of African background, combined with scores of people that have Latin American backgrounds, combined with so many other people that families can remember poverty and the pain of not being a part of the middle class, and to see this shrinking and missing a paycheck, a check on unemployment compensation, a month in rent, homelessness, being in shelters, not being able to get a job, losing your kids—man, that is pain. That is not America.

So what can I do? Well, I am 84, and I guess I don't want to say anything that would jeopardize my getting to Heaven without any hassles with St. Peter and the rest of them up there. So I will make an appeal to the priests, the ministers, the rabbis, and the imams in saying that you deal with a higher authority. You deal with all people. God can't possibly have expected, when He would have us to believe we are made in His image, that He could be so many different colors. He is one in our mind as He used these colors to make the world.

I want to hear their voices when we talk about education, hunger, nakedness, thirst, and being locked up and having some comfort, because that is what we are talking about today.

So let me just thank you. We can't give up. We can't give in. We can't give out. We may not have an answer in this Chamber, but the will of America can change this Chamber, and we just have to have good people, whether they are in synagogues, mosques, or cathedrals, to call their Congressperson and say that this is not the time for our great Nation to be divided by class, color, or wealth. It is time for us to do what that sign says: ''In God we trust.'' And we have got to trust. We have got to fight, and we are going to win.

Thank you for the opportunity for all of us to express ourselves.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for his incredibly eloquent, thoughtful, and insightful presentation and analysis.

We have now been joined by a senior member of the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security Committee, a voice for the voiceless, someone who has fought to promote justice and equality across a wide spectrum of issues but certainly in the economic arena in such a compelling way during her career in the House and throughout her entire career in public service. Let me now yield to the distinguished gentlelady from Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the gentleman from New York for convening this dialogue with our colleagues and, through our colleagues, the American people and Mr. HORSFORD as well as the Congressional Black Caucus and the passionate words of our colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), and others who have come on this floor to challenge our colleagues.

I think the backdrop of this whole discussion is the Ryan budget, which we debated before we left for the work recess. And I think it is important that we not allow that budget to just pass with a vote and let it not represent the moral document that now the Republicans have tied themselves to.

Interestingly enough, while we were away, it seems that America caught on fire. For some reason, the season generated a number of unfortunate and sad incidents that really reinforce this wealth gap that is so very important.

I have 10 points that I would like to succinctly mention in the backdrop of the Ryan budget, which cuts drastically the social network of America which really makes America great. Some of us had the opportunity to be in countries outside, countries as we were, during the recess, South and Central America, Europe and other places.

□ 2115

You come back to this country and you thank God for its greatness, and I

still do that. But I also know that it is great, or it was great, because people pull together and realize there is no shame in a social safety network because it was people of all backgrounds—Caucasians, Hispanics, African Americans and others—who were in this country who celebrated the creation of Social Security under Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Medicare and Medicaid back in the 1960s.

This is the 50th year of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and so it is tragic that we still have to look at numbers that show the wealth inequality. It is more tragic that we compound this discrimination with ugly words that really suggest that there is a lack of understanding for why these numbers exist.

I might say to Mr. Bundy, who suggested that government subsidies is all that African Americans receive, and that we would be better off as slaves with a garden and picking cotton: maybe if there had been a fair distribution of wealth at the end of slavery, as it was supposed to be, there would have been the investment in that now-free population where you could look at them and say, Why didn't you succeed?

Well, if you read your history books, you know that we lived under a discriminatory society for much of the 20th century. And in actuality, there was not an equalizing or trying to equalize rights until the 1960s.

Even today, the decision that was just rendered on affirmative action, some people would shout for joy, but in actuality it undermines America's great quality, and that is diversity. It takes away from Hispanic and White students and African Americans students and Asian students an opportunity to go to school together, a very unfortunate decision in affirmative action, compounded, of course, by the atmosphere and the attitudes of the likes of the owner of the Clippers, who today, in 2014, suggests I don't want to be sitting next to, taking a picture with, don't promote it, whatever his heartbroken situation might have been with an ex-girlfriend, it still sets a tone that speaks, if you will, to the discrimination that exists in wealth.

Some would say, how do you tie that together? We have to change our attitudes about all of us. And frankly, unemployment rates emphasize the discrimination in employment: African Americans, 12.4 percent and higher among young African American men; Hispanics 7.9 percent.

I don't want unemployment in any group. I fight for full employment for everyone because I know that is what America is about, giving opportunity and creating the working middle class. That is what we should fight for, and I hope our discussion focuses on the fact that we want that to occur.

Decline in wealth. We can clearly see that the decline in wealth has gone to some 53 percent in the African American community. And then of course bankruptcy filings; likewise, you can show that the highest amount is in African Americans.

Let me conclude by simply saying the budget that Mr. RYAN has will never answer the question of solving the problem of lifting the boats of all Americans. I thank the gentleman for having yielded to me. The challenge tonight is clearly to find a solution that ends the evilness of racism, but more importantly lifts the boats of all of our fellow Americans because they deserve the kind of equality and wealth opportunity that goes for poor Whites, Hispanics, African Americans, and Asians. A solution must be found.

KEY MESSAGES

The median wealth of White households is 20 times that of African American households. Put differently, African Americans own just five cents for every dollar of wealth whites own.

Buying a home is the single largest investment most families can make.

Asset accumulation is the foundation to economic mobility for low- and middle-income families.

Public—such as Social Security, Medicare, and Unemployment Insurance—and private assets are important for the economic security of communities of color.

Investing in assets and limiting debt can help families build wealth and improve their financial security.

Families of color lack the necessary savings and assets to climb up the economic ladder.

This wide gap in wealth between families of color and White families is a reflection of systemic and social barriers that have limited economic mobility.

Along with a history of discrimination, communities of color face obstacles getting a good job or using banks to save for future investments.

Public policy—rooted in historical discrimination—created the racial wealth gap and it will take public policy to overcome economic inequities.

The national budget is a primary vehicle through which public assets are protected and strengthened.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) for 30 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be here tonight. Today is a significant day. It is Holocaust Remembrance Day. And the greatest ally that the United States has, Israel, had a remarkable experience that they hold every day because of the unique situation that the Jewish people have endured, and that is, the entire nation and all of the people in Israel come to a complete stop. Cars literally stop in the middle of highways. Buses literally stop in the middle of highways. Metros stop. If a pedestrian is walking on a street, kids playing in a park, they stop. A siren goes off for 2 minutes' time, and during that time every person in the nation comes to a standstill. Why? Why this extraordinary action?

Because, quite simply, nothing like the history of Israel has ever happened anywhere in the annals of recorded human history. It is this: 6 million people lost their lives. They lost their lives simply because they were Jewish. They were children, they were grandparents, they were moms and dads. They were disfigured. They were disabled. They were high functioning. They weren't even necessarily in Israel. They were in countries all across primarily European areas. But 6 million died. And it is important that we never forget. That we never forget that a people were so brutally targeted that 6 million were killed virtually in silence; silence because of the devious ways in which the German regime carried out this horrific action. That is what happened about 70 years ago.

We will commemorate D-day, the 70th anniversary this June 6, as we should, probably one of the greatest sacrifices ever made by one people for another, led in large part by the Americans to liberate Europe as they were under this cloud of Adolf Hitler. It is a horrific past, but it is something that we have to remember because we can never forget. We can never, ever, ever forget.

We join with our great ally Israel today as we remember this horrific act. It was a racist act on the part of Adolf Hitler. It was a bigoted act on the part of Adolf Hitler, and I think that is why today we are all rather shocked when the story was disclosed that our American Secretary of State had made comments last Friday behind closed doors in a meeting with members of the Trilateral Commission, and he had said that if Israel does not go along with the proposed two-state solution, that Israel would risk becoming an apartheid state.

Now that is a shocking comment to come from an American Secretary of State, particularly to have this comment revealed on Holocaust Remembrance Day, to accuse the Jewish people who have undergone what no other people have undergone, a horrific act to be targeted by Adolf Hitler some 70 years ago, within the lifetime of some people who remain alive today. And yet our Secretary of State, accusing this nation of engaging in an act, an institutional act against another people based upon race with no evidence whatsoever because there is none.

I want to read the definition of the 1998 Rome statute. It says:

The crime of apartheid is defined as inhuman acts committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime.

Now, that would apply to an Adolf Hitler. That did apply in the case of South Africa. It does not in any possible imagination or universe apply in any possible sense to the Jewish State of Israel, and yet that is what our Secretary of State said last Friday in reference to our greatest ally. Our Secretary of State needs to apologize humbly to the people of Israel, and then he needs to tender his resignation immediately to the President of the United States.

But our Secretary of State did not stop there. He went on to reiterate a statement that he had made prior that merely was an echo of what the Palestinians had intimated, and it was this: That Israel could be looking at a third fatwa—that is a war—that Israel could look at a war by the Palestinians, by people who would engage in terrorist acts against Israel, that Israel could be looking at the threat of another war if they failed to give up 40 percent of their land to people who, number one, don't recognize that Israel has the right to exist; number two, that they have the right to exist as the Jewish state; and number three, that they have the right to defend themselves.

Since when do we force our greatest ally to sit down with people and negotiate with people who want to see them killed and annihilated? That is the stated position of Hamas. Just read article 7 of the Hamas charter.

The head of the Palestinian Authority, Abbas, recently said:

I am 79 years old, and I have no intention of changing my ways.

In other words, he has no intention of recognizing the legitimacy of the Jewish State of Israel and their right to exist. And the United States is expecting, our Secretary of State is expecting after that statement, not only that Israel would sit down and negotiate in good faith with people who have said unequivocally they will never recognize the right to exist. And Israel is the bad guy here, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, I think we have our priorities wrong. Not only did Abbas say he would not recognize Israel's right to exist, we also heard last week that the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, which is a foreign terrorist organization, part of the violent Muslim Brotherhood, have said that they are looking to merge—the Palestinian Authority and Hamas. And again, we are going to force our great ally, Israel, to sit down at a negotiating table and negotiate with terrorists over Israel's right to exist and give the terrorists 40 percent of their land?

This is madness. This is once again an alternative universe that doesn't make any sense.

Our Secretary of State went on to say that Israel has built 14,000 living units, apartments, extra rooms, what have you, for Jewish people. Well, of course, a population that increases has to build apartments.

How many times has our Secretary of State talked about the Palestinian building of apartments on their land? Because, after all, this is Israelis building apartments on their own land. Since when is this a detriment to peace? And since when will our American Secretary of State ever call out the Palestinians and say those Palestinians, they shouldn't be building apartments, they shouldn't be building houses on their own land. Are you kidding? In the multiple times that I have been to Israel and the multiple times that I have been to Ramallah, to the Palestinian Authority, it is a building bonanza going on in the Palestinian Authority. And if it is their land, more power to them. Let them go ahead and build.

□ 2130

Since when is it wrong for Israel to build on their own land? You see, there is a reason why the Obama administration has been accused of being the most anti-Israel American administration since Harry Truman wisely recognized the modern Jewish state's sovereignty in May of 1948.

Eleven minutes after Israel declared her independence, the greatest military economic super powerhouse of the world, the United States of America, recognized Israel's right to exist. That meant something because our strength and our wealth was behind Israel. We had Israel's back.

No one, no nation, thinks that America unequivocally has Israel's back today. All you have to do is look at Israel's neighborhood. It has become a very dangerous place, a very dangerous place, indeed. The epicenter of jihad today is on Israel's border in Syria.

There are more weapons floating around in the Middle East today in the hands of terrorists than ever before; and yet our Secretary of State, rather than being focused on Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon, which it has stated unequivocally it will use to annihilate the Jewish state and to murder millions of Jewish people in Israel, rather than the Secretary of State calling out Iran for its ongoing action tonight, as I am speaking before C–SPAN and before the Speaker of this House, tonight, Iran has thousands and thousands and thousands of centrifuges spinning, fissile material that can be used and converted into nuclear weapons.

Tonight, as we speak, research and development continues to go on for nuclear warheads. Tonight, as I speak, Iran continues to work on a delivery system—a missile delivery system to deliver a nuclear bomb, a nuclear warhead with the fissile material to take out Israel. The fact is Iran already has the capability to deliver a missile into Israel.

What they don't have is that capability yet to deliver a nuclear warhead against us, the United States. You see, that is Iran's ultimate goal. They call us, the U.S., the Great Satan. Israel is the Little Satan. So, of course, the goal of Iran will be let's wipe out, with a nuclear weapon, some strategic main cities in America, so that we can achieve our real goal, which is the annihilation of the Jewish State of Israel. That is the goal.

Where is our Secretary of State calling out Iran? What about the epicenter of jihad, Syria, where weapons are awash? Where is our Secretary of State there, talking about the numerous, numerous terrorist organizations that are already running completely independent in Syria? Where is our Secretary of State talking about the problem with the communist nation of Russia, which has illegally seized Crimea and is now making incursions into the eastern area of Ukraine?

I just returned from a trip, Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, visiting some former Soviet bloc nations to talk about their response to the aggressive illegal actions of Russia and what is happening to reset the table in the former Soviet bloc nations.

These are nations that are very worried about what they are seeing. They are worried because they understand that you can trust a communist to be a communist, and their actions today are a mere image of what their actions were formerly.

Russia recognizes that, if no one pushes back, they will continue to salivate over more lands and more influence and seek to dominate more people. Russia is responsible for enslaving millions of people. In fact, they even murdered tens of millions of their own people under Stalin. This is a regime that needs to be watched.

Unfortunately, under our previous Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, she gave, in my opinion, unwisely, the reset button to the former Russian government and apparently didn't think that they would push the button.

They did. They pushed the reset button, and they pushed it in a way that has the Soviet Union looking at the United States and making the calculation that the United States is now a weak power, that we have weakened ourself, and therefore, now is Russia's opportune time to seek to influence and pull back into the fold former Soviet bloc nations.

As we have learned from history, when a madman speaks, listen. Madmen spoke in the form of Lenin and Stalin, and millions—tens of millions of people were enslaved in misery for decades. The same happened under Adolf Hitler, with a madman who spoke, and he murdered 6 million Jewish people. That is why we have, today, the Holocaust Remembrance Day.

We need to pay attention today to the thugs and rulers that are making their mad statements. They are doing

it again. That is why again—why did the Obama administration demand that Israel release from prison over 100 murdering terrorists, murderers who murdered innocent people—children, women, men—in order for the Palestinian authority just to go to the table and have negotiations and talks?

Now, these same leaders are saying: Don't worry, we will never recognize the Jewish state; and, oh, by the way, we want to form up a new league with a terrorist organization.

That is why I say tonight, Mr. Speaker, our Secretary of State has to first apologize to the Jewish state and then tender his resignation. I call on President Obama, Mr. Speaker, to completely change course on his foreign policy.

We are looking at one foreign policy disaster after another. After the thugs of the world have calculated that the United States has put itself into a position of weakness, while we are in the process of gutting the greatest military force in the world, the bad actors of the world are recalculating and resetting the table.

We are seeing China making aggressive moves that we haven't seen before against Japan and causing trouble in that area and region of the world. We are seeing Russia making incursions, again, as I just said, in Eastern Europe that we haven't seen before.

Even just today, we heard of a mayor in eastern Ukraine who was shot in the back by Russian forces. Just over this last weekend, there were those who were killed also in Ukraine and those who were taken hostage. This is moving forward. This isn't stopping. This is moving forward.

In Syria, with the epicenter of jihad, and as we saw three Americans killed—innocent Americans killed in Afghanistan by a member of the Taliban. You see, they are making calculations, these murderers. They are looking at the United States. They are seeing this failed foreign policy.

They are seeing that America won't stand up for her allies, like the Jewish State of Israel, and at every turn, we lift up the agenda, for some inexplicable reason, of the radical Islamist who seeks to destroy the Jewish state and destroy the United States of America. It is a policy that will lead to a day that I believe we will all regret.

That is why America and the world needs to wake up and listen to these bad actors. So when our Secretary of State calls the Jewish State of Israel an apartheid state, it is more than unhelpful. Those words are dangerous because a state that was born after seeing 6 million of its compatriots, one-third of the entire Jewish population in the world at that time, one-third of its people annihilated by the maniacal evil ruler named Hitler, to see them called an apartheid state, institutional oppression, really? There is no such thing. You will find it nowhere.

Mr. Speaker, as we look again to the Jewish state and as we remember with great sadness what this day signifies, the incredible loss of life that this signifies, I am reminded of the violence that I witnessed myself on a recent trip that I took to Israel.

I was in the area that President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry have demanded that the Jewish state give up and yield, which is 40 percent of its land. It is the biblical homeland of the Jewish people. Hebron is the city, essentially, where the Jewish people were born. Abraham was in Hebron.

It was in Hebron where I was invited into the home of a Jewish woman who is in a so-called settlement and has been there for decades. She invited me into her kitchen.

In her kitchen, she showed me some of the doors on her cabinets. Those doors on her cabinets had bullet holes in them, Mr. Speaker, bullet holes, bullet holes fired across her land, over her deck, in through the glass windows of her kitchen and into the cabinet doors of her kitchen.

Every day, her family is reminded of the very real existence that they have, that they literally can be in their home and bullets can fly in to a place where children should be able to be free, where a wife should be able to whip up supper or breakfast and not have to dodge bullets.

You see, that is the very real existence that the Jewish citizens have had to face in the southwestern section of Israel, where I had a chance to live for a summer. The day after I graduated from high school, I was privileged to be able to go and live and work on a kibbutz down in Be'er Sheva.

Kibbutz Be'eri is the area now that is oftentimes dealing with the violence from Gaza where Qasam and various rockets are fired from Gaza into the Jewish area with no other intention other than killing innocent civilians. This is what Israel deals with on nearly a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, just in the month of February alone this year in 2014, there were more rockets that were shot into Israel in this one month this year in February than there were all of the previous 12 months in 2013 put together.

The Jewish state is under attack, and yet what is Israel's response? In Israel, especially in the area known as the disputed territory, what is called occupied territory by people in our United States State Department, the greatest human rights that women—Arab Muslim women in the Middle East are afforded is in no other country but Israel, in the so-called occupied territory.

That is the area where women—Arab Muslim women enjoy the greatest protection of human rights, and Israel is being called the apartheid state—Muslim women enjoying the greatest rights that they can find anywhere in the Middle East in Israel.

What about jobs? Jobs are available for Palestinians in Israel at higher wages, at better conditions, and they are grateful to have those jobs. I was in the area where there is a threat by now potentially European nations and other nations.

Even 5,000 academics from America were calling for boycotts, divestment, and sanctions on any products that are made in the so-called occupied territories of Judea and Samaria. Those are Israel's biblical homeland. There are 3,500 years of history. Just pick up the Bible, read the Bible.

This is the land that God gave to Abraham. He said: I give you this land, Abraham, to you and your descendants through Isaac. Through the descendants of Abraham, I give you this land, not just for a year or 5 years or 10 years.

But in the Bible, God said: I give you this land for eternity.

□ 2145

If you don't want to believe the Bible or if you think that it is a book of fiction, that is up to you. I believe it is true. You can look at historic documents. You can look at documents from this last century. International agreements gave this particular piece of land not to any other country but to Israel. This is Israel's rightful land.

Don't we recognize that this has been a very long effort on the part of the Arab Muslim people, who made a decision that they don't want Israel to exist?

As I said previously, Mr. Speaker, even the head of the Palestinian Authority—Abbas—has said:

> I am 79 years old. I am certainly not about to recognize Israel now.

He is the one Israel is supposed to negotiate with?

Even with the leader of the Palestinian Authority—and going back for decades—the stated position has been from the Palestinians: Israel does not have the right to exist. We will push the Jews into the sea, and we will take it over.

It isn't that they just don't want Israel. It is that they don't want any Jews in Israel. They want Jews gone. They don't want Jews anywhere on the planet. There is nowhere they believe that the Jewish people have the right to exist.

And this is after 6 million Jews were murdered by Hitler?

You see, there is an ongoing genocide, if you will, because there is a group of people who still believes today that the Jews have no right to exist. This isn't just a modern phenomenon. You can go back to the days of Haman, when Haman didn't want to have the Jewish people exist, and he persuaded the king at that time to issue an edict to eliminate and exterminate all of the Jewish people.

One woman—her name was Esther—was called upon by her uncle, Mordecai, and Mordecai said to her:

Esther, could it be that you have been called to a position for such a time as this?

Mordecai, her uncle, called upon Queen Esther, and said to the queen:

You need to go to the king, and you need to ask the king to pardon the Jewish people from this death sentence.

Esther said to her uncle:

But if I go in to the king, I could be killed. I am not allowed to just go in to the king. I have to wait until he calls upon me.

That is when Mordecai infamously said to his niece, to Queen Esther:

Could it be but that you were appointed for such a time as this?

She rose up at that moment. She had courage, and she went before the king. The king, rather than banishing her or rather than having her see the end of her life, called her in, and he asked what it was that she wanted. She made the request and interceded on behalf of the Jewish people, and, ultimately, the Jewish people were spared.

You see, Mr. Speaker, this isn't a one-off. This is throughout history—from the time of the creation of the Jewish people through Abraham and through Abraham's line. This was a God thing. He created this people. He created this race.

In the Book of Genesis, it is extremely clear:

Those who bless Israel, I will bless, says God. Those who curse Israel, I will curse, says God.

That isn't just a one-off. It is for all time.

The United States of America, I believe—it is my opinion—has been singularly blessed by standing by the Jewish people, and on this day of remembrance of the Holocaust, we stand with Israel. We, too, remember, and we stand up against those who want to see the extermination and the annihilation of the Jewish race.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of him assisting with the emergency response to the tornadoes in Arkansas.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker pro tempore, Mr. THORNBERRY, on Thursday, April 10, 2014, announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 2195. An act to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 29, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2014 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO UNITED KINGDOM, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 18 AND MAR. 24, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Ander Crenshaw	3/19	3/23	United Kingdom		1,968.00		n/a				1,968.00
Hon. David Cicilline	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		1,600.00				4,040.00
Hon. Robert Latta	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		1,470.00				3,910.00
Hon. Robert Aderholt	3/19	3/23	United Kingdom		1,968.00		1,515.00				3,483.00
Hon. Ed Whitfield	3/18	3/23	United Kingdom		1,968.00		1,030.00				2,998.00
Hon. John Delaney	3/20	3/24	United Kingdom		1,968.00		820.00				2,788.00
Hon. Phil Roe	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		7,490.00				9,930.00
Hon. George Holding	3/19	3/23	United Kingdom		1,968.00		1,716.00				3,684.00
Hon. Jim Moran	3/18	3/23	United Kingdom		1,968.00		1,062.00				3,030.00
Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		1,062.00				3,502.00
Janice Robinson	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		1,062.00				3,502.00
Ed Rice	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		1,062.00				3,502.00
Committee total					26,448.00		19,889.00				46,337.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW, Apr. 14, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS, Chairman, Apr. 4, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, Chairman, Apr. 2, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER, Chairman, Apr. 2, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, Apr. 1, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	3/9	3/11	Belgium		535.48				117.25		652.73
Richard Obermann	3/9	3/11	Belgium		946.44		2,050.50		51.00		3,047.94
Committee total					1,481.92		2,050.50		168.25		3,700.67

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Apr. 15, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. SAM GRAVES, Chairman, Apr. 2, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BILL SHUSTER, Chairman, Apr. 8, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVE CAMP, Vice Chairman, Apr. 3, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Mark Milosch	2/12	2/16	Austria	Euro	1,487.00		1,751.00				3,238.00
Committee total					1,487.00		1,751.00				3,238.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, Co-Chairman, Apr. 15, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5438. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Consolidation of Permit Procedures; Denial and Revocation of Permits [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0085] (RIN: 0579-DA76) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5439. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Stephen P. Mueller, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5440. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Policy and Licensing Division Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Service Rules Governing Public Safety Narrowband Operations in the 769-775/799-805 MHz Bands [WT Docket No.: 96-86] received April 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5441. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Response Strategies for Potential Aircraft Threats, Regulatory Guide 1.214, Revision 1 received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5442. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Changes to Authorized Officials and the UK Defense Trade Treaty Exemption; Correction of Terrorism Lebanon Policy and Violations; and Adoption of Recent Amendments as Final: Correction (RIN: 1400-AD49) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5443. A letter from the Diversity and Inclusion Programs Director, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's FY 2013 report, pursuant to the requirements of section 203(b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No Fear Act); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5444. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-307, ''Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5445. A letter from the Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting the Agency's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5446. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's annual report for Fiscal Year 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5447. A letter from the Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5448. A letter from the Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Programs, National Archives, transmitting a copy of the Administration's Fiscal Year 2013 Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act Annual Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5449. A letter from the Acting Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Title II of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5450. A letter from the Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5451. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority, USFWS, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of the Regulation that Excludes U.S. Captive-Bred Scimitar-Horned Oryx, Addax, and Dama Gazelle from Certain Prohibitions [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-IA-2014-0010; 92220-1113-0000; ABC Code: C6] (RIN: 1018-BA47) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5452. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Endangered Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Olympia Pocket Gopher, Roy Prairie Pocket Gopher, Tenino Pocket Gopher, and Yelm Pocket Gopher, with Special Rule [FWS-R1-ES-2012-0088] (RIN: 1018-AZ17) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5453. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2014 Season [Docket No.: FWS-R7-MB-2013-0109] [FF09M21200-123-FXMB1231099BPP0L2] (RIN: 1018-BA02) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5454. A letter from the Department of the Interior Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Species Status for the Georgetown Salamander and Salado Salamander Throughout Their Ranges [Docket

No.: FWS-R2-ES-2012-0035; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AY22) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5455. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Island Night Lizard from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2013-0099] (RIN: 1018-AY44) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5456. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — 2013-2014 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-NWRS-2013-0074] (RIN: 1018-AZ87) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5457. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's 52nd annual report of activities for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5458. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report concerning the operations and status of the Government Securities Investment Fund (G-Fund) of the Federal Employees Retirement System during the debt issuance suspension period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8438(h); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[The following action occurred on April 11, 2014]

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. Referral to the Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr. Attorney General, of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois G. Lerner for possible criminal prosecution for violations of one or more criminal statutes based on evidence the Committee has uncovered in the course of the investigation of IRS abuses (Rept. 113–414). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[The following action occurred on April 14, 2014]

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Rept. 113–415). Referred to the House Calendar.

[Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 544, the following reports were filed on April 17, 2014]

Mr. CULBERSON: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4486. A bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–416). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4487. A bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–417). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted on April 28, 2014]

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4192. A bill to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed (Rept. 113–418). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4194. A bill to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements (Rept. 113–419). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4002. A bill to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–420). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4120. A bill to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date (Rept. 113–421). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 555. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4414) to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–422). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LEWIS (for himself and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 4488. A bill to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. YODER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 4489. A bill to designate memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 4490. A bill to enhance the missions, objectives, and effectiveness of United States international communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 4491. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to restore the 10-year statute of limitations applicable to collection of debt by administrative offset; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 4492. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the availability of breastfeeding support, supplies, and counseling under the TRICARE program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 4493. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the definition of minister for purposes of excluding the rental value of a parsonage from gross income to include duly recognized officials of nontheistic spiritual, moral, or ethical organizations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. PAULSEN):

H.R. 4494. A bill to launch a national strategy to support regenerative medicine through funding for research and commercial development of regenerative medicine products and development of a regulatory environment that enables rapid approval of safe and effective products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FORBES (for himself and Ms. HANABUSA):

H.R. 4495. A bill to strengthen the United States commitment to the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 4496. A bill to establish universal access programs to improve high risk pools and reinsurance markets to ensure coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 4497. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for damages relating to federally declared disasters during September 2013, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 4498. A bill to provide for the legitimate use of medicinal marijuana in accordance with the laws of the various States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 4499. A bill to require reports submitted to Congress under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to also be submitted to the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 4500. A bill to improve the management of cyber and information technology ranges and facilities of the Department of

Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 4501. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust the limits on expensing of certain depreciable business assets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4502. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to exempt certain products from the requirements of subsections (d) and (e) of section 310 of the Controlled Substances Act if it is not practical to use such products in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 4503. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to issue prospective guidance clarifying the employment status of individuals for purposes of employment taxes and to prevent retroactive assessments with respect to such clarifications; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Mr. PETERS of California, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H.R. 4504. A bill to improve military readiness by establishing programs to consistently track, retain, and analyze information regarding suicides involving members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces and suicides involving dependents of members of the regular and reserve components; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 4505. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States and the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense to assess the cloud security requirements of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Ms. LOFGREN introduced a bill (H.R. 4506) for the relief of Antonia Esmeralda Aguilar Belmontes; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 4486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 4487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 4488.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 and Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4489.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 4490.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 4491.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 4492.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 4493.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 4494.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: ''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;'' and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: ''The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. FORBES:

H.R. 4495.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 4496.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 4497.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and Collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 4498.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 4499.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 4500.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 4501.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4502.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 4503.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 4504.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 4505.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 4506.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 and Amendment I, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 32: Mr. STOCKMAN, Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 54: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 60: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 148: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 155: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 300: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 333: Mr. JOLLY and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 351: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 352: Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 389: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 411: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 485: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 494: Mr. ROSS and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 508: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 519: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 521: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 543: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 556: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 563: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 578: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. GOWDY.

H.R. 594: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 676: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 713: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 719: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 721: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 732: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 741: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 837: Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 906: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 963: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 997: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 1020: Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 1070: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1074: Mr. ROSS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. STOCKMAN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. THORNBERRY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 1094: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 1141: Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 1148: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1149: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1175: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 1179: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1199: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 1201: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 1250: Mr. MESSER and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1266: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1284: Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 1286: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 1330: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1331: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 1369: Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1428: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1429: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MENG, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1470: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1507: Mr. VISCLOSKY and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1509: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1515: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1528: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1563: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MARINO, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 1573: Mr. ROSKAM and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1588: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1597: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 1619: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1649: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1666: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1698: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1716: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1736: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1750: Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1771: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1798: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 1812: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SALMON, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1821: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1827: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 1830: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1852: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 1861: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1883: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 1893: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1975: Mr. RUSH and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1998: Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 2028: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2035: Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 2037: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 2056: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 2101: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 2123: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 2135: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 2139: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 2203: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 2324: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 2332: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 2365: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 2377: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 2424: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 2429: Mr. ROSS, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 2493: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2502: Ms. ESTY and Mr. BARBER.

H.R. 2509: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2537: Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 2548: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIMM, Ms. DELBENE, and Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 2553: Mr. WALZ and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 2591: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 2632: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 2648: Mr. CLAY and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 2654: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 2662: Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 2663: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. WOLF, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. BASS, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 2692: Mr. LEWIS and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2697: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2707: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 2746: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2782: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 2794: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 2800: Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 2807: Mr. MARINO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 2825: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 2841: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 2870: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 2892: Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 2907: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 2921: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 2939: Mr. COTTON, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 2955: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 2959: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 2978: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2996: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. KILMER, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 3043: Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 3097: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 3240: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 3279: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 3303: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 3310: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 3313: Mr. NUNES and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3334: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 3335: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 3344: Mr. YOHO, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3367: Mr. MEADOWS and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 3377: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 3382: Mr. POLIS, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 3407: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 3413: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 3416: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 3461: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3478: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 3494: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 3505: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 3549: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 3571: Mr. DENT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 3593: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 3600: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 3601: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 3610: Mr. YOHO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HOLDING, Mrs. BLACK, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 3619: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3655: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 3657: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 3665: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 3673: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BARBER, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 3689: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 3698: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3708: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 3712: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DOGGETT, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 3723: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 3742: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 3744: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 3833: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 3836: Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 3854: Mr. KIND, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. ENYART, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 3877: Mr. POSEY, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 3925: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3929: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3930: Mr. FLORES, Mr. BENISHEK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. WOODALL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MARINO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3978: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 3982: Ms. TSONGAS and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3988: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3992: Mr. POLIS, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 4031: Mr. POSEY, Mr. WALDEN, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. COOK, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 4035: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4040: Mr. MORAN and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4058: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. YOHO, Mrs. BLACK, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4060: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 4092: Ms. TSONGAS and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 4102: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 4106: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 4108: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4119: Ms. WATERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4131: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 4148: Mr. FOSTER, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 4158: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 4162: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 4173: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4188: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. JONES, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4190: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 4208: Mr. TAKANO and Ms. BASS.
H.R. 4213: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 4219: Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 4221: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 4225: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. STEWART, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BARR, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PEARCE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 4226: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4227: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4234: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 4254: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 4261: Mr. YODER.
H.R. 4272: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 4285: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 4304: Mr. COTTON, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 4305: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4308: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 4316: Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4317: Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4318: Mr. COTTON, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 4320: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 4321: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 4325: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4342: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 4346: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 4349: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 4351: Mr. JOYCE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LANCE, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. VELA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. MENG, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 4365: Mr. ENYART, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. TURNER, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4367: Mr. DAINES and Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 4370: Mr. SALMON.
H.R. 4383: Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 4387: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. COTTON, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 4388: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4407: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 4410: Mr. ENYART, Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4415: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FARR, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. WELCH, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4426: Mr. WALZ and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 4427: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4429: Mr. ROSKAM and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 4438: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. REED, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. MARINO.
H.R. 4445: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4450: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. KILMER, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. ISRAEL, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4457: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. REED, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 4459: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 4460: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4464: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.J. Res. 50: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.J. Res. 113: Ms. WATERS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. ESTY.
H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. KEATING.
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Con. Res. 51: Mr. ROTHFUS and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. GIBBS.
H. Con. Res. 94: Mr. COTTON.
H. Res. 30: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. JOLLY.
H. Res. 72: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H. Res. 109: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H. Res. 169: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr LEWIS.
H. Res. 190: Mr. MORAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. KEATING, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. TSONGAS.
H. Res. 208: Mr. ENGEL.
H. Res. 284: Mr. CUELLAR.
H. Res. 365: Mr. COURTNEY.
H. Res. 412: Mr. STIVERS.
H. Res. 422: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Res. 489: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 494: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Res. 503: Mr. DOYLE.
H. Res. 522: Mr. HONDA.
H. Res. 525: Mr. HIGGINS and Ms. WATERS.
H. Res. 526: Ms. KAPTUR and Ms. JENKINS.
H. Res. 527: Ms. TITUS.
H. Res. 532: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H. Res. 538: Mr. RANGEL.
H. Res. 540: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H. Res. 545: Mr. GIBSON.
H. Res. 547: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. WOLF, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. JONES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. LATTA.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks,

limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. CAMP

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Ways and Means in H.R. 4414, ''Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014,'' do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Judiciary in H.R. 4414 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON

The provisions of H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014, that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of House rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. KLINE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF MICHIGAN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on House Administration in H.R. 4414 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 4414 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4486

OFFERED BY: MR. ROTHFUS

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH THEODOR LANG MAY DAY MEDICAL CONFERENCE

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, Illinois, as it holds the 75th Theodor Lang May Day Medical Conference on May 1 and 2, 2014. One of the oldest medical conferences in the United States, May Day was started by Dr. Lang, a radiologist serving Saint Anthony Hospital. Dr. Lang's goal was to improve patient care by gathering physicians from the region for a day of education and fellowship under a large tent. The May Day conference has outgrown the tent on the front lawn, but OSF continues to strive to improve patient care by bringing fellowship and continuing medical education to health care providers.

Throughout the years, the May Day conference has attracted such renowned speakers as Dr. Christiaan Barnard, the surgeon from South Africa who performed the first human-to-human heart transplant, as well as Abigail Van Buren and Ralph Nader.

The physicians who have addressed the May Day conference through the years have come from some of the most prestigious institutions in the United States, including the University of Illinois Medical School, Washington University Medical School, Chicago Lying-In Hospital, University of Chicago, Penn State School of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic, Children's Memorial Hospital, Hines Veterans Administration Hospital, Northwestern Medical School, Baylor University Medical Center, Sloane-Kettering, and the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center for continuing to provide valuable continuing education to clinicians and students.

CELEBRATING MR. JOHN KRAMER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today in memory of John Kramer, who passed away on February 26, 2014, after a battle with cancer. A longtime Sonoma State University political science professor and icon of the North Bay progressive community, Mr. Kramer was a champion of social justice and environmental causes and an outspoken advocate for the issues in which he passionately believed.

After a childhood in suburban Cincinnati, Kramer earned a bachelor's degree from Miami University and a master's degree in physics from the University of Illinois. In 1961, he volunteered with a program that was the precursor to the Peace Corps and helped build a community building in Guinea, West Africa. After receiving a Ph.D. in political science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, John joined the faculty of Sonoma State in 1970, lecturing hundreds of students during a distinguished career spanning more than 40 years. In 1987, he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study public broadcasting policy in Europe.

Together with his wife, Nancy Dobbs, Kramer co-founded local public television station KRCB and was an active board member of Sonoma County Conservation Action, the political arm of the local environmental movement, in addition to his involvement in many other community organizations and pursuits.

Mr. Speaker, John Kramer leaves a legacy of political action, education, and community service that will not soon be forgotten. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and express our deepest condolences to his wife Nancy Dobbs, and his children Annie Dobbs Kramer, Andrew Dobbs Kramer, and Ian Dobbs Dixon.

CONGRATULATING CHANDLER AND MARIA SMITH ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR CHILD

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chandler and Maria Smith on the birth of their daughter, Rosslyn Marie Smith.

When my wife and I were married sixteen years ago, Chandler was our ring bearer. His family is very special, and I have been close to his parents for years.

Chandler graduated Basic Training on December 13, 2013 as a Private First Class, and graduated from the Infantry Training Battalion on April 1, 2014. It's my privilege to honor him for becoming a father.

Rosslyn Marie Smith was born on December 28, 2013. She and her mother, Maria, are both healthy, and their family is currently stationed at the United States Marine Base in Camp Pendleton, California. I thank Chandler for his service and his commitment to our country. I wish him and Maria all the best as they watch their daughter grow.

I ask my colleagues to join me, Chandler, and Maria in celebrating Rosslyn Marie Smith's birth, and look forward for the many years of happiness for their family.

CURTIS WILSON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Curtis Wilson, a dedicated educator and principal of Centauri High School in La Jara, Colorado. In recognition of his continued excellence, the Colorado Association of Secondary School Principals has selected Mr. Wilson as the 2014 Colorado Principal of the Year.

This highly competitive award is based on personal excellence, collaborative leadership, curriculum, instruction, assessment and personalization of learning for students. In every one of these criteria, Mr. Wilson far exceeds expectations. Students and teachers alike praise Mr. Wilson's ability to motivate students to never settle for less than their best. Centauri High School is located in the second most impoverished county in Colorado providing a number of challenges including tight budget restraints. Despite these challenges, under Mr. Wilson's leadership, the students of Centauri High School achieve strong academic results.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to honor Mr. Wilson for his outstanding performance and leadership. Through his dedication to excellence, he continues to inspire his students. I congratulate Mr. Wilson on his selection for this prestigious award, and thank him for his continued service to his students.

HONORING THE WEST SUBURBAN WATER COMMISSION 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INCORPORATION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of the West Suburban Water Commission, which celebrated the milestone on April 23, 2014. The Water Commission was created to provide the residents of Justice and Willow Springs clean and safe water. Chairman Alan Nowaczyk, who also serves as the Mayor of Willow Springs, has provided great leadership to the Water Commission and continues to expand the excellent service it provides.

Founded in May of 1964, it was originally named the Justice-Willow Springs Water Commissions. The Water Commission became incorporated in Cook Country which created a utility with a mission to providing safe and clean water to the residents of Justice and Willow Springs. From that point on the newly

formed Water Commission began planning major projects to enhance and expand service throughout community.

One of the Commission's first major accomplishments came in 1975 when the Water Commission finished installing a new water main to expand service to North Willow Springs. Just over a decade later in 1986 the Water Commission faced its first major crisis when the Des Plaines River flooded. The flood displaced thousands and caused an estimated $35 million in damage to the surrounding community. The Water Commission responded by working around the clock to pump water from the streets and get life back to normal in the western suburbs.

Since the flood, the Water Commission has committed itself to upgrading and improving the infrastructure of the rapidly growing area. For example, The Commission added a new computerized monitoring system increased the efficiency of the newly renamed Water Commission. This year the Water Commission was renamed the West Suburban water Commission to signify the expanding scope of the commission and usher in the next chapter of its history.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great service that the West Suburban Water Commission has provided to the citizens of Justice and Willow Springs. May their selfless dedication to their community serve as example to us all.

39TH ANNUAL LABOR AND COMMUNITY AWARDS RECEPTION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate several of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, recognized several individuals for their dedication and service during the 39th Annual Labor and Community Awards Reception, which was held at Wicker Park in Highland, Indiana, on Thursday, April 24, 2014. These individuals, in addition to all Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals and organizations received special recognition. The Joseph A. Beirne Community Service Award is presented each year to local and national labor leaders for their volunteer service to United Way. This year, Jim Stemmler, retired Business Manager for Ironworkers Local 395, was the recipient of this prestigious honor for his outstanding dedication and noteworthy service to the United Way movement.

Dave Fagan, Financial Secretary, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150, is this year's recipient of the President's Award. Mr. Fagan was honored for enhancing the well-being of workers throughout Northwest Indiana through countless contributions to further the philosophy of the Labor Movement.

The Union Label Award was presented to Lake County Sheriff John Buncich for his unselfish devotion to the Labor Movement through its promotion in all areas of endeavor: social, civic, educational, and political.

Larry Regan, Vice President, Teamsters Local 142, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of Labor activism and his commitment to his community. For the exceptional service he has provided to the people of Northwest Indiana, he is worthy of our admiration and respect.

Dr. Debra Dudek, Director of Title and Special Student Services for the Portage School District, was honored with the Community Services Award for her exemplary service to her community and to the enhancement of the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana.

The Industrial Sector Award was presented to Dave McCall, Director, District 1, United Steelworkers, for his leadership and support of working families throughout Northwest Indiana.

David Tharp, Midwest District Vice President, Carpenters Local 1005, was the recipient of the Building Trades Sector Award, which was bestowed upon him for his many years of service to the Labor Movement and his outstanding dedication to his fellow union members.

Tim Murray, of the Ceramic Tile, Terrazzo and Granite Cutters Union Local 21, and Michael Larson, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697, received the George Meany Award for their significant contributions to the youth of their communities through their involvement with the Boy Scouts of America.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These honorees are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to their unions and the Northwest Indiana community through their hard work and tireless service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary citizens, as well as all of the hardworking union men and women throughout America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF G. RICARDO SALAS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Guam Senator G. Ricardo Salas, a dedicated public servant and successful businessman on Guam. Senator Salas passed away on April 4, 2014, at the age of 90.

Affectionately known as Rick, G. Ricardo Salas was born in Guam's capital city of Hagåtña on November 14, 1923, to Jose and Coltilde Santos Salas. When he was just eight years old, Rick began helping with his family's business; he would assist his father and brother in their architecture and land-surveying professions and walk through the streets of Hagåtña selling baked goods.

As a young man on Guam after World War II, Rick decided to move to the U.S. mainland to pursue higher education. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business from Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, in 1949.

Mr. Salas married Rosa Teresita Perez on November 26, 1951. Together they had eight children: Richard Conrad, Sr.; Melissa; Ronald John; Kathleen Angelica; Lucina Elaine; Teresita Marie; Vicente Ramon and Solange Mirim. They also raised their first grandchild, Richard ''Ricky Boy'' Conrad, Jr., and were blessed with 19 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Rick began his career of public service with the Government of Guam, working at the Department of Land Management and later at the Department of Revenue and Taxation. He was an active member of the Republican Party of Guam, and in 1972, he represented Guam as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. In 19XX, he was elected a Senator to the 12th Guam Legislature. He went on to serve an additional term in the 13th Guam Legislature before returning to the private sector.

As a businessman, Senator Salas played an integral role in diversifying business on Guam. He used his background in real-estate to successfully attract international clientele from Asia to invest in Guam. He also managed his family businesses, the Salas Agency Corporation, Salas Services, and Salas Equipment Co. until his retirement in 2005. However, despite retiring many continued to rely on his advice and expertise of real estate on Guam.

Senator Salas will always be remembered for his years of public service and many contributions to the people of Guam. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and I join the people of Guam in mourning a great businessman and statesman. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. His legacy will live on in the memories of the people of Guam.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ART OF MAGIC

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of one of my constituents, Dal Sanders, National President of The Society of American Magicians, to recognize magic as an art.

The art of magic has been around for centuries and is intended to entertain audiences with the staging of tricks and creating seemingly impossible illusions. Throughout its history, magic has grown to show innovative and creative ways to delight and engage audiences worldwide. It takes a great deal of dedication and a strong work ethic to devote the practice time necessary to master this art.

I would specifically like to take this opportunity to recognize the world's oldest magic organization, The Society of American Magicians, SAM. Since its founding in 1902, The SAM has attempted to elevate and advance the art of magic by promoting an environment for magicians worldwide to come together and share their passion. The SAM members follow in the footsteps of renowned magicians Harry Houdini and Howard Thurston, who each served as national president of The SAM, and Harry Blackstone, Jr., and David Copperfield, who both have served as The SAM ambassadors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing the art of magic.

HONORING RABBI JOHN ROSOVE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my dear friend Rabbi John Rosove as he celebrates his 25th anniversary with Temple Israel of Hollywood (TIOH).

I have had the incredible privilege of knowing Rabbi Rosove throughout his tenure at TIOH and truly look to him as a leader in the Los Angeles faith-based community. Rabbi Rosove's work has extended well beyond the walls of TIOH. He has made a tremendous impact on the City of Los Angeles as a whole with his successful efforts to promote social action and improve education. Our entire community owes him a debt of gratitude for his tireless work.

Under Rabbi Rosove's leadership, TIOH has blossomed and become well-respected for its strong programs and great efforts to improve the lives of Angelenos. TIOH's Big Sunday Weekend of Service is one example of the exemplary programs Rabbi Rosove has spearheaded. It has grown to become one of the largest volunteer service days in California.

Additionally, Rabbi Rosove is responsible for the TIOH Green Team, a group of community members and schools committed to promoting a number of initiatives, including the use of reusable containers and bags, consumption of organically or locally grown food, and reduction of energy utilization.

Rabbi Rosove's vision has also given TIOH's work international recognition. He was the 2002 recipient of the World Union for Progressive Judaism International Humanitarian Award and has received special commendation from the State of Israel Bonds. In addition, he formed twin synagogue relationships with TIOH and Kehillat Mevasseret Zion, Israel, and with Congregation Darchei Noam in Ramat Hasharon, Israel, as well as with the Progressive Synagogues in Kiev and Kharkov, Ukraine.

I would like to congratulate Rabbi Rosove on 25 remarkable years with TIOH. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating his inspiring career and in wishing him all the best for the future.

HONORING PASTOR WALSTONE FRANCIS OF SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH ON HIS 22ND ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Pastor Walstone Francis of Shiloh Baptist Church in Waukegan, on his 22nd Pastoral Anniversary. Pastor Francis has been a dedicated community servant, a passionate religious leader, and an important and prominent figure in the suburban Chicago district that I represent.

Since 1992, Pastor Francis has offered his vision, his guidance and his spiritual insight to Waukegan and established himself as an invaluable leader in and out of the religious community.

A moving preacher, dedicated scholar, gifted writer and clear communicator, Pastor Francis is an exemplary ambassador for the Shiloh community. His tremendous impact in the community is also a testament to the great immigrant tradition of this country, having obtained citizenship two years after being called to pastor Shiloh.

In his distinguished 22 years, he has crowned seven deacons, licensed ten ministers and ordained six preachers—ensuring that his passion for, and commitment to scripture and positive vision continue through the work and preaching of others.

Leaders like Pastor Walstone Francis ensure our communities remain vibrant, strong and focused, in common purpose, on giving back and helping our neighbors.

Congratulations again to Pastor Francis on 22 years with Shiloh Baptist Church. I look forward to many more years and many more celebrations in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JANE CHU OF THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Jane Chu, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, located in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I am proud to represent. The promotion of creativity through artistic endeavor that leads to innovation and exposure to the arts has been Jane Chu's personal and professional persona. In Kansas City, this self-proclaimed workaholic has earned the reputation for stimulating change through a multitude of artistic disciplines, philanthropy and professional management skills. She helped to reinvigorate our historic Union Station as the Vice President of External Relations. Additionally, she served as Vice President of Community Investment for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and as Trustee for William Jewell College.

Her professional imprint and legacy on Kansas City can best be found through her work since 2006 as President and CEO of the prestigious Kauffman Center. The $413 million center was designed by renowned architect Moshe Safdie. The magnificent structure houses two state of the art theaters, the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Theatre and Helzberg Hall. Since its grand opening in September 2011, more than 1 million people have attended events at the Kauffman Center. The center has elevated Kansas City's stature due in large part to Dr. Chu's ability to work internationally, nationally and locally to bring programing and funding to our community.

With programing for every genre of music, opera, theater and dance, the Kauffman Center is truly a place for artistic discovery. Audiences soon become absorbed in performances that can impact the spirit, elevate the imagination, entertain and stimulate thought. She has engaged the community and stressed the educational rewards that stem from exposure to art. And it is all happening in the heartland, in Kansas City.

Dr. Chu was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, but was raised in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, the daughter of Chinese immigrants. Learning both English and Mandarin at home, she used music as an outlet and means to cultural assimilation. No doubt reflective of growing up in academia, her father, Dr. Finley Chu, Chairman of Ouachita Baptist University Economics and Business Departments, encouraged her to always keep learning. Her mother, Rosemary ''Mom'' Chu, demonstrated amazing strength through her own perilous journey as a teenager to escape communist China. Serving as an inspiration, Rosemary has the honor of having the Mom Chu House in Gosser Hall at Ouachita bear her name.

In 1979, Dr. Chu received a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and a Bachelor in Music Education from Ouachita Baptist University. She would augment her education with Masters Degrees in Music and Piano Pedagogy from Southern Methodist University, a MBA from Rockhurst University and a Ph.D. in Philanthropic Studies from Indiana University. In addition, she can proudly boast of an Honorary Doctorate in Music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to Dr. Jane Chu for her continued contributions to our country's artistic culture. As she continues her work to bring communities together through music and art, she inspires the next generation of artists. Dr. Chu has enriched the lives of many in Kansas City and around our country, making her truly deserving of our recognition and gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Friday April 4, 2014, I was not present for 6 votes. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 159, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 160, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 161, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 162, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 163, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 164, I would have voted "no."

COLORADO MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Colorado Model Railroad Museum at the Greeley Freight Station.

Throughout our history, Colorado has been known for its numerous scenic railroads. Now this great state is also known around the world for housing America's finest railroad of another type—a model railroad. Just as the great railroads of America started with the dream of one man, so did the Greeley Freight Station Museum.

This story begins with a man named David Trussell, who grew up around the railroads and began modeling them early in his life. After serving in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, Mr. Trussell bought his first newspaper business and began his journey towards his greatest achievement. Mr. Trussell moved to Greeley, Colorado, to publish the Greeley Tribune, which he owned from 1990–1997. The Trussells fell in love with Colorado and Mr. Trussell decided to build his dream in this great state. He wanted to see if he could construct the "ultimate" model railroad. He purchased land directly between the Union Pacific mainline from Denver to Cheyenne and the Great Western Railroad's Greeley branch line. The plan was to build a new facility to house a 5,500 square-foot model railroad. A dedication for the building was held on February 11th, 2004. After more than 5½ years of construction, the Greeley Freight Station Museum opened its doors to the public on Memorial Day weekend of 2009. 1,800 visitors enjoyed the grand opening.

Since its inception 10 years ago, the museum has become one of the largest year-round attractions in northern Colorado. During its first 4 years of operation, the museum saw more than 60,000 visitors, and most of that time, the museum was only open one day per week. With visitors from all 50 states in the first year and from over 45 different foreign countries since opening, the museum has become an international attraction, and is now open daily during the summer months of high tourism.

The museum has been showcased on the cover of three international model railroading magazines and has been the feature of the PBS show, "Tracks Ahead". The economic impact for Greeley and Weld County from the influx of visitors has been substantial and with the increase in motor coach tours to the museum, it will only continue to grow. This family-friendly museum has been "bursting at the seams," so to speak, and now has outgrown its name too. Due to the increase in out-of-state and out-of-country visitors, the Greeley Freight Station Museum celebrated the tenth anniversary of its dedication on February 11, 2014, with a new name. The museum will now be the Colorado Model Railroad Museum at the Greeley Freight Station. Please join me in congratulating the Colorado Model Railroad Museum on its success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF JOHN H. PRICE ON THE OCCASION OF OBTAINING STATE RECOGNITION AS FIRE OFFICER AND CERTIFIED FIRE INVESTIGATOR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Fire Chief John H. Price for receiving the professional designations of Certified Fire Investigator and Fire Officer. Deputy Chief Price has been a firefighter for the Easton Fire Department for 31½ years. After five years of study and hard work, Deputy Chief Price received the Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) certification. Through education, training, and years of experience, he met the requirements needed to pass the comprehensive exam and successfully obtain certification. Deputy Chief Price joins the 58 other Certified Fire Investigators in Pennsylvania. Additionally, Deputy Chief Price was awarded the designation of Fire Officer (FO) by the Commission on Professional Credentialing. There are only three Fire Officers in Pennsylvania, and Deputy Chief Price is the first officer from the Lehigh Valley to obtain that distinction.

I offer my congratulations to Deputy Chief Price for obtaining the Certified Fire Investigator and Fire Officer certifications, and I applaud him for his continuing dedication to the City of Easton Fire Department and his outstanding efforts to develop as a professional in order to keep the Easton community safe. I ask my fellow Members to join me in recognizing Deputy Chief John Price for his outstanding service and achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOODBANK OF MONMOUTH AND OCEAN COUNTIES

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties as it celebrates its 30th anniversary. Since 1984, the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties has been providing resources to try to combat food insecurity in Monmouth and Ocean Counties and their efforts are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Since its opening, the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties (the FoodBank) has grown immensely in size and mission. Started in a warehouse in Spring Lake with the help of volunteers and donated supplies, the FoodBank quickly began receiving food from hundreds of donors to assist residents of the Jersey Shore. Within 10 years, the FoodBank went from serving 25 charities with 100,000 pounds of food in 1985 to distributing almost 2 million pounds of food. In 2001, the FoodBank opened an expanded 40,000 square foot facility in Neptune to accommodate the growing demand and today serves 260 agencies with over 8.5 million pounds of food annually.

Although its largest program is emergency food distribution, the FoodBank also began programs and resources to further assist local residents and increase efforts to create food-secure communities. The FoodBank offers residents a culinary training program, nutrition education, free tax preparation, SNAP application assistance and assistance with the Affordable Care Act through trained and certified Health Care Marketplace navigators.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties as it celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The organization continues to provide outstanding service to the residents of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE TRAGIC SHOOTING AT FORT HOOD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sorrow for the family members of those that were lost in the terrible tragedy that occurred on April 2, 2014, at Fort Hood, in my home State of Texas.

Three soldiers were killed, with an additional sixteen injured, before the gunman turned the gun on himself. Our brave American soldiers are all too aware of the dangers and turmoil of war. When they return from war, we can only hope that they would return to the peace and security that they have sacrificed so much to create and protect.

Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the fallen soldiers: SFC Daniel M. Ferguson, age 39, of Mulberry, Florida; SGT Timothy W. Owens, age 37, of Effingham, Illinois; and SSG Carlos A. Lazaney-Rodriguez, age 38, of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. These three brave soldiers were laid to rest entirely too soon. These three soldiers will be remembered for their achievements and their dedication to our country.

Americans are becoming all too familiar with tragedy of this magnitude, but it does not change the immense heartache and pain that comes with the loss of some of our Nation's finest. A horrible tragedy such as this highlights the importance of serving our soldiers both while at war and during the difficult transition back into normal life. Worse is that it comes in the wake of another terrible incident at Fort Hood that occurred just 5 years prior. We must be able to wholly understand the

challenges that our soldiers face in a time of such stringent and demanding operational tempos.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to the families of those that were lost on April 2, and offer my deepest condolences and hopes for the sixteen others that were injured in the shooting.

The men and women of Fort Hood are true American heroes. They deserve our greatest honors for the sacrifices they make every single day, within and beyond our borders. It must be our duty to always remember those that we have lost and we must be forever dedicated to preventing tragedies like these from ever happening again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in honor of the three fallen soldiers, Sergeant First Class Ferguson, Sergeant Owens, and Staff Sergeant Lazaney-Rodriguez.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS CARDOZA FOR HIS SERVICE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and former colleague, Dennis Cardoza. Dennis served as the U.S. Congressman for the 18th Congressional District of California. He has truly led a life dedicated to public service, and his efforts deserve to be commended.

Dennis grew up in Atwater, CA, where he attended Atwater High School followed by California State University, Stanislaus. He later transferred to the University of Maryland—College Park where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1982. He was the first member of his family to graduate college. Dennis' first taste of public service came in 1979 when he spent a summer in college interning on Capitol Hill.

After graduation, Dennis returned to the San Joaquin Valley where he ran a successful small business and served as a city councilman for Merced and Atwater. In 1996, he was elected to the California State Assembly where he served as Chairman of the Rules Committee and cofounder of the Moderate Democratic Caucus.

In 2002, Dennis was elected to his first term in Congress. He had many legislative accomplishments that truly made a difference in his district. Dennis was an unwavering advocate for issues impacting Valley residents such as water, agriculture, unemployment, and poverty. Dennis lobbied to bring Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, and Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, to the Central Valley. Their visit influenced the decision by the Department of Agriculture to declare Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties as natural disaster areas. Also, Dennis was an active member of the Blue Dog Coalition. He proudly cosponsored H.R. 2166 the ''Fiscal Honesty and Accountability Act of 2009'' to extend Pay-As-You-Go spending through 2014 in order to strengthen Congress' commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability. In 2007 Dennis joined the House Rules Committee where he assisted the victims of the Valley's home foreclosure crisis by securing language in H.R. 1728, the ''Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act'', that established a Federal database to track foreclosures across the country. In the 110th and 111th Congresses, Dennis served as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, which had a prominent role in the formation of the 2007 Farm Bill.

Dennis believes that one of our greatest responsibilities as a society is to leave our nation a better place for our children and grandchildren. Dennis worked diligently to ensure that the University of California's 10th campus would be in Merced, CA. In addition, one of Dennis' proudest legislative accomplishments was the language he introduced in the ''Fostering Connections to Success and increasing Adoptions Act'', which ensures that children in the foster care system receive necessary medical attention until the age of 21. Dennis has been an advocate on behalf of children and adoption not just as a legislator but also as a parent, raising two adopted children in addition to his one biological daughter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the leadership and public service of Dennis Cardoza. His contributions to the Central Valley, the State of California, and the future generations of this Nation ennobled this body of Congress with his presence.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today outraged and baffled that we are in the 21st century and still have to have an Equal Pay Day. Equal Pay Day symbolizes when, more than 3 months into the year, women's wages finally catch up to what men were paid in the previous year.

Why this is still being debated when the Equal Pay Act was passed 51 years ago is crazy.

How can we as a nation begin to justify unequal pay simply because you are a man and I am a woman? Why does my gender diminish my value to the workforce?

I, and all women, am not asking for any more than what we deserve for being productive, valuable employees.

Today, in 2014, women earn 77 cents for every dollar that a man earns. This is outrageous. It gets even worse for women of color. Black women only earn 64 percent and Hispanic women, even less, just 53 percent of what white men earn. I am appalled by this, and so are the American people. Not only does my gender decrease my pay, but my race does as well.

According to the American Association of University Women, African-American and Hispanic women are paid less than their white peers even when they have the same educational background.

There are a record number of women in the workplace and two-thirds of women are the primary or co-bread winner in their families. Consider the position that the American family, our economy and our Nation would be in if we all agreed that women should have equal pay for equal work. Our President said it best, ''When women succeed, America succeeds.''

Women are losing money every year and every hour due to the pay gap. It is time to close the loopholes in the Equal Pay Act.

I urge Speaker BOEHNER to bring H.R. 377 the Paycheck Fairness Act to the floor.

HONORING CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD, GRAPEVINE-COLLEYVILLE ISD, AND HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD ISD FOR THE DISTINCTION OF ''BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION''

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of three school districts in the 24th District of Texas, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, and Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, that have recently been designated to receive the prestigious honor of ''Best Communities for Music Education'' by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation.

The ''Best Communities for Music Education'' is a program that celebrates communities in America who support access to music education as part of their core curriculum. Each school district involved filled out a survey that answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. This year, with over 2,000 school districts nominated, 376 were awarded this designation, of which I am incredibly honored to have three of those in the 24th District of Texas. This award recognizes the commitment of these school administrations, community leaders, teachers, and parents who believe in music education and are working to ensure that it is part of a complete education for children.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring this recognition from the NAAM Foundation for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Grapevine-Colleyville, and Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School Districts.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDINA MCCAMMACK

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable Hoosier, Mrs. Claudina McCammack, who passed away on April 18, 2014. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for her

friendship and service to our community, State, and country.

Claudina was a dedicated Republican Precinct Committeewoman, county voter registration officer, and secretary to the Delaware County Commissioners and U.S. Congressman David Dennis. Claudina also served on the March of Dimes Board, the Muncie Housing Authority Board, and in many other community organizations.

Claudina was one of the first elected convention delegates in Delaware County to fully support my candidacy for Indiana Secretary of State. Throughout my service, I received no less than a dozen handwritten letters of encouragement, congratulations, and recognition from her. I frequently sought her wisdom, both personally and professionally. More than anything, she always helped me keep things in perspective. She was a constant reminder to me and others in public service, like Governor Mike Pence, that we should draw on our faith in God. In fact, such reliance was the only way we could truly serve the people of Indiana.

Known in Delaware County simply as ''Claudina'', she was a frequent stop when I traveled to Muncie. My family always enjoyed our visits with her, as recently as last December. I often ate, prayed, laughed, and cried in her home—all in one visit. In casual conversation at her home, Claudina would confide that she paid for her neighbor's roof, even though she was a woman of modest means. She would tell me how she assisted the elderly in the community, even though she was 92 herself. Claudina personified selflessness and humility.

Mr. Speaker, you know I speak often here of American Exceptionalism. I describe it in terms of our unique history and how we are blessed to have as a primary source of that Exceptionalism our founding documents: The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as amended by the Bill of Rights. What I don't do enough is provide examples of people who embody American Exceptionalism. Claudina, like many of her generation, was a product and a shining example of what Americans ought to be. I hope we never forget Claudina's unwavering commitment to our national heritage and responsibility to future generations. She would expect nothing less from her community, her friends, and her country. If, for no other reason, I can hear her say: 'God demands it of us.'

Claudina leaves her three children, seven grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren behind to remember her love and kindness. She also leaves her extended Republican family to celebrate her life and legacy. She will be remembered and honored by those who knew and loved her as a woman of faith, conviction and compassion. Rest in peace Claudina, and thank you for having such a meaningful impact on my life.

HONORING THE BRUDERHOF COMMUNITIES IN NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, WEST VIRGINIA, AND FLORIDA

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bruderhof communities in New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Florida. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of Woodcrest, the first Bruderhof community in the United States.

Founded in 1920 in Germany, the Bruderhof is a Christian church community known for its exemplary contributions in education, care for the needy, excellence in business, and interfaith cooperation. Expelled from Germany by the Nazi regime in 1937, Bruderhof members initially found refuge in England and South America before settling in 1954 in Rifton, New York.

In celebration of this anniversary, it's my honor to quote from Foundations of Our Faith and Calling, the Bruderhof community's constitution:

Our life together is founded on Jesus, the Christ and son of God. We desire to love him, to follow him, to obey his commandments, and to testify in word and deed to the coming of his kingdom here on earth.

Our faith is grounded in the Bible, the authoritative witness to the living Word of God. Through the Holy Spirit, we seek to be guided in all things by the New and Old Testaments.

We hold to the teaching and example of the early Christians and affirm the apostolic rule of faith in the triune God as stated in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

We stem from the Anabaptist tradition, but feel akin to all who are pledged to full discipleship of Jesus. We recognize his power to work in all people, regardless of their creed or walk of life.

Our calling is to Jesus, who calls all people to himself. Jesus sums up the nature of his kingdom in two great commandments: ''Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength,'' and ''Love your neighbor as yourself.''

Jesus asks us to live as citizens of his coming kingdom. We must prove our love to him in deeds, putting into practice his words in the Gospels, especially the Sermon on the Mount. His commands are practical: to forgive unconditionally; to renounce all violence; to stay faithful in lifelong marriage; to live free from wealth; to serve as the least and lowest; and to give up all power over others.

To live for the kingdom of God leads to church community. God wants to gather a people on earth who belong to his new creation. Such a people came into being in Jerusalem at the first Pentecost. As described in Acts 2 and 4, the Holy Spirit descended on the believers who had gathered after Jesus' resurrection, and the first communal church was born.

We are a fellowship of brothers and sisters, both single and married, who are called by Christ to follow him together in a common life in the spirit of the first church in Jerusalem. Our vocation is a life of service to God and humankind, freely giving our whole working strength and all that we have and are.

If asked whether we are the one true church, we reply, ''No''—we are merely objects of God's mercy like everybody else. But if asked whether we experience the church as a reality in our daily lives, then we must affirm that we do, through the grace of God.

We give all honor to God, knowing that our life together is nothing unless it is filled with his love and continually renewed by his mercy.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Day of Prayer.

Since 1952, the first Thursday of May in this great Nation has been dedicated to prayer. As in years passed, on May 1, 2014, millions of people of all faiths across the United States will gather together and humbly bow their heads asking God to bless our country. With great pride I can say that many of my friends and neighbors across Florida's 11th Congressional District will be joining me in participating in this annual observance of prayer for our Nation.

This day of prayer is reflective of the faith our Founding Fathers had that the United States of America would one day be a great nation. These men with deep religious and spiritual convictions built our country from the ground up and our continued faith and prayer will keep it moving forward.

Therefore, I, RICHARD B. NUGENT, Member of Congress representing the Eleventh District of Florida, do hereby recognize the district's observance of the 63rd National Day of Prayer.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,437,874,260,412.18. We've added $6,810,997,211,499.10 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.8 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENCE MAYOR DON REIMAL FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Don Reimal, Mayor of Independence, Missouri. Mayor Reimal will be retiring from office leaving a rich legacy of quiet determination that slowly and methodically lifted his city from stagnation to restoration. He has the ability to solicit assistance from his constituents while working in tandem with his fellow mayors, county executive, state and federal officials, bringing an era of cooperation to Eastern Jackson County. His style of leadership is embedded in civility, compassion and understanding, rare characteristics in today's political climate. His departure will leave his city in a far better place after his twenty years of public service, twelve years on the City Council and eight years as Mayor.

As Mayor Reimal fondly gave his final state of the City address at the Independence Chamber luncheon, he shared how he witnessed the evolution of his city with personal memories as he and his city grew, evolved and matured. In 1948, during Don's formative years, he grew up in an Independence that encompassed only 3.3 square miles; but by 1975, he had witnessed the city's expansion to 78 square miles. During those years, Don met and fell in love with his wife, Jo, and together they committed themselves to each other, their family and their city. Don, more serious in nature, and Jo, with her outgoing bubbly personality, would serve as the first family of Independence with a deep appreciation for the city's rich heritage and a profound sense of responsibility.

As Independence evolved, there came a slow shift to the city's center of commerce and activity causing the older historic parts of the city to fall into slow decay. Since 1994, in his capacity as Councilman and later as Mayor, he helped to lead the effort to revitalize the area that President Harry S. Truman called home. Under his influence, the Independence Historic Square has had a rebirth due to the restoration of old historic buildings into new and vital centers for its citizens due in great part to Don Reimal working in cooperation with his constituents.

Today, as you visit the old square, you will find the Chicago Alton Depot that opened in 1870 saved, in great part, due to Don and Jo's efforts. The Truman Memorial Building stands tall, restored while Don was City Councilman. Don had worked with State Representative Franklin to obtain funds for the then-named Soldier and Sailor Memorial Building, built after World War I, with the support of local veteran, Harry S. Truman. The building was renamed the Truman Memorial Building, where today's soldiers have been welcomed home and an area in the building has been designated the Veterans Hall, designed for the Veterans' Video Project with recordings housed in conjunction with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

In addition, the Palmer Junior High was converted into the highly recognized Palmer Center for those over 50. These renovations, along with the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, were the cornerstone to the beginning of the Independence Square revitalization. The final piece was added when the Jackson County Historic Truman Courthouse was renovated and rededicated on September 7, 2013, eighty years after Harry S. Truman dedicated the same building. Don had worked for years to find a way to save this wonderful building where Judge Harry S. Truman served Jackson County.

Don's personal touch has had lasting impacts, as he respectfully listened to his constituents, providing support and encouragement to projects that would serve as stepping stones for further neighborhood stabilization. He was rarely deterred, but would just try another way to accomplish his goals for the city. In 2007, the voters approved a school district change that would expand the Independence school boundary on the western side of the city and annex seven schools. Don and the city knew that they could provide a better opportunity for the students and bring families back to that part of the city. The Mayor worked with a prominent group of local citizens to upgrade an area known as the Norledge Place Redevelopment site, also in the newly expanded school area. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan visited the site in 2011, praising the work of the community and city for using NSP funds and working with private and local funds to transform a depressed area into a site of remodeled and rebuilt homes. With much needed improvements for transportation, a new transit center was built and the IndeBus lines were developed to provide better access for the citizens of Independence.

During his time in office, Mayor Reimal helped to shepherd the continued economic growth along the I–70 corridor and the Little Blue Parkway. With the closing of older outdated hospitals, Center Point Hospital opened in 2007, and in 2012, Children's Mercy East opened in the expanding eastern part of the city. Don has never been deterred from criticism if he believed in what he was doing. He supported new shopping areas, the Greater Independence Business Incubator, fought to have the new Genealogy Library built in Independence, and an Independence Event Center that is the home of the Mavericks hockey team and the Comets soccer team. Mayor Reimal has brought excitement to Independence as both teams are of championship caliber.

His accomplishments are far too many to list, but we can all learn from Don's amazing ability to work with people of all political persuasions and interests. He is deeply admired, well respected and will be sorely missed because he truly cares for his city and the constituents that he was elected to serve. I will remember him as a quiet man whose heart and mind is always in the right place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in saluting the Mayor of Independence, Don Reimal, for a lifetime of dedicated service, and wishing him and his Jo a wonderful retirement.

HONORING THE NORTH AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS AND ENTREPRENEURS COUNCIL FOR ITS 2014 INNOVATION CONFERENCE AND ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING A STRONG AND INNOVATIVE AMERICAN ECONOMY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the North American Professionals and Entrepreneurs Council (NAPEC) on the occasion of its 2014 Innovation Conference. Drawing many of its volunteers and organizers from the suburban Chicago district that I represent, NAPEC demonstrates a commitment to fostering innovation and supporting the entrepreneurs and startups that will increasingly define our success in the 21st century.

Lacking the necessary support, too many of our brightest entrepreneurs' ideas and innovations never get off the ground. Dedicated organizations like NAPEC and the volunteers who make them great—many of whom come from the Tenth District—are helping these young innovators go from startup to step out to success.

Organizations like NAPEC play a key role in building and maintaining the infrastructure and networks our innovation economy needs. I am grateful for the tremendous work of NAPEC, and I look forward to many more years of supporting innovation and ensuring our economic success.

From a successful 2014 Innovation Conference to all of its work throughout the year, NAPEC is hard at work trying to kickstart our economy and accelerate our startups.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 I was not present for 3 votes. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 152, I would have voted ''nay;'' had I been present for rollcall No. 153, I would have voted ''nay;'' had I been present for rollcall No. 154, I would have voted ''nay.''

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 52 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful State

and country, we welcome these heroes to the Nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Don W. Bohnert, U.S. Army Air Force; Wallace F Burton, U.S. Army Air Force; Walter D. Haines, U.S. Army Air Force; Glenn V. Koch, U.S. Army Air Force; Ernest A Meyer, U.S. Army Air Force; Orvin J Sletten, U.S. Army Air Force; Robert H. Walton, U.S. Army Air Force; Thomas L. Warren, U.S. Army Air Force; Miles R. Barfield, U.S. Army; Chelsey T. Barton, U.S. Army; John C. Bates, U.S. Army; Donald L. Freeman, U.S. Army; Theodore P. Geck, U.S. Army; James C. Hickey, U.S. Army; Cordino Longiotti, U.S. Army; Richard M. Macdougall, U.S. Army; Benjamin D. Morrison, U.S. Army; David Ha. Packard, U.S. Army; Albert V. Panacy, U.S. Army; James B. Ragsdale, U.S. Army; Robert J. Resner, U.S. Army; Gordon P. Rutter, U.S. Army; Raymond O. Sims, U.S. Army; Arthur N. Sorenson, U.S. Army; Charles W. Weeks, U.S. Army; Howard L. Abbe, U.S. Navy; Fred A. Carneau, U.S. Navy; Gail D. Cox, U.S. Navy; Herbert N. Ellis, U.S. Navy; Henry T. Fuqua, U.S. Navy; Marlin E. Hammond, U.S. Navy; Donald F. MacLean, U.S. Navy; Donald Cl. Moberg, U.S. Navy; Wayne D. Mosher, U.S. Navy; Francis G. Nelson, U.S. Navy; Harlan S. Nice, U.S. Navy; Omer L. Oyster, U.S. Navy; Frank S. Palmer, U.S. Navy; Robert E. Peterson, U.S. Navy; Charles W. Pio, U.S. Navy; John D. Randall, U.S. Navy; Robert E. Reindl, U.S. Navy; Matt S. Satalich, U.S. Navy; Eugene J. Schmidt, U.S. Navy; Roy Al. Schnurr, U.S. Navy; George R. Schwarz, U.S. Navy; John S. Sherbeck, U.S. Navy; Kenneth E. Thomas, U.S. Navy; Howard P. Thomas, U.S. Navy; William F. Tromblee, U.S. Navy; Robert J. VanDyke, U.S. Navy; Fred R. Young, U.S. Navy.

These 52 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, and airmen who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Gail Yakopatz for her tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE WEST CONTRA COSTA YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous work of the West Contra Costa Youth Service Bureau as the agency celebrates 30 years of service to the children and families of my Congressional District. The Youth Services Bureau (YSB) began in 1984 as a grass roots community movement focused on addressing the systemic causes of violence plaguing our West County neighborhoods at that time.

Under the outstanding leadership of Ms. Taalia Hasan, the Bureau consolidated services independently offered by the West County Unified School District, the County Probation Department, municipal and county law enforcement agencies, and local community based organizations. By coordinating the efforts of these agencies, YSB developed an innovative ''wraparound'' response system that has, since that time, been widely acclaimed as the most effective way to address the needs of children and families in crisis.

Using the Best Practices Model, the Youth Services Bureau staff has, for 30 years, successfully supported children and their families in difficult situations by providing reliable case management, professional counseling, critical crisis intervention, and caregiver respite services. YSB has also developed innovative programs such as the Family Enhancement Collaborative—known as Kinship, the Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing Program (EPSDT)—and has collaborated with community initiatives such as Building Blocks for Kids to ensure children and families in West County grow and thrive. The Youth Services Bureau also works closely with local law enforcement agencies and the West Contra Costa Unified School District to enhance delinquency prevention efforts and promote academic achievement.

Throughout the past 30 years, the Youth Service Bureau has been a constant guiding light in the West County community. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing work well done by Taalia Hasan and her dedicated staff and wish them many more years of success as they support our children, families and community.

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FLORIDA'S PALM BEACHES AND TREASURE COAST FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS DECISION TO JOIN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 20 high school seniors from the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches of Florida for their commendable decision to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces following their graduation this year. Of these 20 enlistees, 8 are Army enlistees, 4 are Navy enlistees, 4 are National Guard enlistees, 2 are Air Force enlistees, 1 is a Coast Guard enlistee, and 1 is a Marine Corps enlistee. These young men and women have displayed an unmatched sense of bravery and courage in their commitment to defend and protect our Nation. Thus, it is important they know that they have the full support of the U.S. House of Representatives, their communities, and the American people. It is the dedication of these individuals which reminds us who we are as a people, and that though diverse problems may lie ahead, the United States remains a shining example of freedom, strength, and perseverance on the world stage.

The service of these young men and women must not go unrecognized, and so I want to personally thank these twenty local graduating seniors for their selflessness and commitment to our Nation by naming them here today: Oneil Daley, Antonio Allen Jr., Juan Machua, Mario Esquilin, Henry Thomas, Dion Yu, David Colton, Corbett Pervenecki, Matthew Connelly, Laquann Pitts, Corey Boyce, Jose Ruiz, Kristi McMillion, Selena Harrison, Ty Torres, David Tarrant-Schneiderman, Angela Fernandez, Tristan Sperling, Andrew Williams, and Tyler Stewart.

All will be recognized on May 8 at the Our Community Salutes event in Boca Raton.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of them and to all who defend our freedom by serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. That spirit of service and sacrifice is something we all can be proud of. For this very reason, it is my honor to recognize these young leaders here today.

RECOGNIZING GRETA CARDOSO IN CELEBRATION OF HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Mr. VALADAO to recognize Mrs. Greta Cardoso as she celebrates her 90th birthday. Greta's generation set an example for our country in the 20th century, and Greta's life is truly reflective of the American Dream.

Greta was born in Tranquility, California, on April 1, 1924. She grew up in a large immigrant family with nine siblings. Her parents, Senhorinda Barcellos and Elisas Baptista, both emigrated from the Azorian Island of Terceira. Strong values were instilled in Greta at a young age. She attended Kerman High School and worked at the local Five and Dime. After graduation, Greta met her husband, Lee Cardoso, while she was working at The Chat and Chew.

In 1950, Lee and Greta married and began their lives together. Both of their families emigrated from Terceira, so their union encompassed many common traditions and values. Their marriage initiated a partnership between the families and led to the establishment of a dairy business. Greta and Lee raised four children: Linda, Sonny, Joe, and Mark. Growing up on a dairy, the Cardoso children gained a strong work ethic and learned to never take their successes for granted.

Greta is a loving and devoted mother to her children. She always gave her children freedom to learn and explore on their own. While they were in elementary school, Greta would volunteer as a room mother. She was not only an outstanding mother to her own children but

also to her nieces, nephews, and neighborhood kids. Greta's hospitality goes unmatched. Relatives and friends are always more than welcome in the Cardoso household. On a personal note, Greta was an exceptional role model for me—her nephew.

Outside of working on the dairy and spending time with family, Greta enjoyed several hobbies. She loved to sew, crochet, and needle point. Her needle points are a work of art and are cherished by many. She also loved to play cards and liked Portuguese card games the most. Playing bridge, bunko, and bowling were all activities that Greta truly enjoyed because she loves to be in the company of others.

Greta loved her husband, and loves her children, nine grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren dearly. She has led a long and fulfilling life, and is a great example of a strong woman who shows many individuals the beauty and love this amazing life has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join Mr. VALADAO and myself in recognizing Mrs. Greta Cardoso as she celebrates her 90th birthday. She is an inspiration for all of us as she has led a long life filled with joy, love, and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our Nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, ''Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,'' and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and that is why today I rise to pay tribute to four extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Aidé Meza, Josh Crook, Katherine Welbeck, and Ayanna Costley.

I wish to thank Aidé Meza, who graduated with honors from the University of Houston, for numerous and substantial contributions, including her work on H.R. 4108, ''Breath of Fresh Air Act of 2014,'' and the highly successful ''When Women Succeed, America Succeeds'' leadership summit held in Houston in March of this year.

Josh Crook, a student at the University of North Texas, provided invaluable assistance to me and my legislative team in the areas of national defense and veterans affairs. In doing so, Josh continued his record of providing distinguished service to his country first begun with his enlistment in the Armed Services as an airman in the U.S. Air Force. Josh's experience and understanding of the challenges faced by veterans transitioning from active duty to the civilian sector was critical to the development of legislation I introduced earlier this year, H.R. 4110, ''Helping to Encourage Real Opportunity for Veterans Transitioning from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2014,'' also known as the ''Heroes Transitioning from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2014.''

Katherine Welbeck came to my office from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, from which she will graduate next month and go on to a highly successful career in law and public policy. A graduate of Princeton University and former teacher in the Teach for America Corps, Katherine brought to my office a commitment to educational opportunity for all persons, especially girls and young women, and a passion for justice and fairness. Because of Katherine's initiative and skill, I was able to introduce H.R. 4112, Equal Rights and Access for the Women of South Sudan Act,'' legislation requiring that activities of the United States in South Sudan relating to governance, reconstruction and development, and refugee assistance support human rights and promote the active participation of women in government and civil society.

Ayanna Costley is completing her junior year at the Madeira School in McLean, Virginia and judging by the work ethic and appetite for knowledge she displayed, can look forward to a bright future as she begins her college studies next year.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING SEASON OF THE 2013 DICKINSON RED DEVILS MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues, Rep. JIM GERLACH (PA–6) and Rep. BILL SHUSTER (PA–9), to congratulate the players and coaches of the 2013 Dickinson College Red Devils Men's Lacrosse Team of Carlisle, Pennsylvania on their incredible season which was capped by their advancement to the ''Elite Eight'' in the 2013 NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament.

The 2013 Dickinson Red Devils captured the Centennial Conference Championship for a third consecutive season en route to their appearance in the quarterfinals of the NCAA National Championship Tournament. The team was led by First-team All-American, Division III Long Pole Midfielder of the Year and Iroquois Award winner for Outstanding Player of the Year, Brandon Palladino; First-team All-American and Lt. Col. J.I. Turnbull Award winner, Brian Cannon; and First-team All-Americans Matt Cherry and Peter Zouck. Slay Sudah was named Third-team All-American and Greg Hanley and Parker Waldron received honorable mention recognition.

The Red Devils' 2013 roster included: Reid Barger, Nick Baxter, Christian Beitel, Matt Brinc—kerhoff, Greg Castro, Chris Clementi, Reiley Crosby, Eric Dircks, Draper Donley, Collin Farrell, Kobi Frankel, Nolan Funchion, Brian Gleason, Youssef Gorgi, Patrick Haig, Mattison Hamilton, D.J. Henderson, Rob Kendall, Greg Kirchner, Marek Laco, Dave Largey, Kevin Leary, Nick Leon, Chris Menard, Carter Moore, Andrew Morgan, Palmer Murray, Jack O'Connor, Brett Parker, Graham Parsons, Max Pawk, Chris Pianko, Mike Reid, Sam Rosenburgh, Reed Salmons, Andrew Salvitti, Will Scott, Mike Serpa, Nick Shepherd, Greg Shildkrout, Michael Smith, Ace Sudah, Will Trevenen, and Tyler White. The Red Devils were ably led by Head Coach David Webster, Assistant Coaches Tim Marshall and Pat March, Statisticians Emily David and Rachel Moore, Athletic Trainer Adam Richmond with dedicated administrative support by College Athletic Director Dr. Les Poolman.

Mr. Speaker, in light of their outstanding accomplishments and noteworthy season, we ask that our colleagues join us today in recognizing the players and coaches of the Dickinson College Red Devils Men's Lacrosse Team of Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 58

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 58, who celebrated their 100th Anniversary at a gala I was pleased to join on Saturday, April 12th. In 1914, IBEW Locals 18 and 271 merged to create IBEW Local 58. For the last 100 years, IBEW members helped to build the City of Detroit and Southeast Michigan, served our nation at home and overseas during wartime, engaged in volunteer activities to strengthen our communities, and have stood at the forefront of workers' rights on the job.

The rich history of Local 58 is inextricably bound with the history of Southeast Michigan and of the nation. Local 58 was created to ensure that its members have safe working conditions, receive fair wages and health and welfare benefits, and security when they retire. These vital responsibilities helped propel the men and women of Local 58 to the forefront of the labor movement in Southeast Michigan, and due to their efforts as well as those of many others, working people can achieve and thrive in the American middle class.

While building the middle class, the members of IBEW Local 58, along with their brothers and sisters in other building trades unions, literally built the City of Detroit and the Southeast Michigan region. Iconic Detroit projects such as the Ambassador Bridge, the Fisher Building, the Guardian Building, the Detroit Opera House, the Fox Theater, and the Masonic Temple were built using the skills of IBEW Local 58's members. In 1948, Local 58 wired Briggs Stadium for lights so that the Detroit Tigers could play nighttime games. As Detroit and the region grew along with the growth of the automotive industry, Local 58 workers brought electricity to the new homes being built in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

Local 58 members have served in the armed forces in every war our nation has fought since World War I. Beginning in World War II and in every war since then, Local 58 has ensured that those members who served in the military during wartime would have their union dues paid while they were in service, and that they could return to the union with no loss of status or seniority when their service was completed. The men and women of Local 58 also served our country at home during times of war, most notably during World War II, when Detroit was known as the ''Arsenal of Democracy'' and skilled workers were needed to retool automobile factories to produce the aircraft, tanks, and artillery needed to win the war. More than half of the tanks, 75 percent of the aircraft engines, and 92 percent the cars and trucks used by the military in World War II were built in Detroit factories.

The men and women of Local 58 have always been involved in efforts to strengthen the communities in which they live and work and to support causes important to them. From their donations to the American Red Cross, Boys Town and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in the 1940s and 1950s to their work on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and to local churches, community centers and schools today, IBEW members have been willing to commit their time, talents and money to help others.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent so many members and families of IBEW Local 58 in Michigan's 9th Congressional District. For the last century, they have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to excellence on the job, to the rights of working people, to the well-being of Detroit and Southeast Michigan, and to the strength of our country. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the men and women of Local 58 as they celebrate 100 years of excellence, and in wishing them continued success in their second century.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW LIVERIS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Andrew Liveris in recognition of his 60th birthday on Monday, May 5, 2014.

Originally from Darwin, Australia, Andrew currently resides in my hometown of Midland, Michigan with his wife Paula and three children. Mr. Liveris has been an instrumental figure at The Dow Chemical Company for over 35 years, serving in a myriad of positions spanning three continents. He is currently the company's President, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer. Under his guidance, the Company has continued unparalleled success across the globe, in addition to being a key employer in Midland. He is a true visionary and an innovative leader in the field of manufacturing.

In addition to his success at Dow, Mr. Liveris has carried on and expanded the company's culture of community outreach to improve the quality of life of all Midland residents. The company continues to play a crucial role in the vitalization of the City of Midland, sponsoring local events such as the Dow Tennis Invitational and the Midland Community Center's Dow RunWalk. With strategic planning and a focus on the lives of those within the company and the community, Mr. Liveris has taken to new heights, the important relationship, and friendship, between Dow and Midland.

On a national scale, Mr. Liveris is an advocate for expanding the important role of manufacturing in our economy and his expertise expands well beyond his work at Dow. He serves as co-chair of President Obama's Advanced Manufacturing Partnership in the United States, where he continues to present viable business policy solutions for economic growth.

As a successful business leader and community organizer, Mr. Liveris has received numerous awards including the Chemical Industry Medal by the Society of Chemical Industry, the CEO of the Year award at the Platts Global Energy Awards, and the George E. Davis Medal by the Institution of Chemical Engineers. Most notably, he has been identified for his influence in the global chemical markets as a Top Power Player by the ICIS Chemical Business magazine for several consecutive years.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Andrew Liveris in celebration of his 60th birthday and to thank him for his continued work in Michigan, the nation, and abroad. I wish him many years of continued health, happiness, and success.

HONORING MAYOR GARY BROWN OF SALEM, MISSOURI

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Gary Brown of Salem, Missouri for his achievements and years of service to the community.

This April, Mayor Brown will have served for fourteen years as mayor of Salem. Prior to being elected mayor, he served as Alderman of the East Ward for four years. Mayor Brown has dedicated much of his life to public service. This dedication has not only been towards his local community, but also to our nation during the four years he served in the Navy.

In his eighteen years of service to the city of Salem, Mayor Brown has devoted his time to be a positive influence to the community. I am thankful for his leadership which has greatly benefitted my hometown of Salem. It is my pleasure to recognize his service and achievements before the House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA ''GINNY'' TREACY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Virginia ''Ginny'' Treacy on her retirement as Executive Director of JNESO District Council 1 International Union of Operating Engineers AFL–CIO. Ms. Treacy has dedicated over 35 years of service to labor causes and her contributions and accomplishments are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Virginia Treacy has been an active labor member since 1977 when she organized her first campaign while a Registered Nurse looking for fair and equitable treatment. She began her labor career as a business agent for the New Jersey State Nurses Association's labor division and become Union Director in 1980. Five years later, she began an independent professional health care union under the name JNESO with the then 2,300 Registered Nurses from the New Jersey State Nurses Association. In 1992 JNESO became District Council

1—IUOE after affiliating with the International Union of Operating Engineers. Today, JNESO District Council 1—IUOE represents over 5,000 registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and other healthcare professionals and technical employees in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

In addition to her leadership of JNESO District Council 1—IUOE, Ms. Treacy is a member of the Gender Parity Council, the New Jersey Health Care Workforce Council. She has been recognized for her many accomplishments, being honored with awards from her union and other labor and nursing groups.

A graduate of New York City's Beth Israel Medical Center School of Nursing, Ms. Treacy worked at various hospitals in New York and New Jersey before entering the labor movement. She is married, a mother of two daughters, a grandmother and an avid golfer.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Virginia ''Ginny'' Treacy on her retirement and thanking her for her years of service.

HONORING KATE VERNEZ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Kate Vernez as she retires after 27 years of dedicated service as the Deputy City Manager of Santa Monica.

Kate transitioned to Southern California after a successful career with the City of New York, and the City of Santa Monica has truly benefited from her presence. I have had the distinct pleasure of working directly with Kate for many years, and I have personally witnessed how crucial her participation was in cultivating the necessary cooperation and collaboration among city, county, state, and federal governments time and time again.

Kate has played an instrumental role in numerous transportation projects, including the City of Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus. My staff and I also were able to work one-on-one with her on the Expo Line project, which will ultimately connect Downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica.

In addition to improving transportation, Kate has been an integral part in addressing the issue of hopelessness, specifically among the Santa Monica veteran population. Furthermore, she has been a strong advocate for legislation at all levels of government that would provide support to veterans at our local West Los Angeles VIA campus.

Kate is a natural leader and I have repeatedly been impressed with her talent and dedication. Her record of excellence is an inspiration. With Kate in City Hall, I have always been confident that our mutual constituents in Santa Monica were being well-served at the city level.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable career of Kate Vernez and in wishing her all the best for the future.

FAIR PLAYING FIELD ACT OF 2014

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fair Playing Field Act of 2014. In 1978, Congress was concerned that lack of clarity as to the proper classification of some workers, increased IRS enforcement activity, and retroactive application by IRS of interpretations that were arguably new had caused hardships for some small businesses and other taxpayers and confusion as to the applicable rules.

To allow time to develop a comprehensive approach to the problem, Congress enacted section 530 of the Revenue Act of 1978 as an interim measure protecting taxpayers from liability for misclassification if the taxpayer has a reasonable basis for classifying a worker as an independent contractor and meets certain other conditions. In addition, the Act prohibited the Secretary of the Treasury from publishing regulations or revenue rulings on workers' employment tax status pending the expected near-term enactment of clarifying legislation.

During the ensuing 33 years, Congress made section 530 of the Revenue Act of 1978 permanent, however, changes in working relationships and the continued prohibition on new guidance have increased the uncertainty as to the proper classification of workers.

Many workers are properly classified as independent contractors. In other instances, workers who are employees are being treated as independent contractors. Such misclassification for tax purposes contributes to inequities in the competitive positions of businesses and to the Federal and State tax gap, and may also result in misclassification for other purposes, such as denial of unemployment benefits, workplace health and safety protections, and retirement or other benefits or protections available to employees.

Workers, businesses, and other taxpayers will benefit from clear guidance regarding employment tax status. In the interest of fairness and in view of many service recipients' reliance on current section 530, such guidance should apply only prospectively.

SUPPORT FOR CYPRUS

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my support for the people of the Island of Cyprus. The Greek Cypriots have agreed to come to the table and begin negotiations with their Turkish counterparts. The United States stands by its commitment to peace in the Eastern Mediterranean. While this is merely the beginning of what could be a very long process, it deserves our commendation. A peaceful resolution would set an example of stability in a region beset by turmoil, tumult, and upheaval.

The Turkish Cypriot people have been isolated for too long. They have desired a unified island for nearly half a century and this new start is a significant step towards their reinstatement into the political, economic, and social structure of not just the Island of Cyprus but also of the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, I restate my resolute support for the start of talks between the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. It is important that we encourage both sides to remain at the table and negotiate in good faith. I also implore our State Department to continue to be resolute in supporting these talks. The power of diplomacy is strong. The world is watching and waiting with hopeful anticipation.

HONORING DR. ANDREW TAYLOR STILL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, who is being posthumously inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians on April 16th.

Dr. A.T. Still is best known for his work with osteopathic medicine. Dr. Still traveled throughout Northern Missouri to spread his drugless, manipulative medicine that was officially named ''osteopathy'' in 1885. Finding he had more patients than he could handle, Dr. Still founded the American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville, Missouri in 1892. It was estimated that on any given day, over 400 people would travel to Kirksville to be treated.

While Dr. A.T. Still may be known as the father of the osteopathic profession, this is not his only accomplishment. Dr. Still was deeply embroiled in the fight over whether Kansas would be admitted to the Union as a slave State or free State, helping it be admitted to the Union as the latter. Dr. Still also fought in the Civil War, serving as a hospital steward. His outfit helped repel the Confederate forces advancing on Kansas City. Also, with his medical school and practice firmly established, Dr. Still was able to focus on mechanical inventions. He patented an improved butter churn, a smokeless furnace, and many other machines.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, along with the great State of Missouri, in celebrating the life of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still as we induct him into the Hall of Famous Missourians.

HONORING SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR OLDER PERSONS

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Southwestern Illinois College's Programs and Services for Older Persons and to congratulate this organization on 40 years of service. As their founders, partners and members gather to celebrate 40

years of unparalleled service to southwestern Illinois, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring this organization.

Founded by Eugene Verdu, Programs and Services for Older Persons began as a Preparation for Retirement class in 1970 at then Belleville Area College. This led to a federal grant for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in 1973. Additional Federal, State and local grants provided a myriad of services, activities and opportunities for people over the age of 55.

Under the administrative leadership of the General Studies and Community Services division, with full support from the BAC Board of Trustees, an office for PSOP was established in late 1973. This new office was responsible for administering all college activities related to the field of aging. Today, PSOP is part of SWIC Community Services.

In the early years, PSOP was housed in a rented facility. By 1979, more space was needed, so the city of Belleville purchased the building that now houses PSOP at 201 N. Church St. A lease-purchase agreement was established between the city of Belleville and BAC and by 1999, the cost of the building was paid in full and the college now owns the facility.

Today, PSOP's mission is to provide a comprehensive program of direct and referral services to seniors and their families, designed to assist them in maximizing their health and independence. PSOP's programming is directed at healthy aging and enjoying a rewarding lifestyle for those 55 and beyond, allowing them to ''age in place'' and remain independent as long as possible. PSOP's myriad of programs and services focus on engagement in social and recreational activities as well as travel and cultural activities to stimulate lifelong learning. Multiple volunteer programs provide seniors opportunities to serve others.

Mr. Speaker, on their 40th anniversary, I am pleased to honor Southwestern Illinois College's Programs and Services for Older Persons for their service to southwestern Illinois. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this organization and wishing them continued success as they continue to serve the people of our area.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL E. COHEN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel E. Cohen, who has dedicated 45 years as a board member and as President to ProJeCt of Easton, a human service agency founded by local clergy and community leaders in response to rising tides of poverty and social unrest in 1968, that works to support poor and underserved populations. Under Mr. Cohen's leadership, ProJeCt of Easton provides emergency assistance and food programs; case management and life skills support; and educational programs including adult basic literacy, English as a second language, GED preparation, family literacy, and supplemental programs for school-age children.

Since joining ProJeCt just after its incorporation, Daniel Cohen has been a tireless advocate for the vulnerable individuals who depend on the agency. After working for Easton's needy families for decades, he became board president in 2001 and served until 2007. Leading by example, he and his wife Nancy donated the cost of a classroom to ProJeCt's Fowler Literacy Center, which now serves 25 ESL adult learners on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

Mr. Cohen has also donated his time, effort, and considerable skill set to other charitable and non-profit organizations, including the Bnai Abraham Synagogue, the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley, and the Lehigh Valley Jewish Foundation. He also served on the boards for the Hugh Moore Canal Commission, Friends of the State Theater Inc., and the City of Easton Police Practices Commission. As a community member, he is a constant figure at events as and always eager to help out, along with his wife Nancy and his two daughters.

In recognition of his service, ProJeCt of Easton founded the Daniel E. Cohen Award in honor of Mr. Cohen and recognized him as its first recipient on April 24, 2014. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Daniel E. Cohen for this great honor and my thanks for his years of public service.

HONORING REV. FRANCE A. DAVIS OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, PASTOR OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary man of faith, courage, and civic engagement. Reverend France A. Davis has served as Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Salt Lake City for the last 40 years. He is a fixture in the community and a role model for many of its citizens. He is admired throughout the state as a man of integrity as he leads and inspires his congregation; as a man of compassion in his fair treatment of everyone—particularly those who are marginalized in society; and as a man of dedication to the university students he has taught and the civic community he leads.

Born on a large farm in rural Georgia, Rev. Davis learned early the value of hard work and education while working and studying alongside his eight brothers and sisters. He was blessed with caring and humble parents who dedicated themselves to their faith and family. Recognizing the value of education, young France committed himself to reading and the pursuit of academic excellence.

While attending Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, France met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a student reporter for the school newspaper. That experience had a profound effect on him and Dr. King became a mentor. Recognizing the gross injustice of racial inequality and violence, France soon joined Dr. King in civil rights demonstrations throughout the South, including the Selma to Montgomery March and the March on Washington where Dr. King delivered his ''I Have a Dream'' speech. He was particularly moved by Dr. King's hallmark traits of nonviolence and love. It was this example that would eventually help lead him to the ministry.

After his participation in the Civil Rights Movement, France served his country honorably in the United States Air Force before returning to school to resume his studies. In the years that followed, he earned six academic degrees, in Arts and Humanities, Afro-American Studies, Rhetoric, Religion, Mass Communication, and Ministry. He has approached all facets of his life and service with this same tireless devotion.

Joining Calvary Baptist in 1972, he became Pastor in 1974. Beyond weekly preaching and counseling with members of his faithful congregation, he has become an advocate of numerous causes in the civic community. Among dozens of other positions, Rev. Davis has served on the Salt Lake Community College Board of Trustees, the Utah State Board of Regents, the Utah Board of Corrections, the Salt Lake NAACP Board, the Governors' Policy Council, and the Salt Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau. Under his guidance, the 122-year old church built a new 47,000 square foot home a decade ago. He has led civic and welfare organizations, is a renowned public speaker, has become a resource for the governor's and mayor's offices, and after touching hundreds of students in his years as a professor at the University of Utah, is retiring this spring. An avid reader, he is also an accomplished author of four books. Perhaps most importantly, he has served as a voice of reason and sound judgment to transcend social divisions and form bonds of understanding in the community.

With his wife Willene by his side, he has raised three children and has three grandchildren and one great-grandson. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary legacy of Rev. France A. Davis, who has been referred to as ''one of Utah's human treasures,'' and who we honor today for his 40 years of service to Calvary Baptist Church and the Salt Lake community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 2014, I unintentionally opposed H.R. 2126, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2014, which passed in the House 375–136. H.R. 2126 is an important piece of legislation that will increase America's annual energy savings, create jobs, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I would like the record to note that I support H.R. 2126. I recognize that energy efficiency-focused legislation plays a key role in crafting a thriving, diversified

national energy strategy. I am dedicated to strengthening our country's energy efficiency and look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue in the future.

WASHINGTON STATE ALLIES FOR ADVOCACY: A PROCLAMATION FOR THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to meet with individuals from my region and the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council about important issues concerning people with developmental disabilities. I support their advocacy efforts for people with developmental disabilities and programs that support them. The Washington State Allies in Advocacy has issued a Proclamation for the Dignity and Rights for All Human Beings and I am honored to submit a copy.

A PROCLAMATION FOR THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS

PREAMBLE

We believe all persons are whole human beings, regardless of ability, mobility, expression, communication, intelligence, accommodations, strengths, independence or support needs: All human beings are able to grow and develop to their full potential.

Being human, we believe and affirm that all people have absolute power to direct their own lives, with determination, dignity and meaningful choice.

We believe and affirm the basic human right to live free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation in our homes, jobs and the community, so as to be secure at all times:

1. We refuse to tolerate physical, mental, emotional or sexual violence. We deserve freedom from violence that comes from people or systems where abuse has become commonplace and is ignored.

2. Our money and resources must be safe and under our own ultimate direction.

3. We must be free from discrimination based in hate or fear, and discrimination based on good intentions. Discrimination will be determined by the effect it has on our lives and not the intentions of those who discriminate.

4. We must be free from attitudes and beliefs that talk down to us.

We believe and affirm that all human beings have the right to live free from the oppression of:

1. A transportation system that isolates us in our homes or within a community.

2. Supports that control us and our environment, talk for us, do not listen, or fail to recognize that we are the boss of our own lives.

3. The fear that we will be eliminated or left to die because the circumstances of our existence are deemed too costly, too difficult or simply not important.

4. Being imprisoned in institutions that isolate, control and segregate us. (Community housing without autonomy is like an institution.)

5. Labels given to us, used to separate, devalue or dehumanize us.

6. Societal, cultural and physical barriers that restrict full participation in communities.

7. Any system that takes it upon itself to determine who is worthy, that imposes services based on perceived, rather than real needs, or makes decisions in secret without the participation of those impacted. We have a right to services tailored to assist us by empowering our abilities.

8. Those who devalue us through medical discrimination. Every human has a right to be:

a) Free from those who deny or force medical treatment.

b) Free from those who assume we don't deserve medical treatment to improve or sustain our life.

c) Free from those who make medical decisions without our consent or voice, under the pretense of knowing better than we what is best for us.

d) Free from those who treat or alter us, without consent, for the convenience of others, society, or any system.

e) Free from parents, guardians, or other decision-makers who would override our decisions, without listening and considering our perspectives, and alter our self-determined course as human beings.

We believe and affirm that everyone has the freedom to lead a meaningful life, in which:

1. We each have a name, and choose the groups with which we identify. We reject labels, imposed by others, that minimize, specialize or segregate us.

2. We exercise the right to choose our meaningful relationships: the people with whom we spend our time, share personal details or with whom we are intimate.

3. We have the right to fail. Risk is acceptable, even if we are not successful. The quality of a choice does not determine one's value as a person.

4. Power resides within each of us. The right of people to decide for themselves is respected, celebrated and supported.

5. We have the right to direct financial decisions consistent with personal ambition. We pursue careers that enable us to grow and be promoted, with work relationships that empower us, and employment supports that protect autonomy. Meaningful careers provide us with economic stability and freedom. A job is not a career. Everyone should have the opportunity to create a life with employment that enriches the mind and spirit.

6. We are the primary drivers of our life choices and decisions.

7. We always start by presuming competence. We all have the absolute right to grow intellectually, sexually, physically, spiritually and socially to our full potential; to be who we choose to be, human beings, without pressure to alter how we speak, feel, think, or move.

8. We have the right to technology, including assistive technology, which increases our personal power through access to information, and gives us the ability to more fully, productively and effectively interact with the world.

9. All human beings rise to high expectations, to get to a place where one can achieve and strive to be all one can be. Limited or no expectations restrict our growth, advance stereotypes, and move us to a path of poverty and labeled incompetence, instead of a full life of choice and independence.

10. We reject the notion that people are on a predetermined path. We have the right to equally access an education that prepares us each to enter the working world and participate fully in our community.

11. Education directly impacts a strong society and economy. Every human has the right to a higher education. Every human has the right to learn and grow as one desires.

Whereas all of the above rights are recognized, honored and practiced, we endeavor to create and uphold opportunities to:

1. Promote the health and well-being of all people.

2. Fully, meaningfully and productively participate in civic, cultural, political, economic and social life.

3. Presume competence and uphold high expectations. Include all people regardless of communication style, mobility, race, nation of origin, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, expression, intelligence, accommodations, strengths, independence, support needs and ability.

4. Never abandon those who struggle and seek support when needed.

5. Respect each other, even in conflict.

This we say and believe.

Signed:

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF MADERA COUNTY, VICTIMS SERVICE CENTER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Community Action Partnership of Madera County (CAPMC), Victims Service Center for the tremendous efforts they have made to help crime victims in Madera County.

CAPMC operates a multi program victim service center for Madera County that addresses the needs of victims of all crime types including: domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and homicide. CAPMC's broad range of services greatly benefits the population that they serve. In one agency, individuals can apply for a restraining order and at the same time, request shelter. Since CAPMC has all of their programs under one center, they reduce the barriers that sometimes prevent victims from accessing services. In addition, CAPMC is the only agency in Madera County that provides 24 hour crisis intervention to crime victims.

CAPMC operates the Martha Diaz Shelter, the only shelter in Madera County for battered women and their children to seek immediate safety when fleeing from abusive relationships. Women and children are provided supplies for their immediate needs including: food, medicine, toiletries, and transportation. CAPMC strives to protect families from experiencing further abuse by informing them of their rights as crime victims and advocating for their safety. Each year, they provide a safe haven for over one hundred women and children experiencing domestic violence.

In 2013, CAPMC achieved national accreditation by the National Children's Alliance (NCA), and they are now recognized as the Accredited Child Abuse Center for Madera County. CAPMC received their accreditation based on their utilization of a functioning and effective multidisciplinary team approach to work collaboratively in child abuse investigation, prosecution, and treatment. CAPMC worked diligently with law enforcement, social

services, the district attorney's office, health services, and hospitals to ensure that they received the national accreditation.

Each year, CAPMC serves an average of 112 child abuse victims. CAPMC strives to provide an immediate response that identifies the victim's needs and reduces the level of trauma. They operate an aftercare program for child abuse victims and their caretakers to seek therapy, so they have a safe place to talk about their most horrifying experiences. Every family is assigned an advocate to ensure that their rights as crime victims are enforced.

As a founding member and co-chairman of the Victims' Rights Caucus, it is my honor to recognize the good work of CAPMC and to thank the board members of CAPMC for their support and activism. These individuals sincerely care about victims' rights and helping those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Community Action Partnership of Madera County, Victims Service Center for their efforts on behalf of crime victims. They have truly made a difference throughout the region and will continue to do so for many decades to come.

HONORING THE COLORADO FARM SHOW

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Colorado Farm Show on its 50th anniversary.

Each year, the three-day Colorado Farm Show in Weld County showcases agricultural successes. The Colorado Farm Show displays 350 agriculture-related exhibits and draws more than 30,000 visitors from throughout the region. The exhibitors this year were from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana, and came to Greeley, Colorado to present state of the art machinery, farm products, and farm services. The event, which started from humble beginnings in 1964, has now grown to be one of the Nation's largest agricultural shows. It is so popular among those in the agricultural business that there is a waiting list to join.

Over 100 volunteers annually contribute to the show's successes and donate more than 8,200 hours of their time. The volunteers assist in tasks ranging from administration to maintaining buildings and grounds. One of the many great committees works directly with education and organizes thirty speakers to discuss various programs and seminars.

Further, the show is dedicated to training the next generation of people who are engaged in farming. Thus far, the Colorado Farm Show has given over $123,000 to Colorado high school seniors who are interested in careers in agriculture.

It is with great pride and honor that I recognize the Colorado Farm Show today. Please join me in congratulating them on 50 great years of tradition and continued agricultural success.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA'S REBOUNDING OYSTER INDUSTRY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to submit for the RECORD a March 24, 2014, New York Times article featuring Travis and Ryan Croxton and their small business in the First Congressional District of Virginia, Rappahannock Oyster Company, which is building a historic family business and contributing to a healthy Chesapeake Bay.

One of the crown jewels of our nation's natural resources, the Chesapeake Bay is rich in history and also provides a way of life for so many that live in the Bay region. I appreciate the efforts of these fine Virginians creating jobs, producing a fine product, all while working to preserve the Bay and a historic way of life.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 24, 2014]

A CHESAPEAKE HOMECOMING

(By Julia Moskin)

TOPPING, VA.—When Travis and Ryan Croxton first went to New York City in 2004 to market their homegrown oysters, one of the few seafood places they had heard of was Le Bernardin, so naturally they just showed up with a cooler at the kitchen door.

''We really Forrest Gumped it,'' said Travis, 39. ''We had no idea what we were doing.''

Chesapeake oysters were so rare then that the chefs wanted to try them on the spot. But neither Croxton, both of whom had master's degrees, knew how to shuck an oyster. ''Finally the chef took it out of my hands and did it himself,'' Travis said.

Oysters had almost disappeared from the Chesapeake Bay when the Croxtons, first cousins and co-owners of the Rappahannock Oyster Company, graduated from college. And after decades of bad news about pollution, silt, disease and overfishing in the bay, many locals wouldn't eat them raw. ''A whole generation of Virginians grew up without virginicas,'' said Peter Woods, the chef at Merroir, the Croxtons' oyster bar here, where the Rappahannock River empties into the bay. ''For oyster roasts, oyster stuffing, all these traditions, you just couldn't get your hands on them.''

As he spoke, Mr. Woods was shucking a dozen just-pulled virginica oysters, the kind that grew wild on thick shoals all around the bay when the first Europeans sailed in, the wooden hulls of their ships brushing against the shells. It is the same oyster that grows in Long Island Sound and on Cape Cod and points north—and now, with modern aquaculture, as far south as Georgia.

''Now they can't get enough of them,'' said Mr. Woods, twirling the flesh into a plump and attractive ''Rappahannock roll'' that sits up high in the shell. Food styling was not part of the traditional job description for a waterman (Chesapeake-speak for fisherman), but it is just one of many ingenious ways that a new generation is trying to bring a thriving oyster trade back to the bay.

In 1899, when the cousins' great-grandfather leased five acres of nearby river bottom and started the company, the water here was still rich with the plankton and phytonutrients that oysters need to live. The bay's floor was inlaid with shell and rock, the sea grasses were tall, and the water was brackish (part salt, part fresh, ideal for oysters) like most of the coastal Chesapeake, among the world's largest estuaries with more than 11,000 miles of shoreline.

But the oyster population was already cratering under commercial and environmental pressure. The 20th century brought more-sophisticated dredging tools and more pollution: Modern farming, with its fertilizers and insecticides, dumped enough nitrogen and phosphorus into the bay to bring its life cycle to a near-complete halt, said Bill Goldsborough, director of fisheries for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, which was formed in 1967 to protect and restore the bay.

The cleanup is proceeding (slowly), and oysters play an active part. They are filter feeders, slurping 50 to 60 gallons of water a day and cleaning it as they go. ''For protecting seafood, usually you're talking about restraint: Don't eat it, don't catch it,'' Ryan Croxton said. ''But with oysters, the more you eat, the more we grow, and the more bay they can clean.''

At peak trade, around 1875, 20 million bushels of wild oysters were taken from the bay each year. By the late 1990s, the total was 20,000. Restoration of the bay's ecosystem, undertaken by multiple state, federal and private agencies, was proceeding with painful slowness, and repairing the oyster business was not a high priority.

To Tommy Leggett, a local marine scientist and environmental educator who is also a working waterman, the low point came when the governing bodies began to consider abandoning Crassostrea virginica and reseeding the bay with a disease-resistant oyster native to the South China Sea, Crassostrea ariakensis.

''That oyster grows fast and it grows strong,'' said Mr. Leggett, who was in a position to see all sides of the argument. ''It reaches market size in less than a year, so the whole industry was drooling over the thing. But it didn't belong in our bay.'' Introducing nonnative species has often led to unforeseen problems, like the proliferation of kudzu and the infamous ''walking catfish'' in the Southeast.

So Mr. Leggett, 58, became an activist for virginica farming. Although aquaculture was already well established in the Northeast and internationally, it hadn't caught on here, partly because the wild stock was so plentiful. Long after the beds up north ran out, baymen here were still pulling up enough oysters (along with blue crabs, striped bass and other valuable creatures) to make a living.

But eventually, Mr. Leggett couldn't support a family on his catch. ''First the hard clams tanked, then the oysters tanked, then the crabs tanked,'' he said. ''I could see which way the bay was going.''

Mr. Leggett set up a demonstration oyster farm for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and began to preach the advantages of aquaculture: the ability to sustain the supply, predict the harvest and control the quality of your catch by creating optimal growing conditions at each life stage. Oysters grow from tiny spat, the most juvenile stage, to market size of three inches, in about 18 months.

An oyster farm doesn't look much like a farm. The oysters grow in metal cages, eating the same food in exactly the same water as their wild counterparts. But they are groomed for market: brought into dock, sorted and tossed in a tumbler, then bagged for sale or returned to the water. The process

gives each oyster room to grow a full ''cup,'' which brings a premium price, and keeps the shells looking pretty.

It's a low-tech system, but it lets growers raise oysters for high-end restaurants the way farmers raise vegetables: with consistency in shape, size, texture and flavor; with careful handling from farm to table; and with an eye to beauty and shapeliness. Aquaculture has begun to turn the tide back toward virginicas. Last year, for instance, the take from the Chesapeake was about 400,000 bushels. Anderson's Neck, Choptank Sweets and Misty Points are just a few of the euphonious new oysters to hit the market, and Mr. Leggett's own York Rivers fetch premium prices.

The Croxtons did not grow up as oystermen (Travis studied finance; Ryan, Southern literature), and neither did their fathers. ''Grandpa told them to go to college instead of messing around with oysters,'' Travis said. The boys inherited the leases on the river, and by law they had to grow oysters there or give them up.

Thus began the road to Le Bernardin, the Grand Central Oyster Bar and beyond. The two have reinvested what they've earned, opening restaurants with high visibility, one in Richmond, Va., another in the busy Union Market in Washington.

After building a steady market for their trademark oyster, the Rappahannock River, they began to build a range of flavors. Now they grow oysters in several locations, where the water varies in salinity and depth, each producing somewhat distinct flavors: crisp Stingrays in Mobjack Bay, briny Old Salts in Chincoteague Bay and the oyster for the people, the Barcat.

The Barcat is an all-purpose Chesapeake oyster, distributed and marketed along with the Croxtons' premium oysters, but at a lower price to feed the current boom in raw bars and $1 oyster happy hours. Instead of growing Barcats themselves, they hatched a new cooperative of oyster farmers, mostly current or former watermen, that serves as an entry point to aquaculture. The members can grow as few or as many as they like but still go fishing and crabbing on the bay.

These watermen, Travis said, have seen that farming helps sustain both the bay and their businesses. In the last decade, all the Chesapeake fisheries have become more tightly controlled, and law enforcement more persistent. Illegal fishing in protected waters, or at night, or out of season, was a low-risk income stream for generations of watermen. Now, it's far more difficult. This month, Maryland's Natural Resources Police scored its first conviction for oyster poaching based on evidence from a state-of-the-art surveillance system it shares with the Department of Homeland Security.

Under these conditions, the peaceful, lucrative life of the oyster farmer grows ever more attractive. ''Even the roughest, meanest water guys notice when their friend is driving a new truck,'' Travis said. ''Suddenly, they get interested.''

THE RYAN REPUBLICAN BUDGET: DANGEROUS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND DANGEROUS TO OUR SAFETY IN NATURAL DISASTERS

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the severely regressive Paul Ryan Budget Proposal, a radical and erosive bill that undermines our national security by slashing funding for essential emergency assistance and jeopardizes our preparedness and safety in natural disasters.

The Ryan Budget would be a fiscal wreck to high-growth states and states affected by natural disasters. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, states and local areas often depend on help from the Federal Government. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) helps people affected by the disaster get food, water, and shelter, and helps with search-and-rescue missions and providing electric power. FEMA also helps states and local governments repair or replace public facilities and infrastructure, which often is not insured.

Last year New York was completely devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Sandy's impact included the flooding of the New York City Subway system, many communities, the closure of all road tunnels entering Manhattan except the Lincoln Tunnel, and the closure of the New York Stock Exchange for two consecutive days. Thousands of homes and an estimated 250,000 vehicles were destroyed during the storm. Economic losses across New York were estimated to be at least $18 billion. In my district, it was nothing less than a miracle that the section of the Shore Parkway connecting Sheepshead Bay with Canarsie was not destroyed; which by coincidence, a National Park Service project had placed a huge amount of soil near the bridge, which effectively saved it.

The Federal Government's ability to respond to natural disasters, like Hurricane Sandy would be significantly hindered under Chairman RYAN's Budget Proposal and shift very substantial costs to states and localities forcing them to make do with less during difficult times of disaster.

House Republicans continue to push for devastating cuts that threaten the safety net designed to provide the most basic needs for millions of Americans at their most vulnerable time. It is for these reasons that I will vote ''no'' on this budget and I ask my colleagues to oppose this budget as well.

RECOGNIZING THE SAN JOAQUIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation as they celebrate their 100th year anniversary.

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation was formed in 1914; it began with 650 members and 14 Farm Centers. In 1919, the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation helped hold the County's first fair, located in Oak Park. By 1931, SJFB was the largest Farm Bureau in the United States with 2,301 members.

The SJFB soon outgrew their building and dedicated their new, larger building in 1938. During this time, their vision created structure. Subcommittees comprised of local farmers were established in every area of the county. They were charged with mapping out and organizing the sections. The idea behind the plan was to prevent sabotage and fires, provide information, develop a cooperative use of farm implements and labor, as well as to assist in any national food production plan.

During World War II, the Farm Bureau devoted a major part of war emergency to defense work.

The top 10 priority issues declared by the Farm Bureau in 1952 were: economy, good government, citizenship, schools and school costs, international trade, adequate labor, inflation, water, terminal market waste, and a better understanding of the relationship between the farm bureau and the consumer.

In the mid-1950s, there were many changes to the local politics and organizations. The Farm Bureau took a hard stance opposing a certain State Assembly bill relating to gun control, citing that it would drive firearms underground. During this time, the San Joaquin County Agri-Center was formed. A year later, the California Division of Water Resources was set up; it abolished several State boards and commissions. The Young People's Department was approved by the board, which served as the forerunner for the Young Farmers and Ranchers Program. Shortly after, two land use policies were passed. One addressed the protection of agricultural lands from annexation and another to prevent the use of top soil for road and other construction fills.

In the 1960s, the SJFB made changes to the Cow Testing Association and created the San Joaquin County Dairy Herd Improvement. Farm Bureau records and funds were turned over to the new cooperation. The SJFB took a hard stance in 1964 by opposing the Delta Peripheral Canal, which would have cut a large swath through some of the county's most valuable farm land. Toward the late 1960s, the County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution for the establishment of agricultural preserves for the county.

The current San Joaquin Farm Bureau Office was dedicated in 1972.

There were many changes during the 80s for the San Joaquin Farm Bureau. They reinforced the importance of the dairy industry to the county when the SJFB Board of Directors voted in sharp disagreement with the California Farm Bureau Federation when they asked for $.29 per hundred weight drop in Class One milk. In addition, the president of Zenith announced its purchase of CalFarm Insurance. The partnership between the Farm Bureau and CalFarm began to materialize.

The Immigration Reform Act of 1986 came through a joint effort by the agricultural interests of California and Congress. The Alien Legalization for Agriculture program was formed in 1987 as a result of immigration legislation that passed in Congress. The SJFB contracted with federal officials to provide local agriculture workers the ability to gain citizenship through the amnesty program that was granted at that time. Thousands of workers were able to utilize this program to become U.S. citizens. At the end of the process, excess funds were used to help start the SJFB Foundation for Agricultural Education.

In 1988, the Environmental Affairs Committee was formed and immediately set out to work on the Endangered Species Act, San Joaquin Air Basin Air Quality, and pesticide regulation and enforcement.

The 1990s brought the advent of many ''new town'' proposals, self-contained urban areas that would not become incorporated cities. Only one of these new town proposals, Mountain House, was supported by the San Joaquin Farm Bureau and remains an active, growing community in the county.

Efforts were made to create a rural crime task force under the Sheriffs Department to ensure adequate personnel would be allocated to counter crimes impacting agricultural operations. The SJFB initiated policy language at the State Farm Bureau Convention to prioritize metal theft, and to require recyclers to adhere to strict guidelines when accepting metal. Their efforts led to legislation that passed the California State Legislature the following year.

The 2000s enabled the SJFB to work with the county on what is now known as the Cabral Agricultural Center which houses the Agricultural Commissioner, U.C. Cooperative Extension, and the Office of Emergency Services.

San Joaquin Farm Bureau members and staff have advanced the concept of providing an ''Ag Venture'' program, which helps 13,000 3rd grade students from throughout the county attend one of three ''Ag Venture'' days. The program gives students the opportunity to learn more about where their food comes from and the benefits of eating local crops.

They have also advanced a ''Farmers Market'' program that educates 4th grade students in low income schools on the benefits of eating specialty crops that come from the region. At the end of the 4 session program, students are given the opportunity to purchase fresh produce for 10 cents each to bring home fruits and vegetables.

In the past two years, the SJFB was recognized by the American Farm Bureau Federation under their ''Counties Activities of Excellence'' program. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau's advocacy efforts, agricultural education, and safety training programs all have contributed to their being recognized under this program. The SJFB was selected as the County of the Year in 2013 by the California Farm Bureau Federation.

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau has accomplished a number of commendable things within the community. They have also maintained a county legislative committee that has worked with the State Legislature, and an economic committee that has made progress in enforcement of State realty laws. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau has also assisted the Federal Land Bank to provide funds to farmers, and have campaigned for reapportionment of the State Legislature. In addition to this, the SJFB has maintained a cow-testing association, sponsored 4H activities, cooperated with the extension service in educational programs, and have represented livestock men in demanding dog law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation for their significant contributions, not only to agriculture, but to the community, and the State of California. Congratulations on the past 100 years, and I wish you the best success in the years to come.

HONORING THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MID AMERICA BANK IN MISSOURI

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mid America Bank and recognize the contribution the institution has made to communities in Missouri during its 100 years of operation. Since April is Community Bank Month, it is fitting to celebrate the anniversary of one of Missouri's finest financial institutions. On April 27, 1914, this community bank was founded as the People's Bank of St. Thomas. It was then relocated to Meta, Missouri in 1951, where it operated as the sole location for 27 years and was renamed the Meta State Bank. In 1978, the name Mid America Bank was adopted as the bank grew and opened a second branch in Linn, Missouri. Mid America Bank has continued to expand and currently has five branches throughout the state that allow the people of Missouri access to the financial tools that provide stability and security in their daily life.

The longevity of Mid America Bank is not only a testament to its success and knowledge of the financial services industry, but also its commitment to our Missouri communities. Community banks such as Mid America Bank have a desire to help their customers improve their lives and realize their dreams, all while valuing the customer and respecting the vital role of relationship banking.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing all the employees of Mid America Bank our sincerest thanks and appreciation for their service to the men, women and families of Missouri. Congratulations on 100 years and best wishes for continued success in the next 100 years.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MARIA DE LA MILERA AND CONGRATULATING HER ON A WELL DESERVED RETIREMENT

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to celebrate the long and successful public service career of Maria De La Milera and congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement. Her commitment to our community and our nation is exemplary and we are all forever grateful for her service. With over 30 years of experience and countless accolades and accomplishments over such an expansive career, South Floridians are truly losing an invaluable member of the fabric of our community.

Maria was born in Holguin, Oriente, Cuba, the oldest of three daughters. After the brutal dictator Fidel Castro seized power, Maria came with her younger sister to the United States in the largest exodus of unaccompanied children from the regime—known as ''Pedro Pan.'' She then spent four years in a Los Angeles orphanage until her parents were finally able to join her in the United States.

As an adult, Maria moved to Miami and began her career helping our South Florida community through public service, working as a constituent service representative for Senator Richard Stone. She continued her career in the office of Senator Paula Hawkins, focusing primarily on immigration cases where she earned a reputation as a caring and compassionate advocate on behalf of all those needing a helping hand. Her commitment to others allowed her to positively shape the lives of many individuals.

Maria then spent a few years in the political realm as Executive Director of the Republican Party of Miami-Dade County, and then joined the government of Miami-Dade County, where she spent the last 23 years supporting our local residents. She has long been known for inspiring those around her, people who will undoubtedly carry on her legacy of professionalism and commitment. There is no greater reward than the satisfaction gained through serving others, and Maria embraced this most noble of endeavors with remarkable principle.

It is my distinct pleasure to join Maria's family; her children Beatriz Maria, Maritza Isabel and Raul De La Milera, Jr.; her grandchildren Michael, Mathew, Madison, Mark, Laenie and Rachel; as well as friends and peers as they honor her many accomplishments and outstanding career. Maria, thank you for your exceptional public service. I wish you only the best in any challenge you choose next to accept.

ON RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING OF SAINT JOSEPH MERCY OAKLAND HOSPITAL'S SOUTH PATIENT TOWER

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the opening of Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's South Patient Tower. The South Patient Tower is an eight-story, contemporary-styled facility that features 208 private, technologically integrated and enhanced patient care rooms, which provide ample space for the family and friends who we know are vital to the healing

process. This patient-centered and technologically advanced addition highlights this hospital's dedication to administering a high-quality health care experience to members of our community.

Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital is an award-winning facility that has provided expert and compassionate care to the citizens of the Pontiac area for more than 85 years. In that time the hospital has chosen to focus its efforts on quality, patient safety and cost-efficiency. In doing so it has become nationally recognized for the high level of care that it provides and as a leader in Cardiology, Critical Care, Women's Health and Orthopedics. The South Patient Tower builds on that tradition, and illustrates Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's longstanding commitment to providing the best care possible to the community.

This South Patient Tower is the culmination of the Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's ongoing commitment to medical excellence. A major feature of the tower is the deployment of the most advanced integrated medical technology, which will transform the future of health care. The Intelligent Care System technology that this facility will employ creates the most technologically advanced health environment in the country. In doing so, hospital staff will be empowered to bring a new level of responsive, proactive, collaborative and innovative care to the patients that they serve.

Additionally, Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital has chosen to invest in efforts to enhance every aspect of a patient's health care experience through their Healing Arts program. By recognizing that the physical environment is an integral part of the hospital experience, Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital has taken efforts to create a calming atmosphere and restorative environment for patients through the integration of intentional art, architecture and esthetic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly proud to celebrate and recognize the opening of Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's South Patient Tower. This institution is dedicated to putting patient care at the forefront of its mission and efforts, and by choosing to invest in the future of health care Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital continues its commitment to being an exceptional place to come for healing of body, mind and spirit.

RECOGNIZING BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS' WILSON, NORTH CAROLINA FACILITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bridgestone Americas, one of our nation's leading tire manufacturers, as it celebrates the 40th anniversary of its passenger and light truck tire plant in my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina.

I have represented the Wilson plant for nearly ten years and am reminded each time I pass it on my way to Washington, DC the impact it has had on the City of Wilson and Wilson and Edgecombe Counties, and indeed the state of North Carolina.

For 40 years, the Wilson plant has built a reputation for producing superior, high quality products that help protect drivers, passengers, and pedestrians in my state of North Carolina, across the country, and throughout the world.

The Wilson plant produced its first tire on March 1, 1974. Since then, Bridgestone Americas' Wilson plant has grown to be Wilson County's second largest employer and has provided good paying, stable jobs for thousands of people that call eastern North Carolina home.

Bridgestone Americas' Wilson facility is massive, spanning some 500 acres with two and a half million square feet of workspace. In January 2014, the plant received the highly sought and prestigious "Zero Waste to Landfill" certification by Underwriter Laboratories.

Bridgestone Americas is committed to environmental sustainability so much so that the men and women who work at the Wilson plant developed the land surrounding the facility into the Freedom Wildlife Habitat and Refuge. The area was certified as a "Corporate Lands for Learning and Wildlife at Work" site by the U.S. Wildlife Habitat Council. I am particularly proud of the Wilson employees who contributed their time and resources to make our region a better place to live and work.

Without question, Bridgestone Americas and their facility in Wilson, North Carolina have contributed greatly to our state and national economies. The Wilson plant is an integral part of our community and a great corporate partner for our region.

I am so pleased to recognize Bridgestone Americas' 40th year of manufacturing passenger and light truck tires in their Wilson facility and look forward to sharing in many more of their achievements.

HONORING BESS ENLOE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bess Enloe who was honored last night at the 2014 Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Art's benefit gala located at the Meyerson Symphony Center. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, Ms. Enloe currently chairs the Executive Board of the SMU Meadows School for the Arts and is a Life Trustee of the Dallas Theater Center. She is currently the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the AT&T Performing Arts Center, where she co-chairs the Development Committee. Previously, she chaired the Facilities Committee for the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre.

Ms. Enloe's contributions have enriched the Dallas-area's culture. The fine arts is a key component in improving learning throughout all academic areas. Evidence of its effectiveness in reducing student dropout, raising student attendance, developing better team players, enhancing student creativity, and producing a more prepared student for the workplace. In Congress, I have always advocated for sustained investments in the arts and humanities.

Ms. Enloe has been an energetic leader and supporter of many of Dallas' arts groups throughout the years and deserves to be commended for her contributions to the community. Over the years Ms. Enloe has been the recipient of several prestigious awards in recognition of her work, including the TACA Silver Cup Award in 1993, the TITAS Award for Excellence in 2007 and the Dallas Historical Society's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 2009. Mr. Speaker, our country is a better one because we have a Bess Enloe.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEBBI O'DONOHUE FOR HER THIRTY YEARS OF SUCCESS AND SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding small business headquartered in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, which I have the honor and privilege of serving. Awards & T-Shirts Specialists, Inc. is celebrating thirty years of successful business. Their founder and owner, Debbi O'Donohue, is the driving force behind this nationally recognized company.

As elected leaders, it is important for us to salute successful businesses such as Awards & T-Shirts Specialists, Inc. The entrepreneurial spirit of Debbi and her company is truly what makes our country great.

Their founder and owner, Debbi O'Donohue, started Awards & T-Shirts on March 3, 1984 as a trophy business in her parents' basement. It rapidly expanded three months later to offer screen-printed apparel and custom-made awards. Today, this company is the premier provider of American-made and union-decorated promotional products in the United States, having customers in all fifty states and Canada.

Debbi was a trailblazer in 1986 when Awards & T-Shirts Specialists signed their first union contract. She became the first female owned and operated contractor in the Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council. Specializing in serving the unions' niche and related companies and organizations, Awards & T-Shirts has continued to expand and enhance its high-quality American and union made products, outstanding service, and creative image designs over the past thirty years.

Awards & T-Shirts' impressive record of delivering proven results has elevated their company to become a national leader in the promotional marketing industry that is highly sought after for conferences, special events, golf tournaments, and workforce motivational programs.

The amazing thirty years of success of Awards & T-Shirts Specialists can be directly attributed to Debbi and her boundless energy

and captivating personality. She leads by example, inspiring dedication and determination in her staff.

It is one thing for a business to be successful; it is another milestone to achieve thirty years of success. Probably the greatest good is demonstrated by what a person gives back to the community. Debbi and Awards & T-Shirts have always demonstrated a commitment to supporting our community through sponsorship of youth sports teams, donations to community organizations, and a dedication to charitable giving by being the lead sponsor for the Annual Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Labor Day Softball Tournament and Bowl-A-Thon.

Awards & T-Shirts' 30th Anniversary Celebration on April 26th continued this dedication to giving back through a benefit for the Autism Society—The Heartland. It was my pleasure and honor to join Debbi, her family, and team along with customers from around the country for this worthy endeavor.

If the Speaker and my colleagues will indulge me, I would like to highlight one of my personal experiences with Debbi and her team. She and her dedicated staff came to the rescue of our Congressional Art Competition by producing the awards ribbons for the event at a moment's notice. As a woman owned business and a union signatory contractor that provides a full benefit package to their employees, Awards & T-Shirts Specialist, Inc. is a model for all small businesses in our country. The company's legacy is reflected in their customers, and I am proud to have benefitted from their outstanding craftsmanship, innovative and creative designs, and extraordinary dedication to the highest quality products.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me, as I am honored and proud to be saluting and applauding Debbi O'Donohue and Awards & T-Shirts Specialists, Inc. for thirty years of successful business.

RECOGNIZING THE ROUND LAKE AREA SCHOOLS 2014 FINE ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Round Lake Area Schools' commitment to quality education and the arts. The Round Lake Area Schools, located in the suburban Chicago district I represent, will host its first annual Fine Arts Extravaganza. This program will offer an area-wide exhibition of student artwork, highlighting the extraordinary talents of our young people.

Including visual and performing arts, dance, drama and music, the Fine Arts Extravaganza is a showcase for the creative and artistic expressions of Round Lake Area students. The school district includes more than 7,000 students attending five elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school.

The study and appreciation of the arts is a bedrock quality of an expansive, well-rounded education fostering independent thought and self-expression. Our children's future prospects, and the future of our communities, are enriched when we all understand and appreciate the arts.

In the student art competition that I host, I am consistently struck by the excellence and thoughtfulness of the submitted works, and I know that our community is filled with outstanding artists at every grade level. The 2014 Round Lake Area Schools Fine Arts Extravaganza offers another exciting opportunity to showcase much of that talent and cultivate a breeding ground for future artistic endeavors.

I am grateful for the Round Lake community's commitment to the arts and to student artists, and I am excited for many future Fine Arts Extravaganzas.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2014

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is Yom Ha'Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a day to commemorate the millions of Holocaust victims and heroes.

In the United States, Yom Ha'Shoah is observed with events in cities and states around the country. In the Los Angeles area, home to approximately 10,000 survivors, the Museum of the Holocaust held a Walk of Remembrance and a day of activities at its memorial in Pan Pacific Park.

In Washington, DC, Yom Ha'Shoah is commemorated as part of the Days of Remembrance sponsored by U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The theme of this year's event is, ''Confronting the Holocaust: American Responses.'' As we reflect on our country's action and inaction in the face of genocide, we study how to recognize extremism and respond before it is too late.

Holocaust Remembrance Day comes this year amidst recent acts of anti-Semitism, both at home and abroad. Earlier this month in Kansas City, three people were killed by a gunman in a tragic shooting outside of the Jewish Community Center.

In Ukraine, as the interim government attempts to return stability and democracy to its borders, we have seen groups exhibiting violence, intimidation and propaganda towards Ukrainian Jews. The international community's condemnation has been swift and unequivocal. Nevertheless, these incidents and others serve as a poignant reminder that our obligation to teach the history of the Holocaust and fight intolerance remains ongoing.

As Congress prepares to assemble for the Days of Remembrance memorial service, we rise today to honor the lives of the victims and heroes of the Holocaust. We pay tribute to them by proclaiming that the American response will forever be, ''Never again.''

HONORING THEODORE DAY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a small-town hero. After 20 years of exceptional service, Theodore Day has earned his Life Membership to the Gales Ferry Volunteer Fire Company.

Ted became a volunteer fire fighter with the department in 1994. Since then he has logged in 21,000 hours serving the residents of the village of Gales Ferry and the town of Ledyard, Connecticut. Ted has responded to over 1,700 emergencies, including fires, motor vehicle crashes and hazardous materials releases. His skills and sharp instincts have been an asset to the department, enabling Ted to save lives and minimize damage to property. His courage and dedication earned him the title of Fire Fighter of the Year for 2002 and 2003.

In 2007, Ted was named Deputy Fire Chief. A strong advocate for the Gales Ferry Volunteer Fire Company, Ted has applied for grants and relentlessly pursued all avenues to save the department money. In tight budget years, Ted was able to keep the fire company running smoothly without sacrificing public safety.

In addition to his work with the Gales Ferry Volunteer Fire Company, Ted Day is a dedicated husband to this wife Tiffany and father to their children, Mason and Lia. I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring Theodore Day for his dedication and outstanding service to the Gales Ferry Volunteer Fire Company and the community it serves.

RECOGNIZING THE FLORIDA CUSTOMS BROKERS AND FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Florida Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association (FCBF) on its successful 55th Annual Gala.

FCBF was founded in 1960 by several Miami brokers and forwarders. Since then, it has thrived as a positive forum for the interchange of ideas; a promoter greater industry knowledge and ideals; and a powerful advocate on behalf of brokers and forwarders.

From these humble beginnings, FCBF has grown into one of the most influential and active members of the Florida freight forwarding and customs brokerage community. FCBF's active and experienced volunteer professionals have been at the forefront of matters that directly affect their industry, encouraging the development of common sense international trade policies that can help our nation thrive and protect our fragile economic recovery. Its professionals are equally committed to fostering positive working relationships amongst the trade community and federal agencies, creating a healthier environment for

economic development and job creation in our state and our nation. Small business owners like customs brokers and forwarders are vital to our South Florida economy and it will be through their success that we will be able to realize true private sector jobs growth.

FCBF's annual gala celebrated over half a century of accomplishment and included the induction of John Ballestero of PortMiami, Lilly Cabrera of Lilly & Associates, Nelly Yunta of Customized Brokerage, Raymond Jones of Florida East Coast Railway, and Jorge Rodriguez into its hall of fame. FCBF was also proud to recognize the contributions of both Florida East Coast Railway and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Congratulations again to the Florida Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association on its recent gala and I wish all of its members continued success in the years to come.

STOP TARGETING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I voted on Thursday, April 10, in favor of H. Con. Res. 96, authored by Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN, because it is my belief that Congress has a responsibility to address our nation's fiscal crisis. This proposal is simply a way forward in the budgetary process so we can continue the debate about the financial challenges our country faces.

Like last year's proposal, the House budget plan for FY 2015 calls for significant reductions in discretionary spending, reduced taxes, and the full repeal of the President's costly health care reform law. It proposes a balanced budget in the next 10 years and recognizes that we can no longer ignore the trillions of dollars in mandatory spending on entitlement programs that almost completely consume our nation's budget.

This year's plan also asks Members of Congress to again lead by example by cutting their own pay, benefits, and office budgets in the quest to reduce our debt and put this nation on sound financial footing.

Further, the Ryan plan protects our nation's defense and security forces. I have repeatedly said that we must get serious about the national security threats that exist in this world and what is required of our forward presence and response forces.

Reality is that we live in a 15 aircraft carrier world. The United States Navy has 10 right now and the law says we have to have 11. We need 11 carriers in our Navy. These are mobile, sea based, warships that can sail around the globe to project power and protect our global trade and commerce.

This budget keeps 11 carriers in the fleet, giving the United States the flexibility and capabilities that are essential to the rebalance of our security posture toward the Asia Pacific, our enduring security commitments in the Middle East, and the need to respond to contingency operations around the globe.

Our nation has no greater asset than the folks who have served and are currently serving our nation, both military and civilian alike. Their dedication and service to our nation is unwavering and it is important that Congress provide the best equipment, training, and compensation so these men and women can meet their duties in full. The Ryan budget plan restores national security spending and helps our defense maintain its current strength.

These are all measures that I have and will continue to support; however, it is disappointing that this proposal, just as in past budget proposals, unfairly targets only one group of Americans for additional sacrifices: the civilian federal workforce. I have serious concerns that this resolution again forces federal employees to contribute more towards their retirement, which is the equivalent of a pay cut, and ends their defined benefit retirement plan for deficit reduction purposes.

America's First District is full of hardworking and dedicated citizens who serve the people of this nation every day, such as on the front lines of the War on Terror or in support roles for our military. Still others provide invaluable services at places such as VA hospitals, cancer and Alzheimer's research laboratories, and law enforcement agencies such as the FBI and DEA. And yet, federal civilian employees continue to see their pay cut and their benefits reduced on multiple occasions.

Federal employees have endured a pay freeze since 2010; furloughs due to sequestration; and, most recently, were required to not work because of indecision and political gamesmanship that resulted in a government shutdown for 16 days. Enough is enough.

I am fully ready and willing to enact deeper cuts to my own salary, benefits, and congressional operations, which are provisions included in this year's Ryan budget, but we must stop singling out federal employees simply because Congress continually fails to address the out-of-control spending.

There is no question that our nation must get its spending in order, and federal employees are certainly willing to do their part to help in this effort. Their daily contributions to their fellow citizens and to the cause of freedom are simply innumerable, and yet during deficit reduction debate over the last few years, federal employees have been asked to contribute much more than their fair share. Our federal civilian employees live a life of selfless service, and they deserve our appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I voted in support of the Ryan budget because it is Congress' constitutional duty to budget and appropriate. This budget proposal is a means for Congress to further discuss our country's fiscal challenges, but I am hopeful that deficit reduction efforts going forward will focus more realistically on addressing the true drivers of our debt, rather than targeting those who are trying simply to serve their nation every day.

HONORING THE GREELEY CHORALE

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greeley Chorale, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The Chorale, which originated in 1964 as a community chorus, performs a variety of choral masterpieces from classical to contemporary and sacred to secular. Since its inception, it has been led by several directors who have each worked diligently to garner international exposure and develop the talents of the group's 94 singers.

The Greeley Chorale has conducted eight international tours. In 1985, the Chorale completed a tour of Germany, the Netherlands, England, and Wales. Three years later, the Chorale was invited by the governments of the United States and Australia to sing at the opening ceremony of the World's Fair in Brisbane, Australia. In 1992, Greeley Chorale was selected as one of only three choirs to perform in the Vienna International Choral Festival, and during their 1996 tour of Scotland and England, the chorale performed the inaugural concert for the renovation of the Chapel Royale in Stirling Castle in Scotland. More recently, the Chorale has visited China, Italy, and Ireland. They performed a series of concerts in each country.

At home, the Greeley Chorale works to engage the community by providing citizens with the opportunity to experience the performance of choral masterpieces as both artists and patrons. The continued vision of the Chorale in promoting classical, innovative and educational opportunities is extremely valuable to this region and to all of Colorado. Please join me in congratulating the Chorale for its fifty years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cancer Support Community for their decade of service to the Greater Lehigh Valley area. Since 2004, this organization has provided support, hope, and a sense of control to 26,400 people struggling with cancer in seven counties, including Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties in Pennsylvania as well as Warren County in New Jersey.

The Cancer Support Community offers free programs, educational classes, and support groups to patients and their families as they undergo the difficult stages of this terrible disease. Through their works, the Cancer Support Community of the Greater Lehigh Valley ensures no one has to face cancer alone. I extend my personal gratitude to the members of the board of directors, staff, and volunteers for their invaluable service to patients and their families in these communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL JERSEY CLUB OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEGRO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. as its members gather to celebrate its 50th Annual Founders' Day. This milestone is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

The Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC) was established in 1964 by 18 local women in the business community and other professional fields. Since that time, the Central Jersey Club has continued to advance the mission of the NANBPWC to promote the interests of African American business and professional women while striving to improve the quality of life for its fellow citizens.

The 50 members of the Central Jersey Club represent and serve both Monmouth and Ocean Counties of New Jersey. They work to improve the social conditions of the community through volunteerism and community involvement. The Central Jersey Club provides resources to promote opportunities for local youth, through academic scholarships, mentoring and tutoring. In this endeavor, its members work closely with area schools, the Sisters Academy in Asbury Park and the Asbury Park location of the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County. The Central Jersey Club also serves as a member of Meridian Health's Partners in Health advisory committee for minority health and diversity issues.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating the Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. on its 50th anniversary. The Central Jersey Club has paved a successful path for its members and future generations of women in business and continues to provide outstanding service to its community.

HONORING JAY SHEETS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jay Sheets of Farmington, Missouri. Jay recently was a contestant on the NBC reality show, ''The Biggest Loser.'' Over the course of the 4-month competition, he lost an astonishing 114 pounds.

Jay was chosen out of more than 250,000 applicants for a spot on ''The Biggest Loser'' television series. He certainly made the most of his opportunity. By following a rigorous diet and workout plan, Jay went from 297 pounds to weighing a lean 183 pounds. Jay, the father of two, said his biggest goal was to show his kids to reach for every goal and dream. Undoubtedly, he accomplished this goal.

After finishing ''The Biggest Loser'', Jay teamed up with The Farmington Civic Center to sponsor a weight loss program called, ''Spring Into Fitness With Jay Sheets.'' The program has 113 registrants and focuses on promoting fitness in the community. Jay serves as a tremendous example of what hard work, dedication and a healthy lifestyle can accomplish. It is my privilege to recognize his accomplishments today before the House of Representatives.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the terrible tragedies that began on April 7, 1994, and endured for 100 days after, in which Hutu militias ordered the country's Hutu majority to exterminate the Tutsi ethnic group. Neighbors attacked neighbors, teachers killed students, and in mixed-ethnicity marriages, husbands handed over wives to be killed.

In total, 800,000 people, mostly ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus, died at the hands of Hutu extremists during a 100-day period. 10,000 victims were killed each day—7 per minute on average. To make matters even worse, hundreds of thousands of victims were infected with HIV as Hutu extremists used rape as a tool of violence. The terrible violence only ended when Tutsi rebel forces attacked and retook the country. Even now, the international tribunal created in the wake of these atrocities has delivered only 49 total convictions out of 95 indictments since 1995.

We must remember the victims of this horrific event in world history, honor those who survived the tragedy, and vow to never allow something like this to ever happen again.

We must look to the progress that Rwanda has made 20 years later. Life expectancy has almost doubled and economic growth continues to flourish and improve every year.

We can see hope in Rwanda now where before there was torment. To keep on this path of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to peace and work to actively eliminate violent extremism. This event will forever stand as a testament to the horror that can result when human beings give in to the dark side of their nature, and we must learn from this very tragic lesson in history so that it never happens again.

HONORING DALLAS AREA NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several of the best and brightest students in the Dallas area who have recently received National Merit Scholarships. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year. Less than 8,000 students are selected as finalists for this prestigious award.

I want to commend these students for their efforts. I also want to comment on the high quality education the students in these school districts and other schools like it are receiving, they can have the opportunity to live the American dream, to do anything they want to do, to go on to a great college or university of their choice, and to pursue any career path that sparks their interest.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to invest in education to help us out-educate, out-innovate, and out-build the rest of the world. We must identify ways to help improve schools like these that provide educational excellence to my community. We must not waver in our commitment to our children, their children, and the future of this country. With encouragement and support from their principals and teachers, the following students are achieving remarkable success:

ARLINGTON

Timberview High School—Justice I. Njoku, National Achievement NMSC Scholarship.

Summit High School—Ireoluwawamiwa Olagbami, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

Oakridge School—Olubunmi A. Solano, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

CARROLLTON

Hebron High School—Catherine D. Leigh, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

DALLAS

Richardson High School—Melody Iro, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

Talented and Gifted Magnet School at Townview—Miranda N. McClellan, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

DESOTO

Science and Engineering Magnet School at Townview—Wesley J. Runnels, Honorary Achievement Scholarship.

FORT WORTH

Paschal High School—Ihoma C. Owhonda, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

FRISCO

Hockaday School—Dominique Danielle Cooper, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

Heritage High School—Ivie Imhonde, National Achievement Walgreen Co. Scholarship.

Centennial High School—Devon Olivia Lewis, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

GARLAND

Garland High School—Keshawn M. Ivory, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

PLANO

Plano West Senior High—Bradley George Hamilton, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

Plano East Senior High—Michael O. Oluwole, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

RICHARDSON

Richardson High School—Nanette N. Elufa, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

ROWLETT

North Garland High School—Olatunde A. Badejo, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF TONY COELHO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Tony Coelho. Tony, a former U.S. Congressman, has led a life devoted to public service, and he deserves to be commended for all of his efforts in making the Central Valley as well as our nation a better place.

Tony was born and raised in Merced County. He grew up in a Portuguese immigrant family and learned the value of hard work helping on his family's dairy farm. Obtaining a college education was a priority for Tony, so he moved to Southern California to attend Loyola University of Los Angeles. In 1964, he graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree. He hoped to study for the priesthood, but his plans were interrupted when he was diagnosed with epilepsy, and canon law in the Catholic Church precluded anyone with epilepsy from entering the priesthood. He ultimately found a new ministry—public service—and it took him to Washington, DC.

Tony served as a staff member for Congressman Bernie Sisk for 13 years, ultimately becoming his Chief of Staff. As staff, Tony honed his political skills and his knowledge of water and agricultural issues in the Central Valley. When Congressman Sisk announced his retirement, Tony ran to succeed him and won the seat in 1978.

After serving just one term in office, in 1981, Tony was selected to be chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee whose main job was to help get Democrats elected to Congress. He professionalized the campaign committee raising more money than had ever been raised before from traditionally Republican interests as well as Democratic interests to support worthy Democratic candidates. He also developed the permanent infrastructure comprised of pollsters, speechwriters, and fundraising staff to enable Democrats to be competitive in races. Due to his success, in 1986, Tony was the first-elected House Majority Whip, third in line to the House Speakership. As Majority Whip, Tony secured the votes needed to pass the Democratic legislative agenda.

One of Tony's greatest accomplishments in Congress was serving as the primary sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This legislation has provided people with disabilities equal access to employment, public facilities, and transportation and has made it possible for them to become a full participating member of society. Since the passage of the law in 1990, millions of Americans have found employment that had previously known only discrimination. It is considered the most important piece of civil rights legislation in the past 30 years.

Although Tony resigned from Congress in 1989, he continued to dedicate time to public service and has remained deeply committed to his work in the disabilities movement. For many years, Tony has worked closely with the Epilepsy Foundation of America, serving as a national spokesperson, Board President, and fundraiser. He was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, and Vice Chair of the National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities as well as Co-Chair to the U.S. Census Monitoring Board. Tony also served as the U.S. Commissioner General to the 1998 World Exposition in Lisbon, Portugal.

Tony also has stayed very active politically. In 2000, he served as chairman of the Gore presidential campaign and continues to serve as an informal adviser to numerous Members of Congress and elected officials at all levels of government.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize a mentor and friend to many of us, Tony Coelho. He has made a lasting difference in our nation, and we must thank him for his unwavering commitment and service.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the City of Stuart, Florida, which I am so proud to have located in my Congressional District.

The City of Stuart, with its ideal location bordering the St. Lucie River and West of the Indian River, has long been a key destination for those looking to connect with the water, whether through fishing, boating, or other activities. Famed for its Sailfishing and other types of sport fishing, Stuart is known as the ''Sailfish Capital of the World.'' The city offers a scenic and historic downtown, with museums, live music, and numerous dining and shopping options.

For the past 100 years, the City of Stuart has worked to promote and advance the interests and well-being of its residents and of the environment. Stuart has played a leading role in protecting and restoring local waterways from pollution, understanding that this issue impacts the community's entire way of life. Stuart's water treatment facility has received numerous awards for its efforts and dedication to protecting our waters, including the Operations Excellence Award from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Medium Public Water System of the Year award from the Florida Rural Water Association.

I am incredibly honored to represent the City of Stuart in Congress. This is a city whose beauty is paralleled only by the work ethic and dedication of its people, creating jobs and boosting economic growth. This is a city that knows the importance of protecting our environment, and is working to preserve it for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate the City of Stuart on their centennial anniversary, and I wish them many more milestones to celebrate.

THE DALLES READINESS CENTER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take the opportunity to recognize the newly completed Fort Dalles Readiness Center in The Dalles, Oregon. For the past 15 years, the Oregon Military Department, Columbia Gorge Community College, The Dalles Outreach Team, and other local, state, and federal officials have worked tirelessly to bring this innovative project to life. The Readiness Center will be home to the Oregon National Guard's Alpha Company, 3–116 Cavalry and replaces the original unit armory built in 1951. What makes this building so unique is its dual-use capability and its state-of-the-art construction. Situated on the campus of the Columbia Gorge Community College, the Readiness Center complex will host not only the unit's 150 soldiers during regular monthly drills, but also share a large portion of its nearly 63,000 square foot space with the college for use as a lecture hall and workforce training center for students, and flexible rental space for the community at large. The Readiness Center is likely the first armory in the country to achieve ''net zero'' energy consumption, meaning it will produce as much energy on site as it uses, and will serve as an example of efficiency for Oregon Military Department's future armory projects. The building's solar panels, sod roof, and geo-thermal heat pump system also will serve as a working classroom for the college's Renewable Energy Program.

I would be remiss to not point out the Center's special relationship with Columbia Gorge Community College. Throughout his tenure as college president, Dr. Frank Toda, a 30-year veteran of the Air Force, has maintained his commitment to his fellow veterans and the local citizen-soldiers of the Oregon National Guard. This dedication was reflected in Columbia Gorge Community College being recognized as among the top fifteen percent of schools nationwide in helping returning veterans acquire needed job skills.

The Fort Dalles Readiness Center will be officially dedicated to the public on April 17, 2014. While I cannot be there to help the community celebrate its success, I believe it fitting to recognize the years of hard work and steadfast devotion by all of those involved.

OPPOSE THE PAUL RYAN BUDGET

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in opposition to the severely regressive Paul Ryan Budget Proposal a ''slash and burden'' bill written on the backs of programs and tax cuts that grievously affect low-income and middle-class Americans.

The Ryan plan proposes a pathway to American prosperity by attempting to balance our nation's budget through vicious cuts to programs that working people rely on, paired with cuts to taxes for the wealthy. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, sixty-nine percent of RYAN's cuts would come from low-income programs while the richest one percent of Americans would enjoy nearly a fifty percent tax cut.

One of the many low-income programs that would feel the sharp effects of the Ryan Budget proposal is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also referred to as SNAP. SNAP funding would be cut by $137 billion over 10 years effectively starving millions of families and children and furthering the economic instability of Americans.

These cuts would force states to decide whose benefits to reduce or terminate. They would have no good choices; the program already provides an average of $1.40 per person per meal primarily to poor children, working-poor parents, seniors, people with disabilities, and others struggling to make ends meet.

These proposed cuts rest on inaccurate claims about how the SNAP program discourages work and encourages waste, fraud, and abuse. Chairman RYAN claims that SNAP doesn't encourage recipients to work. Yet, among SNAP households with at least one working-age, non-disabled adult, more than half work while receiving SNAP and more than eighty percent worked in the year prior to or the year after receiving SNAP. The rates are even higher for families with children; more than sixty percent work while receiving SNAP, and almost ninety percent worked in the prior or subsequent year.

Chairman RYAN and House Republicans continue to push for devastating cuts that virtually eliminate assistance for millions of low-income Americans, instead of working to help lift them out of poverty and away from government assistance by refusing something as fair and practical as raising the minimum wage.

The Ryan budget threatens the most basic needs of millions of Americans already struggling to make ends meet. It significantly increases hunger, poverty and hardship. It is for these reasons that I will vote NO on this budget and I ask my colleagues to oppose this budget with me.

RECOGNIZING THE PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS AS 2013–14 SOUTHERN PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE PRESIDENT'S CUP CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pensacola Ice Flyers on winning their second consecutive Southern Professional Hockey League President's Cup Championship. This outstanding achievement is evidence of the hard work and dedication of the entire Ice Flyers' organization.

Northwest Florida has a long and storied history as the ''Cradle of Naval Aviation,'' and the Ice Flyers name was chosen to honor this legacy. Since joining the Southern Professional Hockey League in 2009, the Ice Flyers have been consistent contenders—reaching three straight President's Cup Championship finals and bringing two championships home to Pensacola.

This season, the Ice Flyers experienced unparalleled success, also winning the Coffey Trophy as the league's best regular season team. En route to these titles, the Ice Flyers set several Southern Professional Hockey League records, including the most wins, most points, highest winning percentage, most road wins, fewest regulation losses, and longest road winning streak. The Ice Flyers boasted the league's best offense, scoring more than 200 goals, while also allowing the fewest goals in the league. The Ice Flyers regular season was so outstanding that they posted a better regular season record on the road than any other team in the league had on home ice.

The Ice Flyers did not allow their regular season dominance to engender complacency, and when the playoffs began, the Ice Flyers raised their game to another level. The team averaged four goals per game while giving up just over one, and the deeper that they went into the postseason, the better the Ice Flyers performed. They posted an impressive 6–1 postseason mark, setting the playoff record for the highest road winning percentage. The Ice Flyers, however, proved to be truly clutch performers, saving the best for the President's Cup Championship, where they set the playoff record for most goals in one game, most goals in one series, and largest winning margin.

In addition to their tremendous success on the ice, the Ice Flyers fans also proved that they are the most dedicated fan base in the Southern Professional Hockey League. The team shattered the league's attendance record, with more than 114,000 fans attending games at the Pensacola Bay Center, and three busloads of fans made the trip to watch the Ice Flyers defeat the Columbus Cottonmouths to clinch their second straight President's Cup Championship.

On behalf of the United States Congress, it is my privilege to congratulate the Ice Flyers players—Ryan Salvis, Steve Bergin, Shaun Arvai, Brett Lutes, Ross MacKinnon, Malcolm Lyles, Tyler Amburgey, Drew Baker, Keegan Flaherty, Paul Rodrigues, Joshua Turnbull, Mitchell Good, Steve Whitely, Joe Caveney, Adam Pawlick, Corey Banfield, Peter Di Salvo, John Dunbar, Jeremy Gates, and Joe Bueltel—and their staff of Majority Owner Greg Harris, Head Coach Rod Aldoff, President Chuck McCartney, Group Sales Manager Patrick Casey, Merchandise Manager Josh Kersh, Communications Manager Geoff Nichols, Director of Ticketing Tom Reading, Manager of Corporate Partnerships and Fan Experience Brittany Tindell, Athletic Trainer Jen Lorenzo, and Equipment Manager Mark Bradtmueller on a fantastic season and another championship success. My wife Vicki and I are proud to have the Ice Flyers call Pensacola home and to honor our long and proud history as the Cradle of Naval Aviation with their name, and we wish them continued success and many more championships to come.

COLONEL GEORGE MCDOWELL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to live to be 100 years old is in and of itself a remarkable accomplishment. But, to do what Colonel George McDowell has done in his life is truly impressive. His patriotic legacy of military service is one of the best examples of a founding member of the Greatest Generation.

Born in Detroit, Texas on August 27, 1913, McDowell grew up like most rural Texas children. At the age of 17, he enrolled in North Texas Agricultural College (now the University of Texas at Arlington). In the 1930s, this college served primarily as a military academy. In less than two years, McDowell graduated and decided to attend a third year to command D Company. This decision proved to be life-changing: in 1933, he earned a competitive appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point where he eventually served as president of his class. He graduated four years later, in 1937, as a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery.

McDowell started his military career at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in the 18th Field Artillery, a horse-drawn artillery unit. There, he trained with new long range guns, participated in the development of bomb handling equipment and worked with specialized vehicles that would be used during World War II. He learned the fundamentals of how to support the U.S. Infantry with close fire support.

In Oklahoma, McDowell's friend from West Point, Lt. William Westmoreland (Class of 1936), later the Vietnam Commander, set him up on a blind date with Rae Woods. Rae, an Army ''brat'' of an Artillery Officer also stationed at Fort Sill, would soon become Mrs. McDowell.

Two years later, with the mechanization of the Army, McDowell was transferred to the Ordnance Department for duty with the Air Corps. He attended the Aviation Ordnance School at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland and at Langley Field in Virginia. There, he served as an instructor and participated in developing bomb-handling equipment and specialized vehicles that were used in World War II.

With the Germans invading across Europe and the Japanese seeking to gain ground in Asia, the U.S. Army and Air Corps were expanding quickly. Under this expansion, McDowell was assigned positions as Ordnance Officer at Bowman Field, Kentucky, Ireland Task Force, New Orleans Air Base and at Birmingham Air Base in Alabama as Ordnance Officer, Third Support Command.

By the summer of 1942, McDowell was ordered to Washington, D.C. to serve in the redesignated 12th Air Support Command of the Western Task Force to prepare for the North African campaign under the command of General Patton. McDowell was in charge of logistical planning, including movement of units and equipment, in the invasion of French Morocco called Operation Torch.

General Patton and his troops, along with McDowell, arrived in Morocco at the port of Casablanca aboard the USS *Augusta* in the fall of 1942. Within three days, Casablanca fell, providing the U.S. a strong military port. This Campaign built up the power of the U.S. Armed Forces leading into World War II by eventually pushing the German forces out of North Africa.

McDowell then spent two years overseas in North Africa and Italy. There he was responsible for the logistics for arms and equipment necessary for both the Royal Air Force and the U.S. Tactical Air Support for the Fifth and Eighth Army Operations. In 1944, two years after deploying, McDowell was assigned to the War Department general staff where he was responsible for standardizing and approving procurement of newly developed small arms, ammunition, and specialized vehicles for the Army and Air Corps units.

Upon returning home from World War II, part of America's Greatest Generation, McDowell wanted to do more with his life. He took his experience and knowledge from West Point and his military service and enrolled at Harvard Business School where he earned an MBA degree in 1948. After Harvard, McDowell was then transferred from the Army to the Air Force, and he served at the Air Force's Headquarters at the Pentagon and at Wright Patterson Air Force Base from 1948–1955. He signed the procurement order and oversaw the installment of the first four UNIVAC computers for the Air Force, the Navy, the Bureau of Census, and Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

McDowell then studied for one year at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and was reassigned from 1958–1960 to the Air Force's ballistic missile program, first in California and then as a project officer and commander of the Thor Missile Force in England. In England, McDowell contributed to training the Royal Air Force crews, who manned the Thor Missile Force of 60 missiles with atomic warheads—a mission that helped counter the Soviet Union's missile threats. He was later assigned to the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Weapons System Evaluation Group.

In 1961, Colonel McDowell retired from the Air Force and a 24 year career as a commissioned officer in both the Army and Air Force. For his distinguished service, Colonel McDowell received the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

After retirement, McDowell moved home to Houston, Texas with his wife, Rae. There, he became a successful real estate entrepreneur and formed Clark McDowell & Kic, Inc., which has grown to become one of the leading residential property management firms in the Houston area. He and his wife, Rae, raised two children in Houston—Larry and Linda. Regrettably, in 2006, his wife, Rae, passed away at the age of 90. They were married for 70 years.

After an admirable career in the military and a successful business, Colonel McDowell still wanted to give back: he served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Houston Continuing Education School for nine years, as the first president of the Houston Chapter of the Military Officers Association of North America and as president of the West Point Society of Greater Houston. True patriot and citizen, Colonel McDowell has also served on three grand juries. Colonel McDowell is currently the fifth oldest living graduate of West Point.

Our nation is indebted to Colonel McDowell for his service, and our local community is privileged and grateful to call him a fellow Houstonian and hero. At 100 years old, he continues the good fight. It is with great pleasure that I recognize and honor Colonel George McDowell, for his service to our country and for continuing to give back to our community through a lifetime of service. Without his service, we would not be the greatest country the world has ever known.

George McDowell's 7 Rules to Live By:

Rule 1: Stay Mentally Challenged Every Day

Rule 2: After age 70, associate only with younger people

Rule 3: Forget any rocking chair concept of retirement—stay active, exercise, walk

Rule 4: Get at least 7 hours' sleep each night

Rule 5: Schedule an hour's nap each afternoon

Rule 6: On getting up from a nap, mix a good bourbon Old Fashioned to drink before dinner

Rule 7: When leaving the doctor's office, if he does not shout ''whatever you are doing, keep doing it'', get a new doctor and a second opinion

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE ACTIVISM OF WOMEN'S FAST FOR FAMILIES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous actions taken throughout March and April by women participating in the Women's Fast for Families. Representatives of this group held a series of events on the National Mall earlier this month, marking the end of their month long campaign to raise awareness about the need for comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the needs and includes the voices of women and families.

Beginning on International Women's Day, over 1,200 women across the country engaged in a series of 24-hour fasts to raise awareness about and push for change related to these important issues. In early April, over 100 of these women were present on the National Mall here in Washington, D.C., to end their campaign with a 48-hour fast.

I had the privilege of meeting with several of these fasters on the National Mall during their fast, and I was inspired by each and every woman I had the privilege of speaking with. I believe that their devotion to the cause of meaningful immigration reform that treats women and families fairly will keep this issue moving forward until we are able to pass a comprehensive solution into law.

I would like to thank each and every one of them for taking a stand and working to make the change that they believe in a reality.

COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of ''Yom HaShoah'' or the day commemorating the victims of the Holocaust.

The six million Jewish victims and the millions of others who perished during those dark and horrible days will never be forgotten.

The Jewish community and individuals across the world have committed themselves to the memories of those lost but also to the strength of those who survived.

As we mark another Holocaust Remembrance Day, and more time passes since those unspeakable atrocities were committed, we should never forget the precursors, context and attitudes that allowed such crimes to be committed.

Never again will peoples of free, liberal, open democracies stand idly by and watch an aggressor perpetrate crimes against humanity.

Today, we remember those that rose up and overcame and I stand with them.

RECOGNIZING KNIT WITS II

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, because volunteers are essential to our community and institutions as they go about helping people in need, congratulations to the Knit Wits from Ann's Choice in Bucks County for donating their skills and time to the cause of our wounded veterans. Since early this year, the members have created more than 140 hand-knit stockings for military veterans, specifically those injured in combat and now recuperating at Walter Reed Medical Center, where I had the privilege of meeting some of the soldiers and heard their strong message of hope and confidence. Together, the volunteers have

made the stocking gifts in all patterns and sizes and generously donated them to the hospitalized soldiers. Thanks to all involved in this worthy cause for recognizing the contribution and sacrifice of our veterans in this way. The gift of love that goes into this particular project has not gone unnoticed by the families and friends of the most deserving young men and women. And in the course of this ongoing project, the small and faithful group of knitters has set an example for others to follow.

RECOGNIZING FRANK M. KALDER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Frank M. Kalder on the occasion of his retirement, having served for nearly 15 years as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). In total he provided nearly 31 years of distinguished service to our country.

Mr. Kalder began his career in federal service in 1983 as a budget examiner with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the Presidential Management Intern program. After OMB, he helped establish the newly created Office of National Drug Control Policy in 1989. Mr. Kalder went on to serve in important management positions with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Justice Management Division and Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys.

For the past 15 years, he has served as DEA's CFO, where he has been the recipient of three Presidential Rank Awards. My subcommittee has had the pleasure of working with Frank in this capacity and can attest to his hard work in communicating DEA's budget needs to ensure the agents have the necessary resources to continue their fight against drug trafficking in this country and the rest of the world.

During his time at DEA, Frank ushered in countless improvements and reforms to DEA's financial management practices. Not only was he instrumental in leading the implementation of two updated financial systems, but he also ensured that DEA had a clean financial audit year after year. Because of his efforts, DEA was able to avoid employee furloughs during the recent budget sequester through an innovative rethinking of how DEA allocates funds internally—a process known as zero based budgeting. Frank has served as an inspiration to those who have had the privilege to work for and with him during his tenure.

Frank's contributions also extend beyond his role as CFO at DEA. He is an active member of his church, where he has served in various leadership roles throughout the years. He is also an adjunct professor at Northern Virginia Community College, educating future leaders for careers in public service

Mr. Speaker, Frank Kalder has left a tangible, lasting imprint on financial management at the DEA and was a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. He will be remembered for his many contributions to DEA's outstanding reputation in the federal financial management community. I wish Frank, his wife Stacy and their family continued success as he enters this next stage of his life, and I ask my colleagues to join us in expressing our appreciation for his tremendous contributions to federal service, our Nation and the Northern Virginia community.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the City of Milton Fire Department. For 100 years, the Milton Fire Department has served the local community and its citizens, and I am proud to have such a first-class fire department in Florida's First Congressional District.

The City of Milton Fire Department traces its roots back to April 21, 1914, when, following the third of a series of devastating fires that destroyed downtown Milton, the Town Council decided to establish the Milton Volunteer Fire Department. The town ordered three hand-drawn hose reels and 1,500 feet of hose, nozzles and wrenches for the new fire department, and a group of local citizens signed up as the first firefighters in Milton. Although they were an all-volunteer fire department, the residents of Milton were dedicated to providing state-of-the-art firefighting equipment, and to help carry out the department's mission, Milton purchased a 1914 American La France Chemical Engine on a Ford Chassis, which was the first automobile fire truck in all of Northwest Florida. The Milton Volunteer Fire Department served the Town of Milton and surrounding areas for 13 years at their original location on Grace (now Caroline) Street before moving in 1927 to Milton's newly constructed Town Hall on the corner of Berryhill and Broad Streets.

In 1954, the department began the shift towards a professional firefighting department when it hired a ''Nighttime Firefighter'' and a ''Weekend Firefighter.'' The department became a 24 hour firefighting operation in 1960 when they hired a ''Daytime Firefighter.'' With these changes, the department moved to a new fire station at Susan (now Bruner) and Berryhill Streets in 1962, and by 1965, the department had grown further, establishing two full-time firefighting shifts. A third full-time shift was created in 1974, and the City of Milton Fire Department has grown today to a full-time force consisting of 16 career members, including the Fire Chief and three shifts of a Captain, Lieutenant, and three Firefighters to provide fire suppression, emergency medical response, fire prevention and public fire safety education to the citizens of Milton.

On September 11, 2009, the City of Milton Fire Department began operating from its modern facility located at 5321 Stewart Street. The department currently operates with three pumpers, a midi-pumper rescue vehicle, two staff vehicles, and a rescue boat, and thanks to the hard work and dedication of the personnel, the fire department consistently exceeds national safety standards, while upholding their core values of Respect, Integrity, Accountability, Responsibility, and Professionalism. Today, the department boasts more than 165 combined years of firefighting experience with an impressive average response time of less than four minutes. Whether they are fighting fires or providing excellent first-response medical care, the residents of Milton all rest well knowing that the City of Milton Fire Department always stands ready in their hour of need.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to recognize the 100th anniversary of the City of Milton Fire Department. All of the residents served by the department are thankful for their exceptional service to our community. My wife Vicki and I wish them all the best as they continue to serve Northwest Florida for the next hundred years and beyond.

REMEMBERING WORKERS WHO WERE KILLED OR INJURED ON THE JOB

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today—the 25th observance of Workers' Memorial Day—in memory of the thousands of men and women, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers who got up one morning, got dressed, kissed their loved ones goodbye, and never returned home.

We owe those workers—the pillars of our modern economy—and their families more than mere remembrance. We owe them more than just our thoughts, prayers, and sympathies. We owe them something that is far too rare in this town: we owe them action.

Anyone who remembers the history of workplace safety would tell you that the problem has improved since the labor movement first coalesced around safer workplaces. In 1970, their hard work finally paid off. Congress came together—Democrat and Republican—to pass the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Even then we did not see eye to eye on this issue; the process was long and fraught with setbacks. However, we knew that 13,800 workplace fatalities every year—18 for every 100,000 workers—was something we could not in good conscience allow.

We knew that we could not sit idly by while so many died—so we put aside differences, worked together, and saved the lives of thousands of Americans, and protected the health and well-being of millions more. We cut workplace fatalities, from 18 out of every 100,000 employees to 4 out of 100,000. We cut total yearly workplace fatalities, from over 13,000 to almost 4,000, despite massive growth in the size of the total national workforce. We did what Congress is supposed to do: pass legislation that improves peoples' lives.

However, with time and neglect the vitality of our workplace safety protections has waned. Enforcement actions are rarely undertaken. Our criminal penalties are paper tigers. Civil penalties have been flat since before the

Clinton administration, after being raised only once since 1970. It would take hundreds of years to inspect all our workplaces at current funding levels. We have failed to act, and our failures are measured in lost lives and wrecked bodies.

We spend too much time debating whether employers can risk their workers' lives without consequence. We spend too much time arguing about the cost of regulation—when the median penalty for killing a worker is only $5,175.

Today, I hope my colleagues will remember that a human life is worth more than that. I urge my colleagues to consider the multiple pieces of legislation that would enhance workplace safety protections introduced this Congress. We should start with the Protecting America's Workers Act, which would strengthen the penalties for workplace safety violations, index them for inflation, and provide for additional penalties for the most callous violators.

The time has come to address the shortcomings in our workplace safety system. The time has come to ensure that more fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters return home to the people they love.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2014

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity on Holocaust Remembrance Day to pay a solemn tribute to the six million Jewish victims and millions of other victims who perished during the Holocaust. As we pledge to ''never forget'' the Holocaust, we must also pledge to do more to ensure that the world never again allows the conditions to arise that contributed to this horrific era in history. As the representative of a Congressional District in the New York City area, I have heard the stories of those lost in the Holocaust and I have also heard stories of survival and heroism. Holocaust Remembrance Day is a time to stop and remember those lost and salute those who stood up to the Nazis. I thank my colleague from Illinois, BRAD SCHNEIDER, for taking this Special Order for Members of Congress to make official statements on this important day.

There are those who deny the facts and the lessons of the Holocaust. The nations of the world and the people of those nations must continue to keep the memory of those dark days alive. Unfortunately, genocide did not end in 1945 and we have seen many examples of crimes against humanity in the years since the end of World War II. Tolerance is a value that must be learned by each generation. The United States must continually commit itself to leading the world in the fight against intolerance and oppression of people because of their religious beliefs, their ethnic heritage, or their race.

Today the Holocaust will be remembered throughout this country with events at schools, workplaces, churches, synagogues, and museums. In Israel, where many Holocaust survivors settled after the war, Yom Hashoah is noted with a two-minute sounding of sirens, religious services, and flags flown at half-staff in tribute to those who were murdered by the Nazis.

Mr. Speaker, although the horrors of the Holocaust are slipping from current memory, the lessons are clearer than ever. I am hopeful that with teaching through our schools, churches, synagogues, and museums, we can prevent future genocides and ingrain tolerance in our culture and around the world. Teaching the lessons of the Holocaust is a task we take on to honor the millions killed during World War II. ''Never forget'' and ''never again'' are not just words, but a solemn vow to do all we can to educate our children about the horrors of the Holocaust. I urge all Americans to take a moment on this Holocaust Remembrance Day to honor the victims of the Holocaust.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on April 9 and 10, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending to representational activities in my congressional district, including attendance at the memorial services for the victims of the tragic shooting at Fort Hood, and thus unable to return in time for rollcall votes 171 through 177.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 171 I would have voted ''no'' (April 9) (H. Con. Res. 96, Mulvaney of South Carolina Substitute Amendment No. 1).

2. On rollcall No. 172 I would have voted ''yes'' (April 9) (H. Con. Res. 96, Congressional Black Caucus Budget (Rep. Moore of Wisconsin Substitute Amendment No. 2).

3. On rollcall No. 173 I would have voted ''yes'' (April 9) (H. Con. Res. 96, Progressive Caucus Budget (Grijalva of Arizona Substitute Amendment No. 3).

4. On rollcall No. 174 I would have voted ''no'' (April 9) (H.R. 4414, Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014).

5. On rollcall No. 175 I would have voted ''no'' (April 10) (H. Con. Res. 96, Woodall of Georgia Substitute Amendment No. 4).

6. On rollcall No. 176 I would have voted ''yes'' (April 10) (H. Con. Res. 96, Democratic Alternative Budget (Rep. Van Hollen—Budget)).

7. On rollcall No. 177 I would have voted ''no'' (April 10) (H. Con. Res. 96, Republican Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Resolution (Rep. Ryan—Budget)).

RECOGNIZING YOM HASHOAH—HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Yom HaShoah—Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Almost 70 years ago, the worst genocide in modern human history was exposed to the entire world and the murder of six million Jews and other political, religious, and social minorities was forever seared into the collective memory of humankind. In the face of such an unimaginable tragedy, many individuals, including myself, have vowed to not only never allow something so heinous to occur again—we promised to never let the spirit of those victims fade from our hearts and from our minds.

It is in that vein that I have personally and professionally dedicated myself to issues such as providing Holocaust survivors with adequate financial and social services so that they may live in dignity, the dignity that was stolen from them decades ago. As a Jew, a policymaker, and a representative of one of the largest survivor populations in the United States, I have undertaken such issues with pride and humility.

This week is a particularly moving one as we engage in the National Remembrance Days here at the U.S. Capitol, and look forward to the planting of a sapling from the horse chestnut tree that was visible to Anne Frank and about which she wrote so poignantly in her diary while in hiding. Such a meaningful ceremony is particularly fitting in light of this year's Remembrance Days theme: Confronting the Holocaust: American Responses. What better way to further our American response than by planting a sapling that inspired her during her darkest days at the seat of our democracy? The tree will remind Members, staff, and the millions of annual visitors to the Capitol that life, liberty, and freedom from persecution are enduring ideals of our common humanity that we will never cease fighting for and protecting.

2014 VICTIMS' RIGHTS CAUCUS AWARDS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 30th Anniversary of the passage of the Crime Victims' Rights Act, and we celebrated that great achievement during National Crime Victims' Rights Week with our 2014 Victims' Rights Caucus Awards. We honored 6 amazing individuals and organizations who are changing the lives of victims of crime.

Fellow Houstonian Sheriff Adrian Garcia of Harris County, Texas, received the Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Award for Public Awareness. For the past 6 years, Sheriff Garcia has headed the largest sheriff's department in the

state of Texas and the third largest department in the nation. He has been on the forefront of using social media to help fight crime. His department has created an app that allows residents to report crime immediately and anonymously, if necessary. This has been especially beneficial in the fight against human trafficking. Sheriff Garcia has made cracking down on human trafficking a top priority within his department. Under his leadership, the Sheriff's Department works hard to close illegitimate businesses and to arrest those exploiting the vulnerable. The impact of Sheriff Garcia's work is far reaching. He truly is a hero whose efforts are felt in our community and homes each and every day.

Congressman SCOTT PERRY honored Mrs. Jane Tucker, the co-founder of ACCESS York with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award. As a survivor, Jane Tucker knew more services were needed for victims in York, Pennsylvania, so together with likeminded individuals, ACCESS-York was created. ACCESS-York is a program for victims of domestic violence that continues to provide free and confidential emergency shelter, transitional housing, medical and legal advocacy, individual and group counseling, life skills training, and a 24-hour hotline for all victims seeking help. Ms. Tucker has served ACCESS-York for thirty years, and continues to volunteer to this day. She has used her story and her work with other victims to advocate on behalf of programming for domestic violence survivors.

Congressman JOHN LEWIS honored Ms. Jessalyn Dorsey, Victims' Advocate at The Crime Victims Advocacy Council (CVAC) with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award. In 1999, Ms. Dorsey's only son Terrence Green was shot and killed by teens after a neighborhood party. She was devastated by the crime and eventually attended CVAC's support group for homicide survivors. As she began to heal, she started to help co-facilitate the groups. Now she runs support groups as a professional victims advocate for CVAC. She served as CVAC's President for three years and won the award for CJCC's Volunteer of the year. During her tenure, she and her team have helped over 7500 crime victims. Ms. Dorsey used what she learned from her personal tragedy to help others in similar circumstances.

The Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy was awarded to Community Action Partnership of Madera County, Victim Service Center (CAPMC) by VRC co-founder and co-chair, Rep. JIM COSTA. CAPMC operates a multi-program victim service center for Madera County, California that addresses the needs of domestic violence victims, sexual assault victims, child abuse victims, homicide victims, and victims of all types of crime. CAPMC's broad range of services greatly benefits the population that they serve. CAPMC's programs are all in one center, which reduces the barriers that can prevent victims from accessing services. In addition, CAPMC is the only agency in Madera County that provides 24 hour crisis intervention to crime victims. Congresswoman ANN WAGNER awarded Mrs. Kimberly Ritter, Director of Development of the Exchange Initiative, with the Allied Professional Award. Ms. Ritter has used her involvement with the conference and hospitality industry to raise awareness of the role that this industry can play in combatting human trafficking. She is a resource for law enforcement and hotels in the St. Louis area and around the country for training and awareness purposes, and has been the driving force behind many large hotels signing of the ECPAT Code of Conduct. She brought together the knowledge from her career with her knowledge of human trafficking to make a real difference in stopping this crime and saving victims.

Rep. ERIC SWALWELL awarded District Attorney Nancy E. O'Malley of Alameda County, California with the Lois Haight Award for Innovation and Excellence. D.A. O'Malley is a leader in fighting for victims of crime throughout her career. As District Attorney, she created the first unit in the country to focus exclusively on rescuing child victims of human trafficking and prosecuting those who exploit these children, called the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) unit. From this work, she has created a blueprint, so other communities can create similar programs. In addition, she created a diversion program for sexually exploited girls in the juvenile justice system. DA O'Malley has led efforts for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. She is a true champion for victims at the local, state, and federal level.

These wonderful survivors and advocates stand up for victims and make life better for them every day. They cannot be commended enough.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as Fair Housing Month. April 11, 2014 marked the 46th anniversary of the passage of the U.S. Fair Housing Act, which enunciates a national policy of fair housing and bars discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status or disability. Decent, safe, and affordable housing is part of the American dream and a goal of all Illinois residents.

This year also marks the 35th anniversary of the Illinois Human Rights Act, which bars discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, physical or mental disability, familial status, age, ancestry, marital status, disability, military status or sexual orientation (including gender-based identity).

Acts of housing discrimination and barriers to equal housing are repugnant to a common sense of decency and fairness. Federal and state laws affirm the right of every person to equal housing opportunity. Economic stability, community health, and human relations in all communities and the State of Illinois are improved by diversity and integration. Stable, integrated and balanced residential patterns are threatened by discriminatory acts and unlawful housing practices that result in segregation of residents and opportunities in Illinois communities.

The hard work and commitment of grassroots and non-profit organizations, housing service providers, housing professionals, financial institutions, elected officials, state agencies and others must be combined to promote integration, fair housing, and equal opportunity and to address the immense challenge of ensuring that every person in Illinois has access to affordable housing.

Again, I would like to recognize April 2014 as Fair Housing Month in commemoration of the signing of the U.S. Fair Housing Act and the Illinois Human Rights Act. These critical laws help establish the United States as an open and inclusive country committed to fair and equal housing opportunities for all.

RECOGNIZING SISTER FRANCESCA ONLEY, PH.D.

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Sister Francesca Onley, Ph.D., served as president of Holy Family University for 32 years—from 1981 to 2014—and is widely recognized as an outstanding and effective administrator. She was the driving force behind the expansion of the institution in northeast Philadelphia, while maintaining the integrity of its educational philosophy and academic programs. Scholar, educator, innovator, and astute businesswoman, Sister Francesca guided Holy Family to its University status in 2002, expanded enrollment and grew the endowment fund from thousands to $16 million in 33 years. Sister Francesca also attained leadership positions in many educational associations, including charter president of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education, the prestigious International Association of University Presidents, and the United Nations Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace. She addressed the commission's goal to nurture concepts of peace through education, organizing peace conferences in areas of conflict, establishing outreach programs in Africa, and integrating technology into the teaching of English. In 2012, she was named Chair Emerita. Sister Francesca is honored today for a life of faith, grace, and achievement. Her family of friends and associates look forward to the future accomplishments of a most remarkable woman.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 30

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Forest Service.
SD–124

Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine reform of the defense acquisition system in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Army.
SD–106

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Education.
SD–192

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine lessons learned from the Boston marathon bombings, focusing on improving intelligence and information sharing; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Drug Enforcement Administration.
SD–226

Committee on Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine how undisclosed money and post-McCutcheon campaign finance will affect the 2014 election and beyond.
SH–216

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine overmedication, focusing on problems and solutions.
SR–418

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the first step to cutting red tape, focusing on a better analysis.
SR–301

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Afghanistan beyond 2014.
SD–419

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service.
SD–138

2:15 p.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine exploring the perils of the precious metals market.
SD–562

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the National Nuclear Security Administration.
SD–192

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Transportation Security Administration, focusing on confronting America's transportation security challenges.
SR–253

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 2132, to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005.
SD–628

MAY 1

10 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Subcommittee on Jobs, Rural Economic Growth and Energy Innovation
To hold hearings to examine the importance of regional strategies in rural economic development.
SR–328A

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
SD–192

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1720, to promote transparency in patent ownership and make other improvements to the patent system, and the nominations of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, and Paul G. Byron, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Darrin P. Gayles, and Beth Bloom, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, James Walter Frazer Green, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, Department of Justice, and Elisebeth Collins Cook, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine exploring social impact bonds, focusing on investing in what works.
SD–608

11 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's 2014 Trade Policy Agenda.
SD–215

2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on the Ukrainian crisis and Russia.
SVC–217

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine shortages on gas, focusing on a look into propane shortages this winter.
SD–366

Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense proposals relating to military compensation.
SH–216

12 noon
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To receive a briefing on Georgia 2008, and Ukraine 2014, focusing on if Moldova is next, and to examine Russia's intentions with regard to Transnistria and Moldova.
CVC–268

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce
To hold hearings to examine a more efficient and effective government, focusing on cultivating the Federal workforce.
SD–342

MAY 7

10 a.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the economic outlook.
SH–216

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1603, to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, S. 1818, to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and S. 2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.
SD–628

MAY 14

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine wildfires and forest management, focusing on how prevention is preservation.
SD–628

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

MAY 21

10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on the Bureau of Indian Education.
SD–628

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 29, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING W. RONALD COALE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of my friend, W. Ronald Coale, who passed away on April 17, 2014.

Ron was a native of Stockton, California. He went to local schools, graduated from Stockton College, and acquired a teaching certificate in the field of transportation and distribution from the University of California at Berkeley. Dedicated to his country, Ron was a veteran of the Korean war, serving in the United States Army from 1952 to 1954.

His life was dedicated to serving the community in a variety of jobs, including as a member of the Stockton Metropolitan Transit District Board of Directors; Stockton City Council, serving as vice mayor in 1985; San Joaquin County Council of Governments; California Public Utility Commission; Stockton Port District Board of Port Commissioners.

Appointed by the Stockton City Council to the Board of Port Commissioners in 1991, Ron served with distinction as the commissioner for 20 years. During his tenure on the Stockton Port Commission, Ron's leadership was apparent from the onset, and in the year 2000 he helped the Port of Stockton secure Rough and Ready Island from the United States Navy.

By acquiring Rough and Ready Island, the Port of Stockton became the third largest port in California, the largest inland port in terms of acreage in California, and the second busiest inland port on the west coast. This allowed the Port of Stockton to better serve California's expanding agriculture industry, and is essential given its proximity to major transportation hubs in the State.

Ron also served on various boards and commissions at the State and local levels in California. He was a former member of the advisory board of the YMCA of San Joaquin County, a member of the Stockton Salvation Army, and a former gubernatorial appointee to the Atascadero State Hospital Advisory Board. In these roles, Ron helped to reach our youth and help those in need.

As a veteran, Ron was a member of Karl Ross Post of the American Legion in Stockton. He was a member of my U.S. service academy nomination committee. His knowledge and expertise was invaluable to the young men and women who are joining our Armed Forces. Ron was also a frequent visitor to my Stockton district office, and he knew my entire staff, and we appreciated him.

Ron was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, the highest degree for a mason. He was appointed to the office of Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of California for the Stockton Scottish Rite in April 1992, serving in that position until May 2003.

He was instrumental in partnering the Stockton Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Center and the speech and language department of the University of the Pacific. Throughout his partnership, the Stockton Center became a flagship for all Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Centers in California, providing speech therapy treatment to children throughout our community. This center now serves approximately 100 children each week free of charge.

Ron's impact on our community and lives around him will not be forgotten. Ron always brought a smile and a warm sense of humor. To know Ron was to know a dear friend. He was one of Stockton's most dedicated citizens, and we will miss him.

Ron was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Mary Ellen Coale. Ron is survived by his two sons, Ronald W. and Michael W., and five grandchildren: Ronald Thomas, Stephanie Lynn, Christopher Aaron, Jeffrey Michael, and Tyler Joseph Coale.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, last week as I traveled my State, over and over again people encouraged me with a simple statement, ''I pray for you.'' Those powerful words pack a tremendous amount of compassion and theology. It is the belief of millions of Americans that there is a God who created us, He cares for us, and He is interested in our lives. It is the belief that if we pray, a loving God hears our prayer and He responds to our needs and the needs of others.

This is the week of the National Day of Prayer. This is a time for us to be able to reflect on prayer and to remember and recognize the Americans who value prayer. I share the belief with many others that people are separated from God because of our choices to walk away from God and God's path for our lives, so people live their lives alone, even in a crowd. The Bible says, in Romans 6:23:

> The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Simply put, what we earn for what we do wrong is separation from life, real life. God gives us the opportunity to have eternal life, life with God forever, by accepting the gift of Jesus Christ through his death and his resurrection.

It was my first real prayer. When I was 8 years old, I realized for the first time that there is a God and I did not know Him. I was separated from Him. At my home, I prayed for Jesus to forgive my sin and come into my life and take control. It is that same simple prayer that millions of others have prayed to begin a walk with God.

The Bible teaches us—and I believe—that God hears our prayer, not because of our good behavior, but because God opened the line of communication when Jesus paid for our sin on the cross, and I accepted His offer of forgiveness and a relationship.

It begs the question still: Does it matter if we pray and pray for each other? Yes is the simple answer. Prayer puts our hearts and thoughts back in line with God's design. Prayer allows us an opportunity to spread out our most painful problems before a loving God. Prayer also provides an opportunity for the God who can do anything to demonstrate His care and power in a world that thinks they do not need God.

This attitude is not new. President Lincoln in his proclamation for a National Day of Prayer on March 30, 1863, wrote this:

> We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched us and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

The National Day of Prayer is not a mandate to pray. It is not a congressional establishment of religion. It is two things: a congressional acknowledgment that millions of people in our Nation believe in God, and they believe that God hears our prayers and responds when we pray; and a request that those who believe in prayer should pray, and pray for our Nation and pray for our Nation's leaders.

If you are considering calling my office to complain that I mentioned prayer and God on the House floor, you are always welcome to call, but you are not going to change my mind, and you are not going to change our Nation. Each day we begin with prayer in the House of Representatives. The words of our national motto, ''In God We Trust,'' are emblazoned on the wall right over my right shoulder. There is a prayer chapel in the Capitol set aside for Members of Congress to stop and pray before votes. We have always had prayer as a nation. That is the free exercise of religion that is protected by the Constitution.

I am well aware that some people want people of faith to be silent and never speak about God in public. They condemn my insensitivity for their lack of belief by trying to require a fellow free American to live life more like them. But I would remind them that they are not required to believe in God because they are an American, and I am not required to stop believing in God just because I represent Americans. We are both free. You can choose not to pray, and I can choose to pray for you.

For those in our Nation that pray, I humbly request that you set aside this National Day of Prayer to renew your commitment to pray for our Nation. We need God's help in our Nation right now. We are in obvious trouble and conflict. Even many Christians that I meet would rather complain than pray.

For everyone who says to me we are too far gone in debt, our culture is past the tipping point, we have lost our way forever, I tell them that I believe there is still a God in Heaven who hears our prayer, who cares about our lives. I will work, but I will also pray, and I ask you to join me.

Let's pray.

RENEW UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show you and my colleagues the faces of the Americans that are hurting by refusing to renew unemployment benefits.

Just 3 days after Christmas, this House leadership left these people out in the cold and made it more difficult for them to provide for their family, to buy food, to pay their mortgages or pay their rent. It has been 4 months since the House Republican leaders turned their backs on millions of unemployed Americans, and the situation grows more dire for these individuals and their families with each passing day.

For far too long, this Congress has described the long-term unemployed in numbers, figures, and statistics only. Well, today I hope that will begin to change and that the Speaker and other Republicans leaders will understand what is happening to real people because of their refusal to extend unemployment benefits.

I am launching something called the ''Faces of the Unemployed'' to show my colleagues on the other side of the aisle just who they are hurting. This poster board will be outside my office, and I will be adding people to it as they share their stories. It will force my Republican colleagues to look into their eyes as they pass them in the hallway and to understand that these individuals should not be invisible.

Mr. Speaker, I want you and all of my colleagues to look at these faces and explain to your colleagues and to America why you won't allow a vote that will help them put food on their table, pay their rent, and provide for their families.

These are real people, Mr. Speaker, who have been left behind and forgotten about by this body. It is disgraceful that, while the Republican budget spends billions of dollars abroad and protects special interest tax loopholes that encourage companies to ship American jobs overseas, this body can't provide immediate relief to the long-term unemployed who are still recovering from the Great Recession.

In the end, this debate is about more than dollars and cents. It is about the families who continue to lose unemployment benefits with each passing day that the House fails to act. It is about the more than 200,000 veterans and more than a million children who have been affected by this loss of benefits.

It is about my constituents, Michael from Riverside, Rhode Island, who is about to lose his electricity and gas because he can't pay his bills and, in his own words, has ''nowhere to turn.''

It is about Paula from Bristol, who has always worked since she was 15 years old and says she is ''being made to feel like a thief.''

It is about Lillian from North Providence, who said she would ''rather be working'' but can't find a job.

These stories are not unique to Rhode Island. This is happening to people in every part of our country: Nevada, Illinois, California, Kentucky, and Mississippi, to name a few. These people aren't Republicans or Democrats. They are hardworking Americans who can't find work and need our help.

It is time to put aside our differences and come together to provide immediate relief to these struggling families. In tough times, Congress has a longstanding history of extending these benefits, as we saw during the Bush administration. I urge Speaker BOEHNER to look at the faces of these unemployed Americans and hear their stories so we can work together to solve this problem as we have in the past.

These photos and stories will be posted outside my office—and I hope many of my colleagues will do the same—to serve as a reminder that this is about the individuals and the families who are hurting every day because we have not extended this critical lifeline. I hope this will put a face on the real stories of the people who are hurting and it will cause the Speaker to bring a bill to the floor that will extend unemployment so we can answer the call and be sure that we are doing everything we can to help those most in need.

□ 1015

TRIBUTE TO MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER GARY ''DOC'' WELT

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American hero, a quiet legend in the special operations

community and in military medicine, Master Chief Petty Officer Gary ''Doc'' Welt.

Doc Welt passed away on April 8 due to complications of ALS. He passed away in Seminole, Florida, surrounded by his family. He was only 55 years old. He dedicated his life to service—service to his country, to his family, to those in the ALS community, and service to his brotherhood of special operators.

He joined the Navy in 1976, becoming a Navy SEAL in 1980, proudly serving on SEAL Teams 2, 4, and 8. He also served instructor tours at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and the Naval Special Warfare Center. After retiring in 2006 as a USSOCOM senior enlisted medical adviser, Doc continued to serve as a contract specialist, conducting counterterrorism and counter-piracy operations until 2012.

Doc is survived by his loving wife of 17 years, Brenda Ann Thompson Welt; his son, Robert; his daughters, Crystal Lynn Elliott and Sabrina Audell Ranford; his brothers, Robert Welt and Donald Wolford; as well as his four grandchildren, Lillian, Meadow, Andon, and Michael.

Mr. Speaker, two communities gathered at MacDill Air Force Base last week. One was the community of Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay area, who knew and loved Doc. The second community was the special operations community, who loved Doc. It was a fitting tribute to a great man.

Today, we honor his life, his legacy, and his service. We pledge and commit to carry on the fight that Doc fought against ALS. We commit to not quitting until that fight is won.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to a great man from Seminole, Florida, who had an impact across this world.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as cochairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus in recognition and celebration of the annual observance of the National Day of Prayer.

Each year, we take this opportunity to pause from the hurried pace of our daily lives to reaffirm our Nation's rich spiritual heritage and our commitment to maintaining and strengthening our great country's religious freedom. Throughout more than 200 years of our Nation's history, faith, prayer, and trust in God have played a vital role in strengthening the fabric of our society.

From the dawn of our country, when the first national call to prayer was issued, to that day on April 17, 1952, when President Harry Truman made the annual National Day of Prayer a permanent fixture, to this upcoming Thursday, when we will celebrate the 63rd annual National Day of Prayer in the Cannon Caucus Room right here on Capitol Hill, we have continued to turn to prayer as a guiding compass as we seek God's guidance and wisdom and healing balm for our land. It is from these historic underpinnings that our Nation has grown and thrived.

We stand here today on the shoulders of those Americans who have boldly fought for our rights to be able to assemble, to be able to speak out, and to be able to worship freely. One of our great opportunities as Americans is to be able to come together and say we want to be able to ask God for his blessings and his help upon our Nation so we indeed can be one Nation under God, as we say in our Pledge of Allegiance, and also a Nation that honors our national motto, which is not ''e pluribus unum,'' as some have mistakenly thought, but which is, ''In God We Trust.''

In fact, for all Members of Congress that would like, we have plaques being made and distributed that say, ''In God We Trust,'' just to reaffirm our national motto.

That is why I have joined with my friend and cochairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, Congressman RANDY FORBES of Virginia, to introduce a bipartisan resolution, H. Res. 547. I hope all of our Members listening today will join us in supporting the National Day of Prayer and urging all Americans to come together to pray and reaffirm the importance that prayer has played in our national heritage.

We hear so much today about partisanship and bickering and asking why don't people get along. The one thing that I share back home, Mr. Speaker, which usually surprises people, is there is one group on Capitol Hill where all those labels are put to the side, and that happens every Monday night or Tuesday night, depending on the night we go into session, right across the hall in room 219, where there is no agenda except to pray and ask God for wisdom, like Solomon of the Old Testament.

So my hope is that as many Members and your staff—you will allow your staff to join us this Thursday morning to come together as we celebrate the National Day of Prayer.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the true source of power is not found here in the Halls of Congress or in the Oval Office in the West Wing or in the chambers of the Supreme Court. The true source of power is found on our knees before the throne of grace, before almighty God.

It is in that spirit that I rise today to reaffirm this celebration of prayer in our Nation's history for the past, the present, and, God willing, the future.

Indeed, the power of prayer knows no bounds. May we be a Nation that does stand for our motto, ''In God We Trust.'' Indeed, we pray, may God bless America.

NEED ACTION IN THE SENATE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, just a short while ago, one of my colleagues talked about the plight of folks who are unemployed—individuals who are unemployed either short term or those chronically unemployed. He actually failed to mention those who are underemployed in this Nation. It is an issue that needs to be addressed.

I am actually proud to be a part of solutions that have passed out of the House of Representatives but sit in the Senate, waiting for Senator REID to take the leadership to bring those House-passed jobs bills to the Senate floor for action—bills that would provide some immediate opportunities for individuals who are unemployed.

More than anything else, what folks who are unemployed need is a job—a good-paying job with family-sustaining wages.

Mr. Speaker, the House has passed bill after bill to help working middle class Americans get the skills they need, the jobs they desire, and adequate pay to provide for their families. In the Senate, yet another day has passed when Leader REID has chose to deny consideration of these commonsense bills and chose to deny the relief that would come for those who are unemployed.

The House has acted on more than one occasion to advance completion of the longstanding Keystone XL pipeline. This decision has again been delayed by the Obama administration.

The House recently passed the Save American Workers Act, which would restore hourly wages cut by ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek rule. This bill remains stalled in the Senate's legislative graveyard.

The House has passed bipartisan legislation that would renew the Federal Government's commitment to actively and adequately manage our Federal forests. Where we have well-managed Federal forests that are managed in a healthy way, we have healthy rural economic communities where we grow jobs. Today, that bill is gathering dust on the Senate Leader's desk, awaiting action.

Mr. Speaker, we were elected to solve problems. It is about time we got about the people's business. Hardworking Americans deserve as much.

INEQUALITIES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, when I think of most Americans, I know that one of the major components of our work ethic is that we believe in working hard. We are not standing in line for government subsidies or handouts. We simply want to be able to have an opportunity.

Last evening, I was on the floor speaking of the unfortunate circumstances of this past week, such as the mischaracterization of what affirmative action really means, which is an opportunity for all of our students to go to institutions of higher learning with a diverse student body that embodies and reflects America, responding to the decrease in numbers of African Americans since the dismantling of affirmative action at schools like the University of Michigan, Berkeley, and others.

We then follow that decision with untimely and unfortunate comments, first by an owner of a national basketball team. It baffles me when the owner indicates that he does not want to see Black people at his stadium. It amazes me because if he looks out onto the playing floor, he might see a lot of them. We find that sports is something that brings us all together, from all walks of life.

Then we have an individual that represents himself as one of the true traditions of America, a rancher—and much of that is done in Texas—who wants to suggest that African Americans would be better off picking cotton and having gardens and chickens.

The reason I raise these issues today is because we have parts of our society that reflect those injustices. We have parts of society that ignore the ills that befall those who are more impoverished than others.

Many people don't realize that even though slavery ended in the 1800s, the 20th century found itself with individuals or segments of the population being treated unequally for more than half a century. Even when those laws changed, like with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, minds and hearts did not change. And so the inequities followed people of color: language minorities, like Hispanics, and African Americans in particular.

I have a document that reflects that inequity right in the city of Houston and the district that I represent.

Yesterday, we came out with the Children at Risk research on the level of high schools that were not functioning. They list North Forest High School, Madison High School, Jones High School, Wheatley High School, Sterling High School, Kashmere High School, and Worthing High School at the bottom of the list. Why? They are all in inner city areas. The investment in people is not there.

And so this wealth inequality is not about someone who wants to get a handout; it is to reflect what is happening.

The highest unemployment is among Latinos and African Americans, which are the red and purple bars. Because of the barriers to access to credit, the lowest number of business ownership in this country is with African Americans. It has the lowest number of business owners. When we faced the recession and mortgage collapse, the highest number of bankruptcy filings were among Latinos and African Americans.

No, they are not looking for a handout. We are looking for policies that in fact will invest in education and make sure that when we invest in people, we overcome the barriers that deal with race and racism.

When we lost all of the home equity, which was one of the greatest assets of African Americans, the decline in home equity and ownership fell upon many of us in a high number, from Asians to Whites to Latinos and African Americans. And when I say this, I speak of those who are White and equally face obstacles.

Many know that one of the major movements of Senator Robert F. Kennedy was his visit to Appalachia and other places.

So my question to my colleagues today is how we can come together to look at a way of empowering those impoverished and making sure that the educational system, regardless of your level of income, has the ability to treat you equally so that the school that you attend every day—your parents pay taxes and send you there—is not giving you the bottom rank in opportunity and that your family is not in the category with no assets or retirement, no ability to help you go to college. Highest number, 62 percent for African Americans; Latinos, 69 percent, which is partly due to the fact that many Latinos live in a ''shadow society,'' many of them because we have not passed comprehensive immigration reform.

So, Mr. Speaker, rather than to accuse individuals and call people names and use racist categories, it is time for us to come together and be united to lift the boats of all Americans.

□ 1030

TRIBUTE TO A PATRIOT

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

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute, to honor, to remember, and to celebrate the life of an outstanding American patriot whom I greatly admired, Marine General Carl E. Mundy, Jr.

It is not often, I would think, that a former sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves becomes friends with a Four-Star General and a former Commandant of the Marine Corps, but such was my good fortune.

I met General Mundy—he served as our 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps—through my father, Ike. They lived in the same retirement community in Florida and shared the special bond that binds one generation of American marines to the next.

It is a connection that transcends grade and rank, officer and enlisted, and that my father fought in the battle for Iwo Jima, which is a sacred memory for all marines, made their friendship and their mutual respect that much deeper.

It was at my dad's encouragement that I reached out to General Mundy when I sought this office. When I met him, he was 73 years old, yet he exuded, without effort and without pretense, the dignity and the military bearing that we would expect of a Marine Commandant.

It was his humble spirit, however, that I truly found myself pondering and admiring long after our meetings and conversations had ended. Though the general always encouraged me to call him Carl, I never could. He was always, of course, General Mundy.

Always a leader, the general encouraged me in this effort to, again, serve my country, not in uniform, but through public service; and I suspect he lent his good name and reputation to help me more out of respect for my dad than for me.

Of the many endorsements I was so fortunate to receive, the general's meant the most. I believe all who favored me with their endorsement—and I think especially those who served in our United States military—will understand why the Commandant's endorsement was particularly meaningful.

Not long after General Mundy lost his wife of 56 years, Linda Sloan Mundy, the general was diagnosed with cancer. My parents passed him in the neighborhood 1 day when he was still well enough to take his afternoon walks.

Dad shared with me the account of how, when the general saw my parents coming and he recognized my father, he stopped, he came to full attention, and offered a respectful hand salute to my dad who, again, was a World War II marine sergeant—a nice, crisp hand salute.

Now, this is the spirit of the man and the marine, the humble warrior that I knew and so deeply respected. It is good to see the young people in the House today. As I reflect upon General Mundy's life and his service, I am reminded that we are a free people because good men and women have willingly set aside differences to fight for that, which binds us together as fellow Americans.

General Mundy inspired many of us to serve, including his two sons, Brigadier General Carl Mundy III and Colonel Timothy Mundy, both of whom are on Active Duty as United States Marines.

So I join my fellow marines especially, including my father, Ike, and grateful Americans across our country, in expressing heartfelt condolences to the Mundy family.

It is with eternal gratitude and respect that I will offer a final hand salute in tribute and in memory to the 30th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, an American patriot whom I was so fortunate to count as my friend.

General Carl E. Mundy, Jr., United States Marine Corps, mission accomplished, sir.

Semper fidelis.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Autism Awareness Month.

Modern science has helped control or eliminate many once deadly and debilitating diseases and conditions, but our understanding of autism remains an unsolved puzzle.

More children than ever are being diagnosed with communication and behavioral disorders that lead to a diagnosis of autism. Autism now affects one in every 68 children, according to the CDC. My nephew Trey is one of them.

I have seen firsthand how autism strains families, stretches their resources, and makes life more challenging in many ways. I have also seen the amazing joy that an autistic child can bring to a family. Trey has sure brought a lot of joy to ours.

Families with autistic children do everything they can to help their kids maximize their God-given abilities, whatever they choose to be; but it is not always easy, especially in a world where many don't understand the unique challenges that autism presents.

Helping these families better navigate this treacherous world would make a huge difference for my brother and his family and millions like them, but doing so would be much more than just helpful to those families.

It would be good policy too. That is because autism imposes tremendous costs on families, many of which are shared by the schools their children attend and the many medical and developmental specialists involved in their care.

Studies have found that it can cost parents up to $21,000 a year to care for a child with autism, more than it requires for one without. Children with autism have annual medical expenditures that exceed those without autism by up to $6,000 a year.

The average medical cost for Medicaid-enrolled children with autism are about six times higher than for children without autism. In addition to medical costs, intensive behavioral interventions for children with autism can cost $40,000 to $60,000 per child, per year.

There are several steps that Congress can take right now to help ease these burdens for families. The House should pass H.R. 647, the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act, which is legislation I have cosponsored, to allow for the creation of tax-exempt savings accounts for individuals with disabilities.

Congress also must reauthorize the Combating Autism Act, which expires in September. This vital legislation provides Federal support for critical autism research, services, and treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I have often said that autism is the polio of our time, and together, as a Nation, we can beat this challenging disease.

Families struggling with autism face challenges that many of us can't imagine. They neither need nor want our pity, but they deserve our help.

National Autism Awareness Month, which ends tomorrow, should serve as a call to action for us to address the urgent and long-term needs of people affected by autism and, hopefully, one day, piece together the autism puzzle, so as few children as possible are impacted by this disorder.

THE SECRET SCIENCE BILL

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, last evening, I had a couple of articles sitting on my desk and had the opportunity to read through them. I was somewhat—what's the term—oh, yeah, outraged at some of the comments in there, so that is the reason I am standing here on the floor today.

I want to walk through a concept and then try to ferret out why is the agency so terrified of this concept, something very simple. If you are going to make public policy, shouldn't it be based on data that is available to the public?

That public data, properly vetted, is used to make public policy, sort of this concept of almost the crowdsourcing of information.

So if there is a rule set made by an agency, we can all believe in it. We all know it has been properly looked at. It wasn't produced by a small silo of very smart elitists who may be ideologically set one way or another; but the data, the information that creates the rules that we all live under, belongs to all of us.

So how would you feel if you pull up a piece of paper and on that piece of paper is an article about a speech that Administrator McCarthy gave on Monday morning? And I do hope she is misquoted because we have treated her very kindly from the Science Committee and my subcommittee.

But if I came to you and read a line that McCarthy told the audience, on Monday morning, that she intends to go after a—one more time—go after a small but vocal group of critics, in light of what the IRS has done, doesn't that send chills down someone's back when you hear that an agency intends to go after its critics?

And then there is this arrogance that was, I hope, misquoted that only qualified scientists should be allowed to see, real scientists.

So you are telling me that a grad student or a leftwing group or a conservative group or just someone that has an interest in data shouldn't be allowed to see the datasets that are making public policy that literally cost trillions of dollars?

The concept of having a government that runs substantially on secret information is outrageous. So that is why I am trying to push forward on a bill—and maybe the title of the bill is a little inflammatory. It is called the Secret Science bill, a very simple concept that you make public policy with public data and that public data that we all have the right to vet and look at.

Look, the vast majority of Americans will never look at it, but shouldn't you have the right to access it?

Then there is this outlier that the agency is using that is complete obfuscation of the truth: well, there is personal data out there, and we don't know how to protect it.

Every single day, whether it be the Census Bureau, the CFPB, the Commerce Department, they collect personal data. There are standards out there where you blind data. As a matter of fact, there are actually protocols for the protocols on blinding data that we all get to use. It is done every single day.

Somehow, the EPA doesn't want to have that conversation because, somehow, they don't want you, the American public, and the academic community of all ideological stints to have the right to access it.

Mr. Speaker, Administrator McCarthy was quoted as saying:

> You just can't claim the science isn't real when it doesn't align with your politics.

She is absolutely right. I am not asking for ideological data. I am just asking for data to belong to the public and so everyone has the opportunity to study it and understand it.

Who knows, maybe that studying of that data will find better ways, smarter ways, more efficient ways to protect the environment, more rational ways; but we will never know until the EPA finally steps up and makes that data available to every American.

RECESS

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

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

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Benny Tate, Rock Springs Church, Milner, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we bow our heads in Your presence. The Bible teaches us, ''Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity, because a House divided will not stand.''

May Your servants in this body not look to parties, personalities, preferences, or press, but may they focus on principles and people. Let no personal ambition blind them to their responsibilities and accountability.

God, we call our Representatives politicians, but You call them ministers. May all the Members of this body make full proof of their ministry. I ask for Your guidance on their decisions and grace on their families.

I pray the Members of this body will seek Thy will and ways and have the spiritual courage and grace to follow it. Lift them above the claims of politics unto the dimension of a higher calling and mission.

We pray this prayer, respecting all faiths, but pray it in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNERNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND BENNY TATE

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Benny Tate, the senior pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia. Under the leadership of Dr. Tate, Rock Springs Church grew from just 60 members to its current congregation of over 6,000.

Dr. Tate began numerous ministries at Rock Springs Church, including the Rock Springs medical clinic to care for those who cannot afford medical insurance; The Potter's House, which ministers to women battling drug and alcohol abuse; Rock Springs Christian Academy, offering quality education to kids K–12; and the Impact Street Ministries, which helps the homeless by serving meals and providing clothing and housing to those in need.

James 1:27 says:

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this, to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Dr. Tate's work is a shining example of what Scripture tells us the role of the church should be: to care for the poor, the fatherless, and widows.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Benny Tate, pastor of Rock Springs Church, for his 25 years of outstanding leadership and service to his community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

ARKANSAS' STORM RECOVERY

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

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask the Members of this House and all Americans to lift up Arkansas in their prayers as we recover from the storms that devastated much of central Arkansas on Sunday evening. Fifteen people lost their lives in these storms, and many more saw their homes and neighborhoods destroyed. The communities of Mayflower and Vilonia, vibrant, thriving towns, were particularly hardhit.

I want to thank the first responders and all those on the ground in Arkansas who continue to assist with rescue and recovery operations. We are deeply grateful for your service.

I know my sorrow and grief for the devastation and loss of life is shared by all Arkansans and all Americans. We have a long road ahead of us, but Arkansans are a tough, hardworking people, and together we will come out stronger.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HARDWORKING SHIPYARD WORKERS IN GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AND NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last evening the U.S. Navy and two shipyards, the electric boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, and Huntington Ingalls shipyard in Newport News, Virginia, entered into an $18 billion contract to build 10 submarines over the next 5 years.

This event did not happen by itself. It was the result of exhaustive national security reviews that started under Secretary Gates, continued with the Nuclear Posture Review, and continued with the Quadrennial Defense Review. In every instance, the findings were that we needed to bolster our undersea fleet, which has declined from 100 ships at the end of the cold war to 53 today.

With rising maritime challenges in the Asia Pacific, with the decision by Vladimir Putin to recapitalize his military to the tune of $700 billion, we must bolster our undersea fleet, which is the one area where the United States still has undisputed domination of that domain.

I want to congratulate the shipyard workers who have shown the Virginia class program is ahead of schedule and under budget, whether it was the USS *California*, the *Hawaii*, or, most recently, the *North Dakota*. Again, they have set, in my opinion, an example for Navy shipbuilding across the board and commercial shipbuilding, which the U.S. has got to step up its game and become part of.

Again, congratulations to the hardworking shipyard workers in Groton and Newport News, Virginia.

GET SERIOUS ABOUT REDUCING THE REGULATORY OVERBURDEN UPON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, Federal agencies in Washington, D.C., are setting new records. Unfortunately, these are not records that they should be proud of. In 2013, the Federal Register contained nearly 80,000 pages of new rules and regulations imposed on American businesses. We know that the result of this is that it stifles jobs, it slows economic growth, and it hurts opportunities for hardworking Americans.

Before coming to Congress, I was a small business owner. I saw firsthand the devastating effect of these regulations on job creation and growth. This administration will be remembered for one thing, and that is ObamaCare, which I think is the worst law written in the history of the universe. But it will also be recognized for another, and that is Dodd-Frank, which runs a close second. Both of these are emblematic of this philosophy of bigger government, a more powerful government, a less effective government.

Now is the time to get serious about reducing the regulatory overburden upon the American people.

RECOGNIZING THE 1ST SQUAD, 2ND PLATOON, HOTEL COMPANY OF THE 26TH MARINE REGIMENT

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, Hotel Company of the 26th Marine regiment. It is with great honor that we commemorate these brave marines who risked their lives for our Nation.

On May 29, 1967, at the end of Operation Hickory and the beginning of Operation Prairie IV, the 1st Squad, under the command of Sergeant Thomas Gonzalez, recovered a spent Russian SA–2 missile inside the demilitarized zone of South Vietnam on a reconnaissance control. The command-and-control mechanism of the missile was then transported to Washington, D.C., for analysis. The intelligence derived gave the U.S. a military advantage, changing the strategy and saving many, many lives.

Today, I want to read the names of all these brave marines: U.S. Marine Thomas Gonzalez; Anthony Astuccio; Mike McCombes; Richard Light; Thomas Lehner; Ronald Blaine; Gerald Eggers; Albino Martinez; Lloyd Parker, Jr.; Charles Melton; Hector L.R. Rodriguez; and one U.S. Navy corpsman, Mel Overmeyer.

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING ACT

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues LOIS CAPPS and TED DEUTCH, I introduced the Truth in Advertising Act, a bill that could help reduce the negative health impact of photoshopped images in advertising.

Photoshopped ads can promote unrealistic expectations of the human body, leading to tragic emotional, mental, and physical health problems. Academic evidence has already shown the connection between very thin models in advertising and body image issues, one of the major contributing factors to eating disorders.

The Truth in Advertising Act does not impose new regulations, but simply asks the Federal Trade Commission to work with stakeholders to investigate how to confront this important public health issue while ensuring that freedom of speech is protected.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this bill so that we can find the best way to stop the destructive impact of photoshopping on eating disorders.

NATIONAL DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLOCAUST

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this week of April 27 is our national Days of Remembrance and commemoration of the Holocaust. In communities across the country, we set aside this time to stand in solemn solidarity with millions of Jews worldwide to pledge never again to allow such evil to exist.

In Israel, on Holocaust Remembrance Day a siren sounds for 2 minutes. Everybody stops what they are doing and stands silently in a powerful living memorial to those who were lost and a symbol rejecting the worst evil the world has ever known.

As survivors perish each year, it becomes more important to internalize the lessons of the Holocaust and recall the 6 million Jews and other innocent victims who perished in the great shame of the 20th century.

In western New York we are proud that one of our own, Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson, was the chief prosecutor for the United States at the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals. His actions helped to inspire a deep commitment from our community to preserve and honor the story of the Holocaust for future generations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WILL JAMES MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, today I am very proud to congratulate students from Will James Middle School in Billings, Montana, the town where Mom and Dad grew up and my grandma still lives today, for winning the best car design at the National Science Bowl Middle School Electric Car Competition.

This weekend, five young Montana students traveled to the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., to compete against 47 other teams from around the Nation. I speak for all Montanans when I say that we are incredibly proud of their success.

Under the guidance of science teacher Patrick Kenney, this team of five middle school students gained hands-on science and engineering experience in designing, building, and racing their model car.

As Montana's Representative and a chemical engineer from Montana State University, I am incredibly proud Montana students like Madi, Sam, Tyler, Julianne, and Alex are leading the way in science and technology.

Congratulations again to the Will James Middle School Science Bowl team.

BLACK APRIL

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we commemorate the 39th anniversary of the fall of Saigon and the collapse of the Republic of Vietnam. This is known in my community as Black April.

It has been my honor to join with the Vietnamese American community of Little Saigon, which is in my district, to remember this important event. Thirty-nine years ago, millions of Vietnamese were forced to leave their homeland in search of freedom. Many of them found their way to the United States, where today they comprise a strong, vibrant community that has given invaluable contributions to our Nation.

This week we remember the brave sacrifices of so many in the cause of freedom, who fought tirelessly to enable their children to live a better and brighter life. Today, we must ensure that their sacrifices were not in vain by continuing the fight for democracy and human rights in Vietnam.

□ 1215

EARTH DAY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week was the 44th Earth Day. Since the initial Earth Day in 1970, tremendous progress has been made on cleaning our water, cleaning our air, reducing pollution, and preserving the natural beauty of this great Nation.

It is my privilege to represent one of the most beautiful places on the planet. North Carolina's High Country and the Blue Ridge Mountains are majestic. In the highlands you will find the nearly 6,000-foot high Grandfather Mountain, one of the tallest peaks in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The scenic Blue Ridge Parkway passes by the south side of Grandfather Mountain.

I feel it is my duty to help protect these treasures, and I consider myself a conservationist.

It is unfortunate, though, that the tremendous success of the environmental movement has led some self-appointed environmentalists to resort to ever more extreme goals and behavior. Maintaining a safe, clean, and beautiful natural world for ourselves, our children, and grandchildren to enjoy is a goal we should all share.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL SARA CASTROMATA

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Marine Lance Corporal Sara Castromata. Lance Corporal Castromata was tragically murdered in an incident on the Marine Base at Quantico on March 21, 2013. An investigation by the military revealed that there were lapses in security on the base.

Lance Corporal Castromata joined the Marines in 2011, after graduating with honors from Liberty High School in Brentwood, California. A strong-minded individual, Ms. Castromata enlisted in the U.S. Marines to serve our great Nation. While in the Marines, she earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal, all of which are a testament to her honorable service.

I appreciate the Marine Corps for investigating this crime and providing recommendations to prevent future criminal acts. While these are steps in the right direction, we must do more to ensure that this type of event doesn't happen again.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Marine Lance Corporal Sara Castromata and for additional base security.

RECOGNIZING USA SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FESTIVAL AND NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the USA Science and Engineering Festival.

This past weekend, government, industry, and academia came together to energize students and teachers through hands-on experiences to showcase the opportunities of the future and the ways studying STEM subjects can be fun and rewarding for boys and girls.

It wasn't your traditional science fair. The festival is a great model of how a diverse team can partner together to further the STEM fields that are home to the future careers of our youth. Our next generation of technicians, engineers, and scientists should be exposed to opportunities that they don't realize are within their grasp—careers and jobs they hadn't even considered when imagining their futures.

I introduced a resolution last June encouraging State and local governments to recognize the last week of April as National Science Week. Getting kids excited about robotics, computers, and math can spur them to become our future leaders and innovators.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we returned from our district work period, or spring recess, although really what it was for most of us was the opportunity to be back during Passover and the week leading up to Easter. And for those of us like myself that love celebrating our faith, we go to our synagogues and churches to hear more about the things we believe.

This time, what I heard most from religious leaders was how we were letting down the teachings of the Holy Scriptures by not doing what was commanded in Leviticus 19:

> You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you.

Or, what we hear Jesus teaching in Matthew 25:

> For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Let's heed what our religious leaders are pleading with us to do and pass comprehensive immigration reform.

REFUNDABLE CHILD TAX CREDIT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REFORM ACT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act.

This bill, authored by my friend and colleague, Congressman SAM JOHNSON, cracks down on fraud. It requires taxpayers who claim the additional child tax credit to provide a valid Social Security number. This is just common sense.

It has been well-documented that the government loses billions of dollars due to the rampant fraud of the additional child tax credit. The IRS inspector general puts this fraud number at an unbelievable $4.2 billion a year.

This fraud—and failure to fix the problem—is simply unacceptable. This is why my constituents in Texas deserve to know what is being done to address this problem.

There is a clear solution. That solution is H.R. 556.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me today in cosponsoring this bill to deliver a more responsible government to Texas and to American taxpayers.

DETECTING BREAST CANCER EARLIER

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today, African American women with breast cancer are 40 percent more likely to die from the disease than White women. In my hometown of Los Angeles, African American women are 70 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than White women. This is tragic and shameful.

I have heard heartbreaking stories of women who were not able to access screening until it was too late or who could not receive treatment because they did not have health insurance.

I have introduced a resolution here in Congress to recognize this alarming disparity and to raise nationwide awareness of this crisis in our health care system. My hope is that greater awareness of this issue will help to be the impetus for action and help improve the way we treat breast cancer for all women.

This is an issue of life and death, and we must do everything we can to ensure that every woman, regardless of race, has access to the quality screening and treatment she needs to fight this awful disease.

The good news is that now, under the Affordable Care Act, which my colleagues on the other side said was the worst law ever written in the history of man, lifesaving mammograms are covered for women in this country, allowing them to detect breast cancer early.

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION PRIORITY ACT

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4495, the Asia-Pacific Region Priority Act. Introduced by Congressman FORBES of Virginia and myself, this was filed last night.

The timing of this bill is when the President left his last stop on the trip to the pivot of the Asia Pacific. Also, this is the result of 5 months of hearings, roundtables, and meetings that Congressman FORBES and I conducted.

This is truly a bipartisan effort in that it is in line with the President's

commitment to my part of the world. The pivot to Asia Pacific is not just for security, but also for prosperity and economic growth, along with what is very important: relationships.

The President has said that the 21st century will be defined by Asia Pacific—whether we live in cooperation or in conflict. I believe it will be in cooperation.

I ask my colleagues to support our efforts on this truly bipartisan measure for the definition of the 21st century.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, extra, extra, read all about it. The Republicans have released their new agenda for the spring.

Well, let's just take a look at what their legislative priorities are for the months ahead.

Unemployment insurance extension? No.

Equal pay for equal work for women? No.

Increase in the minimum wage? No.

Comprehensive immigration reform? No.

In short, their plan offers no investment in infrastructure and education, no attempt to create jobs, and no proposal to help people achieve the American Dream.

They can claim to be like Thomas Jefferson, but this plan reflects nothing that I have ever read about Thomas Jefferson.

So let's honor and value hard work by setting a real agenda—a new agenda that truly gives everyone a chance at the American Dream.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

GOLD MEDAL TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2014

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4488) to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4488

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Gold Medal Technical Corrections Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO AN ACT THAT AUTHORIZES PRESENTATION OF A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND CORETTA SCOTT KING.

Section 2 of Public Law 108–368 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking all before ''to present'' and inserting the following: ''(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate are authorized''; and

(B) by striking ''(posthumously)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and made available for research.

''(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution shall make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display, particularly at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, or for loan as appropriate so that it may be displayed elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations associated with the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King.''.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO AN ACT THAT AUTHORIZES PRESENTATION OF A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL COLLECTIVELY TO THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

Section 2 of Public Law 112–59 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the Montford Point Marines, United States Marine Corps under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and made available for research.

''(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution shall make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display, particularly at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, or for loan as appropriate so that it may be displayed elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations associated with the Montford Point Marines.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material for the RECORD on H.R. 4488, which is currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4488, the Gold Medal Technical Corrections Act of 2014, introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation seeks to make minor technical corrections to allow the actual awarding of two Congressional Gold Medals authorized in previous Congresses. The first medal was awarded to Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King. The other medal was awarded to the pioneering Montford Point Marines of World War II.

For different reasons, there are now no statutorily designated recipients of the medals. As has often happened in the past with such medals, they will be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where they will be available for display, research, or loan, as appropriate, to sites significant to their honorees.

Importantly, in the case of both these medals, the sense of Congress is expressed that one place that would be very appropriate to display either or both of these medals is at the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, now under construction literally just down the street.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It is a bipartisan bill. I ask for its immediate passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of H.R. 4488. I would like to thank my colleague across the aisle for his support. I would also like to thank the Honorable JOHN LEWIS for being a sponsor of this legislation.

This is important legislation, as it does embrace two Congressional Gold Medals that have already been awarded.

As fate would have it, Mr. LEWIS was the original sponsor of the bill awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Ms. Coretta Scott King and the Honorable Dr. Martin Luther King. Both of them are honorable people.

I would also say that Mr. LEWIS has been a champion for human rights and civil rights. It is very difficult to have him in your presence and not acknowledge all that he has done.

So, today, I am honored to support the Gold Medical Technical Corrections Act of 2014.

I am also honored to mention one other colleague, the Honorable CORRINE BROWN. She worked on the bill that accorded a Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines of the United States Marine Corps. She was an original sponsor of this legislation.

□ 1230

These two giants have brought us this far. It will take this legislation to take us the final steps along the way.

The legislation merely indicates where these Congressional Gold Medals may be displayed. It seems to do what we could have done earlier, but we have found that it is not too late to do now.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am honored to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia, the Honorable JOHN LEWIS, our civil rights icon right here in the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding, and I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for all of his work on this legislation.

I would like to thank the chair and ranking member of the Financial Services Committee and all of their staff for their strong support of the legislation.

This bill is very simple. It simply ensures that these medals are displayed at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opens next year.

In 2004, Congress passed bipartisan legislation to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mrs. Coretta Scott King. I introduced the House bill, and my good friend, Senator CARL LEVIN, sponsored the Senate companion.

The legislation passed in the House and Senate by voice vote. Unfortunately, a couple of years later, my good friend, Coretta Scott King, passed away. She was a beautiful and strong spirit and, like her husband, a national treasure.

They were heroes, breaking down barriers, opening doors, fighting injustice across our country, and building bridges around the world. It is only fitting that this congressional tribute is on exhibit to the world in a permanent national memorial.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the bipartisan leadership and staff for all of their good and great work in support of this commonsense legislation.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am so honored to be a part of this, and I would thank, again, the Honorable JOHN LEWIS for his efforts to not only accord the Congressional Gold Medals to Dr. King and Mrs. King, but also his efforts to make sure that they are properly located, so that they can be displayed properly.

I would also want to, again, reiterate the efforts of the Honorable CORRINE BROWN, with reference to the Montford Point Marines of the United States Marine Corps. I believe this bill is one that can be embraced by all of our colleagues.

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

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

At this point, we have no other speakers. I, again, would just like to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for joining us with the sponsoring of this legislation; Mr. LEWIS, not only for legislation that is on the floor today, but for your historic work on behalf of civil rights prior to coming to Congress as well.

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have been an elected official for nearly 32 years, and one of the proudest moments I have experienced in all my years was when this House passed the bill to grant a Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines. When the bill granting the Gold Medal passed, all of the Members of Congress honored the Marines with a standing ovation for their service, their bravery, and their dedication to preserving freedom and democracy for our nation and the world.

I was pleased to work with Marine Commandant General James F. Amos, who put his office and staff behind the Gold Medal and in only 4 months, we went from introduction to public law, granting that Gold Medal. There were 308 cosponsors on the bill and it passed unanimously by a vote of 422–0.

When I was first elected to Congress, I requested to be a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee. And today, as the second most senior Democrat on the Committee, I believe it is my duty to continue to do everything I can to assist the members of our armed forces.

So for me, it was more than an honor to sponsor a Resolution to recognize the service and sacrifice of the Montford Point Marines, and acknowledge today's United States Marine Corps as an excellent opportunity for the advancement of people of all races, which in large part is due to the service and example of the original Montford Point Marines.

Years before Jackie Robinson, and decades before Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr., these heroes joined the Marines to defend our great nation. Fighting racism both at home and in the armed forces, as well as enemies abroad, these men persevered and protected this nation when it mattered most.

These African Americans from all States were not sent to the traditional boot camps in Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego, California. Instead, African American Marines were segregated, and went through basic training at Camp Montford Point near the New River in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

We must honor these war heroes' selfless service and sacrifice. They answered our nation's call at a time when our society was deeply divided along racial lines. Because of this, many of their contributions went unrecognized and many times they were not given the respect and recognition they deserved as Marines, as Americans, and as patriots. To correct this past injustice, we honor the Monford Point Marines, and this Gold Medal will forever anchor their role in the history of our nation's great military.

I am reminded of the words of the first President of the United States, George Washington, whose words are worth repeating at this time:

The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country.

Thank you all for your service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4488.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 627) to provide for the issuance of coins to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 627

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''National Park Service 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) In 1916, Congress established the National Park Service as a bureau within the Department of the Interior to administer America's great national parks and monuments as a unified National Park System.

(2) From 1916 to the present, the National Park System has grown from 37 park units with 6,000,000 acres of land in the western United States to more than 395 units with 84,000,000 acres of land in nearly all States and territories.

(3) The responsibilities of the National Park Service have grown to include—

(A) managing national historic trails and national scenic trails;

(B) administering wild and scenic rivers;

(C) recognizing America's most significant historic resources through the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmark program;

(D) providing historic preservation grants; and

(E) assisting communities in meeting their preservation, conservation, and recreation needs.

(4) The National Park Service Organic Act of 1916, which established the National Park Service, remains the preeminent law guiding the management of parks and articulating the Service's core mission, ''to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations''.

(5) The 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 will be an occasion to celebrate a century of American vision and achievement in identifying and preserving our Nation's special places for the benefit of

everyone and the culmination of 100 years of accomplishment by the National Park Service's employees, partners, and volunteers. It will also mark the beginning of the organization's second century of service to the American people as environmental leaders and vigilant stewards of the Nation's treasured places and stories.

(6) Coins commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service will bring national and international attention to the National Park System and to the legacy Congress left in 1916 when it established a Federal agency to ensure the protection of our Nation's most treasured natural and cultural resources for all time.

(7) The proceeds from a surcharge on the sale of commemorative coins will assist the financing of the needs of the National Park Service's parks and programs, helping to ensure that our Nation's great natural and cultural resources will endure for generations to come.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) $5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000 $5 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent alloy.

(2) $1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000 $1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(3) HALF DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half dollar coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 11.34 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

(C) be minted to the specifications for half dollar coins, contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(A) a designation of the face value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year ''2016''; and

(C) inscriptions of the words ''Liberty'', ''In God We Trust'', ''United States of America'', and ''E Pluribus Unum''.

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with—

(A) the National Park Service;

(B) the National Park Foundation; and

(C) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the period beginning on January 1, 2016, and ending on December 31, 2016.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to the coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

(1) A surcharge of $35 per coin for the $5 coin.

(2) A surcharge of $10 per coin for the $1 coin.

(3) A surcharge of $5 per coin for the half dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges which are received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National Park Foundation for projects and programs that help preserve and protect resources under the stewardship of the National Park Service and promote public enjoyment and appreciation of those resources.

(2) PROHIBITION ON LAND ACQUISITION.—Surcharges paid to the National Park Foundation pursuant to paragraph (1) may not be used for land acquisition.

(c) AUDITS.—The National Park Foundation shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received by the Foundation under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that—

(1) minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government; and

(2) no funds, including applicable surcharges, shall be disbursed to any recipient designated in section 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of the coins authorized by this Act (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 9. BUDGET COMPLIANCE.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, again, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, and also to submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on this bill, H.R. 627, as amended, and currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 627, the National Park Service 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, introduced by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

Mr. Speaker, this legislation seeks to authorize the minting and sale in 2016 of gold, silver, and clad commemorative coins marking the centenary of the forming of the National Park Service, the great stewards of American history and the American landscape so important to all of us.

The idea of federally recognizing and preserving certain sites began in the late 19th century with the official establishment of a select group of national parks, including Yellowstone, Sequoia National Park in California, and Yosemite as well.

When Theodore Roosevelt became President in 1901, he continued this effort, speaking out on the importance of preserving the habitats of American wildlife and signing the Antiquities Act of 1906. That act allowed the President to ''declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and pre-historic structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest.''

About a decade later, in 1916, the National Park Service was created to place all of the sites under the care of a single independent agency.

Fast forward to today, now, the Park Service manages nearly 400 sites totaling 84 million acres. These parks cover all corners of our Nation, and almost every American State and territory is home to at least one.

People from around the globe now are attracted to our national sites because of both their beauty and also

their grandeur. Every year, our parks hosts—note this—280 million visitors.

The legislation before us today has 307 cosponsors, and a companion Senate bill has 73.

The coins will be minted and sold at no cost to the taxpayer. No proceeds from the sale may be used to acquire new lands.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, honoring a great part of the Federal Government that maintains some of the most spectacular parts of American landscape and history, and I ask for its immediate passage.

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

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize the U.S. Mint to produce gold, silver, and clad coins for resale in 2016. Proceeds from the sale of these coins will be used to help protect our national parks, so that our country's great natural and cultural resources will endure for generations to come. This bill comes at no cost to taxpayers.

National parks are not only crucial to preserve our natural, historic, and cultural treasures, but they are also economic engines to job creators. They generate tens of billions in revenue and support hundreds of thousands of jobs nationwide.

This bill will help maintain and promote many beautiful and important parks in our country, such as Everglades National Park, which is located near the district I am proud to represent. .

The Everglades region is a large, interconnected ecosystem that is globally unique because of the hundreds of species and plants and animals that live there, such as the Florida panther and the West Indian manatee.

This rare ecosystem also faces exceptional problems due to rapid development and outdated infrastructure in the area.

You may be wondering why someone from Florida's Treasure Coast is concerned with the Everglades. As my colleagues have surely heard me discuss, there are serious problems facing Florida's many waterways.

When there is heavy rainfall—also known as summer in Florida—the Army Corps, following the Lake Okeechobee release schedule, releases water from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie River in the east and the Caloosahatchee River in the west. These freshwater releases are heavy in nitrogen, phosphorus, and bacteria that then plague our brackish waterways.

Last summer, the St. Lucie River contained such high levels of bacteria that local officials posted public health warnings up and down the shore, and many residents reported infections resulting from their interaction with the water. Toxic algae blooms were also found throughout the waterways.

This pollution not only forces people to avoid contact with the water, which is frequently the center of their livelihood, but also is an extreme threat to the most biodiverse estuary in the country.

Just like the broader Everglades system, several species in the Indian River Lagoon are already being listed as threatened or endangered, and these releases jeopardize these species even further.

My constituents stress to me that the health of our environment cannot be separated from the health of our economy. In Florida's 18th District, the health of the Everglades and our waterways is critical to economic strength.

I will continue to advocate to even the most conservative of my colleagues that the economic impact of Everglades restoration projects provides a 4 to 1 return on investment in both short-term and long-term economic benefits.

So important are these restoration efforts, the Florida delegation continues to come together in a bipartisan manner in support of protecting our environment and the economic role it plays in our great State of Florida.

All members of our delegation understand that, for the entire system to benefit and for the Federal Government to work most efficiently, we must aggressively continue to push to complete Everglades restoration projects that we have already started.

It is clear that water quality and management decisions that impact one area of the Everglades system have residual impacts throughout the entire water system of central and south Florida and the Treasure Coast.

So while people who live along the Florida Bay may not immediately see the benefits of the C–44 Indian River Lagoon project in my district—and the same for residents of the Treasure Coast with the C–111 spreader canal—you cannot look at one piece of the system in a vacuum. It is intensively interconnected.

That is why I have been so passionate on Everglades restoration issues, not only in my district, but throughout the State and the watershed and why today I stand in support of this bill that will help the Park Service continue its important work of preserving this and other critical habitats.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, at this time, we are joined by the original sponsor of the legislation. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank him for his leadership, as well as Chairman HENSARLING and all the staff on the Financial Services Committee for bringing this legislation forward.

I also want to mention my partner in this effort, Congresswoman KAPTUR, for her efforts in promoting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, President Teddy Roosevelt said:

> There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the groves of the giant sequoias and redwoods, the canyon of the Colorado, the canyon of the Yellowstone, the three Tetons; and our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred.

His leadership and tireless advocacy for conservation led to the creation of the National Park Service and System back in 1916.

Today, the National Park Service comprises over 401 different areas, covering more than 84 million acres across America, including territories like in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These areas include some of our most cherished monuments, battlefields, lakeshores, recreation areas, pristine rivers, and pristine falls.

Minnesota is host to five national parks who are visited by more than 650,000 visitors each and every year, contributing $34 million to our local economy. They span the entirety of the State, from the beautiful Voyageurs National Park up on the Canadian border, to the Mississippi River and Recreation Area, running through the heart of the Twin Cities.

Americans from all States, though, and all backgrounds have enjoyed the opportunity to visit these sites. In 2016, in just a few years, we will all come together to help celebrate the centennial, the 100th birthday of the National Park Service.

To commemorate this occasion, we have got bipartisan, bicameral legislation that will allow the Department of the Treasury to authorize the minting of a series of commemorative coins: a $5 coin, a silver dollar, and a clad half dollar. There is no cost to the taxpayer.

Over 300 authors in the House have signed on to the bill, bipartisan support in the Senate; and all the proceeds from this commemorative coin program go to the National Park Foundation, which is responsible for preserving and protecting all these resources under the stewardship of the National Park Service, and then promoting the public enjoyment and recreation and appreciation for those resources.

□ 1245

So more than 278 million people enjoy national parks each and every year, including my wife and my family, my four daughters. We frequently have

the opportunity to visit and vacation in national parks. One of the very first summer jobs that I had was working at Yellowstone, some of the best memories of my life. My brother was a park ranger for many years at Glacier National Park.

So here we have a bill that commemorates not only the anniversary of our Park Service but also makes sure we have got dedicated funds that will have no taxpayer cost, no taxpayer impact in promoting these resources.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that our national parks are truly one of our greatest natural resources and crowned jewels, and they deserve being celebrated and preserved so that future generations can enjoy that beauty and history in our country. So passing this bill is just one important step to help us honor our country's very important heritage.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues and the gentleman from Minnesota and the gentleman from New Jersey for the spirited debate on the importance of America's national parks, including Florida's incomparable ''river of grass,'' the Everglades.

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

Mr. GARRETT. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 627, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RESTORING PROVEN FINANCING FOR AMERICAN EMPLOYERS ACT

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4167) to amend section 13 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, known as the Volcker Rule, to exclude certain debt securities of collateralized loan obligations from the prohibition against acquiring or retaining an ownership interest in a hedge fund or private equity fund, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4167

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Restoring Proven Financing for American Employers Act''.

SEC. 2. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION RELATING TO COLLATERALIZED LOAN OBLIGATIONS.

Section 13(g) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1851(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(4) COLLATERALIZED LOAN OBLIGATIONS.—

''(A) INAPPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN COLLATERALIZED LOAN OBLIGATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the divestiture, prior to July 21, 2017, of any debt securities of collateralized loan obligations, if such debt securities were issued before January 31, 2014.

''(B) OWNERSHIP INTEREST WITH RESPECT TO COLLATERALIZED LOAN OBLIGATIONS.—A banking entity shall not be considered to have an ownership interest in a collateralized loan obligation because it acquires, has acquired, or retains a debt security in such collateralized loan obligation if the debt security has no indicia of ownership other than the right of the banking entity to participate in the removal for cause, or in the selection of a replacement after removal for cause or resignation, of an investment manager or investment adviser of the collateralized loan obligation.

''(C) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph:

''(i) COLLATERALIZED LOAN OBLIGATION.—The term 'collateralized loan obligation' means any issuing entity of an asset-backed security, as defined in section 3(a)(77) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(77)), that is comprised primarily of commercial loans.

''(ii) REMOVAL FOR CAUSE.—An investment manager or investment adviser shall be deemed to be removed 'for cause' if the investment manager or investment adviser is removed as a result of—

''(I) a breach of a material term of the applicable management or advisory agreement or the agreement governing the collateralized loan obligation;

''(II) the inability of the investment manager or investment adviser to continue to perform its obligations under any such agreement;

''(III) any other action or inaction by the investment manager or investment adviser that has or could reasonably be expected to have a materially adverse effect on the collateralized loan obligation, if the investment manager or investment adviser fails to cure or take reasonable steps to cure such effect within a reasonable time; or

''(IV) a comparable event or circumstance that threatens, or could reasonably be expected to threaten, the interests of holders of the debt securities.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials to the RECORD on H.R. 4167, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4167, which is the Restoring Proven Financing for American Employers Act. It was introduced by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), who we will be hearing from shortly. And I would also like to thank my good friend from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), the ranking member of the Capital Markets Subcommittee, for her bipartisan and commonsense work on this important issue as well.

Today we have the opportunity to correct, in a strong, bipartisan way, an egregious example of regulatory overreach. For no reason that has been coherently stated by anyone, the banking regulators responsible for implementing the Volcker Rule have included provisions in their final rule that will literally cripple the market for collateralized loan obligations, also called CLOs.

See, at the stroke of a pen, the banking regulators are going to wreak havoc on one of the largest and most important sources of financing for literally hundreds of growing companies across this country. If the CLO provisions in the Volcker Rule go forward as planned, there will be a heavy price to pay in failed companies and also lost jobs.

So why is the government doing this? Did CLOs do anything to cause the financial crisis? No, they did not. Are CLOs a menace to the stability of our financial system? No, again. Is the small proportion of securities included in some CLO structures a national crisis that requires such a heavy hand by the Federal Government? Of course not.

Thankfully, the bill we have today, introduced by my friend from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), fixes this problem of the banking regulators' own making. First, it prevents a disastrous fire sale of suddenly impermissible legacy CLOs. Second, it narrows the Volcker rule's absurdly broad definition of an ''ownership interest'' in a CLO.

Last month, the Financial Services Committee passed this bill on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis, with all but three members of the committee voting in favor of it. The Independent Community Bankers of America and the American Bankers Association have all voiced their support as well.

I am sorry, though, that it has come to this. You know, time and time again the committee has admonished the banking regulators that the CLO provisions of Volcker were a threat to the economy and to the financial stability that they are supposed to be protecting. Time and again, however, the unwieldy banking regulators chose to do nothing. If they had corrected this problem as we have been urging them to do and which they could do, we

would not be here wasting valuable legislative time saving the CLO market from our own public servants.

Now, some have suggested that the agencies don't have the legal authority to fix the problems. It is interesting that Federal agencies always seem to have plenty of authority when it comes to doing something, but when they need to fix something that they messed up, well, suddenly they have no authority.

Perhaps the real problem is the fact that we have so many different banking regulatory agencies in the first place. If coordinating these agencies to avoid a regulatory train wreck is too difficult, then maybe we need fewer agencies.

I have spoken before about the proliferation of government regulators with authority over our financial markets. More regulators mean more wasteful duplication of functions, more regulatory confusion, more empire building, more bureaucratic rivalry, less accountability, and less problem solving.

An ever increasing number of agencies with ever increasing authority only makes our financial system more unsustainable and more arbitrary and more unstable, and it makes it all the more likely that the heavy-handed government will fall suddenly on some unlucky corner of the economy.

So it is my hope that this body can come together now and support this bipartisan piece of legislation so that we can ensure that the market for collateralized loan obligations, CLOs, is not carelessly and needlessly destroyed. While they may not have a high profile, CLOs provide a valuable function that our recovering economy cannot do without, and I urge my colleagues for that reason to support H.R. 4167.

And at this time, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4167, to create jobs and prevent unintended consequences of the Volcker Rule, which I strongly support.

The bill before us represents a truly bipartisan compromise that balances the author's goal to preserve a proven financing mechanism with democratic concerns against watering down the Volcker Rule, which is designed to prevent banks from gambling on Wall Street with consumer deposits, the very type of behavior that nearly took down our financial system and gave us the Great Recession.

The truth is the Volcker Rule is not intended to capture debt. Debt is an everyday tool of plain vanilla financial institutions. No, the Volcker Rule is about equity ownership. We don't want banks owning hedge funds and private equity funds, but of course we still want banks out in the communities lending to the real economy.

I want to thank the gentleman from Kentucky and the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for working together on a compromise that makes a narrow, commonsense fix to the Volcker Rule without undermining its core purpose: prohibiting risky proprietary trading by federally insured banks.

I also want to recognize Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS for the truly bipartisan way this bill came to the floor by a vote of 53–3. I am hopeful that we will see more bipartisanship from our committee on the business of the American people: comprehensive community bank regulatory relief, TRIA, reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank to help American job creators access foreign markets, and reforming Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to protect taxpayers without undermining the housing market and preserving the 30-year fixed rate mortgage for middle class families.

The bill before us would simply clarify that the right to vote to remove a CLO manager in traditional, creditor-protective circumstances, such as a material breach of contract, does not, by itself, convert a debt security into an equity security under the Volcker Rule.

It would also provide narrow relief to existing CLO securities as long as they qualify as debt under this bill. For CLOs that are not debt securities under this bill, banks will get an additional 2 years to divest, which will prevent a disruptive fire sale of these securities and cost as much as $8 billion.

At this time, I will insert the text of a letter from the Independent Community Bankers of America into the RECORD.

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKERS OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of the more than 6,500 community banks represented by ICBA, I write to express our support for the Restoring Proven Financing for American Employers Act (H.R. 4167), which will be considered on the House floor this week. Introduced by Rep. Andy Barr, H.R. 4167 will allow community banks to retain debt securities of collateralized loan obligations (CLO) issued before January 31, 2014. The Financial Services Committee reported H.R. 4167 by a nearly unanimous vote in March.

As you may know, the final Volcker Rule implementing a provision of the Dodd-Frank Act, issued December 10, requires banks, including community banks, to divest their holdings of CLOs by July 2015. Though the compliance date was later extended, this requirement could cause a significant, immediate and permanent loss of capital for community banks that hold these securities and are still recovering from the financial crisis. H.R. 4167 would avert this damaging and unanticipated outcome by repealing the divestment requirement for CLOs issued before January 31.

ICBA urges you to support H.R. 4167. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CAMDEN R. FINE,
President & CEO.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Once again, I would like to thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), who also is a member of the United Solutions Caucus and is dedicated to real problem solving and saving the partisanship for another day. He worked hard on this bill and was willing to reach across the aisle for commonsense compromise. As a result of his hard work, this jobs bill is on the suspension calendar and has earned a strong bipartisan vote.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, at this time, we are now joined by the sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from Kentucky, who, as was indicated, worked in a bipartisan manner to get it out of committee, here on the floor. And I assume we are going to see a strong bipartisan vote for it on the floor as well.

At this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, my friend who has, himself, shown a considerable amount of leadership on this issue in making sure that American companies on Main Street and all across this country have access to reliable, affordable capital to grow their businesses and create jobs.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Florida for participating in the discussion here today in a bipartisan manner and for his support. And I also thank my colleagues both on this side and that side of the aisle for their support and for recognizing that we do need to fix this problem.

H.R. 4167, the Restoring Proven Financing for American Employers Act, is about jobs and economic growth. It is about reliable access to affordable credit to small, midcap, and emerging-growth companies, in fact, some of the most dynamic and job-producing companies in America.

As the U.S. Chamber of Commerce states in its letter of support, my legislation is necessary to ''fix the adverse impacts of the Volcker Rule upon thousands of Main Street businesses.''

This legislation, as has been mentioned earlier, passed out of the Financial Services Committee on a March 14 strongly bipartisan vote of 53–3. I want to thank Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY of New York for her support and work in developing this commonsense legislation to provide a necessary clarification of the Volcker Rule while maintaining the original legislative intent regarding the treatment of collateralized loan obligations.

While there are several exemptions provided in the statute included in section 619 of the Dodd-Frank law, which

authorizes the Volcker Rule, that legislative language states:

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or restrict the ability of a banking entity or nonbank financial company supervised by the Federal Reserve Board to sell or securitize loans in a manner otherwise permitted by law.

Nevertheless, despite this plain language in the statute, certain asset-backed securities originally thought to be exempt by the Volcker Rule are now subject to the covered fund definition.

So the pragmatic need to provide this defined, narrow fix is why the legislation is endorsed by the American Bankers Association, by the Kentucky Bankers Association, and by the small community banks around this country, the Independent Community Bankers of America. And it is why a small community bank in my home State of Kentucky contacted my office in January. He alerted us to the fact that failing to fix this problem could very well mean significant losses to that small community bank, possible layoffs of employees, and higher borrowing rates and fees for the customer in the local community.

So getting this issue right and fixing the problem is important to community banks. It is important to U.S. employers and businesses on Main Street. It is important to a whole lot of jobs that support families in Kentucky and around this country. And here is why: collateralized loan obligations, or CLOs, have proven to be a critical source of funding for U.S. businesses over the last 20 years.

□ 1300

Today, CLOs continue to provide over $300 billion in financing to U.S. companies, including companies that are well-known to all of us in this Chamber—Dunkin' Donuts, American Airlines, Burger King, Toys ''R'' Us, Neiman Marcus, Delta Air Lines, Goodyear Tire, and even a mattress and bedding company in my hometown of Lexington, Kentucky, Tempur Sealy. Yet, this valuable form of corporate finance that supports jobs is under assault due to the regulators' implementation of the Volcker Rule, which makes it impermissible for banks to retain or invest in these assets.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, H.R. 4167 would ''preserve this important source of financing that supports growth and job creation throughout our economy.'' CLOs have a proven track record of success, and they ''performed very well before, during and since the financial crisis.''

According to the Kentucky Bankers Association, investment in CLOs is a ''conservative addition to an existing and balanced investment approach'' and a ''thoughtful solution to the equity problem'' that banks face. In fact, the default rate on CLOs in the last 20 years has been less than one-half of 1 percent.

Yet, despite this proven track record and despite this critical source of funding for growing U.S. companies and job producers in America, the Volcker Rule regulators require that banks divest of their CLO holdings. The consequences will be a fire sale in the market that will cause significant losses to banks currently holding what are known as legacy CLOs.

Looking forward, it will increase the cost of borrowing in the future for U.S. businesses looking to expand, grow, and create much-needed jobs.

These warnings may sound abstract. So let me explain how this affects a real business that employs many of my constituents in Kentucky's Sixth Congressional District. Tempur-Pedic is a high-end mattress bedding company, and they produce, through space-age technology, very comfortable, high-end beds for the top of the market. But they knew that in order to be resilient and to be growing in the future, they needed to acquire a competitor that covered the rest of the marketplace—the value products, the midlevel products, and a lower but higher level form of mattress so that in the event of an economic downturn or competitive pressures in the marketplace, they would have a cross-section of the entire marketplace with all price points of bedding.

So Tempur-Pedic used CLO financing, where it didn't have access to affordable corporate bond financing, as affordable corporate bond financing. They accessed CLO financing and closed this transaction where they acquired a well-known company to a lot of Americans, Sealy, and that transaction closed in March of 2013. This allowed them to expand their business and create already in just a year's time 200 new jobs in my district.

Thanks to CLO financing, Tempur Sealy is now a more resilient company and better poised for growth in the future. And if Tempur Sealy sees an opportunity to grow even more and is in need of a commercial loan, we want to make sure that this source of affordable financing is there for them and for all U.S. companies.

H.R. 4167 is a defined, narrow fix which clarifies that the Volcker Rule should not be construed to require the divestiture of any debt securities of CLOs prior to July 21, 2017, if such CLOs were issued before January 21, 2014.

H.R. 4167 also clarifies that a bank shall not be considered to have an ownership interest in a CLO for purposes of enforcement of the Volcker Rule if such debt security has no indicia of ownership other than the right to participate in removal for cause or in the selection of a replacement investment manager or investment adviser of the CLO.

So, in sum, Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a bipartisan, commonsense fix to a real world problem voiced by community banks and emerging growth companies like Tempur Sealy in my own district that will benefit these companies all around the country. So I urge a vote in support of H.R. 4167, the Restoring Proven Financing for American Employers Act.

Mr. GARRETT. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO).

Mr. CAPUANO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am one of those three people who voted ''no.'' I do not expect to win here today on the floor. And I want to be real clear: I do not oppose consolidated loan obligations. I support them. They are an important financial tool.

But that is not what this bill does. This bill allows risky CLOs. Most CLOs would be permitted pursuant to the Volcker Rule. If they only contained loans, they are okay. Any bank can own them to any degree.

So let's not think that somehow the Volcker Rule has killed CLOs. They have simply said they have to be what they say they are, collateralized loan obligations, not collateralized loan obligations put together with all kinds of other junk. Simple. Straightforward.

There is not going to be any fire sale. The regulators have already listened to the congressional comments, of which I was one, asking for a delay to allow the existing CLOs that do not meet the regulation to be held for 2 more years. There will be no fire sale. There has been no fire sale.

As we speak, the sale of CLOs is at a historic high. The Volcker Rule has not killed the market. They are back to almost the same levels they were at in 2007 before the crash.

Let me be clear. I agree that CLOs did not, on their own, participate in the '08 problems and that they do have a record of success. But prior to 2008, most people would have said the same thing about collateralized debt obligations. By the way, at some point, somebody has to explain to me the difference between debt and loans, but that is a different issue.

Collateralized loan obligations are important. They are a good, thoughtful way to provide capital. By the way, most of them are used for leveraged buyouts, as the example we just heard, for leveraged buyouts. Now, you can argue whether leveraged buyouts to the extent they happen are good or bad, but that is what they are mostly used for.

I also want to be real clear. Very, very, very few small, community banks have any CLOs. Over 70 percent of the collateralized loan obligations, both the ones that are allowed and disallowed, are owned by three banks.

Over 70 percent are owned by three of the largest banks in the world. And by the way, almost all of those CLOs would be permitted to those three large banks.

So what are we solving here? We are pretending to save some great investment tool. It is not under threat. We are pretending that no problems could ever happen. Those are the same discussions we had in '05, '06, '07, and '08. All the risk that was being assumed comfortably and successfully prior to 2008 was perfectly fine. Those regulators are just killing America—until the crash happened, from which we are still recovering.

All we want to do is take a look at some of the riskier aspects of this financial aspect and simply say, whoa, it doesn't mean everybody can't do it. It simply means regulated banks can't do it. Private investors could still do every one of these things. Why would regulated banks be prohibited from doing only the most risky CLOs? Because they are protected by taxpayer dollars, because they are protected by the FDIC, and because we, as a society, have said that bank stability is important to the American economy.

So let's be clear: CLOs are not being killed. They are being limited in a very small way only to target the most risky CLOs. Banks and others have already adjusted to those limitations by reinvigorating the CLO market in a way that has been and would be allowed under the existing rule. But yet we have a problem.

We have a crisis that we have to solve. A handful of people will not be allowed to risk my mother's investment. That is what we are crying about. Well, I have heard that before, and it didn't turn out too well in '08. A little limitation is good for the American system. And, by the way, it is historically the system as it has been for a thousand years.

I just want to end with a quote by Paul Volcker himself. I presume Paul Volcker knows more about the economy and the markets than most people in Congress. But maybe not. Maybe some people are smarter than him. This is what he said about this bill:

> This constant effort to get around the rule limiting banks' investment in hedge funds on behalf of a few institutions who apparently want room to resume the financing practices that got us into trouble in the past really should end.

CLOs—straightforward and plain vanilla—are a good and important investment tool for the American economy. They should and will be allowed under the current rules. There should and will be time for people to move slowly and thoughtfully without a fire sale out of the handful of risky investments that are there, and even those people who love those risky investments will be able to do it still, just not through a subsidized bank.

I know that I have not convinced anyone. I know that I am going to lose this vote on the floor, and I respect it. And I hope to God that my concerns are wrong and overblown. I hope that in a few years I come back and I apologize to the gentleman for my concerns, that they were overblown and unjustified. Because America will be better off if you are right. But if you are wrong, a handful of people will make a lot of money, but the rest of us will be dramatically and deeply hurt once again.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his remarks.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AMODEI). The gentleman from New Jersey has 8½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Florida has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, and I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his contribution to the debate. It gives us an opportunity to actually analyze what exactly we are talking about here.

We are not talking about the risky assets that were contributing factors to the financial crisis. If this were junk, as the gentleman from Massachusetts describes it to be, the default rate on CLOs would have been much higher over the last 20 years. But the default rate on CLOs over the last 20 years, including during the financial crisis, was less than half of 1 percent. Not one of the nearly 4,000 notes rated AAA or AA ever defaulted in CLOs.

Part of the reason for this strong, durable performance of CLOs is because CLOs are very different from the troubled assets that fueled the financial crisis. CLOs are distinct because, number one, they are based on diverse assets, commercial loans that are well diversified across the industry. These are solid, diversified loans, and they are typically secured loans.

Secondly, there is an alignment of interest between CLO investors and the CLO managers. The managers actually have skin in the game.

Finally, third, there are significantly greater transparency features to CLOs and disclosure since the commercial loans here, the secured commercial loans, are issued by companies that report financial information on a regular basis to investors, and they are required to provide regular financial reports with the SEC.

Now, with respect to the gentleman's claim that the CLO market is doing just great, there is a lot of misinformation about this. According to the Loan Syndication and Trading Association, U.S. banks hold an estimated $70 billion of CLO notes, which would have to be divested if we don't make the fix by July 21, 2015, and with the Fed's change a little bit later. But even the threat of such a divestiture roiled the CLO market in December and January before Congress took action.

So due primarily to uncertainty around the Volcker Rule in January 2014, U.S. CLO issuance dropped nearly 90 percent from the prior year, drying up access to credit. The only reason why the CLO market has recovered since January is because of this bill. It is because of the legislative action, the bipartisan efforts of this body.

Finally, I just would like to conclude by responding to the gentleman's assertion that a little limitation is good for the system—a little limitation is good for the system. Well, hear what a witness at our hearing about this issue said about this little limitation:

> If you have a situation where the Volcker Rule basically impedes U.S. banks and some foreign banks from investing in CLOs, you can see their appetite reduced by 80 percent. They will just not participate in the CLO market.

Ultimately, that leads to our other point, in that we can see a significant cost to financing for U.S. companies. What happens when you see a significant cost to financing or decreased credit availability for companies? That means these companies that have over 5 million employees can't build new factories, they can't build new cellular networks, they can't expand, and they can't combine and merge to bigger, more resilient companies that can compete effectively on a global basis. It ultimately would have a very destructive effect on U.S. companies.

So, Mr. Speaker, in sum, I will just bring it back to my home district. If a little limitation is good for the system, tell that to the 200 Kentuckians who now have jobs because of this innovative source and a responsible source of commercial credit in America.

□ 1315

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

I just want to take a moment to respond as well to the gentleman from Massachusetts. He indicated that he is probably not going to convince anyone who is supporting the bill. I presume I am probably not going to convince him either, as I look over there, because he is now off the floor; but if he is back in his office and tuning us in, let me just make some points where he might be convinced.

He spoke about the fire sale that will not occur now under the proposed Volcker Rule. Well, yes, it still will occur, just because you are not saying that the sale has to occur this afternoon, but it is going to occur at a set point in time, either 6 months from now, a year from now, or as they are

proposing, 2 years from now. In either case, when you set a date certain for a sale, then everyone else out there knows that this is the day that they might as well wait for; and eventually, they will have to sell, and at that point in time, they will engage in a fire sale.

In other words, by setting a date when you have to sell all of your assets or whatever you have, you are basically pushing the price down in that market.

Secondly, with regard to sales up, I guess the gentleman from Kentucky already raised that point. Sales were going down until Congress came together in a unique experience for Congress, which was a bipartisan effort, and once the rest of Main Street and Wall Street saw that Congress can actually do things together and work together in a bipartisan manner, they did what the rest of Americans will do and said: good thing. They said: let's get that market going back up again.

As the gentleman from Kentucky pointed out, that is exactly what occurred.

Thirdly, the gentleman from Massachusetts admitted that the CLO market was not the cause or any cause of the crisis that we had back in 2008, and I have not heard any testimony from anyone on any panel from either end of the spectrum that the CLOs would be a basis for the next crisis that inevitably will come.

Next, the gentleman from Massachusetts raised the point that something like 70 percent of all the CLOs out there are captured by something like three large banks or three financial institutions and made it sound as though the smaller and midsized banks are not really playing here.

Then you had to listen to the next thing that he said. He said that most of those CLOs held by those would already be protected by the current Volcker proposal out of the administration.

Well, that tells you right there that the legislation from the gentleman from Kentucky is not addressing or not trying to solve a problem for the three large banks. The legislation he is trying to put forward in a bipartisan manner is, in fact, doing just as he explained for the smaller banks, for the midsized banks, those are the ones that we are concerned about; and we want to make sure that they are not hurt through fire sales or further restrictions on them.

Finally, last—but maybe not least—is the fact that this bill will not end too big to fail. Well, we know that Dodd-Frank, unfortunately, did not end too big to fail.

Dodd-Frank did a number of things, but it did not end too big to fail, and the way to solve that is not by nitpicking around the edges on areas such as this that did not cause the crisis in the first place.

In fact, the authors and the proponents of Dodd-Frank understood that when they passed Dodd-Frank—because, look, what is the language in Dodd-Frank when it comes to the Volcker Rule and the CLO matter that is before us today? Did they want to have this included in the rule that Volcker would eventually come out with? The answer is no.

The language specifically in 619 of Dodd-Frank—voted in favor of, by the way, by the gentleman from Massachusetts—says:

> Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or restrict the ability of a banking entity or nonbank financial company supervised by the Federal Reserve Board to sell or secure type loans in a manner otherwise permitted by law.

What does that sentence mean? That means that the sponsors of—and those like the gentleman from Massachusetts who supported Dodd-Frank—specifically put into the Dodd-Frank law the direction to the Fed and the other regulators that they should not be doing what they are doing right now. They should not be putting, as it says, limitations on this type of instrument.

So for all of those reasons, if the gentleman from Massachusetts is still watching what we are doing on the floor, perhaps we have convinced him that he should join with the majority on both sides of the House and not be part of the three or so who remain opposed to this and support the legislation, H.R. 4167.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues and the gentleman from New Jersey for their thoughtful debate on this commonsense improvement to the Volcker Rule.

I appreciate my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle always keeping the focus on preventing some of the world's largest banks from subjecting the American people to another financial crisis.

However, I believe this bill strikes the right balance to protect the American people and create jobs. It was reported by the Financial Services Committee with a strong bipartisan 53–3 vote, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4167, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4414, EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 555 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 555

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4414) to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 555 provides for the consideration to fix yet another flaw that has to be corrected in the Affordable Care Act due to the rushed process by which the bill was passed in March of 2010.

As a direct result of the hasty legislation, experts have estimated that over 1,000 Americans will lose their jobs unless Congress takes immediate action to correct and clarify the Affordable Care Act's impact on expatriate health care plans.

This bill before us today will do just that, putting Americans above partisan politics and helping yet another subset of people in our country who currently are being harmed by the President's takeover of our health care system.

The rule before us today provides for one full hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the

ranking minority member on the Committee on Ways and Means. Further, the rule provides for the adoption of an amendment by the bill's authors, Representatives NUNES from California and CARNEY from Delaware, which addresses a number of concerns the minority expressed during debate of this legislation several weeks ago.

True to the Speaker's commitment of letting the House work its will, Republicans listened to those concerns and crafted a bipartisan amendment to improve the legislation. In addition, the rule provides the minority the standard motion to recommit.

H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014, addresses the problem caused by the Affordable Care Act, which could result in those Americans who live abroad for a substantial portion of the year, those individuals referred to as expatriates, that could cause them to lose their health care coverage because of the one-size-fits-all approach to our health care system, which was employed by the wizards who wrote the Affordable Care Act.

Expatriate health care providers have traditionally offered tailored, specialized insurance plans to meet the needs of Americans who spend their time overseas. These citizens simply cannot rely on a local general practitioner or neighborhood clinic because, so often, they are far away from home.

However, the Affordable Care Act does not provide an avenue by which these plans can continue to be offered. Instead, Senator REID, Kathleen Sebelius, and Barack Obama decided it was up to them to decide how Americans' health insurance plans should be structured.

The legislation before us today is a clear example of why a top-down Federal approach to health care does not work. Consumers should be in the driver's seat deciding what works best for them, what works best for themselves and their families, not someone sitting in Washington, D.C.

Because of the regulations in the Affordable Care Act, insurers have announced that they will have to shift their expatriate operations overseas in order to be in compliance with the law, and with those operations will go those jobs. All Americans know that it was shown to be an empty promise when someone said, if you like your health care plan, you can keep it.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it is a darn good thing the President never promised, if you like your job, you can keep it. Over a thousand jobs tied to expatriate health care operations will now be shipped overseas. Americans who rely on these health plans, which until now have worked well for them and their families, are going to have to scramble and scramble fast to find alternative coverage.

Some examples of those Americans who will potentially lose their health care coverage due to the unyielding regulations of the Affordable Care Act include businessmen and businesswomen, pilots, foreign aid workers, ship operators, and tour guides.

The President has already acknowledged that his law will hurt these Americans, announcing that the Department of Health and Human Services would, yet again, ignore the law and provide a temporary waiver from complying with the law's requirements; but this is not how you fix flawed legislation.

You involve the legislative branch. You come to Congress, and you ask that you legislate and fix the problem in the law.

Now, the White House, where there is a so-called constitutional scholar, the President seems to have only read Article II of the Constitution, skipping entirely over the first and longest article, Article I, where the Founders make the case that Congress is the body where laws are passed, the body where laws are written, the body where laws are amended. As a result of the President making this change unilaterally, the relief is only temporary.

The bill before us today provides the long-term security, the security that is required to give these affected Americans and their families the certainty they need to make decisions for their futures. These expatriate plans are not barebone plans that some in this body have criticized.

This is not lousy insurance. They typically are robust plans. They are comprehensive plans, which simply cater to the special needs of Americans who travel and are gone for a good portion of the year.

□ 1330

The amendment by Representatives NUNES and CARNEY, which is adopted in the rule before us, takes a thoughtful piece of legislation and improves it even further. It clarifies that any future plans offered to expatriates must still comply with the actuarial requirements in the Affordable Care Act, as well as any pre-Affordable Care Act laws, including the Employee Retirement Income and Security Act, known as ERISA, and the Public Health Service Act. Moreover, it narrowly tailors this relief to those Americans who spend more than 180 days outside the country. These were concerns that Democrats expressed during the previous debate on this legislation, and they are fully addressed in the legislation before us today.

This is a carefully crafted fix. It was necessary because the underlying law was so poorly crafted. It is needed to help Americans who are being directly harmed by the President's health care law.

I encourage my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the rule and ''yes'' on the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

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

I voted for the Affordable Care Act, I support the Affordable Care Act, and I believe in the Affordable Care Act. I believe every person in this country ought to have health care. I don't think that is a radical idea, but my friends on the other side of the aisle apparently do. I think everybody in this country is entitled to good, quality health insurance. I think when they get sick they ought to know they will be taken care of and not have to worry about whether they are going to get covered or not because of preexisting conditions or whether they are going to meet some sort of lifetime cap and be excluded from coverage.

That is what the Affordable Care Act is all about. That is what this big controversy that my friends on the other side of the aisle have decided to make on this issue is all about. So I am making sure that everybody in this country has health care. Boy, what a radical idea, what a radical idea.

I will also say that having supported the Affordable Care Act, it is not a perfect piece of legislation. I have never seen a perfect piece of legislation ever come out of Congress. Legislation, especially legislation that covers a subject as wide as this, at times will be tweaked. There will be unintended consequences that we will come and we will try to fix. That is what legislation is supposed to do: to try to fix the problems.

Democrats have said that from the beginning, that we want to make this bill work, work as well as it possibly can. We said we would be willing to work with Republicans and the administration to address the problems that have come about as a result of the implementation of this law. By no means does that mean that we should repeal the Affordable Care Act, which is something my Republican friends are obsessed with. To the contrary, we need to do everything we can to fix any challenges that this law may have to make sure that every American gets the benefit of the Affordable Care Act.

H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act, is trying to fix one problem with the law. My friend from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) and others are attempting to try to fix a provision in the law that causes some problems with the ways that expatriates are treated under the ACA.

This is one example of how we—Democrats and Republicans—should be able to work together. This is one example of how we—supporters and opponents of the ACA—should be able to lay those differences aside as we try to find solutions and move our country forward.

It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that House and Senate Democrats and Republicans have been working with the White House to come up with a solution that can pass both Houses of Congress and be signed by the President. It is also my understanding that discussions were ongoing as late as yesterday afternoon when the House majority decided to go with the version before us today instead of waiting to continue negotiations in a bipartisan, bicameral way so that we can get a bill moved expeditiously through both Houses and signed into law by the President of the United States.

I am more than a little disappointed, Mr. Speaker, because I want to work with the majority to fix this problem. I am concerned that this bill, the bill before us that we are talking about right now, creates other problems, namely excluding green card holders and nonimmigrant workers from most of the coverage protections provided by the ACA. I am disappointed that this process was closed down even though negotiations were still ongoing.

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas literally took my breath away when he talked about that this represents the Speaker's pledge to let the House work its will. This issue first came up under a suspension, which was totally closed, and it is coming to the floor today under a closed rule. Those of us who have some ideas on how we might be able to make this more palatable to address some of the concerns that we have will not have that opportunity. They have closed the process down. I hardly think that that can be described as an open process or as a transparent process. This is yet another closed rule, another closed rule.

Mr. Speaker, this process was flawed and this process could have been better. There are many of us on my side of the aisle who believe that we need to fix this flaw that the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) has brought to our attention, but we need to do it in the right way, and this is not the right way to do it.

I think what is going to happen here is—my friends on the other side of the aisle control most of the votes here so they will probably pass this bill—but what will happen then is that the Senate will then have negotiations with the White House and try to figure out how to fix this problem. They will pass it, then it will have to come back to the House again, and then we will have to deal with it separately.

I regret very much that my friends have decided to go this way. If they had waited a few more days we probably could have gotten a solution to this that could have received unanimous support. Instead, we are back at the same old-same old, where it is attack the ACA, attack the ACA, and pretend to try to fix it by addressing a legitimate concern, but adding to that a whole bunch of extraneous stuff that creates other problems.

I would urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the rule and to vote ''no'' on the bill. Let's wait until the Senate gets it right with the White House and we can revisit this issue.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

This bill was brought to the floor under suspension of the rules prior to the Easter recess. So it has been available for consideration, for staff work to occur, for some period of time. The fact of the matter is that it is an imminent problem facing people who are working outside of the country, and for that reason it was important to get it solved.

If the gentleman feels that more work should have been done prior to that time, perhaps they should have worked with the majority prior to it being brought up under suspension. I don't know the answer to that. But I do know where we are today is that this is a problem that needs to be fixed, and the Republican majority is seeing to it that it is fixed, bringing it to the floor under a rule. The minority will have an opportunity to amend during a motion to recommit, and I certainly look forward to a lively discussion during that time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

What we are considering right now before the full House is very clear.

One, a closed rule. What a closed rule means is that you can't offer any amendments. So some of the concerns that have been raised about the underlying bill we can't fix. For the life of me, I don't understand why, if the gentleman claims that the Republican majority is committed to an open, transparent process where the House can work its will, I don't understand why you would approve a closed rule on this.

Let's be honest about this. It is not like my friends on the other side of the aisle are doing anything else. We have had multiple repeals of the Affordable Care Act before us. We have had lots of message issues that their pollsters say poll well, but the Republican majority hasn't really done very much to help the American people in any way, shape, or form. So it is not like the time doesn't exist to maybe have a little bit more debate on an issue like this and be able to perfect this bill. This is a closed rule. This is a closed rule, this is a closed process, and this has become a closed House.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this closed rule, reject this closed process, reject the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

This, this was brought to the House floor as a closed rule in March of 2010. This coercive, partisan piece of legislation which is going to affect health care in this country for every man, woman, and child for the next three generations, this was brought under a closed rule.

We are trying to fix one very narrow problem contained within these pages. It seems to me that there has been ample discussion. A bill was debated under suspension. It did not receive the required two-thirds vote, so it is being brought back today under a rule, and the minority will have an opportunity to offer an amendment during the motion to recommit. This was a closed rule which was very damaging to the country. Today's closed rule is simply to fix one of the many problems contained herein.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I remind the gentleman that the Speaker of the House said when the Republicans won the majority that they were going to conduct proceedings here in the most open way possible—this will be the most open and transparent House ever. And it has become the most closed House ever.

Because the gentleman brought up the Affordable Care Act, I want to make sure he understands the facts. While the bill we are talking about right now received 20 minutes of debate under suspension, let me read you the facts about the Affordable Care Act, in case my friend forgot.

The House held nearly 100 hours of hearings and 83 hours of committee markups. The House heard from 181 witnesses, both Democrats and Republicans. 239 amendments were considered in the three committees of jurisdiction, 121 of which were adopted. The bill was available for 72 hours before Members were asked to vote on it on the floor.

The process was just as open in the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee held more than 53 hearings. The Finance Committee also spent 8 days marking up the legislation, the longest markup in 22 years for the committee. The Senate Health Committee held 47 bipartisan hearings, roundtables, and walk-throughs on health care reform. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act may have started out with a different bill number, but the fact remains hundreds of hours of hearings on the Affordable Care Act, hundreds of witnesses, hundreds of amendments considered in the committee, and countless hours of townhall meetings.

My friend on the other side of the aisle likes to say, well, there was a different bill number when we voted here on the floor, but as he knows, the process of using a different bill number is

very common around here. In fact, the Republican majority has done it several times in the past 3 years. But regardless of the bill number, the work that went into forming this legislation was one of the most open processes in the history of Congress.

That is the facts on that.

But let me also make one other point. The problem my friends on the other side of the aisle have with the Affordable Care Act is not with the process. It is just they don't believe that people ought to have affordable health care in this country. They have spent countless hours on this floor trying to repeal a bill that eliminates preexisting conditions as a way to deny people insurance.

They have been fighting against a bill that helps senior citizens get free preventive care coverage, that helps close that doughnut hole in the Medicare prescription drug bill. They are fighting against a bill that has brought millions and millions and millions of more people into a process where they can afford health care. So they have been against this from the very beginning.

I think the American people have a very different view. Their view is that they want this bill to work. My friends on the other side of the aisle have just spent countless hours, countless days, countless weeks, countless months just trying to repeal it. It is just Johnny One Note: repeal, repeal, repeal.

This idea that everybody should have affordable health care is such a controversy in the Republican Congress, I can't quite understand why. Why is it such a bad idea that everybody in this Congress has access to good quality health care? Why is that an idea that causes such resentment on the other side of the aisle? I don't get it.

We ought to make sure that this law gets implemented properly, and we ought to do this the right way. My friends don't want to do it the right way, so we are going to have to wait for the Senate to work it out with the administration and then send it back to us. There really should be a better way to do this.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Does the gentleman have any other speakers?

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

As much as I would like to continue this lively back-and-forth, we both know each other's positions on this extremely well.

No, I have no other speakers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1345

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question.

If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule that would allow the House to consider the Fair Minimum Wage Act. This week, the Senate will vote to raise the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour. Now is the time for the House to act and to honor our commitment to the middle class by giving hard-working Americans fair pay.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Again, I would urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, who like to talk about how the Republican majority is committed to allowing the House to work its will and is committed to an open and transparent process, to vote with us on this.

We have been trying to get the minimum wage bill to the floor forever, and we can't even get it up for a vote so that every Member has an opportunity to vote up or down. This is that opportunity so that we can have that vote, a vote to help lift people out of poverty and to help give people an opportunity to live better lives.

There are millions of workers in this country who are working full time—who are working hard at minimum wage jobs—and they are still stuck in poverty. There are millions and millions of people in this country who work hard full time at minimum wage jobs, but who earn so little that they still qualify for SNAP, and they rely on that program to put food on their tables because their paychecks don't provide enough.

This is an important issue, and I hope that my colleagues will support me on this. I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''no'' and defeat the previous question, and I urge a ''no'' vote on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule provides for the consideration of a critical bill to ensure Americans who are being hurt by the Affordable Care Act can have some relief.

Americans and their families who live abroad for part of the year face losing this specialized health insurance coverage on which they have come to rely. In addition, the men and women who operate on these health care plans face having their jobs outsourced overseas in order for companies to comply with regulations from the Department of Health and Human Services.

I certainly want to thank Mr. NUNES and Mr. CARNEY for their thoughtful legislation. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 555 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1010) to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1010.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R–Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

The Republican majority may say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what

they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: ''Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.''

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: ''Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by a 5-minute vote on adopting House Resolution 555, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 189, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 180]

YEAS—226

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—189

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—16

Brown (FL)
Campbell
Cleaver
Davis, Rodney
Griffin (AR)
Kind
McCarthy (NY)
McKeon
Miller, Gary
Murphy (PA)
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Wasserman Schultz
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)

□ 1418

Messrs. CARSON of Indiana and CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SINEMA, Messrs. ISRAEL and CARNEY changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 180 I was unavoidably detained and did not finish meeting with Chancellor Phylis Wise in time to get to floor. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Monday, April 28, 2014 and Tuesday April 29, 2014. Severe weather in the Midwest cancelled my flight out of Minneapolis on Monday afternoon, and again delayed me out of Chicago on Tuesday morning. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4192 (roll No. 178) and in favor of H.R. 4120 (roll No. 179) on Monday, April 28, and against H. Res. 555 (roll No. 180) on Tuesday, April 29.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 181, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 181]

AYES—238

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—181

Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—12

Brown (FL)
Campbell
Griffin (AR)
Hensarling
McCarthy (NY)
McKeon
Miller, Gary
Murphy (PA)
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Wasserman Schultz

□ 1425

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 555, I call up the bill (H.R. 4414) to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS). Pursuant to House Resolution 555, the amendment printed in House Report 113–422 is considered adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 4414

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF EXPATRIATE HEALTH PLANS UNDER ACA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the provisions of (including any amendment made by) the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148) and of title I and subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–152) shall not apply with respect to—

(1) expatriate health plans;

(2) employers with respect to any such plans for which such employers are acting as plan sponsors; or

(3) expatriate health insurance issuers with respect to coverage offered by such issuers under such plans.

(b) MINIMUM ESSENTIAL COVERAGE AND ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER-SPONSORED PLAN.—For purposes of section 5000A(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and any other section of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that incorporates the definition of minimum essential coverage provided under such section 5000A(f) by reference, coverage under an expatriate health plan shall be deemed to be minimum essential coverage under an eligible employer-sponsored plan as defined in paragraph (2) of such section.

(c) QUALIFIED EXPATRIATES AND DEPENDENTS NOT UNITED STATES HEALTH RISK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 9010 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (26 U.S.C. 4001 note prec.), for calendar years after 2014, a qualified expatriate (and any dependent of such individual) enrolled in an expatriate health plan shall not be considered a United States health risk.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR 2014.—The fee under section 9010 of such Act for calendar year 2014 with respect to any expatriate health insurance issuer shall be the amount which bears the same ratio to the fee amount determined by the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to such issuer under such section for such year (determined without regard to this paragraph) as—

(A) the amount of premiums taken into account under such section with respect to such issuer for such year, less the amount of premiums for expatriate health plans taken into account under such section with respect to such issuer for such year, bears to

(B) the amount of premiums taken into account under such section with respect to such issuer for such year.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXPATRIATE HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUER.—The term ''expatriate health insurance issuer'' means a health insurance issuer that issues expatriate health plans.

(2) EXPATRIATE HEALTH PLAN.—The term ''expatriate health plan'' means a group health plan, health insurance coverage offered in connection with a group health plan, or health insurance coverage offered to a group of individuals described in paragraph (3)(B) (which may include dependents of such individuals) that meets each of the following standards:

(A) Substantially all of the primary enrollees in such plan or coverage are qualified expatriates, with respect to such plan or coverage. In applying the previous sentence, an individual shall not be taken into account as a primary enrollee if the individual is not a national of the United States and resides in

the country of which the individual is a citizen.

(B) Substantially all of the benefits provided under the plan or coverage are not excepted benefits described in section 9832(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) The plan or coverage provides benefits for items and services, in excess of emergency care, furnished by health care providers—

(i) in the case of individuals described in paragraph (3)(A), in the country or countries in which the individual is present in connection with the individual's employment, and such other country or countries as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor, may designate; or

(ii) in the case of individuals described in paragraph (3)(B), in the country or countries as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor, may designate.

(D) In the case of an expatriate health plan that is a group health plan offered by a plan sponsor that—

(i) also offers a qualifying minimum value domestic group health plan, the plan sponsor reasonably believes that the benefits provided by the expatriate health plan are actuarially similar to, or better than, the benefits provided under a qualifying minimum value domestic group health plan offered by that plan sponsor; or

(ii) does not also offer a qualifying minimum value domestic group health plan, the plan sponsor reasonably believes that the benefits provided by the expatriate health plan are actuarially similar to, or better than, the benefits provided under a qualifying minimum value domestic group health plan.

(E) If the plan or coverage provides dependent coverage of children, the plan or coverage makes such dependent coverage available for adult children until the adult child turns 26 years of age, unless such individual is the child of a child receiving dependent coverage.

(F) The plan or coverage—

(i) is issued by an expatriate health plan issuer, or administered by an administrator, that maintains, with respect to such plan or coverage—

(I) network provider agreements with health care providers that are outside of the United States; and

(II) call centers in more than one country and accepts calls from customers in multiple languages; and

(ii) offers reimbursements for items or services under such plan or coverage in more than two currencies.

(G) The plan or coverage, and the plan sponsor or expatriate health insurance issuer with respect to such plan or coverage, satisfies the provisions of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg et seq.), chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and part 7 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1181 et seq.), which would otherwise apply to such a plan or coverage, and sponsor or issuer, if not for the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and title I and subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

(3) QUALIFIED EXPATRIATE.—The term ''qualified expatriate'' means any of the following individuals:

(A) WORKERS.—An individual who is a participant in a group health plan, who is an alien residing outside the United States, a national of the United States, lawful permanent resident, or nonimmigrant for whom there is a good faith expectation by the plan sponsor of the plan that, in connection with the individual's employment, the individual is abroad for a total of not less than 180 days during any period of 12 consecutive months.

(B) OTHER INDIVIDUALS ABROAD.—An individual, such as a student or religious missionary, who is abroad, and who is a member of a group determined appropriate by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor.

(4) QUALIFYING MINIMUM VALUE DOMESTIC GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The term ''qualifying minimum value domestic group health plan'' means a group health plan that is offered in the United States that meets the following requirements:

(A) Substantially all of the primary enrollees in the plan are not qualified expatriates, with respect to such plan.

(B) Substantially all of the benefits provided under the plan are not excepted benefits described in section 9832(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) The application of section 36B(c)(2)(C)(ii) of such Code to such plan would not prevent an employee eligible for coverage under such plan from being treated as eligible for minimum essential coverage for purposes of section 36B(c)(2)(B) of such Code.

(5) ABROAD.—

(A) UNITED STATES NATIONALS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), for purposes of applying paragraph (3) to a national of the United States, the term ''abroad'' means outside the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of applying paragraph (3) to a national of the United States who resides in the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, or Guam, the term ''abroad'' means outside of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and such territory or possession.

(B) FOREIGN CITIZENS.—For purposes of applying paragraph (3) to an individual who is not a national of the United States, the term ''abroad'' means outside of the country of which that individual is a citizen.

(6) UNITED STATES.—The term ''United States'' means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Guam.

(7) MISCELLANEOUS TERMS.—

(A) GROUP HEALTH PLAN; HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE; HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUER; PLAN SPONSOR.—The terms ''group health plan'', ''health insurance coverage'', ''health insurance issuer'', and ''plan sponsor'' have the meanings given those terms in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–91), except that in applying such terms under this section the term ''health insurance issuer'' includes a foreign corporation which is predominantly engaged in an insurance business and which would be subject to tax under subchapter L of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 if it were a domestic corporation.

(B) FOREIGN STATE; NATIONAL OF THE UNITED STATES; NONIMMIGRANT; RESIDE; LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT.—The terms ''national of the United States'', and ''nonimmigrant'' have the meaning given such terms in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)), the term ''reside'' means having a residence (within the meaning of such term in such section), and the term ''lawful permanent resident'' means an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as defined in such section).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4414.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill before the House today comes down to one simple question: Will we allow American companies to offer expatriate plans or will we force the offshoring of these plans? Will we support employment in America or stimulate employment overseas?

Mr. CARNEY and I have worked carefully and in good faith on a bipartisan basis to craft a bill that is limited in scope while at the same time remaining true to our commitment to save American jobs.

There have been a few changes to the bill since a bipartisan majority of the House supported it a few weeks ago. We clarified that an expatriate plan must be a comprehensive health care health plan and not a mini-med or other substandard plan.

□ 1430

We tightened the definition of an expatriate. The bill says that an expatriate must be abroad for at least 6 months. This is a much tougher standard, and it will guard against potential abuse.

The bill now also requires an expatriate plan to offer reimbursements in more than two currencies. Plans meet this requirement today, but the addition of this provision protects against the possible abuse of the expatriate exemption in the future.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the bill now makes explicit that the expatriate plans must continue to comply with relevant laws enacted prior to ACA, specifically ERISA and the Public Health Service Act.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a good bill. It is a bipartisan bill, and I urge the support of the House.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I shall consume.

There is no doubt about where Democrats stand. We have taken the lead to make sure there is no offshoring, and

there has been a good faith effort here, up to a point. Surely, that has been true of Mr. CARNEY in all of his efforts, working with Mr. NUNES.

But the problem is that there remain some serious shortcomings in this bill, and unfortunately, we cannot try to remedy it through an amendment, so the notion there is an open process here isn't correct.

The definition of expatriate has been tightened. I think there remain some issues, at least one regarding it; but the major problem relates to the language and how it would impact, potentially, health insurance for an estimated 13 million legal permanent residents and others who are lawfully present foreign workers in the U.S.

Let me just give you examples of where the standards remain weak. For example, under this legislation, expat plans would have dispensation to be weaker than other employer plans in this country.

They could, for example, impose cost sharing on preventive benefits. They could impose annual and lifetime limits on coverage. They could impose unduly long waiting periods.

Indeed, the only ACA provision that would clearly remain in effect would be that they would have to offer coverage to young adults under 26.

So the bottom line is, unfortunately, that the legislation, in its present form, could substantially undermine health security for foreign workers, as well as American dependents who remain in this country.

Also, what it does is provide unprecedented special treatment for these plans in terms of exempting them from financing mechanisms.

Let me say further, as we found out from the Joint Tax Committee and CBO, they confirm this bill would cause some employers who would offer ACA-compliant plans under present law to offer less generous expatriate plans that are no longer subject to the ACA. This is the reason the administration issued, I think just today, a Statement of Administration Policy, and they say they do not support H.R. 4414.

The ACA gives people, it continues, greater control over their health care; and what they say is that this is not true sufficiently in this case.

It says, because of the ACA, Americans who have previously been denied coverage due to a preexisting medical condition now have access to coverage, and that may well not continue.

So the administration concludes it remains willing to work with Congress to improve H.R. 4414 to address those issues and to maintain basic consumer protections for all workers. There are straightforward changes to the legislation, which we have shared with the Congress, that would satisfy these goals, and the Congress should pursue a solution.

Unfortunately, because of this rule, we cannot propose an amendment which would essentially implement these proposals from the administration that they have shared with the Congress. That is why I, unfortunately, have no choice but to suggest a ''no'' vote on the floor of this House.

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

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RENACCI), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act, a bill introduced by my good friend, JOHN CARNEY.

When Mr. CARNEY and I first came to Congress, we looked around in search of others who, like us, were interested in finding common ground. Mr. CARNEY and I now meet regularly for breakfast with a group of Members from both sides of the aisle.

We come together to discuss commonsense ways to solve our Nation's problems that Members on both sides of the aisle can get behind. The bill that is on the floor today is an example of this type of commonsense approach to making policy.

The purpose of the bill is to fix a problem created by the President's health care law. If we don't fix it, 1,200 jobs will be lost across the country.

Mr. CARNEY and I may not agree on everything. In fact, the President's health care law is one thing we disagree on; but we do agree this specific provision is another example of one of the law's unintended consequences.

This bill before us today will keep America competitive and save American jobs. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY), a colleague and friend who is a sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, when I was back home in my district in Delaware getting a workout at the YMCA in my hometown of Wilmington, a man came up to me as I was on the exercise bike and said: Excuse me, do you mind if I interrupt?

I said: Of course not, I work for you. He said: I wanted to see if you know about the status of H.R. 4414 because I write expatriate health insurance plans for Cigna, and I don't want to lose my job.

Losing even one job like this in my State keeps me up at night. The prospect of losing 500 jobs is a punch to the gut. That is how many jobs we will lose in my home State of Delaware if we don't pass this bill on the floor today.

I am a strong supporter of the Affordable Care Act, so are a lot of people in my State; but no law is perfect, and in a law as important, as complicated, and as technical as the Affordable Care Act, there are bound to be a few things that needed to be fixed.

The ACA was unintentionally written in a way that subjects U.S. expatriate health insurance plans to all the provisions of the ACA, which places a unique burden on these types of plans.

Expatriate health insurance plans offer a high-end, robust coverage to people working outside their home country, giving them access to a global network of health care providers. Individuals on the plan could be foreign employees working here in America, Americans working abroad, or, say, a German working in France.

Expatriate plans ensure that these employees have worldwide access to quality health care while working outside their home country.

Several U.S. health insurance companies—Cigna, MetLife, Aetna, and United Health—offer expatriate health insurance plans. These insurance companies compete with foreign insurance companies that also sell the same kind of plan. The issue is these foreign plans don't have to comply with the ACA.

Forcing U.S. expatriate insurance plans to comply with the ACA thereby gives their foreign competitors a distinct advantage. As a result, to stay competitive, a U.S. expatriate insurer will move their business overseas, taking the jobs with them; and that is why I am here on the floor today.

The good news is that we have bipartisan legislation here today that will level the playing field. In fact, the administration has already provided temporary relief for expatriate plans from nearly every Affordable Care Act provision that has gone into effect so far. The problem is this relief is only partial and only temporary. The administration can't make this relief without this legislative fix.

Our legislation ensures that American expatriate insurance carriers are on a level playing field with their foreign competitors, so that American jobs stay here in America.

Many of you know that this is our second go-round at this legislation. Over the past few weeks, we have worked painstakingly to improve our bill, and we have.

We are confident that our original version of the bill wouldn't have negatively impacted green card holders or create loopholes in the ACA, but we have worked hard over the past few weeks to address the concerns we heard.

We heard concerns the bill would let insurance companies create low-quality plans. Our bill now requires expat plans to meet the same value standard as any other employer-based plan under the ACA, and if the plan doesn't meet that standard, the expat can use subsidies to buy coverage on the exchange, just like any other American.

We heard concerns that the definition of an expat was too broad, that it could be taken advantage of. We changed that definition, tightened it up, and it is identical to the HHS regulations today.

We now make explicit that expat plans must follow all ERISA and Public Health Service Act requirements that were in place before the ACA.

We have been working on this issue for 3 years. The crafting of this bill has been a more collaborative bipartisan process than I think this Chamber has seen in quite a while, and I want to thank my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle for that effort.

This bill isn't perfect. The Affordable Care Act wasn't perfect. No bill is perfect, but if there was ever a case where the perfect was being made the enemy of the good, we are hearing it from my colleagues today.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. CARNEY. So if we don't pass this legislation today, people who have expatriate plans and the companies that offer them will continue to do so. The question is whether they will do so here in the United States and keeping those workers here or whether they will move those operations overseas.

I understand, as well as anyone, that the ACA is a political weapon in a larger political war on both sides of the aisle. All I am asking today is that we take actions so that 500 hard-working Americans in my district don't become collateral damage in that partisan political fight. Let's call a temporary truce in that battle today to protect those jobs.

Finally, I want to thank my colleague, Congressman NUNES, and the Ways and Means staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this issue, and I want to thank leadership on both sides of the aisle for recognizing this is a very serious problem that needs fixing.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support us and vote ''yes'' on this legislation today. Vote ''yes'' on H.R. 4414.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Care Coverage Clarification Act.

I do want to point out that the American people do expect us to work together in a responsible manner to solve real problems, and that is what this bill we are talking about today does.

I certainly want to thank my colleagues, Representative CARNEY of Delaware and Representative NUNES of California, for taking the initiative to craft this really important piece of legislation.

I also know it is really difficult to look at any bill dealing with the health care law without considering the broader context of the law. However, it is also difficult to look at the state of our economy today and be nonchalant about the fact that 1,200 of our fellow Americans stand to lose their jobs if we don't act and pass this legislation.

Many of those folks live in the State of Delaware. Many of them live in the State of Pennsylvania, just over the Delaware State line. So our constituents are hearing about it, just like the story you heard from Mr. CARNEY and he is stopped by his constituents. We are hearing about this at home.

So that is really what this bill introduced by Mr. CARNEY and Mr. NUNES does. It saves jobs, it is that simple, and it does so without jeopardizing anybody's health care.

No one is going to be affected by this in a negative way. The bill on the floor today simply allows American companies to continue selling insurance to people who live and work overseas, many of our neighbors and friends. That happens to them.

□ 1445

If we don't pass this bill, the business will go to foreign insurance companies who will be selling these plans and possibly getting many of these jobs. Why would we want to do that? More importantly, why would we even allow that?

So this bill represents a very narrow change to the law and saves jobs. This bill simply amends the law. It does not end the law. This is not a partisan bill. This bill is a vote to keep jobs here in America and Pennsylvania and Delaware and California and other places and would take sensible steps to fix a law that we all know needs to be fixed.

Again, I know it is difficult, but we need to focus on the trees here and look past the forest, so to speak, on this bill. We need to take action and save jobs for American workers. And most important of all, we need to demonstrate to the American people that we can work together to solve very specific problems that need to be fixed. That is what we are doing. That is why everybody, whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, should stand up and enthusiastically support this bill that will not harm anyone's health care and will save American jobs.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my pleasure to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, this is a bill that could have been worked out. This is a bill that could have accomplished the purpose that I know that our colleague from Delaware wants to see put into place, and I applaud him for working hard to improve the bill under very difficult circumstances.

In trying to allow the American insurance companies to sell policies to expats, we could craft a bill that is narrow, but we are not getting cooperation to get to that point. The reason we are not getting cooperation is we are told we must pass a bill right away. Well, we were told that 2 weeks ago when we had the bill under suspension, and we couldn't consider any amendments under suspension. Now we have the bill under a rule. Oh, and the rule provides for no amendments either.

There is a bill to be crafted, but this bill before us does not accomplish the goal in a way that really doesn't hurt some people's insurance coverage.

There are still two major problems with the legislation before us today. First, it does not have enough safeguards to guarantee that these expatriate plans are high quality, and the second issue is the bill creates problems for millions of other people who are legal permanent residents here in the United States and others working in this country who are currently protected by the Affordable Care Act.

On the first issue, the insurers tell us that their expatriate plans are going to be extremely generous. They say they cover people in dozens of countries around the world and they have comprehensive benefits, but we don't see any language to verify that claim. Supporters of the bill claim to guarantee the plans are as high quality as the insurers say they are. But it is one thing to say that their plans will be of high quality; it is another thing to actually require them to offer comprehensive benefits. As President Reagan used to say, ''Trust, but verify.''

The second issue has nothing to do with the expatriate plans and the companies that are threatening to shut down their operations here in the United States. It has to do with millions of other people who are legal permanent residents and workers on visas who currently benefit from the ACA's protections. But this bill creates a loophole that could allow these people to be sold plans here in the United States that do not meet ACA standards. That is why a lot of people looking at this legislation are saying—such as major labor unions, immigration advocacy organizations—that this bill is not one they can support, and they urge that we vote against it.

So I think we can fix both of those issues. We should have fixed both of those issues before this bill was brought up on the House floor. But as it stands, we don't know if the Senate can pass any bill, and I don't believe the President can sign this bill.

My colleague from Delaware and my other colleagues have already helped make important improvements for the bill. Changing the definition of an expatriate to someone who is outside of the country for 6 months is an important step. We should continue to make progress.

There have been productive negotiations on the legislation in recent days. We need to reach an agreement, and we should bring that compromise to the House floor; but without that compromise, I don't feel I can vote for the bill as it presently stands. There are these two glaring problems that need to be fixed; and without it, we will not know if those expatriate plans really are the high quality they claim to be, and we will not know if legal residents of the United States will be able to get the kind of high-quality plan that everybody else in the United States will have.

So I urge a ''no'' vote and suggest that we get back to the negotiating table.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 14 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, we have waited for 4 years. For 4 years, we have been trying to fix this problem. Four years, time is up. We have got to pass this bill and send it to the Senate so that it can be signed into law.

I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill.

There are really two issues at stake. One is preserving the integrity of the ACA, the Obama health care bill. There is huge division in this Congress as to whether that bill should have been passed. It was passed. But there is unity of purpose now that where there is an identified problem, we should fix it rather than just having the ideological battle about whether the law should have been passed in the first place. That is actually progress because, as my friend from Pennsylvania said, there is a legitimate expectation on the part of the people we represent to solve concrete, discrete problems when, in the solving of them, we are going to keep 1,200 people working. And that is the real goal of this.

Is there a way where both sides—those who agree with the health care bill and those who disagree with it—can come together with a narrow fix that allows 1,200 people—500 in Delaware and 700 in other parts of the country—to keep doing their work? And, of course, we can.

There is a second question that has come up, and that is whether this bill right now goes as far as it needs to go. Is this crafted as well as it needs to be crafted? And that is debatable. The points that the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) made were heartfelt, but there has been real progress because there has been engagement.

You have had Mr. CARNEY and Mr. NUNES working very closely with colleagues on both of their sides to deal with practical issues that have come up. You have had the White House meeting with Cigna, and both sides understood. Cigna understood that the White House had had some legitimate concerns as proponents of the ACA; the White House understood that Cigna had real and legitimate concerns about their business and their jobs.

So the progress is reflected in this bill. There is now a debate about whether that is enough progress. So we have to make a decision: Do we wait and try to keep negotiating here or do we move it on to the Senate?

In my view, we move it on to the Senate, partly because, as Mr. NUNES said, we have been grappling with this for 3 to 4 years. Second, we have got ACA supporters—and this gives me comfort—on the Senate side, Senator CARPER and Senator COONS from Delaware, who are committed to making certain that the fix doesn't compromise the health care bill. That is important to folks like me who voted for the ACA.

So this is a practical step that we can take, working together in order to save jobs without compromising the underlying legislation.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 21 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD three letters: one from the Council for Affordable Health Coverage in support of our bill, the other from the National Association of Health Underwriters in support of our bill, and the last one from the Business Roundtable in support of our bill.

COUNCIL FOR AFFORDABLE
HEALTH COVERAGE,
April 29, 2014.

Hon. JOHN CARNEY,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMEN CARNEY AND NUNES: We write to endorse H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014. We strongly support this modification of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) because it will prevent American workers abroad and American companies providing health coverage internationally from being disadvantaged compared to their foreign counterparts.

Employers are not alone in their concerns about the application of the ACA to expatriates. The Department of Labor in a Frequently Asked Questions document stated, ''The Departments recognize that expatriate health plans may face special challenges in complying with certain provisions of the Affordable Care Act. In particular, challenges in reconciling and coordinating the multiple regulatory regimes that apply to expatriate health plans might make it impossible or impracticable to comply with all the relevant rules at least in the near term.'' The Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) concurred with the Department of Labor by posting the same document on their website.

It is clear that the ACA never envisioned the impact of the law on expatriate plans. For example, CCIIO and the Department of Labor used the following example to illustrate the impracticality of applying the ACA to expatriate plans. ''For example, independent review organizations may not exist abroad, and it may be difficult for certain preventive services to be provided, or even be identified as preventive, when such services are provided outside the United States by clinical providers that use different code sets and medical terminology to identify services.''

Because of the challenges and impracticalities associated with this aspect of the Affordable Care Act, we urge you to quickly pass this legislation to protect American workers abroad and American insurers selling insurance on the international market.

Sincerely,

Communicating for America;
Council for Affordable Health Coverage;
National Association of Health Underwriters;
National Retail Federation;
Retail Industry Leaders Association;
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council; and
U.S Chamber of Commerce.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
HEALTH UNDERWRITERS,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

Congressman JOHN CARNEY,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CARNEY: On behalf of the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU), representing 100,000 licensed agents and brokers who are engaged in the sale and service of health insurance and other ancillary products and serving employers and consumers around the country, I want to commend you on your efforts to pass the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act as amended.

NAHU members work to help millions of employers of all sizes finance administer and utilize their group health benefit plans on a daily basis. Expatriate health insurance plans offer high-end, robust coverage to executives and others working outside their home country, giving them access to a global network of health care providers.

U.S. insurance companies compete with foreign insurance companies that also sell expatriate health insurance plans, but these foreign carriers are not required to comply with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This imbalance gives foreign competitors an unfair advantage. The bill narrowly clarifies that the Affordable Care Act does not apply to expatriate health insurance plans.

Since the legislation's original introduction, it has been amended and now requires an expatriate plan to meet minimum value requirements as defined under the ACA (60 percent actuarial value). This is the same standard all other employer-provided plans must meet in order to comply with the laws employer shared responsibility provisions. Should an expatriate plan offered under this bill fail to meet minimum value requirements, an employee would be eligible to seek coverage on the exchange and could be eligible for income-based subsidies.

Further, the amended bill tightens the definition of an expatriate. It says that an expatriate must be abroad for at least six months. The previous version of the bill said that an expatriate only had to be abroad for three months, or travel outside the country 15 times in a year. This bill requires a much tougher standard that will guard against potential abuse. Finally, the amended bill explicitly states that expatriate plans must

continue to comply with relevant laws enacted prior to the ACA—specifically the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and the Public Health Service Act.

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue for businesses and their employees so that the law can help all Americans get quality health insurance. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in enacting this bipartisan legislation this year.

Best regards,

JANET TRAUTWEIN,
Executive Vice President and CEO.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADERS: The Business Roundtable encourages you to support legislation that does not apply Affordable Care Act (ACA) requirements upon employer-sponsored health care coverage for those employees and their families who work outside of the United States. Business Roundtable is an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies with $7.4 trillion in annual revenues and more than 16 million employees.

Business Roundtable companies provide health coverage to over 40 million Americans around the globe. We consider our employees to be among our strongest competitive assets and are committed to a benefits strategy that enhances their health, well-being, and sense of security wherever they may be. We have also advocated for reforms that will improve quality and make health care more affordable and more efficient.

As companies expand operations internationally, we face challenges in a global competitive environment, one of which is the application of ACA requirements to our globally mobile employees and their families. As currently interpreted, the complex and prescriptive requirements of the ACA apply to U.S.-based expatriate plans, which means U.S.-based international plans must comply with the domestic law's requirements in all parts of the world and for all employees outside the United States covered on those plans, regardless of their citizenship and work location. Many of these requirements are difficult to implement in other countries and may not be relevant in other locations.

For example, the Summary of Benefit Coverage notification uses terminology and data that is specifically tailored to types of benefits, costs, and care offered in the United States. This form is not relevant to those who live outside the country. There are numerous examples of these types of requirements in the law that are unique to our health care system and should not be applied to benefits offered to employees who are residing outside of the United States.

Expatriate health care benefits are highly valued by our employees and ensure they can continue to benefit from an American health care option. This, in turn, assures the competitiveness of U.S. jobs in the global market. For these reasons, we urge Congress to pass narrow, common sense relief that provides certainty and clarity for multinational corporations and their ability to continue providing comprehensive health benefits for those employees outside the United States.

Sincerely,

GARY LOVEMAN,
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President, Caesars Entertainment Corporation; Chair, Health and Retirement Committee, Business Roundtable.

Mr. NUNES. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA), a member of our committee and also the chair of our Caucus.

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, let me say in advance that I appreciate the work that has been done by any number of Members with regard to this legislation. Many people have engaged in a good faith effort to try to find an acceptable solution that resolves issues which are legitimate and have raised a concern for a lot of us with regard to how we move forward with the Affordable Care Act and make sure that not only Americans are covered, but that our companies can continue to offer insurance coverage for those Americans that are not only affordable but have high quality.

And many of us have recognized that in the case of Americans who are out of the country for more time than they are in the country in a year, that we may have to make some exceptions for them so that the company that is offering them health insurance can offer a policy that is competitive. We don't want to price out our American companies that offer health insurance coverage simply because they are trying to meet domestic care standards for health care that are required as a result of the Affordable Care Act but that may not work as well abroad.

So you take a look at the name of this bill, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014. You think, okay, that is what we are trying to do. We are trying to help expatriates, Americans who work abroad more time than they are here at home. But when you take a close look at the bill, that is not what it does.

We are told by the Congressional Research Service that there are probably about 285,000 Americans who have expatriate health care coverage. This bill wouldn't impact just those 285,000 Americans. This bill impacts millions because it impacts U.S. citizens who are here in the country, not abroad for more than half of the time, and it could have an impact on every single legal immigrant who is in this country.

So I think all of us agree. We want to make sure that the Affordable Care Act and its patient protections work, and if we could tweak things to make it work better, we should. But this is not a bill for expatriates. This is a bill that goes way beyond.

So let's not fool ourselves. We have to take care of trying to deal with the narrow exception that we are looking at for expatriates, not create a giant loophole by which we can now remove the protection against discrimination for preexisting conditions that right now all Americans and legal immigrants can now know that they have.

We want to make sure that all of those people who now have protection from the plans that don't provide coverage after a certain amount of money, where all of a sudden, boom, you go bankrupt because you didn't know that your insurance company would only cover $50,000 of your health care costs, that protection might be gone. What we don't want is to create a giant loophole in trying to help a narrow band of Americans and companies that offer these Americans health insurance coverage.

The White House has said there is a fix here. And I know the White House has been trying to work with the proponents of this bill to come up with a fix. But as they said the last time this was up, this needs work, and it should not come up for a vote.

But what are they saying now? The administration issued this today:

> The administration does not support House passage of H.R. 4414 in its current form because it would reduce consumer protections and create even more loopholes in the Tax Code.

There is a fix, but this is not it because it goes way beyond. And what we also have to do is recognize that there are other things involved.

This bill will cost the American taxpayers money. How much? We are told by the Congressional Budget Office and Joint Tax Committee, $1.4 billion. Is it paid for? Are the $1.4 billion that we would take away from—or have to take from other taxpayers covered so that we won't have to have other Americans pay for this? No. This bill is unpaid for.

And so for any number of reasons, we should sit down and get this resolved the right way because the White House says there is a fix. Those of us who oppose this bill say there is a fix. But to create more loopholes which allow American citizens and immigrants who are lawfully here, working hard, to all of a sudden be deprived of their protections——

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

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman from California an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BECERRA. To deprive American citizens who don't know about this, to deprive those immigrants who came to this country legally and are working in this country and today have the same protections to make sure they are not discriminated against for a preexisting

condition, who also have a chance to get offered a plan that has those protections against that fine print we used to see in the health policies, to all of a sudden tell them that they are going to be denied that because we were trying to fix a problem for Americans who work abroad for more than a half a year, that is not what we should be doing.

There is a fix. This should not cost the taxpayers more money. And I believe we could do this pretty quickly because it is a narrow issue.

If we really want to help expats, take out the language in the bill that talks about legal immigrants who are in the country. It talks about workers who come to this country to work under worker visa categories, like in the high-tech field or in agriculture. We can do this very simply. And I just appeal to my colleagues and friends on both sides of the aisle: Let's not open up bigger loopholes that cost the taxpayers money simply to try to fix a narrow version of this that we know we can do.

So with that, I hope that sanity will prevail before this goes too far.

□ 1500

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to my friend from Pennsylvania again, I just want to say that as someone who used to work in the fields, I would much prefer an expatriate plan over ObamaCare.

At this time, I will yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, just in response to some of the comments I heard from my colleagues from California, I think it is pretty clear, the Joint Committee on Taxation, JCT, has been quoted here, but under this bill, the Joint Committee on Taxation confirms that all plans are ACA compliant. The JCT also confirms that more U.S. employers—American employers—will offer employer-sponsored insurance as a result of this bill.

Further, the Joint Committee on Taxation confirms that the impacts of this legislation are under 1 million people, closer to 300,000 at best. That is what we are talking about here.

Let's be very clear. The Nunes amendment that was offered to this bill actually does help solve many of the problems I believe that have been raised here in the last few minutes. Mr. WAXMAN from California also raised his concerns. But I must say that if we don't move on this bill, we are not going to have to worry about any of this, because Americans working overseas as expats will be buying insurance from German insurance companies or British or some other European concern. These Americans may be working in places like Ghana, Ethiopia, or Poland. Frankly, the ACA, the health care law, really has no standing in those countries.

So, please, this is a very targeted piece of legislation. These Americans will have good, quality health care as they are working overseas in countries that really don't recognize the health care law. So it is a commonsense proposal. The JCT, the Joint Committee on Taxation, confirms that this is going to affect fewer than 300,000 people. We know that all these plans are ACA compliant, and we know that more U.S. employers are going to offer employer-sponsored health insurance as a result of passing this bill.

I say vote for the bill, do the right thing, get the bill to the Senate and ultimately to the President's desk.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. LEVIN, for the 2 minutes.

I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act. I am a cosponsor of this bill because I think it provides a targeted fix to the unintended consequences of the Affordable Care Act. It is too bad, though, that we cannot work together in fixing other flaws in the ACA instead of trying to repeal it over 50 times over the last 2 years.

I think, though, this bill will save American jobs, including many in the San Joaquin Valley. There have been some concerns that this bill would negatively impact green card holders and other immigrants to our country. I think this bill does provide safeguards to ensure that that will not happen.

An expat plan, by its nature, offers robust benefits across the globe. No one should be concerned that this bill will somehow erode coverage or quality for non-Americans living here in the U.S. or for Americans living abroad, for that matter.

With more than 1,000 jobs at stake, passing this bill will signal to the American people that, yes, on occasion Congress can work together and that we do care about more than business as usual.

I am pleased to join my colleagues, Mr. CARNEY and Mr. NUNES, in standing up for this effort to protect some American jobs. But let's remind ourselves that it is a work in progress and the author knows that this legislation, I suspect, would not be signed into law in its current form. But it is a work in progress. We move it along, we work with the Senate and get the concerns addressed the administration has raised. That is what it takes working together on a bipartisan basis to get legislation done.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the bill when it comes up for a vote today.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a letter from the American Benefits Council, a letter from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and also a letter from CHCC, Corporate Health Care Coalition.

AMERICAN BENEFITS COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2014.

Re Support for H.R. 4414—Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND LEADER PELOSI: I write on behalf of the American Benefits Council (''Council'') to express support for H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014 (''Act''). The Act provides important clarification regarding application of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to health coverage that is provided to globally mobile employees. These are issues of significant concern to multinational employers, their employees and families.

The Council is a public policy organization representing principally Fortune 500 companies and other organizations that assist employers of all sizes in providing employee benefits. Collectively, our members either sponsor directly or provide services to health and retirement plans that cover more than 100 million Americans both within the United States and abroad.

Most of our member companies sponsor health coverage for a workforce that includes globally mobile employees. Council members rely on expatriate health plans to provide benefits that meet the unique needs of this employee population and their families. Multinational employers value expatriate health plans for many reasons, including the role they play in recruiting and retaining a productive globally mobile workforce by ensuring coverage of their employees' and families' health care needs while abroad.

The ACA was intended to reform the U.S. health care system. Its application to expatriate health plans and to the employer sponsors and people covered by such plans, has created compliance uncertainty with respect to the law's individual and employer mandates and certain other health plan requirements. Although some of these matters have been addressed in transition guidance issued by the agencies, the guidance is temporary and does not fully address the outstanding concerns.

H.R. 4414 provides needed statutory clarification with respect to the application of the ACA to expatriate health plans and the employers, employees and family members that rely on such plans to meet the health benefits needs of a globally mobile workforce.

We appreciate your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. KLEIN,
President.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations,

and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports H.R. 4414, ''The Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014,'' to preserve the ability of our country's businesses to provide, and our citizens to obtain appropriate health care coverage as they conduct business and live overseas. This important bill protects the ability of American companies to provide and workers to obtain coverage abroad that have historically been offered and valued.

The PPACA was designed to improve access to coverage and health care services for people in the United States and to strengthen this nation's health care system. Whether it will accomplish these goals remains to be seen. However, it was certainly not intended and must not be misconstrued to disadvantage American companies either operating or employing individuals in other countries or selling products abroad. It is important to ensure that this unintended consequence does not occur. This bill would protect the coverage and opportunities of American workers, American employers, and American products abroad. Congress must pass this bill to explicitly exempt expatriate plans from the myriad of PPACA requirements.

Applying these new mandates to international plans would not only be extremely difficult and complex from an operations standpoint due to the global nature of this type of coverage but would also be bad policy. They would place American businesses and expatriate American employees at a disadvantage in the global marketplace. Requiring American companies that operate around the globe and their foreign-based employees to buy more costly coverage would unfairly benefit foreign competitors and foreign employees. Such PPACA-compliant expatriate plans are not likely to be cost-competitive. In many instances, they may not provide global coverage and would in fact not comply with applicable local laws. Because of conflicting requirements between these new mandates and the laws of other countries, an employer may also have to purchase multiple policies with overlapping coverage or risk noncompliance with one or more nations' laws. Congress must protect the ability of American companies and their expatriates to purchase and offer appropriate and valued plans that have long been part of how our country operates in the global marketplace.

U.S. jobs are at stake. If this legislation does not get enacted, American jobs associated with writing, servicing and administering these plans will be shipped overseas.

The Chamber continues to champion health care reform that builds on and reinforces the employer-sponsored system while improving access to affordable, quality coverage. The Chamber urges you and your colleagues to support H.R. 2575, and may consider including votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

CORPORATE HEALTH CARE COALITION,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND LEADER PELOSI: The Corporate Health Care Coalition is writing to convey its support for H.R. 4414, ''The Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014.'' CHCC is a public policy organization comprised of leading companies from varying industries that compete in the global marketplace and sponsor health plans for the benefit of eligible employees and dependents located in every state in the nation and across the globe.

CHCC members are leaders in providing high quality health benefits in an efficient and effective manner. A healthy workforce is critical to our competitiveness both domestically and globally. Expatriate health plans play a particularly vital role in recruiting and retaining a productive, globally mobile workforce, by ensuring that the health care needs of employees and their families are met while overseas.

The Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014 would provide needed clarification with respect to the Affordable Care Act's application to expatriate health plans, thereby preserving these plans as a viable means of providing health coverage to employees who reside outside of the United States. Therefore, CHCC urges Congress to pass the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014.

Sincerely,

KATE HULL,
Executive Director.

Mr. NUNES. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), another member of our committee.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation before us today not because I believe it is a perfect answer to a problem that needs to be fixed but in order to make sure that the process moves forward. I want to commend my colleagues who have worked tirelessly over the ensuing weeks to try to address the concerns—legitimate concerns, I view—of some of the shortcomings of the legislation before us, Mr. NUNES and my good friend, Mr. CARNEY from Delaware.

This is, I think, emblematic of how we should be addressing reform within the health care system, having the wisdom as a body to recognize what is working with health care reform and what isn't working and then try to deal with that with fixes and needed adjustments along the way.

This was an unintended consequence affecting expat health insurance plans. In my view, there are competitiveness issues from those insurance plans offering expat coverage compared to what other foreign plans are offering, but also the ability of people to be able to work and live effectively abroad.

Even the administration has admitted in their Statement of Administration Policy that there is a problem that needs to be addressed. They have identified certain shortcomings of this legislation, from consumer protections to issues affecting the Tax Code, but I am sure that as we move forward today, hopefully with bipartisan support, the Senate will have an opportunity to address many of these concerns, and we will have to continue to work with the administration with the legitimate concerns that they continue to raise.

Again, this is, I think, an approach that we should be taking as a nation right now, having the wisdom to understand what is working and also dealing with the unintended consequences of health care reform, which affects one-fifth of the entire U.S. economy. You are not going to change that overnight. If you try, you are going to introduce shocks to the system that aren't going to work for people.

I think this is an honest approach done in a bipartisan fashion with a lot of listening on both sides and a lot of vetting of issues that I think are legitimately being raised right now in order to address one of those small, unintended consequences of the health care reform.

I think, clearly, everyone recognizes more work needs to go into this legislative package in order to allay some of the concerns. The Senate, again, will have an opportunity to address and will continue to engage the administration in order to address some of the concerns that they are raising, as well. But this is a good, I think, first honest approach in order to find that solution so we don't see the detrimental job impact occurring right here in the United States and that we do allow affordable and quality health care coverage for those workers overseas.

Again, I commend my friends, Mr. CARNEY and Mr. NUNES, for the outreach and the work that they have put into this legislation. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation as it moves forward.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Can I ask my colleague, are you ready to close?

Mr. NUNES. Yes, I am ready to close.

Mr. LEVIN. So I will do the same.

I would like to place in the RECORD a letter of opposition to this bill as presently formulated from the AFL–CIO, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the American Federation of Teachers, Farmworker Justice, the UAW, the National Council of La Raza, the National Education Association, the National Immigration Law Center, the Service Employees International Union, the UNITE HERE, the United Farm Workers, and the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

APRIL 28, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We write today regarding the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act (H.R. 4414), scheduled for floor debate on Tuesday. Although negotiations are apparently occurring behind closed doors on a final version of the bill, it is our understanding that these discussions are unlikely to address major shortcomings of the

bill. Barring substantial revisions to the bill, we urge you to oppose it.

As you know, the bill is intended to accommodate health plans providing coverage for workers that work in multiple countries, and it is reasonable to grant these plans some flexibility to pursue this role. We understand that these ''expatriate'' health care plans currently cover fewer than 300,000 workers. However, the current draft of the bill could impact a much wider population, resulting in a lower standard of health care coverage for 13 million lawful permanent residents (LPRs or green card holders), as well as individuals with visas for more highly skilled work and people in dozens of other nonimmigrant categories.

It is important that these workers, who live and work beside other U.S. workers, enjoy the same coverage protections provided by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). It would simply be unfair to provide them a lower level of protection, and it would exert downward pressure on the benefits offered to all other workers.

We do believe it is possible to accommodate the needs of expatriate health plans while avoiding this impact on millions of workers. First, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can continue its work developing regulatory approaches to easing the administrative burdens faced by these plans. Second, more work can be done on a legislative approach that appropriately reduces the burden faced by legitimate expatriate health plans, without creating a loophole that could be exploited by plans seeking to skirt the coverage standards of the ACA.

The bill has been improved in some ways since it was first considered on the House floor. U.S. citizens may only be included in the plans if they travel out of the country for more than 180 days a year, and a benchmark has been added to encourage employers to offer coverage with an actuarial value of 60 percent or higher.

It remains imperative, however, to ensure that LPRs and individuals in nonimmigrant visa categories are not exposed to a gap in ACA coverage protections. More must be done to exclude these groups from the populations covered by this bill. Additional employer reporting and enforcement provisions would help ensure that employers would not stretch the definition of expatriate employees to offer substandard coverage to workers.

We welcome the opportunity to help improve this legislation to address the concerns of the expatriate health plans without having a negative impact on workers who live and work in the U.S. It is unlikely that H.R. 4414 will be amended to meet these goals before the scheduled floor vote, however, and we urge you to vote against the bill.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO,

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME);

American Federation of Teachers;

Farmworker Justice;

International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW);

National Council of La Raza (NCLR);

National Education Association (NEA);

National Immigration Law Center;

Service Employees International Union (SEIU);

UNITE HERE;

United Farm Workers;

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW).

Mr. LEVIN. Also, I submit for the RECORD a letter in opposition to this bill as presently formed from the National Immigration Law Center.

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER,
Los Angeles, CA, April 30, 2014.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER PELOSI: As the House of Representatives considers the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act (H.R. 4414) again today, we urge you to oppose it. Already defeated in the House on April 9, 2014, this bill, absent key changes, will lead to an erosion of Affordable Care Act (ACA) standards and lower quality health coverage for immigrants who are unreasonably and mistakenly classified as expatriates under the legislation.

Supporters of the bill claim that the problems contained in the original bill have been adequately addressed. This is simply not true. While some positive changes have been made, the most egregious provisions remain firmly in place, including those with broad implications for low-income immigrants living and working in the U.S. These remaining problems leave the bill vulnerable to legal challenges.

H.R. 4414 would eliminate the ACA's group plan consumer protections for ''expatriate health insurance plans,'' including for U.S.-regulated issuers, provided to individuals who travel ''abroad.'' This blanket exemption alone should be cause for concern. However, what is far more troubling is that the bill uses a broad definition for ''expatriate'' that includes many immigrants who live in the U.S. permanently and do not travel abroad for work. This definition extends far beyond the purported objectives of the legislation and must be fixed.

Specifically, the definition of ''expatriate'' in H.R. 4414 includes lawful permanent residents (LPRs or green card holders), most of whom spend the vast majority of their time in the United States. These individuals reside in the U.S., are on a path to citizenship, and have built their lives in the U.S. Simply put, they should not be defined as ''expatriates'' if they do not travel outside of the United States for work for extended periods. Instead, their health insurance plans should have the same consumer protections codified by the ACA as others who live and work in the U.S. This bill would create a loophole that could lead to inferior coverage for these individuals.

H.R. 4414 would have an unintentional, disastrous impact on LPRs and other low-wage immigrant workers. We urge you to oppose the bill, and we look forward to working with members of Congress to close its loopholes and find workable solutions.

Sincerely,

MARIELENA HINCAPIÉ,
Executive Director.

Mr. LEVIN. Finally, I submit into the RECORD the Statement of Administration Policy from the Obama administration.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 4414—EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE CLARIFICATION ACT

(Rep. Carney, D-Delaware, and 24 cosponsors)

The Administration does not support House passage of H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act, in its current form, because it would reduce consumer protections and create even more loopholes in the tax code.

The Affordable Care Act gives people greater control over their own health care. Since October 1, eight million have signed up for private insurance and millions more have been enrolled in Medicaid. Because of the Affordable Care Act, Americans who have previously been denied coverage due to a pre-existing medical condition now have access to coverage. Additionally, the law helps millions of Americans stay on their parents' plans until age 26, and helps provide access to free preventive care like cancer screenings that catch illness early on.

The Administration remains willing to work with the Congress to improve H.R. 4144 to address these issues and to maintain basic consumer protections for all workers. There are straightforward changes to the legislation, which we have shared with the Congress, that would satisfy these goals, and the Congress should pursue a solution.

Mr. LEVIN. So let me close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think it is regrettable that we are here in this predicament when we don't need to be. I think we do need to fix the expat issue, but not by unfixing health care reform for millions of people. This is more than about 300,000 people. We are talking about the health care protections and provisions applicable to 13 million people in this country who are here legally.

It has been said, and I very much respect this, it has taken 3 years to try to fix this problem, and Mr. CARNEY and others have truly been working, and Mr. NUNES, and there have been bipartisan discussions.

But here is the problem: If we are really going to continue effectively to work together when there is an outstanding issue, when there has been this aura of good faith, the majority should have let the minority place on the floor an amendment to the bill and let us debate it.

In fact, it only works against bipartisanship in this kind of circumstance to say it is essentially a closed rule. What is there to fear? The only thing to fear is that we would have discussion that might make this a still more bipartisan bill. So instead of getting a likely minority of members on the Democratic side, we would have, I think, an overwhelming majority on both sides determined to keep jobs here, but not at a price of undoing necessary protections in terms of the health of millions and millions of Americans.

So that is where we are here and essentially so for so many of us placed in a situation where we say we must do better, we shouldn't simply leave it to the other body, we have the abilities within this House with true bipartisanship to continue working, and after 3 years, it might take another week or 2, that would be worth it in terms of trying to restore the reality of bipartisanship that really works.

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

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I will close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The need for this bill wasn't conceived by opponents of the Affordable Care Act or ObamaCare. The Obama

administration and the army of regulators acknowledged there is a problem and have come to the Congress to fix it. Treasury, HHS, and Labor have all accepted the fact that expat plans should not be regulated the same way domestic plans are regulated.

After 4 years of examining this issue, as I said earlier, the administration issued limited and temporary regulatory relief for expat plans. This bill is necessary because despite the administration's limited and temporary fixes, thousands of jobs are on the chopping block. American businesses can't compete based on the promise of limited and temporary relief.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also remind my colleagues that Mr. CARNEY and I have worked on this for many years, and we have worked not only in a bipartisan way in the House of Representatives, we have also worked with our Senate counterparts where we have bipartisan support in the United States Senate.

So, the Obama administration has said they have concerns, but we don't know what the concerns are and they did not issue a veto threat. So I think that more level heads will prevail. This bill will pass today. It will go to the Senate, it will pass, and I would urge, then, President Obama to sign it into law so that we can save these jobs.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the amended version of H.R. 4414 that was brought up today is a marked improvement over the previous version of the bill that was brought up earlier this month. I again commend Representative CARNEY for proposing fixes to the Affordable Care Act. I also commend him for trying to work with House leadership and the Administration to come to an agreement on how to properly treat expatriate plans under the Affordable Care Act. Unfortunately the bill on the House floor today does not have the Administration's support. The potential of lawful permanent residents and other visa holders in the United States to erroneously be considered expatriates under H.R. 4414 still exists. I expect the Senate to fix this potential loophole and look forward to supporting final passage of the bill after the Senate has made targeted changes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the latest version of H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014. I want to commend my colleague JOHN CARNEY on his efforts to address the needs of expatriate health care plans and to ensure that the jobs created by managing these plans remain in the United States. However, the bill, in its current form, would create more problems than it resolves. As you know, the Affordable Care Act established new coverage standards and protections for millions of Americans, including that they cannot be denied coverage for preexisting conditions nor have their benefits capped at arbitrary annual and lifetime limits. Unfortunately, the bill contains potential loopholes that could weaken coverage for many families and immigrant workers who live in the United States. While I do believe the text of the bill has been improved since its initial consideration, there is still more work to be done. According to the Statement of Administration Policy, the Administration echoes our concerns and it remains willing to work with Congress to find a reasonable solution. I hope my colleagues in the Senate will make the necessary changes in order to resolve this matter as quickly as possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 555, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 627.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 268, nays 150, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 182]

YEAS—268

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Engel
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—150

Amash
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Eshoo
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gohmert
Gosar
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Labrador
Langevin
Lee (CA)
Levin
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Rangel
Roe (TN)
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier

Swalwell (CA) Takano Thompson (MS) Tierney Titus Tonko Tsongas Van Hollen Veasey Vela Velázquez Visclosky Walz Waters Waxman Wilson (FL) Yarmuth Yoho

NOT VOTING—13

Brown (FL) Campbell Farr Goodlatte Griffin (AR) Lewis McKeon Miller, Gary Murphy (PA) Richmond Schwartz Wasserman Schultz Whitfield

□ 1543

Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Messrs. YOHO, MASSIE, SANFORD, and AMASH changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. KUSTER, Messrs. MORAN and SCHOCK changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I would have voted "nay" had the Speaker allowed me to vote at the well. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 627) to provide for the issuance of coins to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 13, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 183]

YEAS—403

Aderholt Amodei Bachmann Bachus Barber Barletta Barr Barrow (GA) Barton Beatty Becerra Benishek Bera (CA) Bilirakis Bishop (GA) Bishop (NY) Bishop (UT) Black Blackburn Blumenauer Bonamici Boustany Brady (PA) Braley (IA) Bridenstine Brooks (AL) Brooks (IN) Brownley (CA) Buchanan Bucshon Burgess Bustos Butterfield Byrne Calvert Camp Cantor Capito Capps Capuano Cárdenas Carney Carson (IN) Carter Cartwright Cassidy Castor (FL) Castro (TX) Chabot Chaffetz Chu Cicilline Clark (MA) Clarke (NY) Clay Cleaver Clyburn Coble Coffman Cohen Cole Collins (GA) Collins (NY) Conaway Connolly Conyers Cook Cooper Costa Cotton Courtney Cramer Crawford Crenshaw Crowley Cuellar Culberson Cummings Daines Davis (CA) Davis, Danny Davis, Rodney DeFazio DeGette Delaney DeLauro DelBene Denham Dent DeSantis DesJarlais Deutch Diaz-Balart Dingell Doggett Doyle Duckworth Duffy Duncan (TN) Edwards Ellison Ellmers Engel Enyart Eshoo Esty Farenthold Farr Fattah Fincher Fitzpatrick Fleischmann Fleming Flores Forbes Fortenberry Foster Foxx Frankel (FL) Franks (AZ) Frelinghuysen Fudge Gabbard Gallego Garamendi Garcia Gardner Garrett Gerlach Gibbs Gibson Gingrey (GA) Gohmert Gowdy Granger Graves (GA) Graves (MO) Grayson Green, Al Green, Gene Griffith (VA) Grijalva Grimm Guthrie Gutiérrez Hahn Hall Hanabusa Hanna Harper Harris Hartzler Hastings (FL) Hastings (WA) Heck (NV) Heck (WA) Hensarling Herrera Beutler Higgins Himes Hinojosa Holding Holt Honda Horsford Hoyer Hudson Huelskamp Huffman Huizenga (MI) Hultgren Hunter Hurt Israel Issa Jackson Lee Jeffries Jenkins Johnson (GA) Johnson (OH) Johnson, E. B. Johnson, Sam Jolly Jordan Joyce Kaptur Keating Kelly (IL) Kelly (PA) Kennedy Kildee Kilmer Kind King (IA) King (NY) Kingston Kinzinger (IL) Kirkpatrick Kline Kuster Labrador LaMalfa Lamborn Lance Langevin Lankford Larsen (WA) Larson (CT) Latham Latta Lee (CA) Levin Lipinski LoBiondo Loebsack Lofgren Long Lowenthal Lowey Lucas Luetkemeyer Lujan Grisham (NM) Luján, Ben Ray (NM) Lummis Lynch Maffei Maloney, Carolyn Maloney, Sean Marchant Marino Matheson Matsui McAllister McCarthy (CA) McCarthy (NY) McCaul McClintock McCollum McDermott McGovern McHenry McIntyre McKinley McMorris Rodgers McNerney Meadows Meehan Meeks Meng Messer Mica Michaud Miller (FL) Miller (MI) Miller, George Moore Mullin Mulvaney Murphy (FL) Nadler Napolitano Neal Negrete McLeod Neugebauer Noem Nolan Nugent Nunes Nunnelee O'Rourke Olson Owens Palazzo Pallone Pascrell Pastor (AZ) Paulsen Payne Pearce Pelosi Perlmutter Perry Peters (CA) Peters (MI) Peterson Pingree (ME) Pittenger Pitts Pocan Polis Pompeo Posey Price (GA) Price (NC) Quigley Rahall Rangel Reed Reichert Renacci Ribble Rice (SC) Rigell Roby Roe (TN) Rogers (AL) Rogers (KY) Rogers (MI) Rohrabacher Rokita Rooney Ros-Lehtinen Roskam Ross Rothfus Roybal-Allard Royce Ruiz Runyan Ruppersberger Rush Ryan (OH) Ryan (WI) Sánchez, Linda T. Sanchez, Loretta Sanford Sarbanes Scalise Schakowsky Schiff Schneider Schock Schrader Schweikert Scott (VA) Scott, Austin Scott, David Sensenbrenner Serrano Sewell (AL) Shea-Porter Sherman Shimkus Shuster Simpson Sinema Sires Slaughter Smith (MO) Smith (NE) Smith (NJ) Smith (TX) Smith (WA) Southerland Speier Stewart Stivers Stockman Stutzman Swalwell (CA) Takano Terry Thompson (CA) Thompson (MS) Thompson (PA) Thornberry Tiberi Tierney Tipton Titus Tonko Tsongas Turner Upton Valadao Van Hollen Vargas Veasey Vela Velázquez Visclosky Wagner Walberg Walden Walorski Walz Waters Waxman Webster (FL) Welch Wenstrup Westmoreland Whitfield Williams Wilson (FL) Wilson (SC) Wittman Wolf Womack Woodall Yarmuth Yoder Young (IN)

NAYS—13

Amash Bentivolio Brady (TX) Broun (GA) Duncan (SC) Gosar Jones Massie Poe (TX) Salmon Weber (TX) Yoho Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—15

Bass Brown (FL) Campbell Goodlatte Griffin (AR) Lewis McKeon Miller, Gary Moran Murphy (PA) Petri Richmond Schwartz Sessions Wasserman Schultz

□ 1553

Mr. WEBER of Texas changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2429

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove Congressman DAVID PRICE of North Carolina as a cosponsor from H.R. 2429. His name was inadvertently added.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MICK STATON

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise here with my fellow Members from West Virginia to honor former U.S. Representative Mick Staton, who passed away on April 14, 2014.

Mick was a lifelong West Virginian who devoted himself to a life of service to our great State, including representing the Third District of West Virginia. Mick's public service began with 8 years in the National Guard, and his passion for serving others and his dedication to Republican principles inspired him to make a run for Congress.

A successful businessman, Congressman Staton also served as a Presidential elector for West Virginia. Then, just last month, he was named as one

of only five emeritus members of the West Virginia Republican Party.

More evident than Mick's tremendous dedication to West Virginia was his devotion to his family. He and his wife, Lynn, shared a true partnership in life, giving them faith and support to persevere through his difficult health challenges.

As a friend of Mick's for 30 years, I will miss his bright smile, quick wit, and warm companionship. I offer my deep condolences to Lynn, their two children, and their extended family.

HONORING FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MICK STATON

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I, like my colleagues from West Virginia, Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. MCKINLEY, remember Mick Staton as a dedicated public servant, a son of West Virginia.

I enjoyed serving in this body with Mick. He always knew where he stood on a given issue. While he and I were members of different political parties, on principle, we often agreed. He shared the most basic value of true West Virginians, loyalty—loyalty to his faith, to his family, to his friends, to his Nation, and to our State.

Mick's word was his bond. Of course, he was a loyal Republican, and as a copper-riveted, rock-ribbed Republican through and through, Mick was always my friend. There is a good lesson in that for our Members today. Our friendship continued to grow after his distinguished service ended in this body.

Mr. Speaker, Mick Staton's service to our State of West Virginia never ended, nor did his efforts to bring people together to get things accomplished for West Virginians.

He worked hard for that, and his devotion flowed as naturally as a pristine mountain stream. This courteous, cordial fellow—with what could best be described as an award-winning, ever-present smile—had a good way with people. It is no secret to anyone who knew him that all of that warm personality—that sincere charm—stemmed from a good heart.

Mick always made a point of delivering a birthday card to me, personally, sometimes in my congressional office. This May, as my birthday approaches, that good heart will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers remain with Lynn—his wife—and with his family.

□ 1600

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING PIONEER AND LIFELONG MOUNTAINEER DAVID ''MICK'' STATON

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, we lost a friend in West Virginia. Mick Staton and I had known each other for some time. I considered him a true friend, someone who had a passion for West Virginia.

He was a trailblazer for numbers of us, all through West Virginia, in trying different techniques, campaign styles, and work ethic. He made a difference for numbers of his conservatives in West Virginia. He was elected to the House of Representatives on behalf of the Second District.

He brought with him a background of work with the National Guard for 8 years. His role here in the House meant a lot to him, and after he left, whenever I would run into him, Mr. Speaker, he would always ask: What about something new? What is happening? Because he cared passionately about our country and the State of West Virginia.

Afterwards, after leaving office, he served as the chief political adviser for the United States Chamber of Commerce. He continued his mission to try to get the message across of how we can be a better Nation, stronger, more vibrant, because he cared very much.

As you heard, he has left behind his wife, Lynn, and two adult kids: David ''Mick'' Staton, Jr., and his daughter, Cynthia.

Mr. Speaker, again, we have lost a friend. I would ask that we have just a moment of silence on behalf of the family.

APPROVING THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, almost 2 weeks ago, the administration announced yet another delay in approving the Keystone XL pipeline. I think they have it all wrong. Further delays in constructing this pipeline means that the U.S. will miss out on tens of thousands of jobs and continue to depend on foreign oil from hostile countries.

The Keystone XL pipeline will bring in 840,000 barrels of oil a day from our friend and neighbor, Canada. That can essentially replace the 900,000 barrels we have to get every day from Venezuela, one country we cannot count on. Add to that the roughly 20,000 jobs that will be created and the findings that the pipeline will have no net negative environmental impacts, you can see why there is broad, bipartisan support for the Keystone XL pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, this oil will be extracted, refined, and used by someone. The only question is who will get the jobs and who will be the first in line to use it. America needs the Keystone XL pipeline now, and I urge the administration to end the holdup.

NATIONAL DNA DAY

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, April is National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. April 25 was National DNA Day. It commemorates the discovery of DNA's double helix and subsequent scientific advancements.

DNA has revolutionized public safety in the criminal justice system. Since its inception in 1994, the national DNA database system has solved more than 200,000 previously unsolved crimes. It provides closure to victims of violent crimes. It assists prosecutors in taking violent offenders off the streets and has helped clear more than 300 wrongfully convicted.

Katie Sepich was a 22-year-old New Mexico State University graduate student. In August of 2003, she was brutally raped, strangled to death, burned, and abandoned at a dumpsite. Katie was a fighter with full DNA profiles under her nails. Through DNA, we were able to find her attacker.

Katie's Law was signed into law last year, helping States with DNA collection. The discoveries and advancements of DNA have done wonders for our society. Closure has transformed our justice system.

THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION COMPETITION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last night it was my honor to be in the audience as Lincoln High School from Portland, Oregon, won the national Constitution competition. This is a terrific program. The We the People competition has been going on since 1987. It has involved almost 28 million youngsters, nearly 100,000 coaches and teachers, where young people do a deep dive into constitutional underpinnings. I will tell you, these students were no different.

I am pleased that this is the third year in a row that Portland, Oregon, has won: Lincoln 2 years ago, Grant High School, Lincoln again this year.

These are outstanding young men and women. It has been my privilege to have had an opportunity to work with them during their preparation. I am

continually impressed with their insight and their commitment.

There is a lot of concern about the state of civic education in the United States today, and rightly so. But these young trailblazers are showing the ability of young people to master the subject, make a commitment, and they are sowing the seeds for productive careers for years to come.

I hope some day this Congress will see fit to once again support this civic education program, which we had done until 2 years ago. It is time to reconsider and see if we can be a partner as well.

CALLING UPON THE BELARUSIAN OFFICIALS FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, every individual has a right to live in a free society. This May, the Ice Hockey World Championship 2014 will take place in Minsk, Belarus, challenging the Belarusian Government to demonstrate that it lives up to the core principles of good sportsmanship and fair play.

This global sports competition promotes integrity and emphasizes the fair application of rules and regulations. It is thus fitting that Belarus should do the same and show its citizens and the international community that it can play by the rules.

I then call upon the Belarusian officials for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, including Ales Bialiatski, Mikalai Statkevich, and Eduard Lobau, whom Amnesty International regards as prisoners of conscience, imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights.

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AFFECTING OUR REGION

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the challenges facing our coastal communities.

Last week, I was honored to help organize a conference in my district that brought increased attention to the economic, social, and environmental priorities of tribal communities.

With Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, tribal representatives, and other Federal agency officials and stakeholders, we were able to make significant progress in recognizing the need for active and sustained engagement on economic environmental issues affecting our region.

Secretary Jewell rightly pointed out that we have a moral obligation to act in the face of rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and severe weather patterns caused by climate change. In my district alone, three tribes are currently in the process of relocation due to the threats of floods.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to act. Let's help regions identify their infrastructure needs and work cooperatively to help ensure that we are protecting coastal communities and their heritage sites, maintaining livelihoods, and living up to our treaty and trust obligations.

Let's also work to develop new, cleaner energy sources, cut carbon emissions, and lead a global effort to tackle the real threat of climate change.

REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank that begins this discussion.

I yield to the gentleman and my friend and a passionate advocate on behalf of the Export-Import Bank, Congressman CÁRDENAS from the 29th District of California.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, we need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. It is very rare that you will see, quite frankly, any government on the planet that actually has a program that they support, that actually puts money back to the taxpayers rather than costing the taxpayers.

I say that is rare anywhere in the world. It certainly is rare here. This Export-Import Bank in the United States is in fact that kind of organization. For example, last year the bank supported 205,000 American jobs. I did not say ''exported jobs.'' I said ''supported 205,000 American jobs.'' That is what those loans did for American companies.

In addition to that, it should be noted that the loans that are being given are actually filling the gap that private banks will not or choose not to support; but our American companies need that kind of support, especially when they are competing in our global economy. The Export-Import Bank is exactly that mechanism that should exist.

What I would like to ask all Americans is to go ahead and go online and start tweeting Export-Import Bank and find out what your Congressman or Congresswoman thinks about the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

If you care about jobs, if you care about the person who lives next to you or down the street and they are unemployed, the Export-Import Bank is an answer to solving some of the problems in our economy in this country. Yes, there are too many Americans out of work, but not reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank will just contribute even more to companies in the United States not being able to compete, but also possibly closing their doors.

In addition to that, I would like to point out that every developed country in the world actually has their version of an Export-Import Bank. And some of those countries like China and India are actually tenfold, maybe 100 times the support that we are giving to our domestic companies here they are giving to their companies so they can compete or perhaps overcompete around the world.

I think it is important for all of us as Americans to understand that there is something good about the Export-Import Bank, and that is that it exists for creating American jobs. That is exactly what it is doing. If you are concerned about the American tax dollar, you would support the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank because all it does is create more jobs and more taxes in the coffers, and it doesn't take away anything from the taxes of the American public.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the 18th Congressional District of Florida, Congressman PATRICK MURPHY, another passionate advocate on behalf of reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Washington for his advocacy and passion for this critical issue for our country and for American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out on the urgent need for Congress to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, boosting job growth at home and the export of American-made products abroad.

Coming from the private sector, one of the first things I did after being elected was embark on a jobs tour, which included over 70 meetings, roundtables, and company visits within the first year. I have taken ideas and suggestions from all of these conversations and have put them into a plan to grow jobs in the Palm Beach-Treasure Coast district that I am so proud to represent.

This plan consists of commonsense, pro-growth policies that allow new

businesses to gain a solid foothold in a tough economy and for existing businesses to expand and prosper. One of the major focuses of this plan is on how the government can provide stability and certainty and resources to keep jobs at home by investing in our manufacturing sector and promoting exports of American-made goods abroad. Reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank with greater lending authority is one pillar for how we can do this.

As my voting record shows, I have strong feelings about government overspending. As a former small business owner myself, I know that government does not create jobs. But government does have the responsibility to create an environment conducive to job growth, and that is exactly what the Ex-Im does at zero cost to taxpayers.

It is an unfortunate reality that the United States buys much more than it sells. In 2013 alone, we imported over $400 billion, about 25 percent of GDP, more than we exported. We need to reverse this trend by boosting U.S. manufacturing and exports.

Now, the world knows we have the best equipment and the most highly trained workforce, and our products are sought after around the world for their high quality and skilled workmanship.

We must better leverage these strengths and provide greater opportunity to export goods made in America. One of the best ways to do this is by reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank before its current charter expires on September 30.

Just a few months ago, we celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Ex-Im Bank and its commitment to boosting the sales of U.S. products overseas. Ex-Im supported over 200,000 American jobs in 2013 alone and generated over $1 billion in revenue in 2012. With my district being home to a growing manufacturing sector and its proximity to several major ports, export sales are a major economic issue for our community, contributing tens of millions of dollars to our local economy every year.

The Ex-Im Bank is especially beneficial to small businesses, which are the backbone of our economy, creating two-thirds out of all new jobs nationwide.

□ 1615

More than 85 percent of Ex-Im's transactions benefit U.S. small- and medium-sized businesses, helping these entrepreneurs compete globally.

In my district, the majority of exporters are also small businesses. I recently met with one such business during my jobs tour, Locus Traxx Worldwide. They were recognized with an Export Achievement Award by the U.S. Department of Commerce for their successful entry into the international marketplace.

I also must commend our local Export Assistance Center for the great work they do with local businesses such as Locus Traxx, helping them utilize the Ex-Im Bank to promote the selling of goods made in America to buyers overseas.

You see, the Export-Import Bank makes a real difference to our economy at the local, State, and national level. It is a highly effective and completely self-sustaining mechanism that businesses of all sizes use to finance exports.

Even in times of intense partisanship, we should all be able to agree on the value the Ex-Im Bank provides to our economy. It would be shortsighted and detrimental to our economic recovery to allow its charter to expire.

We must work together to build a brighter future for our Nation, strengthen our workforce, grow our economy, and reduce our deficit. To do that, we must come together to continue to support successful programs like the Ex-Im Bank that help small businesses prosper, support American jobs, and boost our exports.

Now, we can have our differences, but at the end of the day we have to do what is in the best interest of America. And to do that, we have to work together. It shouldn't matter who gets the credit, as long as America and Americans succeed.

For 80 years, the Ex-Im Bank has been making sure that we succeed. I strongly urge my colleagues to join in calling for the commonsense reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank so that we may continue to support American businesses' access to global markets and increase our Nation's international competitiveness.

I want to thank the gentleman from Washington for his leadership.

Mr. HECK of Washington. When someone in America builds a better mousetrap or improves upon the design of an existing product, the world takes notice. Companies, governments, and industries in countries from South Africa to Turkey and in between are potential customers for well-crafted, American-made products.

But in the modern-day globalized economy, credit is necessary for complex transactions. Buyers and sellers need assurance that the deals are legitimate. Without that, they are forced to imitate products, violate intellectual property rights and standards, and American companies lose out on market share.

For 80 years, our economy has expanded and grown beyond our borders and into the developed and developing world, in part because of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Today, with U.S. trade deficits growing as exports fall, we need now more than ever to be able to support increases in exports.

Exports accelerate our economic growth, and the Export-Import Bank is a key part in encouraging just that activity. Increased exports translate into more jobs in America. Studies have shown that export-related jobs pay, on average, 15 to 18 percent more than the overall average. They are better-paying jobs.

Finally, with 95 percent of the potential customers of U.S. goods and services living outside our borders, exporting provides vast potential for American businesses, large and small.

Ninety-five percent of the world lives outside our borders, and the rest of the world is growing a middle class. So think of it this way. If we want to keep and grow our middle class, we better be selling into the rest of the world's growing middle class.

This is not, and has never been, about picking winners and losers. The Export-Import Bank simply serves to bridge the gap between those who want American goods and services and Americans that have goods and services to sell. It is about leveling the playing field so that small operators have access to a global market of customers equal to that of large corporations.

For example, the Bank's export credit insurance policy provides payment coverage for commercial risks such as buyer default and political risk from war or unrest. The insurance also ensures that businesses no longer have to forego sales because they cannot match the credit terms offered by global competitors. This is what we are talking about when we say it levels the playing field.

There is no other private lender currently offering what the Export-Import Bank provides American businesses. For example, 89 percent of the bank's transactions directly benefit U.S. small businesses. That doesn't even include the small businesses that make up the supply chain of the larger companies whose goods are purchased from foreign entities.

If you want more information on this, the very best place to get it is at the Export-Import Bank's own Web site, www.exim.gov. Look up the businesses in your area that have benefited from the Export-Import Bank.

As was mentioned earlier, lo and behold, we actually even make money off the Export-Import Bank. Last year alone, over a billion dollars transferred to the U.S. Treasury off the profits of the Export-Import Bank. As a matter of fact, in the 80 years of its existence, quite literally not one red penny of American taxpayer dollars has ever been used in support of the Ex-Im. Not one red penny. It lowers the deficit and does not use taxpayer dollars.

As I mentioned, it is small companies. Take a company like Pexco, which is located in the 10th Congressional District in Fife, Washington. They produce traffic control products you see on the road when repairs are

being made, like traffic cones, raised curbs, reflective signs, and barricades indicating where the road is blocked off. They are used all over the world.

In fact, just recently, a distributor from Denmark purchased $125,000 worth of Pexco products, which was financed by the Export-Import Bank. No commercial bank would have touched that transaction. But it guaranteed the products would reach Denmark. They were done reliably because of the Export-Import Bank.

In fact, in this individual company's instance, which is not atypical of their sales—and they are a small company of 200 employees—over half is sold internationally. Ten percent of total sales are financed by the Export-Import Bank.

So what is the result? The residents of Fife, Washington, are put to work producing their popular products in traffic safety all over the world.

I mentioned it was FDR that actually created the Export-Import Bank 80 years ago, and although it was actually initiated and created by a Democratic administration, the support of it has always been strongly bipartisan.

Republican Presidents such as Dwight Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush supported the mission of the Ex-Im Bank, as did Bill Clinton. All these Presidents were staunch supporters of capitalism and the Ex-Im Bank.

Listen to what President Reagan said when he signed the reauthorization, which was a bill that was reauthorized almost unanimously, in 1986:

> This sends an important signal to both our exporting community and foreign suppliers that American exporters will continue to able to compete vigorously for business throughout the world.

Perhaps an even more conservative voice, former Vice President Cheney, said in 1997:

> Some of my fellow conservatives on the Hill may have a philosophical problem with the fact that the bank is a government agency, but if they consider the success of its lending programs, it would be difficult for them to object on budgetary grounds.

For every dollar put into Ex-Im, Cheney said, ''there's been a $20 return to the U.S. economy.''

And again, the same speech, Vice President Cheney said:

> Ex-Im Bank is remarkably effective at helping create jobs, opportunities for trade, stable democracies, and vibrant economies throughout the world. The Bank has made a tremendous contribution as a rapid response, service-oriented agency designed to meet the export financing needs of American businesses.

Indeed, the Bank has been reauthorized a number of times throughout its history—almost always unanimously, until of late—each time making it more effective for the economic climate of the time.

So let's have a conversation about how to make it better. Let's have a conversation on how to get the word out to businesses that they have yet to tap into their potential global markets. Let's talk about how to get our economy running and get ahead of our global competitors.

Let's remember, as Congressman CÁRDENAS alluded to, every single developed entity in the world has an Ex-Im Bank-like entity, and if we do not reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank, it is the equivalent of and tantamount to unilateral disarmament in a global economy—one in which global trade has increased fivefold just since 1980.

What is the Export-Import Bank about? It is about jobs, jobs, jobs. Yes, 200,000 last year, but over a million in the last 4 years.

Every month we spend debating the merits of the Export-Import Bank instead of encouraging companies to explore the world market, the economy loses billions of dollars in potential export opportunities. The jobs, especially in manufacturing, stagnate. People remain unemployed when they want to work.

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I am encouraging, I am urging, I am beseeching, I am pleading with the chair to hold hearings as soon as possible on reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. We have been waiting 15 months for something to happen. And it is time to move forward.

Let us be clear-eyed and cold-blooded about what the cost is of not doing anything. At a recent roundtable of businesses who had been involved with the Export-Import Bank there was a gentleman present from a company in California. I believe his name was Steve Wilburn and the company was named FirmGreen.

Literally, in the course of the conversation he raise his hand and he said, I just lost a multimillion-dollar order of sales, and I am told the reason I lost it is that our competitor manufacturer, which was in another country, persuaded the purchaser that the cloud hanging over reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank may mean it will not be there when you need it. We lost millions in sales because Congress dithered.

Ladies and gentlemen, at the end of the day, this is the most straightforward imaginable proposition. This is about shoring up, strengthening, supporting the manufacturing sector of the American economy and creating good-paying jobs.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CURRENT EVENTS AFFECTING AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to my dear friend, Dr. VIRGINIA FOXX.

RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Congressman GOHMERT, my classmate and friend. I appreciate very much you yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, last week, I had the opportunity to visit a remarkable public school in Kernersville, North Carolina. In addition to preparing students academically for college, the North Carolina Leadership Academy is publicly committed to giving their 400 students ''the opportunity to develop true leadership qualities and become creative thinkers and problem-solvers while retaining a sense of responsibility for their families, their community, and their country.''

NCLA has an ambitious mission, and they are executing it so well that last year this charter school had over 700 applicants for 95 openings. The wait list has over 600 names, and is growing.

□ 1630

It was a privilege to spend time with the remarkable students and faculty of NCLA. I was truly impressed by their commitment to scholarship, by the leadership skills of the students, and by the remarkable academic progress that was on display.

All NCLA students in grades 7–12 participate in Civil Air Patrol, a program established by Congress in 1946 that uses military-style uniforms, customs, courtesies, ceremonies, and drill in order to improve student leadership skills, fitness, and character. This program is working.

NCLA places a strong emphasis on family involvement; and the level of commitment demonstrated by parents, families, and the Piedmont community at large was impressive.

Community engagement is a key to success of any school, and the community's support for NCLA is a good reminder that decisions about the education of our youth should remain local.

I have been a strong supporter of charter schools for my entire legislative career. In the North Carolina State Senate, I supported charters as one of the best hopes to genuinely reform our school system.

In Congress, those of us who support charter schools should express that support by ensuring that Federal policy encourages States to adopt expansive charter laws.

Further, we need to ensure that Washington does not put up bureaucratic roadblocks that would keep State, city, and county governments from experimenting with new ideas and establishing effective charter school programs.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot say enough about how impressed I was to spend time with the educators of the North Carolina Leadership Academy, individuals who seek daily to impress upon the students the values encapsulated in the school motto of ''Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship.''

I expect many good things from the remarkable young scholar leaders currently being educated by this wonderful school. The community will reap the benefits of having this school in its midst for years to come.

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate so much my colleague from North Carolina. Having been a president of a university, she knows all about education.

It is certainly one of the areas where we are failing American youth these days, and you would have thought that, if the Federal Government were the answer to everybody's problems, then when President Carter started the Department of Education, everything would have gotten instantly better; but over 35 years later, it turns out the Federal Government is not the answer to better education.

I have talked with enough high school students who also say the Federal Government is not the answer to their food problems. I have met with cafeteria workers and leaders who say that kids are not eating the food. They are required to choose from lists of foods to put on the plates that they had heretofore not heard of before that students don't want, don't like.

The football players were saying last fall: How in the world can we go to football practice and all we get is this piddly little bit of meat and other stuff we can't eat?

So obviously, education, food has not been helped, certainly not according to my constituents in east Texas, the vast majority; and education itself does not seem to have made all that great or remarkable progress since the Carter administration started the Department of Education and Congress began putting strings on virtually everything they did in the way of educational support.

The 10th Amendment had some real meaning and was really visionary. It was the last of those first 10 Bill of Rights and, in essence, said everything that is not specifically enumerated as a power of the Federal Government is reserved to the States and the people; that is because the genius of our Founders collectively was the best answers are found locally, not by bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

I was shocked to go online years ago and see that one of my school districts was bragging that, gee, about half of their employees were actually teachers. I was shocked. I would have thought that, if we really cared about education, the big bulk of employees would be teachers.

So I did further investigation and found out that before the national Department of Education was created under Jimmy Carter, there was between 70 and 80 percent of the Texas educational employees who were teachers.

Naturally, when Washington gets involved, there are more requirements for the State agency—education agency in each State; then with more State education accountability and requirements to Washington, there became more bureaucrats there, which meant there had to be more bureaucrats in the local school districts.

If we want to ever get back to having the best education that we can get for our dollar, we need to get back to observing the 10th Amendment. The best educational accountability comes not from some bureaucrat on his buttocks here in Washington, but from those who are there locally that see what is happening in the school.

We have done enough damage. One of the disagreements I had with former President George W. Bush, who I like and admire—I think it unfortunate that people do not appreciate either his intelligence or his very, very clever wit.

Unlike Mr. Gore, who seemed to have trouble being able to make good enough grades to stay in graduate programs, former President Bush didn't have any problem getting through and getting an MBA from Harvard; though obviously, Harvard is not what it used to be when it would embrace and allow debate from all sectors. Now, it is the liberal sector, or they don't really appreciate you.

So, anyway, No Child Left Behind was a big mistake. When Governor George W. Bush pushed accountability at the State level, he was acting within the bounds of the Constitution.

I had hopes that this administration would actually keep the promise that they would dismantle No Child Left Behind. It has been eased, but not nearly what should have happened.

It turns out that the administration has been so busy with other aspects that, apparently, it has not had the time to devote to dismantling No Child Left Behind, as they might have hoped.

We have this story from today, April 29, 2014, Washington, D.C., from Judicial Watch, ''Benghazi Documents Point to White House on Misleading Talking Points.''

The article says that—as a release from Judicial Watch, that they announced today that, on April 18, 2014, it obtained 41 new Benghazi-related State Department documents.

They include a newly declassified email showing then-White House Deputy Strategic Communications adviser Ben Rhodes and other Obama administration public relation officials attempting to orchestrate a campaign to reinforce President Obama and to portray the Benghazi consulate terrorist attack as being ''rooted in an Internet video and not a failure of policy.''

Other documents show that State Department officials initially described the incident as an attack, a possible kidnap attempt.

The documents were released Friday as a result of a June 21, 2013, Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed against the Department of State to gain access to documents about the controversial talking points used by then-U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice for a series of appearances on television—Sunday news programs—on September 16, 2012.

Judicial Watch had been seeking these documents since October 18, 2012. The Rhodes email was sent on Friday, September 14, at 8:09 p.m., with the subject line, ''Re: Prep call with Susan: Saturday at 4 p.m. ET.''

The documents show that the prep was for Ambassador Rice's Sunday news show appearances to discuss the Benghazi attack. The documents list as a goal, ''to underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video and not a broader failure of policy.''

I might insert parenthetically here that, actually, this must be taken in context in 2012 because there was an election only weeks following this incident, and the big campaign line that Osama bin Laden is dead, GM is alive, al Qaeda is on the run, didn't look nearly as tantalizing if it turns out al Qaeda—al Qaeda may be on the run, but if they are, they are running toward American interests and killing an American Ambassador and other State Department personnel.

This article goes on to say:

Rhodes returns to the ''Internet video'' scenario later in the email, the first point in a section labeled ''Top-lines.''

And here is the quote:

We have made our views on this video crystal clear. The United States Government had nothing to do with it. We reject its message and its contents. We find it disgusting and reprehensible, but there is absolutely no justification at all for responding to this movie with violence, and we are working to make sure that people around the globe hear that message.

Mr. Speaker, it also should be noted here that it was not only sending Susan Rice out to mislead the American people before the election into believing that this was not a failure of policy by the Obama administration, which it clearly was, but actually, it was all about a video.

To perpetuate this misleading, some might argue, fraudulent presentation of anything but facts included producing a commercial with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton saying the United States had nothing to do with that video, repeatedly making the point to add cover to their cover story that it was not a failure of policy by the Obama administration that caused and failed to suppress the attack at Benghazi, but it was some video by some lone person out in California who must be stopped.

They spent tens of thousands of dollars running this commercial in foreign countries to help give cover to what were the true facts, the true facts being that this was nothing about a video; it was all about a planned concerted attack, which it turns out may have even utilized weapons that the United States provided to these rebels over many of our objections on this House floor, and with the President saying he really didn't need congressional support because he had Islamic countries and France wanting us to get in there and provide weapons and air cover to the al Qaeda-backed rebels.

□ 1645

We knew there was al Qaeda involved. As we said on the floor back during those days, we just don't know how extensive it is. We think we ought to wait until we know how extensive the al Qaeda involvement is. But this administration wouldn't have that. They moved ahead. They furnished weapons. And it could very well turn out that there were people in our party that said, okay, all right, if that is what you want to do, but it certainly wasn't this congressional body that did that.

The President got his will. They furnished weapons to rebels that included al Qaeda. This administration refused to provide the security that was requested by more than one person, but including Chris Stevens, himself. It refused to provide it.

How bad would that look right before the election: A mere matter of weeks before early voting started, and it turns out that not only did they not provide security as requested, when it was requested, heck, they may have even provided the weapons to the rebels who killed our Ambassador. It was the first time an Ambassador had been killed since the Jimmy Carter administration, and here it was happening again.

This administration knew exactly what would happen when America finds out that an administration is toothless, is ineffectual, and has actually brought assistance to radical Islamists becoming in charge of a country. Because, after all, it was the Carter administration that did as this administration did with Mubarak and Qadhafi in saying they have got to go, pushed an ally out. It was not a very nice one by any stretch, but an ally.

And then President Carter welcomed the Ayatollah Khomeini as a man of peace. So then for the first time in what was a long period, a radical Islamist got control of a major country. That opened the door to many thousands and thousands and thousands of Americans being killed in the decades ahead. That kind of ineffectual foreign policy that Jimmy Carter had saw the results at Benghazi.

But this article goes on to point out that:

Among the top administration PR personnel who received the Rhodes memo were White House Press Secretary Jay Carney, Deputy Press Secretary Joshua Earnest, then-White House Communications Director Dan Pfeiffer, then-White House Deputy Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri, then-National Security Council Director of Communications Erin Pelton, Special Assistant to the Press Secretary Howli Ledbetter, and then-White House Senior Advisor and political strategist David Plouffe.

The Rhodes communications strategy email also instructs recipients to portray Obama as ''steady and statesmanlike'' throughout the crisis. Another of the ''goals'' of the PR offensive, Rhodes says, is ''to reinforce the President and Administration's strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges.'' He later includes as a PR ''top-line'' talking point:

''I think that people have come to trust that President Obama provides leadership that is steady and statesmanlike. There are always going to be challenges that emerge around the world, and time and again, he has shown that we can meet them.''

The documents Judicial Watch obtained also include a September 12, 2012, email from former deputy spokesman at U.S. Mission to the United Nations Payton Knopf to Susan Rice, noting that at a press briefing earlier that day, State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland explicitly stated that the attack on the consulate had been well planned.

The email sent by Knopf to Rice at 5:42 p.m. said:

''Responding to a question about whether it was an organized terror attack, Toria said that she couldn't speak to the identity of the perpetrators but that it was clearly a complex attack.''

In the days following the Knopf email, Rice appeared on ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX News, and CNN still claiming the assaults occurred ''spontaneously'' in response to the ''hateful video.''

And it is worth noting, there were people that used those words, ''steady'' and ''statesmanlike.'' And certainly this would have appeared to be a real problem for the administration that someone speaking soon after the attack and the murder, the assassination of Chris Stevens and three American patriots, Ms. Nuland, not knowing that she was supposed to use talking points and mislead the American public and the world, spoke the truth because she hadn't gotten the email, the talking points to mislead Americans and the world. So she spoke the truth.

It was very clear, as it was to those in Libya, that this was a complicated attack. It was well planned, well coordinated, and it had nothing to do with the video.

This article goes on:

On Sunday, September 16, Rice told CBS's ''Face the Nation'':

''But based on the best information we have to date, what our assessment is as of the present is, in fact, what began spontaneously in Benghazi as a reaction to what had transpired some hours earlier in Cairo where, of course, as you know, there was a violent protest outside of our Embassy sparked by this hateful video.''

The Judicial Watch documents confirm that CIA talking points that were prepared for Congress and may have been used by Rice on ''Face the Nation'' and four additional Sunday talk shows on September 16 had been heavily edited by then-CIA Deputy Director Mike Morell. According to one email:

''The first draft apparently seemed unsuitable because they seemed to encourage the reader to infer incorrectly that the CIA had warned about a specific attack on our Embassy. On the SVTS, Morell noted that these points were not good and he had taken a heavy hand to editing them. He noted that he would be happy to work with then deputy chief of staff to Hillary Clinton, Jake Sullivan, and Rhodes to develop appropriate talking points.''

The documents obtained by Judicial Watch also contain numerous emails sent during the assault on the Benghazi diplomatic facility. The contemporaneous and dramatic emails describe the assault as an ''attack.''

Just as State Department number two person in Libya said Chris Stevens described it: We are under attack. There was nothing about a video. The American people were duped right before the election, as was the intent.

Back to the article:

September 11, 2012, 6:41 p.m., Senior Adviser Eric Pelofsky to Susan Rice:

''As reported, the Benghazi compound came under attack and it took a bit of time for the 'annex' colleagues and Libyan February 17 brigade to secure it. One of our colleagues was killed—IMO Sean Smith. Ambassador Chris Stevens, who was visiting Benghazi this week is missing. U.S. and Libyan colleagues are looking for him.''

Further down, it notes how much material is blacked out in so many of the emails. Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said: ''Now we know the Obama White House's chief concern about the Benghazi attack was making sure that President Obama looked good.'' ''And these documents undermine the Obama administration's narrative that it thought the Benghazi attack had something to do with protests or an Internet video. Given the explosive material in these documents, it is no surprise that we had to go to Federal court to pry them loose from the Obama State Department.''

Well, that has led to this printing that I did of another Judicial Watch FOIA request. This is an article from here in D.C.:

Judicial Watch announced today that on March 25, 2014, it filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the Federal Bureau of Investigation seeking agency records related to the awarding of the Louis E. Peters Award in 2011 to Mohamed Elibiary, a member of the Department of Homeland Security Advisory Council. Elibiary is alleged to have close ties to radical Islamist organizations, including the Muslim Brotherhood.

And I will insert parenthetically here that, actually, when a Muslim Brother, Morsi, was President of Egypt, a periodical there was bragging about six top Obama officials who were Muslim Brothers, and one of them was Mr. Elibiary from Texas.

This points out here:

Judicial Watch seeks the following documents in its June 24, 2013, FOIA request:

Any and all records regarding, concerning, or related to the awarding of the Louis E.

Peters Memorial Award to Mr. Mohamed Elibiary on September 8, 2011.

Further down, it says:

Elibiary, who in his role as Homeland Security adviser has regular access to classified information, most recently came under fire in November 2013 for tweeting out the message that America is an ''Islamic country with an Islamically compliant constitution.'' In its December 2013 ''Special Report: U.S. Government Purges of Law Enforcement Training Material Deemed 'Offensive' to Muslims,'' Judicial Watch identified Elibiary as one of nearly a half dozen ''Islamist influence operators'' within the Obama administration ''seeking to advance an ideological agenda completely at odds with our constitutional system.''

Of course, that was December of 2013 when actually it was December of 2012 when the Egyptian Muslim Brother-controlled government had a periodical that talked about, a year before this, the six Muslim Brothers who had such powerful influence and roles in this administration.

This goes on to talk about Mr. Elibiary and his role in the Homeland Security Department. Personally, I had an opportunity to question Janet Napolitano as Secretary of Homeland Security more than once about Mr. Elibiary.

And actually, on the night before one of our hearings, I had talked to the head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Steve McCraw, a great man, a great patriot, a former FBI agent. He understands what is going on in this country. And he was alerted that Mr. Elibiary had downloaded two documents from a classified database that Mr. Elibiary only got access to because Janet Napolitano, to the best we can find out, just unilaterally gave him a security clearance so he could go into these Web sites. And he did it from his own computer, and he did it at his home. They could tell all of this by the intelligence they were able to gather, and it was clear he had downloaded two documents.

What was in an article and published was that the article writer said that he had talked to someone in the national media who said that Elibiary had shopped those two documents to this national media source, and they didn't accept it. They were concerned about accepting classified documents and printing them, and so they didn't.

□ 1700

The next day at our hearing I brought this up to Secretary Napolitano. She said she didn't know what I was talking about, basically, and she would look into it. What she didn't know is that I knew when she made those false statements that her chief of staff the night before, her chief of staff had talked to Steve McCraw and had told him, look, I know you are concerned—basically that is what he said:

I know you are concerned, but I have given a full briefing of what happened to the Secretary herself. She knows what is going on. She is fully briefed on the matter.

So either Secretary Napolitano lied to me and the Congress in our hearing under penalty of perjury, or her chief of staff just completely made up that he had just briefed the Secretary on this troubling security breach.

I would like to think that if the Secretary, as here, had unilaterally put what Egypt considered a member of the Muslim Brotherhood into our very tight inner circle and given him a secret security clearance without going through the normal vetting that is supposed to be required, and if that person that she unilaterally got that position had breached the protocol and downloaded documents from a classified setting, that somebody, for Heaven's sake, would have alerted the Secretary of Homeland Security. But she sat right there and told me that, no, she didn't know anything about it.

The next time I asked her about it, however, she said she had looked into it and there was nothing to it. Unfortunately for her, and unfortunately for our country and its own security, no one had bothered to properly look into the matter because the reporter who published the article that he had talked to, a national media source, said Elibiary tried to get him to publish the classified documents. Nobody called that reporter. Nobody talked to that reporter. He probably wouldn't have disclosed his source, but nobody bothered to even talk to the reporter that knew Mr. Elibiary had shopped those documents.

If homeland security could be so poorly run at the highest level, over its own security, is the rest of America really very safe? The FBI in 2011 gave their highest civilian award, or one of the highest awards, to this same person who was a featured speaker at the tribute to the Ayatollah Khomeini. In fact, the tribute was entitled, ''A Tribute to the Great Islamic Visionary, Ayatollah Khomeini.'' Well, there were no cameras allowed in that big tribute, so we don't know exactly what Mr. Elibiary had to say in tribute to this great Islamic visionary, the Ayatollah Khomeini, who was responsible for kick-starting this radical Islamic effort against the Great Satan, the United States, from their way of thinking.

So he is entitled to the FBI's great tribute to civilians? It kind of gives you a little insight, Mr. Speaker, into how in the world the FBI, after the United States got two heads-ups from a foreign government that was not necessarily our friend, that Mr. Tsarnaev had been radicalized. They talked to Tsarnaev. The best we could get from the hearings that we had when we questioned Director Mueller, the FBI Director at the time—apparently they talked to Mr. Tsarnaev, and he didn't confess to them that he had become radical. They talked to his mother, and she didn't confess that he had become radical. And when I said that you didn't even go out to the Muslim temples there in Boston where the Tsarnaevs attended to ask questions—you can ask questions if you had proper training. Oh, yes, that is right, because CAIR and ISNA were identified by a United States District Court, that was upheld by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, that CAIR and ISNA are front organizations for the Muslim Brotherhood. Yes. CAIR and ISNA, they regularly complain. They give instructions. They give insights to this administration. And CAIR, particularly, had complained about things that radical Islamists might find offensive in the FBI training material, so they were purged.

A couple of us went through these documents that were purged, but we were told the setting and the information was classified so I can't go into it. But, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you it was shocking that some of that stuff was purged. Some of it was stupid. It didn't have to be there. But when, as one of our intelligence officers told me, we blind ourselves to our ability to see our enemy, then when you go investigate someone that you have been given a heads up is radicalized and is a threat to kill Americans, you don't know what to ask. Because if you knew what to ask, you would go to the mosque and say, who knew Tsarnaev? Have you ever heard him talk about ''Qutb's Milestones,'' that publication he wrote, you know, the one that Osama bin Laden said helped to radicalize him?

If you know about radical Islam, you would know the questions to ask. But our FBI, our intelligence, they are not allowed to get that information anymore because it might offend a radical Islamist. Thank God for the moderate Muslims around the world who do not want radical Islamists in charge of their country. And our friends that originally helped to defeat the Taliban, the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan, are in trouble because we have abandoned them, and this administration now won't have anything to do with them. They fought the Taliban. They defeated the Taliban, and the last great fight consisted of Northern Alliance leader, General Dostum, a legend, riding with about 2,000 Northern Alliance tribesmen on horseback. Dostum said they had to go on horseback because they knew soldiers on foot would never make it up the hill, that mountain, to get to the Taliban stronghold. Their only chance to get through the rocket-propelled grenades and the bullets was to ride on horseback. And they knew many of them wouldn't make it, but they really believed enough of them would that they could defeat the Taliban. That is the kind of courage—and, yeah, they fight the Taliban the way the Taliban fights. They are pretty tough folks. But they are the enemy of our enemy, the Taliban.

So this administration doesn't really want to have anything to do with the Northern Alliance that were our allies. Instead, they keep wanting to cut some kind of a deal with the Taliban. And all the Northern Alliance said was, Look, you know, you helped force this constitution upon Afghanistan that centralizes the government when we are really more tribal, we are more regional. But you gave us a government where the president gets to appoint every governor, every mayor, every police chief, most of the higher level teachers, a slate of many of the legislators that has some powers of the purse. All they ask is let us elect our own governors, mayors, and pick our own police chiefs, and that way the Taliban just can't knock off the president or co-op the president and take back over Afghanistan, which is what is about to happen the way this administration has so poorly handled our foreign policy.

They said that if you could at least push through an amendment that let us elect our governors, mayors, and get our own police chiefs, then we could be regionally strong. So maybe the Taliban gets one region, but the rest of us could rise up and put him out of business again.

Mr. Speaker, why wouldn't that be a good strategy? We don't even need Americans to carry that out. We don't need Americans sitting and hoping, as John Kerry once said about Vietnam, that they are not the last one to die leaving Afghanistan. I have been to too many funerals of people who gave the last full measure for this country in Afghanistan. We owe it to them not to let it fall immediately back into Taliban hands, and we could prevent that without any more American blood being shed.

We prop up financially the Afghan Government to the point that if we put enough pressure on—and I know this administration always puts pressure on the wrong people. Instead of the Palestinian terrorists, we put pressure on Israel to keep giving away their security and safety. In Afghanistan, we pressure the people of Afghanistan to give up their security and safety because we want to cut a deal with the Taliban. The thing to do is to empower the enemy of our enemy, and they will keep our enemies at bay. That is what needs to be done in Afghanistan.

That is why it is so important lest anyone is attempted to ask the question about Benghazi, what difference, at this point, does it make how our four Americans were killed? Well, it makes a difference because if we had learned the specific breakdowns and causes during the Clinton years of two Embassies being attacked and Americans dying, then perhaps we would have been better prepared at Benghazi. But since we didn't learn the lesson under the Clinton administration because people in that administration apparently were wondering what difference does it make how or why these people died and let's just move on, and so Americans died in the future. If we are going to stop that in the future from here, we need to know at this point what happened in Benghazi.

Now, not only is this administration continuing to thwart efforts to get to the bottom of what happened at Benghazi, it also sends our Secretary of State to insult the Israelis yet again.

This time, as this article from the Daily Beast, 4/27, points out:

> The Secretary of State, that is John Kerry, said that if Israel doesn't make peace soon, it could become 'an apartheid state,' like the old South Africa. Jewish leaders are fuming over the comparison.
>
> If there is no two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict soon, Israel risks becoming 'an apartheid state,' Secretary of State John Kerry told a room of influential world leaders in a closed-door meeting Friday.
>
> Senior American officials have rarely, if ever, used the term 'apartheid' in reference to Israel, and President Obama has previously rejected the idea that the word should apply to the Jewish state. Kerry's use of the loaded term is already rankling Jewish leaders in America—and it could attract unwanted attention in Israel, as well.
>
> It wasn't the only controversial comment on the Middle East that Kerry made during his remarks to the Trilateral Commission, a recording of which was obtained by The Daily Beast. Kerry also repeated his warning that a failure of Middle East peace talks could lead to a resumption of Palestinian violence against Israeli citizens. He suggested that a change in either the Israeli or Palestinian leadership could make achieving a peace deal more feasible. He lashed out against Israeli settlement building. And Kerry said that both Israeli and Palestinian leaders share blame for the current impasse in the talks.

Yeah, let's figure that out, Mr. Speaker. Israel and Palestinians share the blame for the breakdown of Palestinian peace talks because Israel says you just have to recognize we have a right to exist as a Jewish state so we don't suffer another Holocaust.

□ 1715

And the Palestinians say: you are the little Satan, America is the great Satan, we intend to wipe you off the map. At no time will we be willing to recognize your right to exist. So no, we are not going to agree to allow you to exist, so the only agreement we will enter is if you agree that we have to still plan on wiping you off the map.

And this is the kind of agreement that Kerry thinks should be made.

According to the 1998 Rome Statute, the crime of apartheid is defined as:

> Inhuman acts committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime. The term is most often used in reference to the system of racial segregation and oppression that governed South Africa from 1948 until 1994.

So let's see, in Israel, Palestinians get the best jobs anywhere between their Palestinian area and Israeli area, and they are allowed to hold those jobs, make the money, and go back into the Palestinian area; and let's see, why does Israel want to protect itself? Oh, yes, before they put up a fence, it made it too easy for Palestinian suicide bombers to just walk into a school yard, walk into an area where innocent children, women, and men are occupying or having a good time and blow them up.

Finally, as a matter of their own self-security, they said: no, we are going to have to have fences, so you can't just walk in and blow up innocent people.

How have the Palestinians taken to that? Well, they have taken to it by continuing to have, in their textbooks, references to Jewish people as rats or vermin and other such references.

They elicit hatred from the little schoolchildren against Jews. They name holidays and landmarks and monuments and streets after people who have been able to kill innocent people in Israel.

You know, that is one thing about the United States, we don't normally name holidays and streets and landmarks and monuments for people who kill innocent other people. We name holidays and streets for people like Martin Luther King, Jr., an ordained Christian minister who said, by his life, you don't use violence to kill innocent people.

Those are the kind of people we respect here in America. Those are the kind of people we name holidays and streets for, but not in Palestine. Oh, no. Oh, no. And this Secretary of State blames Israel. He does say there is some blame to share, but as the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, said standing at that podium right there:

> If the Palestinians lay down their weapons, there will be peace; if the Israelis lay down their weapons, there will be no Israel.

After World War II, when it was learned the extent of the Holocaust, of killing 6 million or so Jewish people simply because of their race, simply because of who they were, the world reacted so strongly and appropriately, they said: we can't allow this to happen again, we need to create the nation of Israel where Jews can go and be protected in a Jewish state, the only Jewish country in the world.

Amazingly, people that had no concept of what the Bible were actually carried out prophesies from the Old Testament, to the letter, by what they did. Maybe there is something to that Old Testament and its prophesies.

For those in this administration, perhaps they are hoping that is not the case because this Secretary of State has, in essence, cursed Israel more than once and that Old Testament that prophesied Israel would be reborn, as it

has been exactly, it says those who curse Israel will be cursed and those who bless Israel will be blessed.

You only have to go back a year before or just last year, November 13, 2013. Here is another article about our Secretary of State from Haifa, Israel:

America's Ambassador to Israel has been in damage-control mode after his boss, Secretary of State John Kerry, wondered rhetorically if Jewish opposition to peace negotiations with Palestinians was driven by a desire for a third intifada. Intifada is an Arabic word for uprising and was the term given to intensified Israeli-Palestinian violence from 1987–1993 and from 2000–2005.

Our Secretary of State is saying out loud in a foreign country that, gee, he is wondering if the Israelis want an intifada again in which hundreds and hundreds of Israeli citizens will be senselessly killed again.

You know, there was a reason—and I was talking to one of my Democratic colleagues yesterday about Secretary Kerry's remarks. There was a reason the majority of the United States said: you know what, we are concerned about some aspect of John Kerry. We don't want him to be the spokesman around the world for the United States of America. So it could be credited to President Obama, we will give him another chance. We will let him speak for America, I will appoint him Secretary of State.

And he has shown yet again, you know what, there really was a reason that the American people did not want him to be the international spokesman for America. It is time, I believe, he came home and ceased being Secretary of State.

Here is an article from yesterday by Ben Shapiro. He is a Jew. He is brilliant. He is a friend. He wrote yesterday an article titled, ''The Anti-Semitism of the Obama administration.'' He talks about Kerry's comment about the apartheid state. Ben says in his article:

This is pure anti-Semitism. Blaming Israel for its incapacity to make peace with people whose stated goal is to murder Jews cannot be construed as anything other than Jew hatred. Likening the Jewish state to South Africa, despite the fact that there are well over a million Arab citizens with full voting rights and despite the fact that the Palestinian territories are completely Judenrein, is more of the same.

Upon tape of his remarks hitting the press, Kerry immediately backtracked, stating, ''I will not allow my commitment to Israel to be questioned by anyone, particularly for partisan, political purposes.'' He then disclaimed that he ever said Israel was an apartheid state and said, ''If I could rewind the tape, I would have chosen a different word to describe my firm belief that the only way in the long term to have a Jewish state and two nations and two people is through a two-state solution.''

Sadly, Kerry is simply not believable at this point. The Obama administration has demonstrated a consistent pattern of anti-Semitic rhetoric—even aside from their practical undermining of any Israeli attempt to stop the Iranian nuclear program with repeated national security leaks. It peppers the top ranks of the Obama White House.

And then the article goes on to point out some of the leaks that were done to hurt Israel.

But Secretary Kerry should be encouraged. Here is an article, ''Far Left J-Street Defends Kerry's Apartheid Accusations Against Israel,'' posted by Jim Hoft on Tuesday, April 29:

J-Street calls itself the organization that ''gives political voice to mainstream American Jews and other supporters of Israel,'' but it is far from a pro-Israel group. In 2010, it was revealed that radical far left billionaire George Soros donated $245,000 to the leftist organization in 2008 and another $500,000 in subsequent years.

Cofounder Daniel Levy was caught on tape telling an audience that the creation of Israel was ''an act that was wrong.''

Wow.

Yesterday, this far left anti-Israel group defended John Kerry. Pro-Israel groups blasted J-Street today after the far left Jewish group supported John Kerry's apartheid accusation against Israel. The Zionist Organization of America responded to J-Street's comments: J-Street has again demonstrated that it is an extremist group, hostile to Israel, by supporting Secretary of State John Kerry's ''apartheid'' accusation against Israel.

This is the administration that condemns, cajoles our friend Israel, supports and coddles terrorists, radical Islamists in Afghanistan and Palestine, that went rushing into Libya when many of us were saying: look, this isn't a good idea. We know al Qaeda is supporting the rebels. Let's wait and see how much of these rebels are al Qaeda.

But he helped them anyway, and now, we find out, here is an article from today from The Blaze titled, ''The Massive Amount of Weapons Meant for Libyan Rebels That Actually Ended Up in Terrorists' Hands.''

It is a good article from Sara Carter. The trouble is these weapons were actually intended for the terrorists because we knew—we had information there were al Qaeda terrorists that were part of the rebels against Qadhafi.

I know I just have a couple more minutes, but let me mention, as some of the leadership in the Senate and even some on the Republican side here in the House is being encouraged and encouraging others, let's have some kind of legal status, amnesty-type bill for certain people.

Or how about in the NDAA that we are going to take up, why don't we put in there, if you are in this country illegally and you are willing to go into the service, then we will claim you are legal?

Recent veterans are struggling to find jobs, and information indicates our military members are being released from the military right and left because of the dramatic cuts to the military, far more than should ever have been allowed by this body, and they are having trouble finding jobs.

The unemployment rate for our veterans ought to be much lower than for anybody, and it is much higher than for the American population, and this administration now and some of our own leadership wants to encourage people illegally here to go take those jobs away from those being bounced out of the military and let them compete and bring down the level of wages for the middle class in America. It should not be allowed.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1730

RECOGNITION OF THE 63RD ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to follow a gentleman like Mr. GOHMERT here. My subject matter for this minute is about the National Day of Prayer. I would like to add to his comments: we should also pray for Israel.

Recognition of the 63rd Annual Observance of the National Day of Prayer will be this Thursday, May 1.

Our Nation has a rich prayerful heritage, a heritage that began with many of our first settlers to the New World and strengthened through the first national call to prayer invoked by the Second Continental Congress in 1775.

As reflected in the writings and speeches of our forefathers, prayer has had a profound influence not only on the lives of these great leaders, but also on the content of the Declaration of Independence and other founding documents.

In his farewell address, President George Washington warned about the consequences that will descend on a Nation that excludes religion from the public arena. He declared the ''indispensable'' importance of religion, and proclaimed that: ''Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.''

Today, prayer remains very important in our daily lives, not only to our society, but to each of us individually as well. It calls to mind our actions and helps support us in our daily tasks.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join with me to continue this tradition of prayer and ensure that God remains involved in the affairs of leaders of this great Nation.

ISRAEL'S MODERN HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAMER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to discuss the comments made recently by Secretary Kerry regarding Israel and apartheid.

I am not going to be one of the many people that are probably calling for Secretary Kerry's resignation in that regard. I too work in the arena of public policy, and I understand that sometimes you make mistakes in the things you say, you say things that you didn't necessarily intend to say.

I think it is very instructive to talk about it for just a few moments here. I want to remind everybody that Israel first fought a War of Independence in 1948 and 1949, and then fought again in 1967 in the Six Day War and then again in 1973 with the Yom Kippur War.

During these periods of time, they were attacked, unilaterally attacked by their neighbors. Some people say: Well, we need to go back to those pre-1967 borders. I ask anybody who was attacked, who has been in a fight where somebody sucker-punched them, who was the aggressor, why is it incumbent upon Israel to return the spoils of the war? Folks attacked them, they fought the war, and they won, and they want to secure their population. Because of that, some people think that somehow Israel is the oppressor. They reacted to an act of aggression.

I just want to also read statements from President Obama from 2008 regarding the usage of the term ''apartheid'':

> There's no doubt that Israel and the Palestinians have tough issues to work out to get to the goal of two states living side by side in peace and security, but injecting a term like apartheid into the discussion doesn't advance that goal. It's emotionally loaded, historically inaccurate, and it's not what I believe.

That is not what Americans believe either.

I think for me and what I want to tell anybody that is watching and anybody that is listening is, this should be proof positive; finally, the evidence of what many conservatives and many people who support Israel have been saying for the last 6 years. Finally, what we are seeing is—if this isn't proof, I don't know what is—the thoughts and the feeling and the mindset and what is in the heart of this administration regarding Israel. This is what they believe. This is who they are.

If you support Israel as the only ally, the only true ally for America in that part of the world, if that is who you support, then you must recognize this for what this is, Mr. Speaker. It is an abandoning. It is not only an abandoning of our ally, our great ally and our true friend, but is a castigation of who they are.

When we think about what apartheid is, Israel doesn't represent any of that. It is an open democracy that lets people live freely and participate within the confines of their security situation, and as the representative before me discussed, rockets being rained down upon them, homicide bombers coming into their children's school and blowing up their children, blowing up their buses on a busy street or a cafe where people are just trying to have a meal. That is their daily life. And we are supposed to castigate them for defending their nation, for their leaders defending their nation against that, and that is somehow apartheid?

The physical, racial, financial, I mean the spiritual and emotional oppression for the sake of race, that is apartheid. That is not what Israel is doing. That is not what Israel is about. That is not what Israel has done. Israel has tried to live peaceably in that region of the world among its neighbors. It has fought to exist. It fights every day to exist.

For the Secretary of State to use that term in describing who Israel is, what they are as a people, what they are as a government, it is not only reprehensible, it in my mind truly defines, it very clearly illustrates what this administration believes. So if you are a supporter of Israel, if you are a supporter of the only ally, the true ally of the United States in that region of the world, it is time for you to take stock. If you have been a supporter of this administration, it is time for you to take stock in that support. Is it justified? Is it realistic? Is it what you really believe? Because if you believe what this administration believes, then you believe that the only answer is for Israel to continue to give, to give of itself to its neighbors who hate it, who are continually trying to destroy it, who refuse after all these years—1947—after all these years, continue to refuse as a matter of just negotiation to acknowledge Israel's right to exist as a state.

How much longer will it take, Mr. Speaker? How many more years until these other organizations—you know, the taxpayers, the United States taxpayers, fund the Palestinian Authority and their effort to pay stipends to prisoners who blow up Israelis, who blow them up. It is seen as their job. It is like a paycheck. If you go to prison, you get paid for doing it, and the more heinous it is, the more you get paid.

Yet, somehow Israel is supposed to turn the other cheek yet again and give of itself to people that blow it up. Even after they give, let's face it, after they give, because they have offered to give time and time and time again, we all know, Mr. Speaker, it is not going to be enough. Because the people that call Jews and Israel descendants of apes and dogs and pigs, they are not going to stop thinking that just because Israel agrees to whatever concession they demand. They won't stop until there is no Israel. That is their goal. That has been their stated goal, and it hasn't changed.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to again highlight to anybody that has supported this administration because of their support for Israel, see what it is, look it in the face. It has shown itself finally for what it truly is. It is not support of Israel, it is support of a political agenda that makes Israel continue to bleed, and it is unacceptable for the United States of America to turn its back on this longstanding ally.

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4486, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4487, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–426) on the resolution (H. Res. 557) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4487) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PATENT TRANSPARENCY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to warn the American people that fundamental changes are being proposed in our legal system here in Washington that could have a dramatic impact on their freedom, a dramatic impact on the prosperity of this country, and a dramatic impact on the security of our country.

These changes that I am talking about are not so apparent to the average person because they deal with a very complicated issue of technology and technology ownership. I have been in Congress for about 25 years—actually 26 years at the end of this year. During that time period, there has been an ongoing fight that has not been recognized by many American people.

It is the fight to maintain a very strong patent system in our country. It has been ongoing because major players around the world, especially multinational corporations, have not been supportive of the idea that the American people have a right to own their own creations. In fact, our Founding Fathers felt that this was so important

that we have the patent rights and copyrights for the average American person that they wrote it into our Constitution. I just happen to have a copy of the Constitution here.

Article I, section 8 says one of the powers of Congress is ''to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.'' This is what our Founding Fathers wrote into the Constitution. This is the body of the Constitution. This is before the Declaration of Independence.

Our Founding Fathers were so much in favor of this concept where people would own what they created, and that would spur the creativity and the genius of people and that would uplift all of humankind, they were so much engaged in that concept they wrote it into our Constitution and put it on par thus above the Bill of Rights in terms of speech, religion, and other rights.

People like Benjamin Franklin, who is one of our great Founding Fathers, a technologist at heart, knew this is the way we would be the shining light of the world where ordinary people would be able to live well. Jefferson—go to Monticello and see—he himself was an inventor. Yes, he was the first administrator of the U.S. Patent Office.

The intellectual property rights that our people have enjoyed over the years have been one of America's greatest assets. They have provided ordinary people throughout the world a chance to live decent lives, have jobs in which they can own homes, have jobs that will create wealth. It wasn't because our American people work harder. People work hard all over the world. All over the world you have people struggling and working so hard, but they don't have freedom and they don't have technology. It is the freedom to create technology and the utilization of that technology by ordinary people that expands the creation of wealth so that ordinary people can live well.

Tonight, I would like to alert the American people: one of the fundamental elements laid down by our Founding Fathers that would help us create this wonderful country of freedom and prosperity for ordinary people, it is now being threatened, it is being threatened by a concerted attack by large, huge corporations, multinational corporations, who do not have loyalty to the American people at their heart.

Let me note that today, after fighting this fight for 26 years, the first fight that we were in dealt with, they were going to put an amendment on the gap implementation legislation, which is a treaty laying down the rules for trade around the world. The provisions they were going to put in would have reversed the basic tenets of our patent system.

That is, number one, they were going to say that if you apply for a patent, after 18 months, whether or not that patent is issued to you, it is going to be published for the whole world to see. That is what they were trying to foist on us. I called it the Steal American Technologies Act.

Today, if you apply for a patent, that is top secret. In fact, if somebody in the Patent Office leaks that information they can be put in jail for a felony. But they wanted to change that because the rest of the world—Europe and Japan—has that system and they want to globalize our rights, especially our patent rights.

□ 1745

They said they were going to eliminate it so that, after 18 months, they would just publish it. We fought that back—MARCY KAPTUR, who is a Democrat, and I. On both sides of the aisle, we had people fighting this, and we beat the big guys.

Unfortunately, over the years, we have had three or four of these fights. Sometimes, we have lost; and sometimes, we have won. Once again, we are talking about people who have come to the floor to reform the patent system. They always use the word ''reform'' when, in reality, they are trying to destroy the fundamentals of a strong American patent system.

The last patent reform bill was the America Invents Act, which just went into effect last year. The patent lawyers and courts and innovators are still trying to figure out what the implications are of the changes that we made in the last Congress. However, we have to recognize that that bill itself was the most sweeping in changes to the American patent system in the history of our country.

Now, even before we see how that is going to impact America and the American people, they are trying to shove another one through. It actually has gone through the House. Even before we are able to judge the effects of the last Congress' America Invents Act, another bill—that is H.R. 3309, the Innovation Act—was rammed through the House last December.

Its companion bill, S. 1720, the Patent Transparency and Improvements Act—all of these sound so good, don't they—right now is being considered in the United States Senate.

Prudence and good judgment suggest that Congress should move forward slowly and see how at least the last bill that we put in place is working. If it is phase one, let's wait for phase two, to see how phase one is working. Perhaps we should take time to see if there are unintended consequences.

By the way, there are unintended consequences, but I am here to say to the American people today that there are intended consequences to these changes. The intended consequences are to diminish the patent protection that has been afforded the American people since the founding of our country—to diminish your rights to own the technologies you have developed. It is a great threat to our people.

This onslaught has been under the guise of being pro-patent and pro-inventor. They use those words over and over again when, in reality, this is cynical, and it is being proposed by huge corporations—multinational corporations—that despise the little guy because he is demanding to be paid when his technology discoveries are being used.

Instead, of course, what we have is a globalist effort to neuter the patent rights of the American people, the patent rights that we have had—the strongest patent system since our Constitution was written. In the whole world, we have the strongest patent system. This antipatent juggernaut has been organized and financed by megacompanies, by mega-multinational companies.

The public and, yes, my colleagues haven't had time to fully understand the implications of this power play that has been ongoing, especially the power play that we see now on the part of the electronic industry giants like Google; yet a vote approaches in the Senate which could take us down a road which will be hostile to American innovation, a road from which we will never return.

The vote in the Senate should be and must be postponed. The American people need to speak to their Senators and let them know that they expect the Senate patent bill to be postponed—maybe, perhaps, until next year—while we get a chance to look and see what is in this bill and what impact it will have on the American people.

Right now, as I say, some huge corporate interests are on the verge of being given power—that is what this bill would do—to steal the creative genius and innovation of American technology entrepreneurs and inventors.

What will this do to the United States? This may help those big companies for a little while, but in the long run, it will undercut the well-being, the standard of living, the prosperity that we have for average Americans here.

How could this be? How could this be happening? Why would we give up our freedom and undercut our competitiveness?

The big boys have set out to scare us into giving up our freedom. They have set out to create some horrible threat—the sound of which is very sinister—that will let us put restrictions on the ownership of intellectual property, which we know is America's greatest asset, yet we are going to go along with it because there is some threat to that.

Twenty-five years ago, they called it the submarine patent. Oh, how horrible

that was going to be, in that it was going to undercut our competitiveness. Of course, it proved to be nothing, zero.

Today, the patent battle is supposedly aimed at patent trolls. This sinister sounding classification refers to scam artists who are using patent infringement claims to extort money from innocent small business men and small business owners. Yes, some of that happens in our country.

Throughout our economy, you will find lawyers who are threatening lawsuits that are not substantive, but that are aimed at forcing victims to pay and face exorbitant legal fees in order to get them off their backs.

Of course, that is a frivolous lawsuit. It is throughout our system, and it is something that, unfortunately, the average businessman in America and businesswoman in America has to put up with.

Frivolous lawsuits have plagued every portion of our society. Every businessman, doctor, lawyer—you name it—throughout our society is affected by frivolous lawsuits, but this only focuses on, supposedly, frivolous lawsuits by inventors.

How come they are being singled out? How come they have to make sure that we have to change the rules of the game, so there won't be frivolous lawsuits by inventors, as compared to all of the other frivolous lawsuits?

That is because this legislation that is going through Congress treats all inventors as if they are scam artists. You see, there aren't any legitimate lawsuits by these guys against inventors. Every one of them is a scam artist.

In order to get those scam artists, they have got to eliminate or dramatically reduce the ability of small inventors to protect their inventions. This bill, of course, is a reversal of the frivolous lawsuit scam.

Interestingly enough, what we have here are large corporate interests that want to steal the inventions and inventiveness of our little guys by making it too expensive and complicated for them to protect their rights through our judicial process.

Of course, they are not going to tell you that is their goal, but that is what it is. They are trying to shackle the little guy, so he can't protect his own rights. In the legislation making its way through Congress, the terms ''patent troll'' and ''patent assertion entity'' and ''non-practicing entity'' are all lumped together.

This is the evil. This is, obviously, a semblance of a wrongdoing by someone and is certainly not a legitimate property right for these people to be bringing these suits. That is what we are being told.

The legislation, however, doesn't limit just frivolous lawsuits. In fact, it doesn't limit frivolous lawsuits at all. It limits lawsuits by every inventor. It weakens the position of every inventor in relationship to a large corporation that is involved with arrogantly trying to steal that inventor's patent rights without paying the little guy.

It is the little guy who created these things, and this law that we are putting through in the name of getting the patent troll basically cuts the ground out from the people who we have most to be grateful for, the inventors of this country, who have come up with the technology that has created the wealth and the freedom that we have here and the security that we have here.

This battle is the ultimate David versus Goliath, and I am sorry to say that the Congress of the United States seems to be on the side of Goliath. After all of these years of fighting this battle, MARCY KAPTUR and I—Democrats and Republicans on both sides of the aisle—now find with this legislation on behalf of one huge, mammoth company—the ''Goliath Google gang'' we can call them—that they have greased the skids.

With the power play, of course, we have to recognize they have greased the skids. They have gotten a lot of them. They have gone way down the road on this, but they are not unstoppable, and it is not irreversible yet, but if the Senate passes the bill, that is probably the point of no return.

However, we do have a chance. They have overplayed their hand, and that is often what happens when companies become too arrogant. In this case, the universities, which are not helpless and without supporters as compared to the small inventors—the little guys in their garages or the small inventors—have been put at risk by this legislation.

Science and research departments of educational institutions create new things all the time. They have patents that they apply for and get all the time because they are involved almost on a full-time basis of pushing back the boundaries and the understanding of knowledge that would help us create new technologies.

They deserve to reap the rewards from these discoveries. They deserve to have the benefit of patents. Our Founding Fathers knew this would be a great source of wealth for institutions that invested in creating new ideas.

Yes, they have many patents that are not practiced, which means the universities just develop the new technology, but they don't practice it. They don't try to commercialize it. Guess what? That makes them patent trolls, by the definition of the legislation. According to the patent legislation, they are patent trolls. Our universities become patent trolls.

In fact, if this legislation passes in the Senate and if it is enacted into law, much of the value of the patents held by America's universities will evaporate. It will be the most damaging hit ever taken by university-based science in the history of our country.

Google, however, will be doing just fine. Our universities may take a big hit, but Google will be doing fine, along with these other multinational corporations.

If this becomes law, small businesses will be forced to sue in order to defend their patents, and they will find that the process is more costly, more risky, less certain.

Investors will stop investing in small companies, by the way. They will stop investing and trying if someone comes to them with a good idea, and they will require a greater return for their investments if someone is trying to help an innovator or a technologist develop his or her idea.

Their risks will be increased, so that any investor will demand more of a return. This will destroy the small and independent inventors, but these big companies don't care. What they care about is taking anything they can get their hands on and using it without paying the inventor.

In the past, we have had an effort by the corporations to eliminate what you call triple damages. Triple damages are if someone comes to them and says—or if one is informed or if it can be proven that one is aware that they are using patented technology and not paying a royalty to the inventor of that technology, they can be sued for triple damages.

They tried to take this away. The reason the corporations wanted to take it away was that you could never get a lawyer to work for you on contingency if you were only going to get your equal damages paid for, but if you have got triple damages, a lawyer could be called in to help defend the little guy against the big guy. They tried their best to get this taken out.

Now, why are they doing that? Why is a big corporation doing that? They are doing it because they don't want to pay that little guy. What has happened is that because they couldn't get the triple damages taken out—that is something that MARCY KAPTUR and I defeated—they have found a way around it.

Before, when a company was developing a new type of video screen or electronic device, if there were a new chip or something that needed to be included, there would be a patent search to go and see if they were stepping on somebody's toes. That was part of what they did. That was part of the process.

It was a costly part, but it made sure that everybody's rights were protected. They didn't go forward in building something without notifying the patent owner and working out a deal with him or her.

That is not the way it is anymore. These big corporations that we are talking about instruct their engineers and their scientists: don't do a patent search because, if you don't do a patent search, they can't prove that we knew

that this was invented by somebody else; thus, we don't have triple damages.

This is as cynical as it gets, but yet we have Members of the House who come to the floor and defend these corporate scavengers, who defend these big guys who are trying to step on little Americans. They defend them because—guess what—these are powerful players; and, yes, Google has given enormous amounts of money politically over the years in order to make sure people listen to them.

I am not saying people are bought by them, but they have laid the foundation, and now, Congress is listening to them. That is why that bill passed.

□ 1800

The American people have to counter that. We counter that by making sure our voice is heard, by making sure that the voice of the little guy is heard, by making sure that the people who believe in the Constitution of the United States, that their voices are heard over some mega-multinational corporation board members who are out wining and dining people.

We can turn this around. America has proven that freedom works if the American people are willing to work at it. But we have had the fundamentals working for us. We have had a patent system and a Constitution working for us.

So what we need to do, and if indeed there is a problem with trolls, let's admit to these corporations, yes, there are some frivolous lawsuits in your area of the economy. Just like in all the other areas of the economy, there are frivolous lawsuits by people who shouldn't be filing them, who are trying just to get paid off because the cost of the litigation will be so high.

Okay. We admit that to them. Let's say, Let's fix that problem. Let's go and just fix the problem of frivolous lawsuits, and let's make sure that if there is a frivolous lawsuit, it is easier for people to counteract a frivolous lawsuit in the technology. If they want to do it just for technology people, fine. It hurts everybody, but we should do it for everybody. But fine, if they have got the ear of the Congress now, let's work and change that law, the laws that will then make it easier to counteract the frivolous lawsuits by these sinister people, the trolls that are aimed at putting pressure on when it really isn't legitimate. We can do that.

The legislation that has passed here last year and the legislation in the Senate does just the opposite. It only focuses on all inventors, on regular people who are doing things and creating things themselves, not trolls.

What it is is the old theory of how we are going to make America under different countries better. This is way back when our country was being founded we had to decide: Are we going have a system in which the government can control everybody in order to prevent the bad people from doing things or are we going to give everybody freedom and then really punish the bad people?

This legislation that we have now before us and what has just passed the House and is now lingering in the Senate is an attempt to supposedly control the bad people in our country by controlling all of us, by making rules that will take away the rights of every inventor. No. No, that is not what you do. That is inconsistent with American tradition, inconsistent with our Constitution, inconsistent with what our Founding Fathers had in mind.

Let's go down and say: What specifically, if you have frivolous lawsuits coming at large electronic corporations, how can we handle that without undermining the rights of those inventors who are coming up with the apps and the new creations, the three-dimensional printers and the wonderful things that we are on the verge of today?

That is not going to happen unless the American people rise up. That is not going to happen unless the voice of these giants, these Goliaths of the industrial world, Google and the rest of them who are now rampaging and stepping on the rights of individual American inventors, unless we speak up, unless our voice is heard at least as loud as theirs, we are going lose our freedom. We are going to lose our edge.

It has been the American technology and our inventiveness over the years that has made us a secure country. It is the technology that we have developed for our Nation's defense. You take away the patent rights of our American people, we will neuter that and we will be vulnerable, you take away the patent protections that we have had for our inventors that have come up with newer ways to compete.

How can American workers compete with a world filled with cheap labor? I will tell you how we can do it. We can make sure they have the best technology and the newest ideas and are the greatest innovators, because they can outcompete people who are working just with their muscles and their sweat. We can do that, but that is not the direction our government is going in. That is not the direction our multinational corporations want us to go in.

Let me alert you, we have a bill in the Senate. If it passes the Senate, it will totally undermine the little guys, the independent inventors. It will undermine the universities. It will undermine everybody but the big multinational electronics corporations. That needs to be thwarted.

Something else is happening. Something again is being snuck through, just like they tried to sneak through 25 years ago in the gap implementation legislation. The gap is, again, a trade treaty we are getting into to try to do this where we would publish all of America's patent applications even before they were issued to our inventors. They tried that.

The other thing they tried to do was what? Was if someone applies for a patent, that at that moment the clock starts ticking and 20 years later they have no more patent protection. Of course, until their patent is issued, they have no patent protection anyway. Quite often patents take 5 to 10 years. Plus, they are cutting in half the time the inventor has for patent protection. They are trying to push that through. We stopped that.

Well, guess what? We now have several trade treaties that people are negotiating for this Congress. Look real close at what is happening. These big multinational corporations, from what I understand, are trying to put provisions into those trade treaties that will change the fundamental law of intellectual property rights here in this country.

Beware. Be aware and beware of what will happen if that comes about. You put this into a treaty. It snuck through. They tried to do that in gap, and it took a Herculean effort on the part of a few of us to try to stop that 20 years ago.

With that said, I would like to put into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, at this point a list of those things that would be very detrimental to the small inventor that are provisions of the bill that is now in the Senate.

PATENT TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS

It would create a new requirement that a patent holder must, once filing a claim for infringement, provide information about all parties with an interest in the patent to the patent office, the court, and the accused infringer.

This means the elimination of privacy in business dealings. The little guy is totally exposed as his friends and suppliers will be as well. The patent holder will be forced to provide a list of potential ''bank accounts to raid'' to the accused infringers.

In addition, once this requirement has been invoked, the patent holder must maintain a current record of the information on file at the patent office or forfeit their rights. That means a patent holder gains a new bureaucratic reporting requirement, dramatically increasing the vulnerability of the small inventor and investors. This just because they reported an infringement of their intellectual property rights.

In addition, the patent holder gains a new bureaucratic fee by being forced to pay recordkeeping fees to maintain their current record at the patent office.

These are minor inconveniences to multinational corporations, but will be of killer significant burden on the little guy.

CUSTOMER STAY PROVISIONS

The Patent Transparency Act also enables large multi-national corporations to create nested ''shell companies'' which have few assets, but can infringe on patents while the inventor is unable to sue their ''customers'' who are free to continue infringing the patent while the first court case moves through

the system. This process could keep an infringing process in place for a decade or more while an inventor, if he has the resources, tries to stop it.

SMALL BUSINESS EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND INFORMATION ACCESS PROVISIONS

The Patent Transparency Act authorizes the patent office Director to create a ''patent troll'' database, and to create a strategy program to teach small businesses how to defend themselves from ''patent trolls.''

So we will be encouraging the Director of the patent office to create an ''enemies list'' and a strategy guide for infringers to undermine patent rights.

The ultimate results of this legislation will be: increased patent infringement, reduced legal remedies for those being infringed, reduced investments in small business, and irreparable damage to our research universities, our inventors, our entrepreneurs, our economy, and our nation.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, so I would suggest that the American people read this and take a look at what the impact of these changes that they are proposing will be. They are going to claim it is a patent troll and there is a monitor behind the curtain, but who that person is behind the curtain is the inventor, the person who is coming up with the invention, the Edisons, the Teslas, and the other people who have improved our standard of living. The people who have come up—even this bill would have a serious impact on the development of new medicines and new health care technologies. These people need to be protected in their creation and encouraged, not controlled and not have their rights for ownership of what they created be trimmed.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of him assisting with the emergency response to the tornadoes in Arkansas.

Mr. RICHMOND (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for April 28 and today on account of attending to family matters.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. RYAN of WISCONSIN. Mr. Speaker, section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, Public Law 113–67, requires the chairs of the House and Senate Budget Committees to submit for printing in the Congressional Record committee allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels for fiscal year 2015.

Pursuant to section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record: (1) an allocation for fiscal year 2015 for the House Committee on Appropriations, (2) allocations for fiscal years 2015 and 2015 through 2024 for committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, (3) aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2015, and (4) aggregate revenue levels for fiscal years 2015 and 2015 through 2024.

In the case of allocations for committees other than the Committee on Appropriations and for the revenue aggregates, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 provides that the levels shall be consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's most recent baseline, adjusted to account for any legislation enacted since the date the most recent baseline was issued. In other words, in these instances, the new allocations and levels are set equal to the most recent baseline.

The committee allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels included in this submission are set pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. The provisions of H. Con. Res. 25 (113th Congress), as deemed in force by section 113 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, Public Law 113–67, remain in force to the extent its budgetary levels are not superseded by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 or subsequent action of the House of Representatives.

Associated tables are attached. These committee allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels are made for the purposes of enforcing titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and other budgetary enforcement provisions.

If there are any questions on these committee allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels please contact Paul Restuccia, Chief Counsel of the Budget Committee, at 202–226–7270.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. RYAN of WISCONSIN,
Chairman, House Budget Committee.

FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET TOTALS

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2015	Fiscal years 2015–2024
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	3,025,306	n.a.
Outlays	3,025,032	n.a.
Revenues	2,533,388	31,202,135

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations acts for fiscal years 2016 through 2024 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

[in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2015
Base Discretionary Action:	
BA	1,013,628
OT	1,141,432
Global War on Terrorism:	
BA	85,357
OT	39,981
Total Discretionary:	
BA	1,098,985
OT	1,181,413
Current Law Mandatory:	
BA	868,410
OT	861,637

SPENDING AUTHORITY FOR HOUSE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES

[On-budget amounts in millions of dollars]

	2015	2015–2024
Agriculture:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	8,077	541,347
OT	8,223	536,794
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	8,077	541,347
OT	8,223	536,794
Armed Services:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	150,603	1,756,626
OT	150,416	1,754,958
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	150,603	1,756,626
OT	150,416	1,754,958
Financial Services:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	14,978	111,205
OT	5,407	−52,927
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	14,978	111,205
OT	5,407	−52,927
Education & Workforce:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	−6,792	−148
OT	−7,187	4,922

SPENDING AUTHORITY FOR HOUSE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—Continued

[On-budget amounts in millions of dollars]

	2015	2015–2024
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	−6,792	−148
OT	−7,187	4,922
Energy & Commerce:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	408,088	5,163,671
OT	401,580	5,162,032
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	408,088	5,163,671
OT	401,580	5,162,032
Foreign Affairs:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	27,208	235,490
OT	26,621	231,546
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	27,208	235,490
OT	26,621	231,546
Oversight & Government Reform:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	109,275	1,286,261
OT	106,571	1,256,418
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	109,275	1,286,261
OT	106,571	1,256,418
Homeland Security:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	1,913	23,584
OT	1,887	23,767
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	1,913	23,584
OT	1,887	23,767
House Administration:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	40	361
OT	8	104
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	40	361
OT	8	104
Natural Resources:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	5,755	61,218
OT	6,829	66,125
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	5,755	61,218
OT	6,829	66,125
Judiciary:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	19,237	104,848
OT	10,931	109,421
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	19,237	104,848
OT	10,931	109,421
Transportation & Infrastructure:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	71,391	722,343
OT	17,102	187,125
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	71,391	722,343
OT	17,102	187,125
Science, Space & Technology:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	100	1,016
OT	100	1,016
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	100	1,016
OT	100	1,016
Small Business:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0

SPENDING AUTHORITY FOR HOUSE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—Continued

[On-budget amounts in millions of dollars]

	2015	2015–2024
Veterans Affairs:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	2,304	89,850
OT	2,491	91,043
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	2,304	89,850
OT	2,491	91,043
Ways & Means:		
May 2013 Baseline:		
BA	987,320	15,009,326
OT	985,919	15,007,958
Adjustment for Enacted Legislation:		
BA	0	0
OT	0	0
Total:		
BA	987,320	15,009,326
OT	985,919	15,007,958

ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

[BUDGET AUTHORITY]

ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

(SUBJECT TO A GENERAL LIMIT OF $28,781,000,000)

Employment and Training Administration
Education for the Disadvantaged
School Improvement Programs
Special Education
Career, Technical and Adult Education
Tenant-based Rental Assistance
Project-based Rental Assistance

VETERANS ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

(SUBJECT TO A SEPARATE LIMIT OF $58,662,202,000)

VA Medical Services
VA Medical Support and Compliance
VA Medical Facilities

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 30, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5459. A letter from the FSA Regulatory Review Group Director, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs, Payment Limitations, and Payment Eligibility (RIN: 0560-AI21) received April 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5460. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicaid Program; Preliminary Disproportionate Share Hospital Allotments (DSH) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and the Preliminary Institutions for Mental Diseases Disproportionate Share Hospital Limits for FY 2014 [CMS-2389-N] received April 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5461. A letter from the Environmental Protection Agency, Director, Regulatory Management Division, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Colorado; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions [EPA-R08-OAR-2013-0801; FRL-9907-58-Region 8] received April 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5462. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Idaho Amalgamated Sugar Company Nampa BART Alternative [EPA-R10-OAR-2012-0581; A-1-FRL-9909-37-Region 10] received April 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5463. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Revisions to the Air Pollution Control Rules; North Dakota [EPA-R08-OAR-2012-0761; FRL-9909-86-Region 8] received April 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5464. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Technical Amendments to Inadvertent Errors in Air Quality Designations for Fine Particles, Ozone, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0802; FRL-9909-24-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS15) received April 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5465. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's ''Major'' final rule — Control of Air Pollution From Motor Vehicles; Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0135; FRL 9906-86-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AQ86) received April 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5466. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-006, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5467. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-022, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5468. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-180, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5469. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-029, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5470. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-036, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5471. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-193, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5472. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-190, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5473. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-035, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5474. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-009, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5475. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-008, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5476. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-002, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5477. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-173, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5478. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-018, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5479. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to Section 2225(c) of the Foreign Affairs and Restructuring Act of 1998; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5480. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period January 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 113–104); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

5481. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2014-27] received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5482. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Application of the Windsor Decision and Rev. Rul. 2013-07 to Qualified Retirement Plans [Notice 2014-19] received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5483. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Medicare Program; Extension of the Payment Adjustment for Low-Volume Hospitals and the Medicare-Dependent Hospital (MDH) Program Under the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (IPPS) for Acute Care Hospitals for Fiscal Year 2014 [CMS-1599-IFC2] (RIN: 0938-AR12) received April 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. KLINE: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 10. A bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; with an amendment (Rept. 113–423). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. KLINE: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 4366. A bill to strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement; with an amendment (Rept. 113–424). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky: Committee on Appropriations. Report on the Interim Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2015 (Rept. 113–425). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 557. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending in September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4487) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–426). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 4507. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require a State with an increase in the number of fatalities or serious injuries of pedestrians or users of nonmotorized forms of transportation to include strategies to address the increase in the State's subsequent State strategic highway safety plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 4508. A bill to amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 4509. A bill to require training for teachers in social and emotional learning programming, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (for himself and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York):

H.R. 4510. A bill to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York (for himself, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. BASS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 4511. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish requirements for the treatment of a private education loan upon the death or bankruptcy of a cosigner of the loan; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 4512. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a maximum rate of Federal, State, and local tax imposed on taxpayers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4513. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to prohibit private educational lenders from requiring accelerated repayment of private education loans upon the death or disability of a cosigner of the loan; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MARINO:

H.R. 4514. A bill to amend the Dale Long Public Safety Officers' Benefits Improvements Act of 2012 to change the retroactive application of the Act to cover injuries sustained by rescue squad or ambulance crew members on or after December 1, 2007, rather than June 1, 2009; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 4515. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to eligible local educational agencies to encourage female students to pursue studies and careers in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California:

H.R. 4516. A bill to expedite and oversee the implementation of the women in service implementation plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 4517. A bill to authorize the provision of health care for certain individuals exposed to environmental hazards at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, to establish an advisory board to examine exposures to environmental hazards at such Air Facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4518. A bill to protect the constitutional rights of parents and children; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4519. A bill to prohibit the United States from funding projects that discriminate against Israeli organizations that operate beyond the 1949 armistice lines; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4520. A bill to require passenger aircraft to transmit GPS location data; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HONDA, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BARBER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H. Res. 556. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2014 as Mental Health Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H. Res. 558. A resolution prohibiting the use of the Members' Representational Allowance for the payment of the costs of first-class airline accommodations; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H. Res. 559. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 30, 2014, as ''Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 4507.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8, Clause 7: ''The Congress shall have Power [. . .] to establish Post Offices and post Roads.''

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 4508.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 4509.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California:

H.R. 4510.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 4511.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 4512.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution which reads: ''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States; but all Duties and Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4513.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. MARINO:

H.R. 4514.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

1) Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause)—The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

2) Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)—The Congress shall have Power . . . To Make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 4515.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California:

H.R. 4516.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

''The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing powers.''

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 4517.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under:

U.S. Const. art. 1, §1;

U.S. Const. art. 1, §8, cl. 12;

U.S. Const. art. 1, §8, cl. 13;

U.S. Const. art. 1, §8, cl. 14; and

U.S. Const. art. 1, §8, cl. 18.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4518.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof''

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4519.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4520.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 10: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 164: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 198: Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 279: Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 303: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 460: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BASS, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 485: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 543: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 630: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 640: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 690: Mr. STOCKMAN and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 715: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 792: Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 809: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 831: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 855: Mr. CLAY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 863: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 920: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 921: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 958: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 962: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1015: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1020: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1098: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1125: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 1127: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1130: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1136: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 1139: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1141: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1148: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1199: Mr. BECERRA and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1217: Mrs. ELLMERS and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 1249: Mr. COTTON, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 1286: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 1317: Mr. TAKANO and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1339: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 1466: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1523: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 1527: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1528: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 1563: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1591: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1652: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 1699: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1717: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1728: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1732: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1750: Mr. HOLDING, Mr. LATTA, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 1761: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1795: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1830: Mr. HONDA and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1843: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1852: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1915: Mr. POCAN and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1918: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BARBER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1921: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1998: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 2012: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2118: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 2146: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. WALZ, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2156: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 2178: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. WALZ, and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 2179: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2183: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2203: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. MCALLISTER, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 2249: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 2328: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2333: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 2338: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 2452: Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2502: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2536: Mr. CHABOT, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 2548: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. COOK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 2553: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2676: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 2697: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2744: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 2847: Mr. WHITFIELD and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 2852: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2888: Mr. DENT.
H.R. 2932: Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. BASS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. HOYER.
H.R. 2957: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 2989: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 3086: Mr. WHITFIELD, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. TERRY, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 3113: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3116: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 3135: Mr. PETERS of California.
H.R. 3306: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 3322: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3344: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 3384: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 3387: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 3391: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3395: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 3423: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 3449: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 3485: Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 3489: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 3508: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 3530: Mr. CULBERSON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 3543: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 3610: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 3635: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3658: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 3690: Mr. POCAN and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 3710: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3712: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 3717: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 3722: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 3726: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 3728: Mr. NOLAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARINO, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. THORNBERRY, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. COOK, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. PEARCE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 3740: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 3747: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3774: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 3833: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 3852: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3877: Mr. DEUTCH and Ms. DUCKWORTH.
H.R. 3905: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 3929: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 3963: Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 3991: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 4006: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4028: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
H.R. 4031: Mr. LATTA, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. LANCE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4058: Mr. LATTA, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 4059: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4060: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 4069: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4080: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 4084: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4122: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4157: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 4166: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. HAHN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BARBER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. VELA, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. NUNES, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. CHU, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. LATTA, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. COOK, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KIND, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. WATERS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. TERRY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOLT, Ms. BASS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WOLF, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 4169: Mr. MORAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 4172: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. REED.
H.R. 4183: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 4217: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 4225: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 4227: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 4234: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 4250: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DENT, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 4285: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 4299: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4307: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 4308: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 4315: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4317: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4318: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4320: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 4321: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 4333: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4342: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 4351: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4365: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 4366: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. MESSER, Mr. PETRI, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4370: Mr. RUNYAN.
H.R. 4378: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4383: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 4385: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 4386: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 4387: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 4395: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 4425: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 4427: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4430: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. JONES, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. HANNA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 4438: Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 4446: Mr. MARINO.
H.R. 4450: Mr. ROONEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 4453: Mr. REED.
H.R. 4454: Mr. REED.
H.R. 4457: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 4462: Ms. KAPTUR and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 4465: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 4489: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 4490: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. POE of Texas.
H.J. Res. 20: Mr. POCAN.
H.J. Res. 41: Mr. SANFORD.
H.J. Res. 110: Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H. Con. Res. 95: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H. Res. 112: Mr. PETRI.
H. Res. 147: Mr. NEAL.
H. Res. 227: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H. Res. 281: Mr. COOK.
H. Res. 411: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H. Res. 418: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Res. 440: Mr. TIBERI, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. WALZ.
H. Res. 456: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. MORAN.
H. Res. 480: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H. Res. 518: Mr. PETERSON.
H. Res. 519: Mr. ENYART.
H. Res. 520: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 540: Mr. TAKANO.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 2429: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4486

OFFERED BY: MR. TAKANO

AMENDMENT NO. 2: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ___. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act for the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program under chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code, or the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program under chapter

33 of such title may be used for recruiting or marketing activities.

H.R. 4486

OFFERED BY: MR. TAKANO

AMENDMENT NO. 3: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act for the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program under chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code, or the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program under chapter 33 of such title may be used for career education programs at proprietary institutions unless the successful completion of the curriculum fully qualifies a student—

(1) to take an examination required for entry into an occupation or profession, including satisfying all State-mandated programmatic and specialized accreditation requirements; and

(2) to be certified or licensed or to meet other academically-related pre-conditions of employment in the State in which the institution is located.

H.R. 4486

OFFERED BY: MR. TURNER

AMENDMENT NO. 4: Page 4, line 19, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(reduced by $20,000,000)(increased by $20,000,000)''.

Page 5, line 3, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(increased by $20,000,000)''.

H.R. 4486

OFFERED BY: MR. MORAN

AMENDMENT NO. 5: Page 60, beginning on line 10, strike section 411.

SENATE—*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY.)

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, in whose life we find life, open the hearts of our lawmakers to the whispers of Your Spirit. Make them productive, accomplishing Your purposes on Earth, even as Your providence guides them. Lord, redeem their failures, reward their diligence, and validate their faith. Crown their labors today with Heaven's approbation, strengthening them to rise above all that is common to do the uncommon.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 354.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 354, S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 o'clock this morning, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half. At 11 a.m. there will be six cloture votes on six U.S. district court nominations. Following the votes, the Senate will recess until 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2262

I am told that S. 2262 is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2262) to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this week the Senate will begin consideration of an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

Over the next few days Members of this body will come to the floor and make their case for or against increasing the minimum wage. Most of the statements we will hear today will be in favor of it because the Republicans are not anxious to come here and speak against raising the minimum wage. They will be very silent most of the time, and they will not talk much about an increase in the minimum wage, which is so vitally important to our country.

The American people will be inundated with figures and facts regarding the economic impact of an increase to $10.10. Why was that number chosen? It was chosen because at that number—$10.10 for 40 hours—a person is no longer in poverty.

As supporters of this legislation, Senate Democrats have ample evidence to back our position that an increase in the Federal minimum wage is good for America. A recent study from the Economic Policy Institute indicates that increasing the minimum wage and tying it to inflation would raise wages for 28 million American workers. That is about 10 percent of the American people. Contrary to what Republicans would have us believe, these 28 million Americans aren't just high school kids looking to make a few bucks after school. That same analysis reported that the median age of minimum wage workers is 35 years old, proving that these employees are grown men and women, most of them with families. If we needed any more reason to pass this important legislation, the most recent polling data reveals that about 75 percent of Americans back an increase in the minimum wage.

So the evidence supporting an increase in the minimum wage is ample, and it is there for all of us to see. However, the real issue transcends political polls and studies. The heart of the minimum wage debate is not found in statistics but, rather, in a question we should ask ourselves: What kind of a country do we aspire to be?

This Nation is home to the greatest economy on Earth. Even as we continue to recover from the great recession, there is no question that we are the richest country on the planet. Can anyone in this Chamber doubt that our economy has the capability of providing livable wages to American workers? The fact that in America there are full-time working mothers and fathers who must juggle two to three jobs just to provide food and shelter for their children is unconscionable.

Before any sulking billionaire comes forward as upset and pens an op-ed in some newspaper calling me a collectivist, as they have done, let me be clear: This is a question of fairness. Do we believe it is fair that fellow Americans who work full time be paid less than a livable wage? I hope not. Or do we value all American workers and reward them with, at the very least, a baseline wage that enables them to provide for their families?

There was a recent story in Nevada about a young man named Dalven who works at McDonald's. He works hard, but his wages are so low he is forced to get another job. Working two jobs, what is this young man going to do? Is he going to go to college? Of course not. Is he going to go to trade school? Of course not. He is too busy working. What is going to happen to him to better his life?

Just a few months ago an incredibly successful businessman visited Capitol Hill. He said he put himself through college attending Harvard, and he did that being paid $2 an hour, which was the minimum wage at the time. He now is an elderly, very successful businessman. He worked full-time over the course of the year and was able to pay Harvard's tuition. The tuition at that time was $2,400 a year—which was a lot—at one of America's premier schools. Jim even claims he had money left over after paying his college fees. Jim's daughter is now preparing to enroll at Harvard. If she were to be employed at today's minimum wage, she would need to work full time for 4 years to afford even one year of tuition and room and board at Harvard. The young man at McDonald's I just talked about, Dalven, could never dream of putting himself through Harvard or UNLV or any other place because he is working two jobs and cannot do it.

Simply put, it is not fair that working families are being stripped of the American dream. That is what Dalven has, as does everybody else, and as did the Presiding Officer and as did I—the dream to better oneself, to maybe even be better than what their family was able to be.

So, again, put simply, is it fair that working men and women are being stripped of the American dream because we refuse to pay them a livable wage? They are working hard. That is why this legislation before us is so critical.

An increase in the minimum wage obviously won't make a millionaire of anyone, but it will ensure that each full time working American receives a wage they can live on and that will give them a fighting chance to get ahead in the economy. Every hard-working American should have the opportunity to put a roof over their head and that of their family, and every full-time employee should have a fair shot at the American dream.

So I invite my Republican colleagues to consider what is fair for their constituents and to work with us to increase the Federal minimum wage, as 75 percent of the American people think we should do. They should join in giving every American a fair shot to provide for their families.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Republican leader is recognized.

CONDOLENCES TO TORNADO VICTIMS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to offer condolences to those affected by this week's storms. Tornadoes struck a terrible blow in several towns, and we are thinking today of all of those who were killed and injured and their friends and families as well.

JOBS

Mr. President, the American people want Congress to focus on one thing above all else: Jobs. Jobs. One would think the Democrats who control the Senate would want to help us advance bipartisan ideas to boost job creation. One would think they would actually work with us to address the concerns and anxieties of our constituents. But, instead, Senate Democrats are pushing legislation this week that would actually cost—not create but actually cost—up to a million American jobs.

This is completely tone deaf. Their bill would cost up to 17,000 jobs in Kentucky alone. Apparently, this is what Senate Democrats have made their top priority. It is not much of a surprise, though. As I have said many times, Washington Democrats often seem to hurt the very people they claim to be fighting for. When it comes to so many of their proposals, Washington Democrats appear to prioritize the desires of the far left over the needs of the middle class. Let's be honest. The interests of the far left and the interests of the middle class seem to be in fierce opposition these days.

Take the Keystone Pipeline, for example. The Obama administration recently announced yet another punt on this critical jobs project—one that would lead to the creation of thousands—literally thousands—of good jobs. Why? Because of pressure from the far left. One union leader called the administration's decision ''a cold, hard slap in the face for hard-working Americans.'' Another labor leader, whose union endorsed the President twice, put it this way: ''No one seriously believes that the administration's nearly-dark-of-night announcement . . . was anything but politically motivated. It represented,'' he said, ''another low blow to the working men and women of our country for whom the Keystone XL Pipeline is a lifeline to good jobs and to energy security. . . . ''

Here is a project the government has been studying for 5 or 6 years now. For 5 or 6 years they have been studying this project.

Americans have learned that building Keystone would produce significant economic benefit for our country, that it would lower energy prices, and that it would lead to the creation of thousands of jobs at a time when we need them more than ever. President Obama's own administration has concluded that approving Keystone would not significantly impact net carbon emissions anyway. Approving the project wouldn't have an adverse impact on carbon emissions.

So one would think Washington Democrats would join the large majority of Americans who say Keystone is a good deal for our country. One would think they would jump at the chance to advance sound policy that has already been thoroughly vetted. But, then, we would be missing the point because Democrats' opposition to Keystone isn't really about policy at all. They basically surrendered the policy argument a long time ago. That is not really what this is about for them. Remember: This is the same party that effectively conceded its agenda for the rest of this year was drafted by campaign staffers. The whole agenda for the rest of the year was drafted by campaign staffers. They said that.

So for them this is more about politics and symbolism, and the far left has apparently decided that killing Keystone is the symbolic scalp they want. In fact, they are demanding it. Washington Democrats seem perfectly willing to go along.

Of course, the big loser in all of this is the American middle class—the moms and dads and sisters and brothers whose primary concern is paying the bills and putting food on the table. These are the people who have had it worse in the Obama economy—the very people Washington Democrats should be doing literally everything to help.

What I am saying to my colleagues today is it is not too late. They can still work with Republicans to create more opportunity and to help us rebuild the middle class, but to do so they need to abandon the left and start focusing on the middle class for a change. If they are ready to get serious about job creation, then there are some easy ways to demonstrate that to the American people. For starters, they can stop pushing legislation that would cut rather than create jobs, and they can stop blocking projects such as Keystone—a project that almost everyone knows will create jobs. Americans want jobs, not symbolism. So start working with us to give the American people the kind of pro-jobs policies they want and deserve.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LANDMINE SCOURGE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have spoken several times in the past few weeks—and I have spoken many times in the past 20 years—about the scourge of landmines.

They are inherently indiscriminate weapons. They are triggered by the victim, and usually the victim is an innocent civilian who is either killed or horribly maimed.

The United States has not exported, produced, or used antipersonnel mines for more than 20 years. But notwithstanding that—even though 161 nations have joined the international treaty banning them—one nation stands out for not having joined the treaty. That is the United States, and it is a shame on this country.

As the world's only superpower with by far the most powerful military, one would have thought the United States would set an example of moral leadership. Instead, we are among those who are preventing the universality of the treaty.

This is doubly disappointing, considering that it was President Clinton who, 20 years ago, called for the elimination of antipersonnel mines. Two years later, in 1996—back in the last

century—he said: ''Today I am launching an international effort to ban antipersonnel landmines.'' But his administration did not sign the treaty.

Then we had the Bush administration. They did nothing on the issue.

Now we have the Obama administration. Nothing has changed. The Obama administration is following the Bush administration's policy of doing nothing. So we are still waiting.

Last week I was in Vietnam, along with Senators SHELBY and CRAPO and Representatives COOPER from Tennessee and WELCH from Vermont. We had conversations with President Sang, with the Minister of Defense, and other Vietnamese officials. But we also met with nongovernmental organizations—many of them Americans—that work to locate and clear landmines and other unexploded ordnance.

It is costly, dangerous work. They have been doing it for decades. At the current rate, when you consider that millions of landmines and bombs were dropped in Vietnam during the war, it is estimated that it will take another 100 years before it is safe to walk in that country without fear of triggering a deadly explosion.

I have met countless people in Vietnam who have been crippled and disfigured by landmines. Many of them are children the age of my grandchildren. Here is a photograph of two Vietnamese men I met last week. You can see what landmines do. My wife Marcelle and I were deeply touched when we spoke with them. After all the pain and hardship they have suffered, they were thanking us for helping to get them wheelchairs.

Their lives have been changed terribly forever, yet they are lucky because they survived. They lost their legs, their arms, but thankfully they are not among the tens of thousands who died from landmines during that war and in the decades since the war ended.

In Vietnam, we have used the Leahy War Victims Fund to provide medical care and rehabilitation to thousands of mine victims.

As a Democrat, I want to compliment a Republican President, George H.W. Bush, who worked with me and with the inspired founder of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, Bobby Muller, to start using the Leahy War Victims Fund in Vietnam.

We have spent many millions of dollars to help get rid of the mines. As I said earlier, 40 years after the war, there are still vast areas of Vietnam littered with unexploded mines and bombs.

Yet Vietnam is only one of dozens of countries whose people have been terrorized by landmines—some from our country, some from others.

When you talk to the Department of Defense about this, they say their mines are ''smart'' because they are designed to deactivate after a finite period of time. Of course, that is better than mines that remain active for years. But if a child steps on one before the time they are deactivated, that child does not know whether this is a smart mine or a dumb mine because as long as they are active, they are no better at distinguishing between a child and a soldier.

I remember the young woman I met in a hospital after the Bosnia war. She was sent away by her parents to be safe during that conflict. But when the war ended she was running down the road to greet her parents and had both legs blown off. The war was over, but it never ended for her.

I have never argued that mines have no military utility. Every weapon does. So does poison gas, so do IEDs. But we would not use them, and we consider it immoral for other people to use them. They are the antithesis of a precision weapon. They do not belong in the arsenal of civilized countries, least of all in the United States. The United States ought to have courage enough to sign the landmine treaty.

You have to wonder, if Pennsylvania or Oklahoma or Utah or Georgia or Vermont or New Jersey or any of our 50 States were littered with landmines, killing and maiming innocent Americans, would we tolerate it? Of course not. We would not make excuses about needing to use these weapons. The outcry would be deafening and the United States would join the treaty, as we should have 15 years ago.

Some might ask why this matters. The United States has not used mines for two decades, even while we fought two long land wars. That is because the political price of using them—particularly in Afghanistan where more innocent civilians have been killed or injured from landmines than perhaps anywhere else—would have been prohibitive.

It matters because, like any other issue, even when the United States is not part of the problem, we have to be part of the solution. We ought to set an example on this. We ought to be strong enough to do what 161 other countries have done and join the treaty.

I have spoken to President Obama about this. I know he shares my concern about the toll of innocent lives from landmines. As a Senator, he cosponsored my legislation. So did Secretary Hagel.

This is an unfinished job. It began with President Clinton. It is time to put the United States on a path to join the treaty. Only the Commander in Chief can do that. The world cries out to him to show that kind of moral leadership.

EGYPT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, events in Egypt continue to concern people of good will in this country and across the globe, who have shared the Egyptian people's yearning for greater freedom under the rule of law.

I am the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the State Department and foreign operations.

But even if I were not chairman of that subcommittee, I would have been watching the situation in Egypt with great interest and growing dismay, where hundreds of people are sentenced to death after a sham trial lasting barely an hour. It is appalling to see this flouting of human rights and abuse of the justice system, which are fundamental to any democracy. Nobody—nobody—can justify this. It does not show a commitment to democracy. It shows a dictatorship run amok. It is an egregious violation of human rights.

So I am not prepared to sign off on the delivery of additional aid for the Egyptian military. I am not prepared to do that until we see convincing evidence the government is committed to the rule of law.

We cannot stand here and say: We are troubled by hundreds of people being sentenced to death after a few minutes in a mass trial, but since we have been friends for so long we will go ahead and send you hundreds of millions of dollars in aid. No.

I do not think the taxpayers of this country would condone that, and neither do I.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CRABTREE NOMINATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I wish to speak for a few moments on the Senate floor. We are working our way through a number of confirmations relating to Federal district judges across the country. One of them is the potential Federal district judge for my State of Kansas. I rise to speak in support of one of those individuals who will be considered by the Senate this week, Daniel Crabtree. He was nominated by the President to be a U.S. district court judge for the District of Kansas.

I want to attest to my colleagues my view that he is a gentleman who should be confirmed by the Senate. He was reported out of the Judiciary Committee without opposition and is rated unanimously ''well qualified'' by the American Bar Association, which, in part, confirms my view that he would make an outstanding Federal judge.

I actually have known this individual for more than 30 years, dating back to

our days at the University of Kansas School of Law, where he was 1 year ahead of me in law school. I have followed his personal and professional development since that time. We have remained acquainted, we have been friends, and for a short period of time we practiced law at the same firm in downtown Kansas City. He is worthy of our support today, but he is also someone who has my respect and admiration.

After graduating from the University of Kansas School of Law, Dan Crabtree became an associate and ultimately became a partner at the downtown Kansas City law firm then called Stinson, Mag & Fizzell. He became a partner in 1988. The firm merged into a firm called Stinson Morrison Hecker in 2002.

He is a litigator with extensive experience in the Federal and State courts, and he received recognition by the publication ''Best Lawyers'' in Kansas City as the Antitrust Lawyer of the Year in 2013. In 2014 he was the Kansas City Banking and Finance Litigation Lawyer of the Year. Again, this is outside confirmation of his qualifications and capabilities.

Dan is a lifelong resident of our State. He grew up in Kansas City, KS, the suburbs of Kansas City, MO, on the Kansas side of the line. He and his wife Maureen and their teenager daughter continue to live in Kansas City, KS, today.

I have often spoken on the Senate floor about the special way of life we have in our State, and Dan Crabtree, in his hometown of Kansas City, KS, exemplifies what I so often admire, respect, and speak of on the Senate floor about his humility, his devotion to others, his relationship with his community, and how important it is to him to be an active member in trying to make life better for other people, those who are his neighbors and those who surround him in Kansas City and Kansas, our State. He has those characteristics of a Kansan.

I have often known people who have been very successful in their professional lives, who have succeeded, for example, in law school, gone on to a large prestigious firm, and in many instances it seems as if they forgot where they came from. Dan continues to live in his hometown and continues to work to make certain that good things happen in that community. He does that with a great sense of humility. While he has the attributes that could cause him to be superior in his attitude toward others, Dan is humble, caring, and compassionate. His pride in where he comes from is evidenced by a devotion to many community activities—the Community Foundation of Wyandotte County and the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. He sits on the board of directors for the Kansas City Sports Commission, and he is responsible in part for bringing 14 NCAA championships to Kansas City over the past few years.

All of this encompasses who Dan is. He is a husband, a father, a lawyer, and a community leader. He is exemplary in fulfilling each of those roles. Mostly, I want to say that his character, integrity, and professional achievements are worthy of being a member of the Federal bench. In fact, I can think of few others whom I have met in my time as a Senator but also my time as a practicing attorney in Kansas City who would fulfill the solemn duties of this position better than Dan Crabtree.

I thank the President for nominating Dan Crabtree, and I ask my colleagues to join me in swiftly confirming him as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. THUNE. I come to the floor to discuss the proposed minimum wage hike and the jobs it will cost Americans.

With more than 10 million Americans unemployed, the last thing this body should be doing is considering legislation that would jeopardize jobs. Yet this week we are back in session with another one of the Democrats' election-year gimmicks: a 40-percent minimum wage hike that the Congressional Budget Office estimates would result in a loss of up to 1 million jobs in this country.

Minimum wage hikes are a favorite Democratic proposal when economic times are tough and election-year prospects are dim. Hiking wages sounds good, after all, and Democrats figure it is a sure-fire way to appeal to Americans. But the truth is that when the consequences of a minimum wage hike are explained to them, Americans don't want it. Why is that? Because Americans want jobs. A minimum wage hike during such a weak economic recovery wouldn't result in job gains; it would result in job losses. It is simple: When you make something more expensive, people can afford less of it. When you drive up the cost of hiring workers, employers can't afford to hire as many of them, especially when you consider that many of those who employ minimum wage workers are small business owners.

Democrats are proposing a 40-percent hike in an economy in which unemployment is already high and job growth is already weak—in other words, a massive minimum wage hike under the worst possible conditions.

It should surprise no one that the Congressional Budget Office has estimated this hike could cost up to 1 million jobs. Who would be hurt by most by these lost jobs? Women, for one. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 57 percent of the roughly half a million jobs that would be lost by the end of 2016 thanks to this bill would be jobs that are held by women. Young people would also be hit particularly hard. Our economy's overall unemployment rate is not good, but the unemployment rate for 16- to 24-year-olds is even worse—more than twice the national average. The unemployment rate for African Americans between 16 and 24 is still worse than that—a staggering 23.6 percent, almost four times the national average.

Duquesne University economist Antony Davies estimates that the Democrats' proposed minimum wage increase would hike unemployment for those under 25 years old without a high school diploma by 7 to 10 percent. If you are somebody who really needs a job—people under 25 years old without a diploma—the unemployment rate, which is already staggeringly high, could go up by 7 to 10 percent according to a Duquesne University economist.

Finally, the Democrats' proposed minimum wage hike would harm the lowest income and lowest skilled workers—in other words, the very people it is supposed to help. When businesses are faced with the reality of higher employment costs from a minimum wage hike, who are they going to let go? Low skilled workers, the same workers who are most likely to be making the minimum wage.

In a March 2014 survey of businesses currently employing minimum wage workers, 38 percent reported they would have to let some employees go to cover the cost of the minimum wage hike, while 54 percent reported they would reduce their hiring.

In South Dakota small business owners told me the same thing at a recent roundtable I held in my State. Multiple Main Street business owners told me they would stop hiring younger, less experienced workers and/or reduce the hours of their current employees. Others spoke of the devastating impact the cost increases would have on their businesses. One gentleman who employs 30 workers at a Dairy Queen in South Dakota told me that a $3 increase in the minimum wage would cost his business an additional $100,000 per year. That is a huge amount for a small business in a rural area of South Dakota. To deal with these costs, this owner, like so many other small business owners around the country, is going to be forced to hike prices on the products he offers, and that will affect individuals and families in South Dakota and across the country.

Middle-class families have already seen their incomes fall by nearly $3,500 on this President's watch. The Congressional Budget Office makes clear that a minimum wage hike will mean their purchasing power will be even further reduced and eroded.

The evidence is clear: Minimum wage hikes cost jobs. When informed that they cost jobs, the strong majority of Americans reject these hikes, but unfortunately Democrats have a habit of ignoring both the evidence and the American people.

Take ObamaCare. Democrats jammed the bill through Congress on a party-line vote over the objections of the American people and despite plenty of evidence to suggest that ObamaCare wouldn't work. But, committed to their liberal fantasy of successful government-run health care, they ignored all the evidence to the contrary and forced the bill through. The American people are suffering as a result—canceled health care plans, lost doctors and hospitals, higher prices, fewer choices, and reduced access to medications. The list goes on and on.

Last week the fifth annual U.S. Bank Small Business Survey reported that businesses now rank health care as their No. 1 concern. More than 60 percent of them, quoting from the survey, ''now say the long-term impact of the Affordable Care Act will be negative on their business.''

Another article over the weekend reported that ''health insurers are preparing to raise rates next year for plans issued under the Affordable Care Act.''

Still another article from The Hill newspaper on Saturday stated that Democrats in competitive elections generally regard ObamaCare as a four-letter word, with many of their campaign Web sites omitting any reference to the law.

Democrats know ObamaCare has failed, but instead of trying to replace the law, they are just trying to distract with more bad policies that make it even harder to create jobs in this country.

American families are hurting. They need jobs—steady, good-paying jobs. Yet Democrats are ignoring this priority in favor of liberal pet projects that pander to their political base.

There is a clear contrast developing in the Senate: Democrats are offering distractions and Republicans are offering proposals that would spur job creation, increase opportunity, and help middle-class families, proposals such as Senator HOEVEN's bill to force approval of the Keystone Pipeline and the 42,000 jobs the President's own State Department says it would support.

There is Senator COLLINS' proposal to amend the ObamaCare 30-hour workweek provision that is causing employers to cut hours.

We have the proposal from Senators HATCH, TOOMEY, and COATS to repeal ObamaCare's tax on lifesaving medical devices such as pacemakers and insulin pumps—a tax that has already negatively affected tens of thousands of jobs in this industry and stands ready to damage many more.

Then there is Senator PORTMAN's bill to require executive branch agencies to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of new regulations so that fewer burdensome, job-killing regulations emerge from the administration.

There are bills from Senator LEE, Senator MCCONNELL, and Senator AYOTTE to give working parents more flexibility in the workplace so that they can make it to more soccer games and more dance recitals while maintaining steady jobs.

Senator RUBIO has a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to allow employers to give raises to deserving employees.

Then there is my own to help long-term unemployed workers by providing them with a one-time low-interest loan of up to $10,000 to start a new job or to relocate to a State or metropolitan area with lower unemployment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. THUNE. Those are the issues on which we should be focused. I hope we will start—and start creating jobs and opportunities for the American people.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sheryl H. Lipman, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Angus S. King, Jr.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, we will vote to end filibusters on the nominations of Sheryl Lipman to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, Stanley Bastian to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, Manish Shah to a judicial emergency vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Daniel Crabtree to the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, Judge Cynthia Bashant to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California, and Judge Jon Levy to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine. These are just 6 of the 31 judicial nominees currently pending on the Senate Floor.

Every single one of these nominees was voted out of the Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support and every single one of these nominees has the support of their home State Senators. Nevertheless, we are once again being forced to follow the costly ritual of filing and voting on cloture for noncontroversial nominees and wasting valuable floor time repeating this exercise. Meanwhile, it is our Federal Judiciary and the American people who suffer from these delays.

I recently heard remarks from the Minority Leader claiming that ''many of these nominees would have been confirmed last December had we not'' instituted the rules change. This statement is simply belied by the facts. Senate Republicans have obstructed and slowed the nominations process throughout this President's entire tenure—in both his first and second terms. At the end of each calendar year, Senate Republicans deliberately refuse to vote on several judicial nominees who could and should be confirmed in order to consume additional time the following year confirming these nominees. This has happened at the conclusion of every single year of the Obama presidency.

At the end of 2009, they left 10 nominations on the Executive Calendar without a vote. Two of those nominations were returned to the President, and it subsequently took 9 months for the Senate to take action on the other 8. This resulted in the lowest 1-year confirmation total in at least 35 years. In 2010 and 2011, Senate Republicans left 19 nominations on the Senate Executive Calendar at the end of each year. It then took nearly half the following year for the Senate to confirm these nominees. In 2012, Senate Republicans left 11 judicial nominees without action and another four had hearings but Republicans refused to expedite their consideration. In 2013, Senate Republicans left 9 nominations on the Executive Calendar. Another 15 judicial nominees could have been reported to the full Senate and confirmed by the end of last year, but Senate Republicans blocked the Judiciary Committee's ability to meet to report these nominees to the full Senate. So, the idea that the rules change has somehow triggered Republican obstruction is simply not true. This has been a persistent and coordinated effort since the very beginning of the Obama presidency, and the rules change was an attempt to overcome some of these tactics of delay and obstruction.

I have also seen reports lately that President Obama is now outpacing President George W. Bush in terms of judicial nominees confirmed at the same point in their presidencies. It is true that at this point in their respective presidencies, President Bush had 232 nominees confirmed while this President has had 235 nominees confirmed. This is certainly welcome news.

I would note, however, that this statistic paints a very incomplete picture of what needs to be done. Although there have been slightly more nominees confirmed, the vacancies are much higher at this point in this president's tenure than in President Bush's tenure. In April 2006, there were only 54 vacancies in the Federal judiciary. In stark contrast, as of April 2014, there are currently 85 vacancies in the Federal judiciary—31 vacancies more than existed at the same point in President Bush's tenure.

The comparison is even more troubling when you consider the 31 judicial nominees currently pending on the Executive Calendar. We could lower the number of judicial vacancies today to 54 if Senate Republicans would consent to voting on all of the pending nominees. We have not had fewer than 60 vacancies since February 2009, at the beginning of President Obama's first term. And for most of President Obama's tenure in office, judicial vacancies have continued to hover around 80 and 90 because of Senate Republican obstruction. Nevertheless, Senate Republicans continue to object to votes on these nominations.

These 6 nominees for whom we are voting to invoke cloture on today were nominated last August and September. It is about time that we held a vote on their nominations. All 6 nominees are well qualified and we should end these filibusters and confirm them as soon as possible.

Sheryl Lipman has served as University Counsel to the University of Memphis since 2002, where she has also served as interim chief of staff to the president of the university and senior attorney. Prior to her work for the University of Memphis, she worked for nearly a decade in private practice at various law firms. Following her graduation from law school, she served as a law clerk to Judge Julia Gibbons of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. Ms. Lipman has the support of her home State Republican Senators, Senator CORKER and Senator ALEXANDER. The Judiciary Committee reported her unanimously by voice vote to the full Senate on January 16, 2014.

Stanley Bastian has worked in private practice for over 15 years and currently serves as a managing partner at the law firm Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn & Aylward, P.S. From 1985 to 1988, he served as an Assistant City Attorney in the Seattle City Attorney's Office, from 1984 to 1985 he served as a law clerk to Judge Ward Williams of the Washington State Court of Appeals Division I. Mr. Bastian previously served as the president of the Washington State Bar Association. He has the support of his home State Senators, Senator MURRAY and Senator CANTWELL. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated him ''well qualified'' to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, its highest rating. The Judiciary Committee reported him unanimously by voice vote to the full Senate on January 16, 2014.

Manish Shah has served in the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois since 2001. He has served as the chief of the Criminal Division since 2012, and previously served as the chief of Criminal Appeals, deputy chief of Financial Crimes & Special Prosecutions, and deputy chief of General Crimes. He also served as a law clerk to Judge James Zagel of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois from 1999 to 2001. Mr. Shah was awarded the Federal Bureau of Investigation Director's Award for Outstanding Criminal Investigation in 2008 and the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys Director's Award for Superior Performance by a Litigative Team in 2007. He earned his B.A. with honors and distinction from Stanford University in 1994. He earned his J.D. with honors from the University of Chicago Law School in 1998. He has the bipartisan support of his home State Senators, Senator DURBIN and Senator KIRK. The Judiciary Committee reported him unanimously by voice vote to the full Senate on January 16, 2014. If confirmed, he would be the first South Asian judge to serve on a Federal court in Illinois.

Daniel Crabtree has worked as a partner at Stinson, Morrison, Hecker, LLP since 2002. He previously worked in private practice for 21 years at Stinson, Mag & Fizzel. He has also served as the general counsel for the Kansas City Royals Baseball Club and Walsworth Publishing Company since 2008. In private practice, he has provided pro bono legal services through the Volunteer Attorney Project of the Legal Aid Office of the Western District of Missouri. Mr. Crabtree has the support of his Republican home State Senators, Senator MORAN and Senator ROBERTS. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated him ''well qualified'' to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. The Judiciary Committee reported him unanimously by voice vote to the full Senate on January 16, 2014.

Judge Cynthia Bashant has served as a California State judge in San Diego Superior Court since 2000, and for 3 years as the court's presiding judge, 2010–2013. During her 13 years on the bench, she has presided over approximately 100 jury trials and over 1,000 bench trials. Prior to her judicial service, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of California, 1989–2000, and worked in private practice at Baker and McKenzie (1988–1989) and at McDonald Halsted and Laybourne, 1986–1988. In private practice, she provided pro bono legal services to the San Diego Volunteer Lawyers Program and the American Civil Liberties Union. While serving as an assistant U.S. attorney, she received six Special Commendations for Outstanding Performance. Judge Bashant has the support of her home State Senators, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER. The Judiciary Committee reported her unanimously by voice vote to the full Senate on January 16, 2014.

Justice Jon Levy has served as an associate justice on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court since 2002. He previously served as a state judge in York, ME, as chief judge, 2001–2002, deputy chief judge, 2000–2001, and as a district court judge for Maine's Tenth Judicial District (1995–2000). Prior to his judicial service, he worked in private practice for more than a decade. He previously served as a special monitor in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, 1981–1982. After graduating from law school, he served as a law clerk to Judge John Copenhaver, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, 1979–1981. He is a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants. As a leader in the Maine Justice Action Group, he has promoted pro bono involvement throughout Maine's legal community. Justice Levy has the bipartisan support of his home State Senators, Senator KING and Senator COLLINS. The Judiciary Committee reported his nomination favorably with bipartisan support to the full Senate on January 16, 2014.

I thank the majority leader for filing cloture petitions to end the filibusters of these much needed judges. I hope my fellow Senators will join me today to end these filibusters so that these nominees can get working on behalf of the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Sheryl H. Lipman, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 111 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Alexander	Hagan	Murray
Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Landrieu	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Markey	Walsh
Corker	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murkowski	
Gillibrand	Murphy	

NAYS—39

Ayotte	Flake	McConnell
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blunt	Grassley	Paul
Burr	Hatch	Portman
Chambliss	Heller	Risch
Coats	Hoeven	Roberts
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Cornyn	Johanns	Shelby
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cruz	Kirk	Toomey
Enzi	Lee	Vitter
Fischer	McCain	Wicker

NOT VOTING—3

Boozman	Pryor	Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 58 and the nays are 39. The motion to invoke cloture is agreed to.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. We have five more votes. At the end of 10 minutes, with the 5-minute kicker on each of these votes, we should close the vote no matter who is not here. We have a lot to do today. We have two caucuses that should start at 12:30, and so we will have to rush through these as quickly as we can.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Bastian nomination.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to speak about the excellent nominee we are considering to be U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Stan Bastian.

In my home State of Washington we have a bipartisan judicial selection process that allows us to recommend nominees who are supported by Republicans and Democrats alike, and while we don't always agree on every nominee, that process has served our State well for a long time. As the Senate votes today on the nomination of Mr. Bastian, I would like to inform my colleagues that during the bipartisan process to select him, his support was unanimous. That means every Republican and every Democrat who helps select judicial nominees in our State supports Mr. Bastian on the Federal bench. In today's political atmosphere, that is the strongest endorsement I can think of.

He has nearly 30 years of litigation experience. He is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is the chairman of the Equal Justice Coalition, and throughout his career he has served the Washington bar, first as a member of the board of governors and eventually as president. He has practiced in both State and Federal courts, tried hundreds of cases, including civil and criminal cases and jury and bench trials.

Our system of government is at its best when good people step up to the plate and are willing to serve. Throughout his legal career Stan Bastian has done just that. So I am here to express my support and urge our colleagues to do the same.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stanley Allen Bastian, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Christopher A. Coons, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Maria Cantwell, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Angus S. King, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stanley Allen Bastian, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rules.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 112 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Landrieu	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Markey	Udall (NM)
Coons	McCaskill	Walsh
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murkowski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—41

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Chambliss	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Coburn	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Vitter
Cruz	Lee	Wicker
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—4

Boozman	Pryor	
Levin	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On the motion to invoke cloture, the yeas are 55, the nays are 41. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Shah nomination.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back on the remaining pending nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Manish S. Shah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Angus S. King, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Manish S. Shah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 113 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Harkin	Murphy
Begich	Heinrich	Murray
Bennet	Heitkamp	Nelson
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Kirk	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Landrieu	Shaheen
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Levin	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Walsh
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Franken	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murkowski	Wyden

NAYS—40

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Heller	Scott
Coats	Hoeven	Sessions
Coburn	Inhofe	Shelby
Cochran	Isakson	Thune
Corker	Johanns	Toomey
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—3

Boozman	Pryor	Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 57, the nays are 40. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Daniel D. Crabtree, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Angus S. King, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Daniel D. Crabtree, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 114 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Heinrich	Murray
Begich	Heitkamp	Nelson
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Roberts
Boxer	King	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cardin	Landrieu	Schatz
Carper	Leahy	Schumer
Casey	Levin	Shaheen
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall (CO)
Durbin	Menendez	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Merkley	Walsh
Franken	Mikulski	Warner
Gillibrand	Moran	Warren
Hagan	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Harkin	Murphy	Wyden

NAYS—39

Alexander	Enzi	Lee
Ayotte	Fischer	McCain
Barrasso	Flake	McConnell
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Burr	Grassley	Portman
Chambliss	Hatch	Risch
Coats	Heller	Scott
Coburn	Hoeven	Sessions
Cochran	Inhofe	Shelby
Corker	Isakson	Thune
Cornyn	Johanns	Toomey
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Vitter
Cruz	Kirk	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Boozman	Pryor	
Brown	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 57, the nays are 39. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mark Pryor, Mark Begich, Robert Menendez, Tom Harkin, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Angus S. King, Jr., Claire McCaskill, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 115 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—41

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Chambliss	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Coburn	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Vitter
Cruz	Lee	Wicker
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—3

Boozman	Pryor	Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 56 and the nays are 41. The motion is agreed to. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. This will be the last vote this morning.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state:

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Brian Schatz, Heidi Heitkamp, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Mazie K. Hirono, Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Angus S. King, Jr., Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Court Judge for the District of Maine, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rules.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Ayotte	Blumenthal	Cantwell
Baldwin	Booker	Cardin
Begich	Boxer	Carper
Bennet	Brown	Casey
Collins	Kaine	Paul
Coons	King	Reed
Donnelly	Kirk	Reid
Durbin	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Feinstein	Landrieu	Sanders
Flake	Leahy	Schatz
Franken	Levin	Schumer
Gillibrand	Manchin	Shaheen
Hagan	Markey	Stabenow
Harkin	McCaskill	Tester
Heinrich	Menendez	Udall (CO)
Heitkamp	Merkley	Udall (NM)
Heller	Mikulski	Walsh
Hirono	Murkowski	Warner
Hoeven	Murphy	Warren
Isakson	Murray	Whitehouse
Johnson (SD)	Nelson	Wyden

NAYS—34

Alexander	Enzi	Portman
Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Burr	Grassley	Scott
Chambliss	Hatch	Sessions
Coats	Inhofe	Shelby
Coburn	Johanns	Thune
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Corker	Lee	Vitter
Cornyn	McCain	Wicker
Crapo	McConnell	
Cruz	Moran	

NOT VOTING—3

Boozman	Pryor	Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 63, the nays are 34. The motion to invoke cloture is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I wish to speak as in morning business for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MISSISSIPPI STORMS

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I simply want to take a moment to say a few words about the devastating storms that swept through my home State of Mississippi yesterday.

My prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives, those who were injured, and the communities across the State that are now hard at work to pick up the pieces.

We are grateful for local officials, weather forecasters, and first responders who saved lives by getting the word out that people should seek shelter from the storm. This is government at its best, when State, local, and Federal forces, alongside the news media and private businesses, work together to keep people out of harm's way. There is no doubt this cooperation and communication saved hundreds of lives across the South yesterday. Both will be instrumental in preparing for additional storms in the forecast today.

Mississippians are known for being resilient in the wake of tragedy. We have overcome unprecedented challenges in the past, and we will do so again. Nature's wrath may be fierce but the spirit of fellowship and perseverance of my fellow Mississippians—as well as all Americans—will move us forward.

I thank the Chair.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:58 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 3:30 p.m. will be under the control of the majority.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, we are now debating legislation that will be up for a vote tomorrow. It will be a cloture vote on bringing a minimum wage increase bill to the floor.

Let's be clear about this. It is a cloture vote. This means it is going to take 60 votes, and that will happen tomorrow. I assume most of the day we will be discussing that. I hope so. I know others have come to the floor previously to discuss this.

As the chairman of the committee and as the chief sponsor of this bill, I intend to be back on the floor later today to respond to some of the allegations made by Senators on the other side of the aisle regarding this bill and minimum wage as a concept, but I wish to take a few minutes to sort of set the stage for this legislation and what it is going to mean for our economy and for working Americans.

What I would say at the outset is that the minimum wage bill is about a lot of things: It is going to give an economic boost. It will increase the GDP of our country. It will do a lot of good economically for our society, but basically it is about economic fairness. It is about what kind of society we want America to be.

Keep in mind, the Fair Labor Standards Act which set the minimum wage was passed at the end of the Depression, 1939, when we were still in the Depression, and it was immediately to give a raise in wages to hard-working Americans. That is what it did.

Since that time, actually on both sides of the aisle, we have raised the minimum wage a number of times. This is just another step in making sure that those at the bottom of the economic ladder in America also get a hand up, to get help to make sure they too have a fair shot at the American dream.

So that is what this minimum wage bill is truly about. It is about core American values; the value that no one

who works full time all year long should live in poverty. That is what this is about.

The fact is the value of the minimum wage has eroded so much over the last few years that the minimum wage right now is way below poverty. In other words, someone can work full time every day, all year long, and they are still in poverty. But they are working every day. That is not fair. The American value system is one that if someone puts in their work and works hard, they ought not to be living in poverty.

Right now, tens of millions of Americans are struggling just to keep a roof over their heads, to pay the heating bill, to find some money for an extra pair of shoes for a growing child, even getting money together to take the bus to work. Think about this: A minimum wage worker's paycheck has stayed the same since 2009. This chart illustrates what has happened.

If we go back to 2009, the minimum wage has increased zero percent. But look what has gone up: Electricity has gone up 4.2 percent; rent, 7.3 percent; auto repairs, 7.6 percent; food at home, 8.8 percent. This is since 2009. Childcare has gone up 11.7 percent. Mass transit, which is how people who make minimum wage get back and forth to work, has gone up 17.8 percent since 2009. Yet their paycheck has not gone up.

What does this chart tell us? This tells us that people making minimum wage are falling further and further behind because these are things that low-income Americans have to spend money on: lights, rent, fixing up their old car, food, childcare, and mass transit. Look how much they have gone up. Yet the minimum wage has stayed the same. That is why this is a value issue.

When people who work hard and play by the rules have to rely upon food stamps and food banks to feed their children and the minimum wage has them trapped in poverty, it is unacceptable. It is un-American. It is not what our Nation is about.

So Americans deserve a raise. That is why this bill raises it from $7.25 to $10.10 an hour in three annual steps. It will link the minimum wage to the cost of living in the future. In other words, we index it for the future so we don't have this prospect that as other things increase in price, the minimum wage stays the same. It is time to index it in the future.

Our bill also provides for a raise for tipped workers—the people who serve your food, push the wheelchairs at the airports, and park cars. Every time I tell somebody this, they tell me I can't be right; I must be mistaken. I tell them the tipped wage today is $2.13 an hour, and it has been that way since 1991. Not a 1-cent increase since 1991. People find that hard to believe. It is hard to believe, but it is very true.

So our bill would increase tipped wages from $2.13 an hour up to 70 percent of the minimum wage over a 6-year period of time, the first increase in tipped wages in 23 years.

An increase in the minimum wage benefits everyone. Twenty-eight million workers will get a raise—15 million are women, so over 50 percent of the increase—4 million African-American workers; 7 million Hispanic workers; and 7 million parents will get a raise. And we forget about this. How about our kids? Fourteen million kids will benefit from a minimum wage increase. That means their families will get an increase in the minimum wage. This benefits the kids. So think about the children in America. They are going to get a raise too.

Again, raising the minimum wage helps our families and it helps our economy. This is why we had a press conference this morning with a group called Business for a Fair Minimum Wage. One thousand businesses across the country representing every State in our Nation have signed on saying: Yes, we need to increase the minimum wage to at least $10.10 an hour. They understand and Main Street businesses understand this.

If we increase the minimum wage for people in the community, they are not running off to Paris, France, to spend the money. They are going to spend that money on Main Street, and that helps our small businesses. This is why so many small businesses get it. They understand that if we raise the minimum wage, that helps them. That helps the local economy on Main Street.

The Economic Policy Institute estimates that our minimum wage bill will put $35 billion in the hands of millions of workers, and that money will be spent on Main Street. It will pump an additional $22 billion into our GDP, supporting 85,000 new jobs as the raise is phased in over 3 years.

There is another issue I think we need to address, and that is what happens with low-wage workers and how they do sustain themselves. They are in poverty from the minimum wage. So what do they rely on? They rely on food stamps, Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. They rely upon the earned-income tax credit and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program. That costs taxpayers in America $243 billion a year.

Again, I am not saying that by increasing the minimum wage we are going to knock that down to zero. I can't say that, but what I can say is that a study was done just on food stamps, and if we raise the minimum wage, in the first year we will save $4.6 billion in taxpayers' money because people will now have enough money to go out and buy their own food. They will not rely on food stamps.

A lot of these other things will be cut back too, such as TANF and Medicaid or CHIP. I can't say how much, but people understand that this is what we are paying as taxpayers to support a minimum wage below the poverty line.

Again, people understand how important this minimum wage is. That is why it is so broadly supported by such a cross-section of American people.

Here is a poll that has been done. A USA Today and Pew Research Center poll this year indicated that 73 percent of all voters support raising the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour—90 percent Democrats, 71 percent Independents, and even 53 percent of Republicans believe we ought to raise it to at least $10.10 an hour.

So the American people get it. There is overwhelming support for raising the minimum wage. But I am just mystified by how vehemently my Republican colleagues oppose this modest increase. I just don't understand it. But what I hear is the same old outdated, disproved arguments against giving working Americans a raise.

There are some on the other side who believe we should do away with the minimum wage. There should be no minimum wage at all. Try that one on for size. Talk about a race to the bottom. Four dollars an hour maybe? Three dollars an hour? Two dollars an hour? You see, I have always said that without a strong minimum wage and without a good, strong Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor to make sure people adhere to it—if we don't have that, then there is always someone a little worse off than you who will bid lower than you for that job.

So someone says: We will pay $7 an hour. There is always somebody that just needs the job a little more, they are desperate, and they say: I will take it for $6 an hour. Then there are some a little worse off than that who say: We will take it for $5 an hour, and we get a downward spiral.

That is why I say our American value is to have a strong minimum wage, whereby people who work hard—and some of these jobs are hard work. People are on their feet 8 hours a day or they are doing some manual labor or they are doing the kind of jobs a lot of people don't do. Yet they live in poverty. It is not right. Raising the minimum wage is common sense that adheres to our American values and gives everyone a fair shot at the American dream.

I hope my colleagues will do the right thing and vote for cloture, allow us to get on the bill. We can have some amendments offered, and we can vote to give working Americans a raise after all these years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, I rise to join my colleagues to urge support for increasing the Federal minimum wage.

Today's minimum wage of $7.25 falls short and working families are falling behind. It hasn't kept up with the rising cost of everyday life. In fact, it is $2 less than it was in 1968, when adjusted for inflation. A full-time worker earning the minimum wage in 2014 makes less than someone did in 1968, almost half a century ago.

Now, $7.25 may be just a number to some but not for so many families in my State struggling to get by. It means working two or three jobs just to put food on the table or fill the gas tank or buy clothes for their children and still not be able to climb out of poverty.

Our Nation was founded on a basic premise that no matter who you are, if you work hard, you can get ahead. You can make a decent living. We haven't always kept that promise. We have the opportunity to do so this week for millions of hard-working men and women, young and old, who are paid the minimum wage.

Working Americans are not moving forward. They are falling behind. Year after year, paycheck by paycheck, they work just as hard, but they earn less and less. This is a disturbing trend, not just for minimum wage workers but all across the board. Worker productivity is rising pretty dramatically—69 percent in the last 25 years—but real hourly wages are not keeping pace, up 26.5 percent in the last 25 years. For the top 1 percent it couldn't be better. Their share of earned income is the highest it has been since 1929. But the average worker has to run faster and faster just to stay in place.

This is not the promise we made. This is not the way to a better America for each generation, but this is the reality for too many workers in New Mexico and across the Nation. They are living it every day. They get up, they take care of their kids, and they go to work. They may run faster, they may work harder, but they cannot get ahead.

A full-time minimum wage worker makes only $15,000 a year, well below the $23,550 poverty line for a family of four with two children. New Mexico has too many families in poverty, working hard, doing their best but falling further and further behind. This bill would give them a chance to build a better future for themselves and for their children.

I have received many letters from my constituents because they know how important raising the minimum wage is. Here is a letter from Kathryn from Fruitland, NM. She says: ''Morally, raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do, because people working full time deserve to live decently.''

Barbara from Clovis, NM, told me: ''There are so many people who work for minimum wage and have a desperately hard time paying the bills.''

Liz from Albuquerque says: ''I hope you will do all in your power to assure that every working American will be assured of making a living wage, not just a 'minimum' wage.''

Increasing the minimum wage helps families and helps the economy. It is one of the best things we can do to kick-start New Mexico's economy. It means workers in New Mexico would have over $200 million more to spend. It means boosting our State's GDP by $127 million, helping local businesses and generating 500 new jobs. It means moving forward, and it means that we honor an important idea that folks receive a fair day's pay for a hard day's work. That is the deal, and it is a big deal. Let's consider the alternative: When every year costs rise and the minimum wage stays the same, that is like a pay cut for families that can least afford it.

The bill before us increases the minimum wage in three steps. Six months after the bill is signed, it raises the minimum wage by less than $1. A year later it bumps up the minimum wage by 95 cents, and two years after the first increase, it would finally reach $10.10, which is about where it would be if it had kept up with inflation over the past 40 years. But this bill does more than just give hard workers today the chance to earn a decent wage. It also includes an important provision to allow the minimum wage to continue to keep up with every-day costs so that future generations who are working their way up can have a fair shot.

Our country has debated raising the minimum wage several times in the past. Opponents always paint a very gloomy picture, but we have been able to get bipartisan agreement to do it. Afterwards, families and the economy have been better off, and the pessimistic predictions haven't come true. We need to build an economy that works for everyone. Most Americans believe it is time to increase the minimum wage because it is the right thing to do, and it is the smart thing to do. It is time to keep our Nation's promise to reward hard work. It is time for all families to have a fair chance at the American dream.

I urge my colleagues to support increasing the minimum wage. It is long overdue for millions of working families who continue to struggle, who continue to wait, and who have waited long enough.

I yield the floor, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Thank you, Madam President.

I came to the floor to join Senator HARKIN, Senator UDALL, and Senator BOXER in supporting the increase in the minimum wage that would give 28 million American workers a very long overdue raise.

I know that the years since the economic collapse in 2008 have really been hard for families in New Hampshire and across the country. Although we have seen CEO salaries rise, pay for working families has stagnated. While the cost of food, transportation, and childcare all continue to climb and families struggle to make ends meet, the minimum wage for American workers has been stuck at $7.25 an hour since 2009. At that rate a single mother working full time in New Hampshire does not earn enough to keep her family out of poverty. So let me just be clear: Adults working full time cannot support their families on the minimum wage, and that needs to change.

The fair minimum wage act would increase the minimum wage to $10.10 over 2 years. That would provide a raise to nearly 20 percent of New Hampshire's workforce and lift 10,000 people in New Hampshire out of poverty. Nationwide, nearly one-third of all minimum wage workers are women over the age of 25. In New Hampshire 70 percent of minimum wage workers are women. This effort is about these women and the 34,000 children in the Granite State whose parents would have a little more in their paychecks each week if we increased the minimum pay to $10.10.

I know that many critics claim that only teenagers hold those minimum wage jobs but, sadly, that is just not true. Teens make up only 12 percent of those who would get a raise if we boosted pay to $10.10 an hour. Minimum wage workers are also veterans. The fair minimum wage act is about giving a raise to the 4,500 New Hampshire veterans who now earn $7.25 an hour—the minimum wage—and who are struggling to get by. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to give these veterans a raise.

Making sure workers in New Hampshire get a fair wage for an honest day's work is something that I have focused on since I was Governor. In 1997 I signed a bill into law that boosted minimum wages for tipped workers in New Hampshire. Nearly 75 percent of those tipped workers are women. As was the case then, today we must act to raise the minimum wage to ensure that hard-working Americans get a fair shot at success. I urge my colleagues to join me on both sides of the aisle in supporting the fair minimum wage act. Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, it is my honor to rise today to support this very important bill, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act of 2014. I am very proud of my colleagues who have just spoken, and particularly, I want to say, of Senator SHAHEEN who, as I understand it, is the only woman here in the Senate who is both a former Governor and a Senator; is that correct?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. It is.

Mrs. BOXER. When Senator SHAHEEN was a Governor she stood up for the

people, and as a Senator she certainly fights for her people.

Part of this fight involves making sure that when you work hard and you work full time you don't have to live in poverty. It just isn't fair. Remember most of the people on the minimum wage are adults. They are not children. They are not teenagers. They are adults. So many of them are trying to raise their children in jobs at the minimum wage level, and you don't have to be a mathematician to know that the current minimum wage leaves you in poverty. So you have a full-time job, you work your heart out, and you wind up in poverty.

I went back into my little memory books, and I found my son's first paycheck when he was working his way through school. He went to a supermarket to work as a checkout clerk. He came into a store called Lucky Stores. They were a union store, so he joined the union. Do you know what that young man made in those years? In 1986, 28 years ago—it is right here—it was $7.41 an hour. Imagine. So he was so proud he could work hard. When he came home, he was able to help pay for his tuition and his books.

We are talking about a minimum wage that is $10.10 an hour. Here is this young man working as an entry level checkout clerk at a supermarket in 1986 making over $7 an hour. This minimum wage has got to be raised.

We have the chart. If you put inflation on the minimum wage as it was in 1968—just inflation—the minimum wage would be $10.69 an hour. We are not even going that far. We are saying $10.10 an hour. So all we are suggesting is, make sure inflation is covered. That is all we are saying.

Increasing the minimum wage will give people a chance, a fair shot. Remember, most of the people on minimum wage are adults. If you stop someone on the street and ask who they think is on the minimum wage, a lot of folks guess it is teenagers. No. By the way, most of those happen to be women.

I am deeply disappointed and distressed that the Republicans are opposing this measure. Why do Republicans want to deny hard-working Americans a raise? The country supports it overwhelmingly. I don't understand it because in 2007, the last time we raised the minimum wage, it was bipartisan. A huge majority of Senators then agreed that a full day's work deserved a fair paycheck. The minimum wage in 2007 was during George W. Bush's Presidency. Let me say that again. For the minimum wage in 2007, which was the last time we raised it, the increase passed 94 to 3, and George W. Bush signed it into law. What has changed in the Republicans' hearts? What has changed in the Republicans' minds? Are they turning against the people?

If you ask them they will say that it is just not fair to small businesses. Well, more than 80 percent of small businesses pay their people more than the minimum wage. So come on. A majority of small businesses support what we are trying to do. So don't come on the floor and say you are opposing it because it is too much too soon. Wrong. It is even lower than the inflation rate, and secondly, regarding that small business doesn't want it, in fact, they do.

Now before that was 1989. We raised the minimum wage then, and it was 89 to 8, and at that time it was George H. W. Bush. So wait a minute. What is going on here? I don't get this. It is not about who is in the White House; it is about the working people of this country. Where is the bipartisan spirit? It is gone, and America is paying a heavy price with the minimum wage stuck at $7.25 an hour and with inflation eating away every day at it.

Let me read you just two or three stories about workers. Alicia McCrary, a single mom who testified in March before the Senate HELP Committee, struggles to support her sons with a minimum wage job in fast food. She has trouble getting them haircuts, shoes, clothing, and other items that kids need. She says: ''My boys ask: Why isn't there enough money? You work, and you work really hard, Mom.''

She said: ''I don't have a good answer other than I don't get paid enough.''

She is right. She doesn't get paid a fair minimum wage.

NBC News ran a story of a man who works three jobs. Two of them are overnight—he works three jobs—two of them are overnight jobs for minimum wage. He said:

> I have four young children. They need a dad around. That is why I work a day job when they are in school and then go back to work when they go to bed. But it takes 3 jobs to make ends meet because of $7.25 an hour. I am 43 and have over 20 years' experience and make $7.25 an hour.

That is wrong. These parents work so hard and their kids are growing up with so little, and their parents look in their children's eyes and they suffer because they want to do more for their children.

Economists project that this bill—which I hope most or almost every Democrat will support—will raise the wages of 28 million people in America. All we need is a handful of Republicans to join with us and we will get it done. By the way, if it were a majority rule, we would get it done. They are filibustering it. Let's be clear. They not only oppose it; they are forcing us to get 60 votes.

Twenty percent of the children in America are counting on this, 14 million children who would be lifted out of poverty if we pass the Harkin bill.

Then we have tipped workers. If I asked anyone on the street how much tipped workers make, they would say minimum wage. Most people don't know what the Federal tipped minimum wage is. I know the Presiding Officer has worked on this. It is $2.13 an hour. Can my colleagues imagine? Again, $2.13 an hour is the tipped minimum wage.

Many tipped workers live in poverty and instability. They don't know if they will make enough to cover the bills.

We will hear that if we pay the full minimum wage, it will be too hard on the restaurant owners. In my State the tipped workers get the full minimum wage, and that wage is $8 an hour, going up to $10, in California. So the tipped workers get the minimum wage amount every hour. Guess what. Our restaurants are going gangbusters. And guess what else. When a person does well and has their minimum wage plus their tips, they get to go out once in a while to a restaurant. They can go down to the corner store and get something for their children.

Sandra Samoa is a bartender in Chicago. She says if the bar is slow, she might take home just $40 after an 8-hour shift. She lives with her mom and her young son. This woman sleeps on the floor so her son can sleep in a bed. If we don't represent people such as these, who the heck do we represent—the Koch brothers? They are worth billions. This woman comes home Sundays with $40 in her pocket, she sleeps on the floor, and she says, ''My whole plan is to have a room for him one day.''

So, listen, if we are who we are supposed to be—the representatives of the people and working families—then we want to make sure we raise the minimum wage. It helps everybody, including those in business. That is why most small businesses support this.

We know the great story of Henry Ford, who raised the day rate of his workers way back in the olden days, and people said: What are you doing? You are raising wages? You could get away with paying them—whatever it was.

He said: I am raising them because I want them to buy my car—the cars we make.

What we are going to hear on this floor from our colleagues is that we are going too fast, we are raising this too much. I have already shown my colleagues that we are raising it less than inflation, so that is baloney on its face.

No. 2, they say: Oh, it is going to hurt small business.

I have already stated that 82 percent of small businesses already pay all of their employees more than the Federal minimum wage, and more than half of them support raising it to $10.10 because they know people will spend money on their products and in their stores.

Then the next thing they are going to say is it is a job-loser. They are

going to cite one study, which I call an outlier, from CBO. It said the minimum wage would reduce employment by three-tenths of 1 percent over the next 2 years. When I heard that, I thought, what is this about? I looked at some other studies. A study by three prominent labor economists from the University of Massachusetts, the University of North Carolina, and the University of California-Berkeley found that minimum wage increases absolutely do not cause job losses. The Economic Policy Institute found that the Harkin bill would increase employment by 84,000 jobs and add $22 billion to our economy over 2½ years. Let me repeat that. The Harkin bill would increase employment by 84,000 jobs and add $22 billion to our economy.

But let's look at history. We have to really ask ourselves—these guys and gals who are saying don't raise the minimum wage because it will lose jobs—what if they said that going back through time and they prevailed? We would never have raised the minimum wage. I worked for the minimum wage a long time ago. At that time it was a dollar an hour, and I earned 50 cents an hour because I was a teenager. It was great then. I earned 50 cents an hour. I am looking at the young people here, and they are thinking, you must be really old. They would be right.

My point is that the minimum wage was a buck an hour and it was raised many times. Since 1989 the minimum wage has been raised three times. It was raised many times before that. There have been 18 increases since 1956. So we can put that in our minds—18 increases in the minimum wage since 1956. Suppose the other side had taken that attitude: Don't raise it. Well, it would still be, I guess, a buck an hour, 50 cents if you are a kid. Today ''50 Cent'' is a singing group, right?

We have raised the minimum wage over and over again. What has happened? The economy has added millions of jobs. Since 1956 it has added 80 million. Since 1956, we have raised the minimum wage 18 times and we have created 80 million new jobs. So if anybody says this is a job-killer, I just say, read the history books.

Americans support raising the minimum wage. I hope my colleagues are listening. The American people know $7.25 an hour is not enough. A Wall Street Journal/NBC poll found that 63 percent of Americans support raising the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour. Let me say that again. Sixty-three percent of Americans support raising the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour.

All we need is a handful of Republicans. If they are listening to me, I hope they heard some of my arguments. No. 1, it is good for business to raise the minimum wage because people have more to spend. No. 2, history has shown that we have raised the minimum wage over and over again and we have created 80 million jobs. No. 3, most of the people earning minimum wage are adults, and most of those are women, and people are trying to raise their families on the minimum wage.

The last point is that we have always had strong bipartisan support. When George W. signed it into law, there was strong support from the Republicans. When his dad was in office, there was strong support. I can't believe the Republican Party has turned its back on working people, but if they have, we will find out tomorrow. The American people know what this is about.

The American dream is within reach, but we have to have fairness out there. People need a fair shot. We shouldn't tell someone who is a dad that he has to work three jobs. That is wrong. We need to lift up these workers and not let them fall behind.

When workers do better, families do better. When parents buy their kids enough to eat and shoes to wear, when they can go get a haircut at the local barber, when they can put gas in their car and fix up their house just a little, everybody does better. The community does better. Businesses do better. Families can walk tall when we reward hard work. When our workers earn a fair wage, our economy is stronger and our country is better. So let's give American working families a fair shot. We are not asking for the Moon and the Sun and the stars. All we want is just a little light at the end of the tunnel.

Thank you.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, nearly 7 years ago both parties worked together to pass bipartisan legislation that raised the minimum wage. Nineteen of my Republican colleagues, with whom I serve in the Senate today, voted for that bipartisan legislation, and Republican President George W. Bush signed it into law on May 25, 2007.

Since that time big banks on Wall Street drove our economy into a ditch. We faced a financial sector meltdown and were confronted with the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Hard-working Americans lost jobs. They lost their homes. They lost their retirement savings. Hard-working families paid a steep price for the reckless actions of others when all they ever asked for was that their hard work be rewarded.

Today people are working as hard as ever. Many are working full time. Many are working two jobs just to make ends meet; they deserve to get ahead. Yet far too many are barely getting by or living in poverty.

Middle-class incomes have flat-lined and income inequality in the United States is at a record high. And, today, a full-time minimum-wage worker earns only $15,080 per year.

The sad reality is the minimum wage is not high enough to keep full-time workers out of poverty. That is simply wrong, and it is our job to work together to change it because in America no one who works hard full time should have to live in poverty.

I am here today to urge my colleagues to help lift nearly 2 million people—2 million of their fellow Americans—out of poverty.

I am here today to urge my colleagues to support the Minimum Wage Fairness Act and give 28 million hard-working Americans the raise they have earned.

Some opponents of this bill have dismissed this effort as nothing more than raising the wages of teenagers who are simply working in the summer months. Well, that simply is no longer true. In fact, it never was true.

Eighty-eight percent of minimum-wage workers are adults age 20 or older, and the average age of a minimum-wage worker in America is 35 years old. More than half of minimum-wage workers are women. These are Americans who are working hard to get ahead, and they deserve to have us working together to help give them a fair shot.

Raising the minimum wage is not just the right thing to do to reward hard work; it can certainly boost our economy because studies show that minimum-wage workers spend the extra dollars they earn on basics such as food and clothing at businesses right in their home communities.

For someone earning $7.25 an hour and working full time, raising the minimum wage to $10.10 puts an extra $5,700 into their pockets. That $5,700 provides groceries for a year or utilities for a year, money to spend on gas and clothing for a year, or 6 months of housing—fueling our local economies at a time when our recovery continues to limp along.

Raising the minimum wage would lift 2 million hard-working people out of poverty. Passing this legislation would mean that more hard-working Americans will be able to provide for their families without the help of government programs such as SNAP, otherwise known as food stamps, saving taxpayers $4.6 billion from reduced nutrition assistance payments in 1 year alone.

I believe we need to build a fairer economy and grow the middle class from the bottom up. And I believe our economy is strongest when we expand opportunity for everyone, when everyone gets a fair shot.

I am proud to join my colleagues here today and tomorrow to deliver a

call for action. It is simple. The time is now to give hard-working Americans a raise. We can do that if both parties work together to reward hard work so that an honest day's work pays more.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the importance of raising the minimum wage.

People truly deserve a fair shot at the American dream, and it is time to come together to raise the minimum wage.

Our State just raised the minimum wage. We actually had one of the lowest minimum wages in the country—$6.15 per hour—and we are now at $9.50 per hour. So that was a major jump up. It was something that was needed, and it had a lot of support in the State of Minnesota, a State that has a very strong economy, with an unemployment rate of only 4.8 percent. But even when they have jobs people still have found it very hard to afford basic things or to send their kids to college.

We should follow Minnesota's example. We should raise the Federal minimum wage to $10.10 per hour.

I am a cosponsor of the Minimum Wage Fairness Act. I want to thank Senator HARKIN for his leadership on this issue and his dedication to the working families of America.

I also want to thank Senator MERKLEY and all of my colleagues who have worked tirelessly to raise the minimum wage.

As the Senate chair of the Joint Economic Committee, I held a hearing on income inequality earlier this year with former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich. His data showed—and this is a number I will never forget—that the top 400 people in this country—the top 400 people—have the same amount of wealth as the bottom 50 percent of Americans. This means that half of Americans—of everyone in this country—have the same amount of wealth as the top 400 people.

So how do we address this? We know there are a lot of things we need to do: training people who do not have the jobs and do not have the skills right now, increasing exports, immigration reform—there are all kinds of things we can do. But we know one major thing we can do to help an individual family have a fair shot is to increase the minimum wage.

Like many of my colleagues who have spoken today, I worked my fair share of minimum-wage jobs. I started as a carhop at the A&W Root Beer stand in Wayzata, MN. I then graduated to being a waitress, for about 3 years, at Bakers Square pie shop, where I once spilled 12 iced teas on 1 customer. That is when I decided to go to law school. But I worked those jobs, and it gave me a sense of what it was like for some of the people I worked with—that this was their job, this was their job cutting pies, this was their job washing dishes. This was how they supported themselves. It gave me a sense of how important it is to look out for those people who are doing the work we depend on every single day.

Think of how this affects women. Two-thirds of today's families rely on the mother's income in some way. Mothers are the primary breadwinners in more than one-third of families. Yet we also know that women make up nearly two-thirds of all the workers who earn the minimum wage or less.

An example of this is a waitress named Tiffany from Houston, TX, who recently came to Washington. We did an event together and answered questions. Her story is the story of so many American women across this country. She is a single mom. She loves her daughter so much. She is working as a waitress, and many times, with the way the laws work down in Texas, she does not make many tips in one night. So what does she do? She fills in by working on holidays. She has worked many Christmas Eves. She has missed every single Halloween with her daughter because it was a good night to be working at the bar at the restaurant. She has missed all kinds of other holidays, and she went through them, as we stood there.

You think to yourself: Sometimes, especially when you first start off, that happens. I have had it happen. But it should not keep happening after you have worked years and years at the same place. But it is just one example of what our minimum-wage workers have to do to try to make ends meet. They have to work another job. They have to work a holiday. They have to work another shift. That goes on every single day in America.

A woman working full time in a minimum-wage job only makes about $15,000 per year, which is not enough for her to work her way out of poverty. It is not enough for her to send herself or her kids to college. A full-time job should not mean full-time poverty.

Today, more than 15 million women in America are counting on us to help them get a fairer wage. Many of them, as I noted, are working in demanding retail and hospitality jobs—as waitresses, store clerks, hotel maids—where they are on their feet and they are running all day. They may not be able to come here today and sit in the gallery and say: Hey, I need a raise. So we have to be their voices. We have to talk for them today.

Despite their hard work, they have an almost impossible time making ends met. They struggle to afford the basics—a decent place to live or food for their family, never mind being able to save for a rainy day or for college or for their own retirement.

I released a Joint Economic Committee report on Earnings, Income and Retirement Security for Women. One striking thing we saw in this report is that a woman's lower lifetime earnings means lower retirement security. So this is more than about today's wages. This is about an entire lifespan. Women live longer. If they are making less, if their minimum wage does not allow them to save for retirement, it is even tougher for them in their golden years.

There is also a strong economic case for raising the minimum wage today. Low-wage workers would see their earnings increase by $31 billion if we raise the minimum wage. And we know what they are going to do with this. They are going to try to save a little of it, but they are going to spend it. They are going to spend it in Washington State. They are going to spend it in West Virginia. They are going to spend it on clothes for their kids, on food for their families, and filling up their gas tanks. They are going to help keep the economy going.

I once saw a documentary that Robert Reich did where he talked to a major CEO with tons of money. He took him into his room, and he said: OK. I only have three pairs of jeans. How can you really have more than three pairs of jeans? Maybe you could have four, but you really don't need more than that.

His point was this: If we want to have an economy that works, we cannot have all of the profits and money sucked up by the people who run things. We want them to be rewarded for their work, but they can only buy so many jeans.

If you have that money go fairly across the spectrum, then everyone gets to buy their pair of jeans. What we are doing is literally cutting down our markets by not making sure—in a consumer-driven economy, where 70 percent of our economy is consumer driven, we are putting ourselves in a situation where people are not able to buy things.

We also know that raising the minimum wage is good for business. We know that raising the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour could help approximately 28 million workers, with almost half of the benefits going to households with incomes below $35,000 per year.

We know that more than 15 million women would receive a raise. We know that $31 billion would be added to our economy. We know that seven Nobel laureates in economics, along with over 600 economists, support raising the minimum wage to restore the value that has been lost to inflation over the years. The minimum wage is now a third of the value of what it was in 1968.

It was the beloved late Paul Wellstone of my State who famously said: ''We all do better when we all do better.'' If he were here today, that is what he would be saying. I know it is

still true, and so do my colleagues who join me today. We need to be focused on doing better so we all do better.

With this in mind, I urge my colleagues to join me in fighting for working families, and especially the working women of this country, to give them a fair shot and pass a long overdue minimum-wage increase.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Minnesota for her really important statement. I come here today to join her and talk about this one small idea that stands for a huge difference in the lives of all of our constituents and, as she pointed out, for women in particular; that is, of course, the idea that if you are putting in 40 or 50 or 60 hours of work per week, you are able to put food on the table and pay your bills and you will not be stuck below the poverty line.

This idea could change the lives of millions of Americans if Congress simply acted and raised the minimum wage. But we have to act now because right now one in four women in our workforce is making the minimum wage. That is 15 million American women who are making the equivalent of about two gallons of gas per hour.

Are we prepared to tell them that should be enough to support themselves and their kids? In fact, as we have heard several times now here in this Chamber, nearly two-thirds of those who earn the minimum wage or less are women. This is coming at a time when more and more women are depended upon as the sole income earners in American families.

Right now, in cities and towns across America, there are millions of those women who are getting up at the crack of dawn for work every day who are stuck living in poverty, who cannot save for a car, much less a house. They cannot pay for school to get new skills and a new job, and they cannot even afford to provide their children with warm winter clothes or basic medical care.

Unfortunately, this also comes at a time now when we are seeing CEO salaries skyrocketing across the country, all while America's minimum wage stays flat. In 2013, the average S&P CEO earned $11.7 million. That is 21 percent more than they earned in 2009—21 percent—and 630 percent more in real value than in 1983—630 percent more.

Unbelievably, this means that the average CEO today earns more before lunchtime on his first day of work than a minimum-wage worker earns all year. That is not how it is supposed to work in America, the country where you are told if you work hard and you play by the rules, you can get ahead.

So when we talk about the minimum wage, let's be clear: Raising the minimum wage is about bringing back our middle class. I am proud that in my State we are taking the lead. In my home State of Washington, our workforce enjoys the highest minimum wage in the country. I wish to point out to our friends on the other side of the aisle, Washington State's economy has not been negatively impacted by our high minimum wage. In fact, our economy has benefited from a high minimum wage. Job growth has continued at a rate above the national average. Payrolls in our restaurants and in our bars have expanded because more people have more money in their pockets to spend out at dinner at night or on the weekend. Poverty in Washington State has trailed the national level for at least 7 years.

It is not just in Washington State that we are seeing those successes. In fact, this week the Center for Economic and Policy Research reported that of the 13 States that increased their minimum wage in early 2014, 11 of them have seen a gain in employment since then, and half of the 10 fastest growing States by employment were among this group of minimum-wage raisers.

This is just one of many reasons why I strongly support increasing the national minimum wage to $10.10. It is not going to make anyone rich, but for the 400,000 Washington residents who would be directly impacted, it would mean an average annual raise of approximately $375. That is no small amount for the over 48,000 in my State who would be lifted out of poverty with an increase in the minimum wage.

But we have to do more. In fact, today two-thirds of our families rely on income from both parents. Thanks to our outdated Tax Code, a woman who is thinking about reentering the workforce as the second earner may face higher tax rates than her husband. That is unfair and it has got to change. So last month I introduced the 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act, which would help solve that problem by giving struggling two-earner families with children a tax deduction on the second earner's income.

My hope is that tomorrow here in the Senate we can come together on behalf of the millions of Americans who, like my own mother when I was growing up, are the sole breadwinner and caregiver in their family. I hope our colleagues have gotten a sense of how $7.25 an hour translates to a grocery trip for a family of four or to shopping for school supplies or even how it impacts making the daily commute.

That is why all of us are here today, this afternoon, to give that mom or that dad a fair shot at succeeding in America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, if you live along the southeastern coast of the United States, you know the sea level is rising. We have a lot of people who would question the reason for this rise of the sea level. Some people deny there is climate change, that the Earth is warming up.

I think as we look at the science, we will clearly understand the greenhouse effect is occurring. The more we put gases into the atmosphere by human action such as carbon dioxide, the more the Sun's rays come in and reflect upon the Earth's surface and would naturally radiate out into space. The fact is, as the Earth's surface reflects the Sun's rays back out into space, which is what Mother Nature intended, keeping the delicate balance of the temperature of the Earth, what happens when we put greenhouse gases such as CO_2 into the atmosphere, a shield or blanket, the effect of a greenhouse occurs.

As they reflect back out, they are trapped—the Sun's rays, the heat from them—and it continues to warm up the Earth. Thus, we have the greenhouse effect.

One of the consequences of the greenhouse effect is that the icecaps in Greenland to the north and Antarctica to the south are melting. This causes the sea level to rise.

Another effect of the greenhouse effect is that as the Earth's temperature rises, most of the surface of the planet is covered with seawater. Therefore, the water absorbs that heat. That causes additional effects such as the intensity, the frequency, the ferocity of storms that fuel the storm surge and power from the surface water they consume.

Having said all of that, then, what are we seeing as a consequence? As I said in my opening, if you live along the southeastern coast of the United States, you know that seas are rising. The commerce committee, under the blessing of our chairman, Senator ROCKEFELLER, just held a hearing in ground zero. Ground zero is Miami Beach, FL.

One of the people to testify was a NASA scientist, a Ph.D., who happens to be a three-time shuttle astronaut. He testified in front of the committee—not predictions, not forecasts, he testified what are the actual measurements of the rise of the sea level over the course of the last half century. That rise is anywhere from 5 to 8 inches along the southeastern coast. The effects of that are being felt in southern Florida. For instance, it is now a normal occurrence at high tide that we are finding parts of Miami Beach are, in fact, flooded. The actual beach itself and the dunes are higher than some of the land as it progresses away from the ocean and the barrier island of Miami Beach becomes lower.

There is a major north-south thoroughfare called Alton Road on Miami Beach. At high tide, it is frequent that Alton Road floods. What we are expecting in seasonal high tides coming this October, just as they were last October, is we will see maybe up to a foot of water in Alton Road.

Why does this occur if it is not flooding over the dunes by the beach? Because Florida sits on a porous substrate of limestone. It is like Swiss cheese. This is why people say: Well, why do you not do what the Dutch did? The Dutch built dikes. They are under sea level; New Orleans, the same thing, dikes and canals. Under sea level. You cannot do that in Florida, because with the porous limestone supporting the earth, the land, what happens is the rise in tides causes more pressure, and it causes the saltwater to start to invade this honeycomb of limestone that supports the land of Florida and there you get saltwater intrusion.

With the rising tides and rising sea levels, that water also starts coming into the drainage systems that keep Florida dry. That is happening now in Miami Beach at high tide. We had it last time in October in the seasonal high tides. We are going to have it again in the high tides coming this October. So naturally this is going to cause a considerable extra expense since you cannot build a dike for the local government, the State government, and the Federal Government to keep people dry. I am happy to say the local governments of South Florida have all banded together and you are seeing them speak with one voice as they have, for example, not competing for a grant from the Federal Government but instead they have banded together and supported the grant application for the city of Miami which is the first ground zero, in order for Miami to try to attack its problem.

There is an economic consequence to this as well, as we had someone from the Miami-Dade convention bureau come and point out. I can sum it up as I did during the hearing: No beach, no bucks. Florida is blessed since we have more coastline than any other State save for Alaska, and we certainly have more beach than any other State. Florida is blessed with these beautiful beaches that people from all over the world want to come and enjoy.

No beach, no bucks. It is going to have a huge economic consequence, not only in the cost of government to try to hold back the water but also in lost business.

I will conclude my remarks by saying not the measurements, 5 to 8 inches. That has already been done. That has happened, 5 to 8 inches of sea level rise the last 50 years.

Now the forecast. The forecast in the scientific community—and we had one of the scientists from one of the State universities testify, along with the NASA scientist, is that it is going to be upwards of a foot within the next 20 to 30 years. By the end of this century, we are talking 2 to 3 feet.

Let me tell you what that means for the State of Florida. The State of Florida this year will surpass New York in population as the third largest State, moving on toward 20 million people, and 75 percent of that population is on the coast of Florida. The east coast, the west coast, which is the gulf coast, is 75 percent of our population. If we don't turn this back 2 to 3 feet by the end of this century, that 75 percent of our population will, in fact, be underwater.

We are trying to get insurance companies interested. We had a major reinsurer testify that although insurance policies are set—property and casualty policy premiums—in 1- to 3-year increments, over the course of time that is certainly going to change.

I conclude my remarks by complimenting the next Senator who is going to speak. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island has been our conscience. He and Senator BARBARA BOXER have been ringing the bell on this issue for months and for years in trying to get people to pay attention to what is happening.

I want Senator WHITEHOUSE to share what he has done over his Easter vacation in trying to bring attention to this subject.

At the end of the day, we have to do something about it, and that means we are going to have to be very sensitive about all the stuff that not only we, the United States of America, are putting into the air and creating that shield, that greenhouse effect, but we are going to have to get other countries that are polluting even more than we are to do the same.

Senator WHITEHOUSE, I thank you for what you have done as you share your story with us. You have done a courageous act of patriotism in bringing attention to this dramatic issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I understand the time is controlled now by the Republicans. When Senator HOEVEN arrives, I will yield the floor to him. But in the meantime, I thank Senator NELSON for his leadership in this area.

Let the record reflect that although Rhode Island may call itself the Ocean State, Florida has its fair share of coastline as well. The effects on Florida's coast are really very significant.

Because time is short and because I see Senator HOEVEN has arrived and because Senator NELSON is a modest individual who would not want to brag on himself, let me say one thing and then I will come back later and discuss my Easter southern climate tour at greater length.

The Miami Herald is a very significant newspaper in Florida, and it attended and reacted to the Commerce Committee hearing Senator NELSON led in his home State. I want to read from two short sections that opened by saying:

> For South Floridians, the topics of climate change and rising sea levels are no longer to be dismissed as tree-hugger mumbo-jumbo.
>
> Pause next time you hear that parts of Miami Beach or the intersection of A1A and Las Olas Boulevard have flooded because of . . . high tides?
>
> Let the light go off atop your head: It's science, stupid.
>
> On Tuesday, Florida Democratic U.S. Senator Bill Nelson brought illumination to Miami Beach—Ground Zero for our unique coastal battle with Mother Nature.

It concludes with these last few words:

> South Florida owes Senator Nelson its thanks for shining a bright light on this issue. Everyone from local residents to elected officials should follow his lead, turning awareness of this major environmental issue into action. It is critical to saving our region.
>
> If we don't, we'll soon have water—not sand—in our shoes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 4:45 p.m. today will be under the control of the Republicans.

The Senator from North Dakota.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. HOEVEN. I rise to discuss the Keystone XL Pipeline project. I will be joined by a number of my colleagues, whom I will thank at the beginning for joining me. They will come today with the same message that I have; that is, the Keystone XL Pipeline project, the project that has now been under review by this administration for more than 5 years—we are now in year 6. We are on the floor of the Senate asking for, quite simply, a vote to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline project. I have put legislation in on a number of occasions. In 2012 we approved a time limit for the President to make a decision. I believe that bill got on the order of 73 votes—strong bipartisan support. We attached it to the payroll tax holiday, and it said that the President had to make a decision on the Keystone XL Pipeline within 90 days. He did. He turned it down, and he turned it down on the basis of the routing in Nebraska.

So not only did the State of Nebraska go through an incredible amount of work, but the State Department and others went back to work, did a whole new environmental impact statement after Nebraska had rerouted the pipeline, which was approved by both its legislature and its Governor, and came forward with a new route and a new environmental impact statement. That was right at the beginning of 2012.

So we set a timeline for the President to make a decision. He made the decision and he turned down the

project, but we addressed the concerns he raised. They were fully addressed.

Then later we also offered a resolution of support putting the Senate on record in support of the project. That was attached to the budget resolution at the beginning of 2013. We came back the next year, and on that occasion the Senate, with 62 votes, said: Hey, we support the project. Here is a resolution in support of the project stating that it is, in fact, in the national interest and ought to be approved.

Since then the President has done nothing. Well, that is not quite right. Not only has he not made a decision now—and we are in the sixth year after four environmental impact statements, all of which said there is no significant environmental impact created by the project—not only has the President not made a decision, with Congress on record supporting the project, but, in fact, a little over 1 week ago on Good Friday, on the afternoon of Good Friday, when he figured nobody was paying any attention, the President came out and basically put out a statement and said that not only has he not made a decision but he is not going to make a decision, that on the basis of litigation he is going to postpone the decision indefinitely.

So we are in year 6, having met all of the requirements on numerous occasions on a project that will provide energy and jobs, that will help with national security by reducing our dependence on oil from the Middle East, a project that his own Department of State, after environmental impact statement after environmental impact statement, has come back and said will create no significant environmental impact, will create 42,000 jobs, and will help us get energy and not only move energy from States such as North Dakota and Montana in our country to the refineries safely but also bring in oil from Canada to our country so we don't have to import it from the Middle East.

The President says: Well, we are in year 6, but I am going to postpone this decision indefinitely.

Here we are. We have a bill I introduced some time ago. We have 27 cosponsors on the bill, both parties. What the bill does, it approves the Keystone XL Pipeline project congressionally. Instead of continuing to wait after 6 years and now the President's announcement that he is going to delay the decision indefinitely, passing this bill would approve the project congressionally.

The way that works is that under the foreign commerce clause in the Constitution, Congress has the authority to approve this project. They have that authority under Congress's ability to oversee foreign commerce, commerce with other nations. We know that because we took time to research it. We had the Congressional Research Service do the research for us, and they say this is a constitutional authority of the Congress.

We have provided that bill. The bill has been filed. As I said, we have 27 sponsors, and now it is time to vote.

We have been holding off on having a vote because the President said: You know, we are going to go through the process—or he is going to go through the process and he is going to honor the process.

The environmental—actually, the fourth and supposedly final environmental impact statement came out at the end of January. There was a 90-day comment period after that, which was to expire the first part of May. The expectation was that now that the process at that point—once the process was exhausted, the President would, in fact, render the long-awaited decision.

But, as I say, on Good Friday, a little over 1 week ago, he came out and said: No, no decision. Furthermore, he is not going to make a decision, and that delay is indefinite. So clearly the administration opposes the project and they are going to defeat it with delay. They are going to defeat it with endless delays. There is no amount of process that will ever be adequate for the administration. They will continue to delay this decision, thinking that at some point it will go away, and so they defeat the project through one delay after another. That is why it is time to vote.

In a recent poll that was released last week, 70 percent of the American people want this project approved—70 percent. That was a Rasmussen poll.

The President is trying to defeat the project through delays in order to appease special interest groups while the American people very much want this project approved. It is Congress's responsibility to take a stand. It is long past time to vote.

At this point, I am making some revisions to the legislation to update it for the final environmental impact statement. We are working to get every single Republican Member of this body on board, which I believe we will do, and as many Democratic Members as possible. We are pushing as hard as we can to get a vote. It is time for the Senate to stand, exercise its responsibility, and vote.

Now the Senate majority leader is looking at moving to energy legislation, energy efficiency legislation. That is good. Let's go there. Let's have the debate. Let's offer amendments. Let's have votes. Let's do the work of the people that this body is elected to do.

As part of that, we are going to require a vote on the Keystone XL Pipeline, a vote to approve it congressionally, and everybody can decide where they stand. But this is a project which is long overdue. It is time to vote, and it is time to vote on congressional approval. That is our message today, and that is going to continue to be our message as we work on energy legislation.

I am very pleased to have other Members who have agreed to come join this discussion. I turn to the good Senator from Kansas, the senior Senator from Kansas, somebody who has been in this body for a long time, who has seen these issues, and who understands the responsibility we have to vote on behalf of these issues, to take a stand for the American people.

I yield to the senior Senator from Kansas, a State through which this pipeline passes, and ask him does he perceive that this project is in the national interest.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Thank you, Mr. President.

I would be more than happy to respond to my good friend and colleague.

Thank you for your leadership, thank you for your bill, and thank you for your statement. There is no question that this is in the national interest—absolutely none.

I rise today to join my fellow Republican colleagues and then to extend the arm of cooperation to our friends across the aisle.

I want to express my deep disappointment in this administration's repeated delay of the final approval of the Keystone Pipeline. I hope that what the Senator has indicated will come true, that if in fact it is the wish of the majority leader to at least bring up an energy bill—and I hope he would not limit it, I hope he would allow amendments to it—then with the support we have within the Congress we could get going on something that is truly a jobs act as well as providing for the national security.

The irony should not be lost on anyone that while those on the other side continue messaging and messaging and talking about supposed government solutions to our high national unemployment rate—including emergency unemployment insurance, income inequality, minimum wage—we have a project right before us waiting for approval that would create tens of thousands of jobs and all without using one dime of taxpayer money. If you want an actual solution to unemployment, here it is: Provide eager Americans with full-time jobs making well over the national minimum wage. That is a jobs package.

Regarding the pipeline's environmental soundness, the Senator has been absolutely correct. Just last June the President indicated he would not grant final approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline if it would exacerbate carbon emissions. The good news is this, Mr. President: The State Department has already indicated that the construction of the pipeline will have no

measurable impact—none—on increasing global carbon emissions. So from an economic standpoint, it is a no-brainer, and from the scientific conclusions reached by this administration's own State Department regarding the environmental soundness of the project, it is a no-brainer.

At the end of the day, the Canadian oil sands are going to be developed. That is a fact. The real question is, Will that oil be shipped overseas? Will it be transported to the United States by rail or will it travel by pipeline? In fact, transporting oil via pipeline is the most environmentally sound way to do it.

Lastly—and this plays into the larger discussion we are having about the escalating issues with regard to the Middle East, Ukraine, and Russia reverting again to a growling bear—why not send a strong message to the rest of the world—most especially to Russia—that we are serious about energy security? At last, at last, energy security; that we will work with our friends in Canada to start challenging nationally run oil cartels as to who can supply our friends with needed energy.

While the larger energy discussion regarding situations unfolding around the world are focused mostly on LNG, Russia's influence goes well beyond natural gas. We should understand that. Just look at our own data produced by the Energy Information Administration, which shows that Russia is second only to Saudi Arabia in exports of oil.

So this is our opportunity from a national security standpoint to send an important message that the time of despotic governments wishing to wield power by controlling the flow of energy is coming to an end. Let's allow this project to be the first step in hopefully many more toward showing we are serious as a government about achieving North American energy security.

Again, this project has been reviewed, as has been noted by my distinguished friend, for over 5 years, with five environmental impact statements concluding it is safe. This project makes sense economically, environmentally, and from a national security perspective. What does not make sense is yet another treading-water non-decision, another delay beyond the fall elections. With regard to our national energy policy, it is long overdue for the United States to lead by leading.

Mr. President, approve the pipeline.

To the majority leader: Let us have an amendment—if, in fact, we do go on to consider energy legislation this work period—that will be in the best interest of every State in the Union, every American, for our national security, and our overall energy policy.

I thank my colleague again for his leadership. I really appreciate it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. I wish to thank the distinguished Senator from Kansas for his words today and for his support of this important project.

I would also like to turn to the distinguished Senator from Iowa, somebody who truly believes we should have an ''all of the above'' energy approach but one that means actually doing—not only producing from our traditional sources of fossil fuels but also our renewable sources. He is someone who also understands that if we are truly going to have an ''all of the above'' energy plan in this country and do it, not just talk about it, we need the infrastructure to make it happen.

So I turn to the good Senator from Iowa and ask him: Isn't this the vital infrastructure this country needs in order to truly have an ''all of the above'' energy plan that works?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. It is a jobs bill, it is an energy bill, it is a national security issue, and it sends the message around the world that we are not going to be dependent upon the rest of the world for our energy. It is all those things and probably a lot more, and I thank the Senator from North Dakota for putting this afternoon together and also, over a long period of time, being a spokesman for the Keystone XL Pipeline not only here in the Senate, but I have seen the Senator on Sunday news shows speaking to the entire Nation about the value of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

I think today we are saying enough is enough. We are saying it is time to end the unjustified and—now we know—the political delay of the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. I am glad so many of my colleagues are coming to the floor today to call for the approval of this project.

The TransCanada Corporation applied for a Presidential permit from the U.S. Department of State to construct and operate the Keystone XL Pipeline way back in September of 2008. Yet here we are still talking about it. For nearly 6 years this administration has been sitting on the application. Time and time again the State Department, which has the responsibility to review, reviewed the environmental impacts of the pipeline, and once again, time and time again, they found that the pipeline will have no significant impact on the environment.

In 2011 Secretary Clinton said a decision would come before the end of 2011. In March 2013, when President Obama was invited to come and talk to Senate Republicans in our caucus—and he was told he could talk about anything he wanted to talk about—one of the topics that came up was that a decision would be made on this pipeline before the end of 2013. He said that 13 months ago, yet still no decision.

As has been stated by my colleagues, on Good Friday afternoon of this year, the State Department announced an indefinite delay in the comment period on the pipeline project. So it appears unlikely that President Obama will make a decision at any time in the near future, if ever.

This indefinite delay is mind-boggling considering all the advantages of this pipeline. Granting the permit for the pipeline will create thousands of jobs directly and indirectly. It will provide more than 800,000 barrels of Canadian oil daily from a friendly economic partner.

Rejection of the pipeline permit will not affect Canada's decision to develop these oil resources because they are smarter than we are. They have made a national decision that they are going to harvest their energy resources, whereas we are playing around as to whether we ought to do that. As we play around, we tend to be more dependent upon foreign sources. So the Keystone Pipeline is clearly in the national interest of the United States. Yet President Obama is unwilling and unable—or maybe I should say ''or unable''—to make a decision.

Just think of the economy today and what this could do to improve the economy, particularly with regard to the unemployment factor in our economy, currently at 6.7 percent. That means 10 million jobs that are not available for Americans. That number is the unemployed. The labor force participation rate remains near a 35-year low, at 63.2 percent. If the labor force participation rate were the same as when President Obama took office, the unemployment rate would be 10.3 percent instead of 6.7 percent. With these deplorable unemployment numbers, one would think the President would be very anxious to get as many people employed as he could.

The President and the Senate majority here, which happens to be 55 Democrats, should be doing everything they can to grow the economy and create jobs. This would be something that could be bipartisan. In fact, we have already had bipartisan votes on this subject. Yet the Senate Democratic leadership continues to block Senate action to approve the permit. Instead, they are proposing ideas that would actually cost jobs rather than create jobs at a time of 6.7 percent unemployment. For example, later this week we in the Senate will vote on a proposal to increase the minimum wage. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office concluded that this proposal will cost 500,000 jobs and perhaps as many as 1 million jobs. That is not the Republican Party making that statement; that is the professional people of the Congressional Budget Office.

It should be noted that while a higher minimum wage will benefit those low-wage workers who remain employed, it will also push the least skilled, most disadvantaged, and most

vulnerable workers out of employment. We should be doing everything to increase employment, not having more people laid off.

We have the health care reform bill—another great example. The Congressional Budget Office estimated earlier this year that the health care reform bill will result in 2½ million fewer workers in our workforce by 2025.

President Obama has also proposed another $1.8 trillion in new taxes in his latest budget proposal. Higher taxes stifle economic growth and cost jobs.

The policies being advocated by the majority party and by the President limit opportunities for working families, reduce economic growth, and prevent the economy from achieving its full potential.

Obviously, getting back to the Keystone Pipeline, the decision to grant the permit for that pipeline is no longer being considered based on policy but based on politics. That is too bad for America's energy consumers and thousands of job seekers who would benefit.

I don't happen to come from the oil patches of Texas, Oklahoma, or North Dakota. There are no oil or gas producers in my State. But I do support an energy policy that is truly ''all of the above.'' I represent farmers and consumers who want access to affordable, reliable energy. I represent Iowans who would rather get their energy from a friend and ally such as Canada rather than Venezuela or unstable parts of the Middle East, where they will take our money and probably use it to train people who want to kill Americans. I represent Iowans who actually know that this oil will be developed regardless of this pipeline, and they know it is just a question of whether it will come to the United States or end up in China.

I represent Iowans who understand the economic and national security impact of this pipeline. They want to see the government get out of the way of this shovel-ready, private-sector infrastructure project.

How many times were we promised in the stimulus bill that we were going to create X number of jobs that were shovel ready? Most of that $800 billion went to public employment, not to shovel-ready jobs. The President even admitted that.

This pipeline is shovel ready. It is time to end the political delay and approve this pipeline.

I yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Iowa, who has made the case so well, and I look to his experience on energy issues and ag issues and his understanding of what it takes to truly have an all-of-the-above energy policy. As he said so well, it is not only needed infrastructure but it is jobs.

Here we are, talking about getting the economy going and getting people back to work. This doesn't cost one penny of Federal spending, and it puts people to work and creates hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue to help reduce our deficit and our debt.

So we are talking about putting people back to work, we are talking about energy for this country, we are talking about revenues to reduce the debt, and the administration refuses to make a decision. It is almost beyond belief.

I turn next to the Senator from Alabama, the ranking member on the Budget Committee. He speaks eloquently and often on the need to balance our budget, on the need to reduce the deficit and the debt and to get our spending under control.

So here we have a project that, without spending one penny, will generate hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues to help reduce the deficit and debt while we put people to work.

Those statistics are provided by this administration's State Department. Those aren't our statistics. Those statistics come out of the environmental impact statement put together by the State Department of this administration.

So I turn to the Senator from Alabama, somebody who has led on the need to get this economy going, to create good, quality jobs and to reduce the deficit and debt. I ask the good the Senator from Alabama: Won't this project help do all of those things?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank Senator HOEVEN.

The Senator is exactly right; it will do all of those things. It is a step in the right direction in every area.

I appreciate my leader on the Judiciary Committee and ranking member, Senator GRASSLEY. I would ask a rather simple question of Senator GRASSLEY which ought not to be forgotten in this process. If a pipeline is built and an additional source of gasoline is brought into the Midwest or other areas, if it is not cheaper than the gas that is already being supplied, isn't it true that nobody will buy it?

So won't this mean an opportunity for people in the whole country to be able to have another source of fuel which would be less costly and help bring down costs?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am glad to yield.

I think that is very basic economics: Increase supply and reduce price.

The other matter is it makes us more energy independent. We spend hundreds of millions of dollars every day to import oil. There is no sense doing that when we can get it right here in North America.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Senator.

I thank Senator HOEVEN for his steadfast, consistent, principled leadership on this important issue. He has been there consistently. I don't think there is any Senator in this body who understands the details of this issue more than he does. It is just a positive thing for America. It just is, and I thank the Senator for his efforts.

We have been reviewing this for 5 years. Legally, as I see this situation, it is this: There is no Federal law at this time dealing with this issue. Presidents have issued Executive orders that created a mechanism to allow the State Department to review a request for a pipeline like Keystone XL. But clearly there is no doubt that Congress has every right to legislate on this issue. Just because we haven't yet, that doesn't mean we never will or never should, and I strongly believe that with the failed leadership of President Obama on this question, we are going to have to pass legislation. It is just that critical.

The Secretary of State has essentially asserted that under these Executive orders the State Department must evaluate the environmental issue. They have dealt with that, and they have satisfied that environmental process. There is the question left of the national interest.

So if we don't have a serious environmental issue—which I don't think we do, and pretty clearly we don't—then the question is: What is in the national interest?

Senator HOEVEN represents a state on the border with Canada, and we have good relations with Canada.

First, I don't think there is any nation in the world with which we need to maintain and enhance our relationship more than with our good partner, Canada.

Second, let me ask the Senator this. The Senator is close to Canada. He knows the situation. If this pipeline is not approved, will it weaken and harm our relationship with our good neighbor, Canada, or will it make it better?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, Prime Minister Harper of Canada has said on a number of occasions how important this project is to Canada. The Ambassador of Canada to the United States is Gary Doer, somebody who was formerly the Premier of Manitoba and somebody I worked with when I was Governor of North Dakota. We worked together for about a decade on all kinds of issues. As the Senator said, Canada is our closest friend and ally, and they are a huge energy producer. And we are producing more energy.

So here is a project which is incredibly important to Canada. It is an opportunity for us to get more energy, both energy that we are producing and energy from Canada, rather than from the Middle East—something the American people very much want. If we don't approve it, what are we saying to

our closest friend and ally, when they have said very clearly and repeatedly, this project is very, very important to them?

To add irony to that indignity, they will still produce the oil, but they will be forced to send it to China. So we will import oil from the Middle East and force our closest friend and ally to export their oil to China, creating more greenhouse gas emissions, not less? That is what happens if we don't approve the project.

If the President refuses to do it, then we have the responsibility to step up and do it. Yes, the Senator is 100 percent right that it is not only a project that our people very much want approved but it is also something the people of Canada and the Government of Canada very much want approved. So the Senator is right.

I would yield the floor back to the good Senator from Alabama and encourage him to bring in our esteemed colleagues from South Dakota and South Carolina as well into this important discussion.

Mr. SESSIONS. The Senator is so correct. In my time here in the Senate, this is one of the most inexplicable actions by a President I have ever seen. He has persisted in this after months and years have gone by and when the facts continue to come forward that justify this pipeline—for jobs in America, for lower energy costs in America, for importing oil from our ally Canada, where the people buy a great deal from us. Any wealth that goes to Canada, we can be sure a lot of that will come back to the United States because they purchase a great deal from us. But does Venezuela or Saudi Arabia or other countries that we buy oil from buy a lot from us? No.

So this is a partnership and relationship which benefits both parties. I just am astounded that it has not been approved to date.

The Washington Post editorial board wrote last week that the President's decision to delay the Keystone Pipeline was ''absurd.'' This is an independent, liberal-leaning newspaper that cares about the environment. So it seems the President is clearly acquiescing in favor of special interests.

Senator THUNE is familiar with Mr. Tom Steyer, who a recent Associated Press article characterized as ''a former hedge fund manager and environmentalist, who says he will spend $100 million—$50 million of his own money and $50 million from other donors''—to defeat Republicans to promote environmental issues. He asked for some things if he is going to put up $100 million.

I am not happy about it. I believe the interests of the people of this country have been subordinated to either an extreme environmentalist agenda or to plain money. There is no other rational basis for the position we find ourselves in. It is really tragic.

We need jobs in this country. We have the fewest percentage of people working in America today in the working age group since 1975. Median income has dropped over $2,000 to $26,000. We are not doing well. These are high-paying jobs. It keeps growth and creativity here in the United States and in North America through our partner, Canada.

I am grateful to see others who are so interested in this issue. I feel really strongly we should move forward with this. It is the right thing to do. It is not politics. It is the right thing.

A lot of Democratic members favor this pipeline. Union groups, who tend to be Democrats, favor this pipeline. It is not a Republican-Democratic issue. This is an extremist issue against a commonsense issue. Sixty-two Senators voted for a budget amendment last year during the Senate budget debate that was supportive of the Keystone pipeline.

My good staffer Jeff Wood found a Charles Dickens quote about the fictional ''Circumlocution Office,'' of which Dickens wrote:

> Whatever was required to be done, the Circumlocution Office was beforehand with all the public departments in the art of perceiving—how not to do it. . . . [W]ith projects for the general welfare . . . , which in slow lapse of time and agony had passed safely through other public departments . . . got referred at last to the Circumlocution Office, and never reappeared in the light of day. Boards sat upon them, secretaries minuted upon them, commissioners gabbled about them, clerks registered, entered, checked, and ticked them off, and they melted away. In short, all the business of the country went through the Circumlocution Office, except the business that never came out of it . . .
>
> (Chapter 10 of Charles Dickens' ''Little Dorrit,'' 1855).

In my opinion, this bill would create thousands of good jobs if it is passed and this pipeline is built. It would strengthen, not weaken, our relationship with Canada. It would bring a new flow of oil into the United States and the Midwest which will provide competition and which would reduce costs. It would be a competitive source of energy for America.

Canada is a good trading partner. They buy a lot from us. The oil will be sold somewhere else if it is not sold in the United States.

By the way, pipelines are everywhere in this country. In my State of Alabama, pipelines crisscross the State. We don't have any problems with this. The idea that we can't build another pipeline in this country is about as ludicrous as one can imagine.

So I thank Senator HOEVEN for the great leadership he has provided. I appreciate the opportunity to join with him. It is the right thing for the people of this country, and we need to get this done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. I would like to thank the distinguished Senator from Alabama not only for his outstanding argument but for his passion as somebody who truly cares about getting this economy going.

I would turn to the distinguished Senator from South Dakota and also to the distinguished Senator from Texas, and I would like to ask that they both engage in this discussion, starting with the good Senator from South Dakota.

In South Dakota they understand how to create a good business climate. They have no income tax. They have a strong economy because they understand what it takes to create a good environment so that businesses will invest and grow and create jobs. I would like to ask the Senator how this relates to the discussion of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

To the distinguished senior Senator from Texas—clearly Texas knows energy production—I would ask for his thoughts in terms of how important this infrastructure is for energy development and production in our State.

First, I would like to turn to the Senator from South Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Let me just say to my colleague from North Dakota that we would like to have more North Dakota energy in South Dakota, of course, and have the direct benefit of that, but we focus in our State on jobs, and that is what this is all about—jobs, jobs, jobs.

The President's own State Department says that this project would support 42,000 jobs—16,100 direct jobs including construction, and another 26,000 jobs that would be from indirect spending. That is not us. That is not the Senator from North Dakota, the Senator from Texas, the Senator from Oklahoma or the Senator from Missouri on this side saying it would create jobs. That is the President's own State Department saying it would create jobs and $2 billion in earnings—a $3.4 billion contribution to the U.S. economy. When you think about the States that are impacted—the State of North Dakota directly and my State of South Dakota would be traversed by the pipeline—we have a lot of local and State governments that would benefit from this.

They say in the first year of operations it would generate $55.6 million of tax revenue, $17.9 million in my State of South Dakota. When you talk about what that can do in terms of infrastructure, what it can do in terms of providing revenue to build schools, public services, those sorts of things, it takes the pressure off the local property tax owners, area ranchers, homeowners, and businesses. That is another impact.

I would also say to my colleagues on the floor that it would strengthen our energy security. Some 830,000 barrels a

day would come through that pipeline. That is half of what we import from the Middle East and about the total of what we import on a daily basis from Venezuela. So if you look at how much we can ship from that pipeline and how much that lessens the dependence we have on areas of the world that are much less favorable to the United States than is our neighbor of Canada, that is a very real consideration in this debate.

Finally, I would say to my colleague, the Senator from North Dakota—and I thank him for his leadership on this issue—that the time to act is now. This has been studied and scrutinized and reviewed more than any project in history—8½ years, 2,048 days as of Tuesday, today, April 29. Five environmental reviews all concluded the pipeline would not have a significant impact on the environment. Just when you thought the process couldn't be dragged out any longer, this administration once again decided to block construction of this project and delay the national interest determination process.

Sean McGarvey, President of North America's Building Trades Union, called this latest move:

. . . a cold, hard slap in the face for hard working Americans who are literally waiting for President Obama's approval and the tens of thousands of jobs it will generate.

That comes from a labor union leader in this country. The unions want this, businesses in this country want it, and the American people want it by overwhelming margins. The only people who don't want it are some of the President's political supporters who, as the Senator from Alabama has pointed out, are extending hundreds, hundreds of millions of dollars, tens of millions of dollars, $400 million, as the Senator from Alabama pointed out. That is what is holding this up.

It is an offense to the American people to have a project like this that can do so much in terms of job creation and lessening our dependence upon foreign sources of energy and helping millions of Americans who are looking for work and simply being held up by the President of the United States. I hope the Senate Democrats and Republicans would come together to pass legislation that supports this pipeline's being built, whether the President agrees to it or not.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I would like to thank the distinguished Senator from South Dakota and turn to our colleague from the State of Oklahoma, certainly a State that understands energy production and understands how vital this pipeline infrastructure is. So with the indulgence of the Senator from Texas, I would ask to return to the Senator from Oklahoma.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. I appreciate the Senator from Texas yielding at this time.

Every time I hear people talking about the jobs at stake here I think about my State of Oklahoma, which probably has more jobs at stake than any other state because Cushing, OK, is the crossroads of the pipeline now throughout America.

Looking at this chart, just over 2 years ago President Obama came to Cushing to give a speech on national TV with all the pipeline in the background. You can see these tubes over there. He talked about how this is a major breakthrough and that we are going to ''. . . cut through the red tape, break through bureaucratic hurdles and make this project a priority, to go ahead and get it done.''

Yet he has done nothing but obstruct this since that time. The southern leg of the pipeline may be finished, but that was part of the project that the President didn't have any say in. The President could do something when you cross international lines, but he could not do it from that point south. The portion between Canada and Cushing is completely stalled because the President has delayed making a decision, as has been said, for 5 years now.

To me the Keystone XL Pipeline is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the way President Obama thinks about the oil and natural gas industry. Today we heard great speeches from many of my colleagues, and they are highlighting the great impact of the Keystone Pipeline's construction and what it would mean to the economy. We know that it would directly create 42,000 jobs and 10,000 more would be supported by the overall manufacturing materials and processes that are required to complete the project, but the real impact on the President's failure to act on Keystone can be seen in this chart.

This chart shows the potential around this country. These are federal lands. If we were able to develop these federal lands, what all would be involved here? You know, it is incredible that we have a President who talks about being friendly to oil and gas and denies the war against fossil fuels. While we have had an increase in production on State and private land of some 40 percent, on the Federal land we have had a decrease in production of 16 percent. I don't know how that is even possible, but the midstream infrastructure and the pipelines in particular are one of the most important things we need to fully develop in these resources. We need to be able to move oil and gas from areas where it has been developed to areas where it is refined, processed, and consumed. The need for infrastructure expansion is astounding.

ICF International is a consulting firm, and I think their credibility has been established. They released a report last week that says U.S. companies will need to invest $641 billion over the next 20 years in infrastructure to keep up with the growing oil and gas production. That is just what they know about that right now. If you add to that what would happen if they were able to open all of this and end the war on fossil fuels, look at the potential we would have in this country.

The increase in oil and gas production we have seen in recent years has occurred solely on State and private lands. There are many things President Obama could do to make the numbers far higher. In fact, we could have total energy independence in a matter of months, not a matter of years, if the President were to lift his ban on federal lands.

So the President has continued his war on fossil fuels. The President's efforts have been intently focused on hurting the production of oil and gas resources—be it through stall tactics or efforts to establish complex and confusing regulations on the hydraulic fracturing process. Every way we turn we see President Obama trying to put the oil and gas industry out of business.

The Keystone XL Pipeline is the bellwether of energy policy today. It is a simple decision. I know many of my colleagues have talked about it and have had the information, as the leader of our group has here today, on what we could be doing in this country. Yet there is some kind of assumption that if we don't complete the pipeline, they will stop the process up in Alberta, Canada. They are going to continue, but it is going to be China and other countries that are going to benefit from it. So I applaud the Senator for the great work he is doing. We have to let the American people know of the potential we have right here in this country and develop that potential. I thank the Senator from Texas for yielding.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I would like to thank the Senator from Oklahoma for his work on this important issue, and I turn to the Senator from Texas, a State that produces more oil and gas than any other State in the Union, and ask for his thoughts and support.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I appreciate the leadership from the Senator from North Dakota. He has been a champion of this important program that enjoys the support of huge bipartisan majorities all across the country because they understand the importance of energy security. They understand the importance of getting this energy from a friendly country such as Canada. They understand the jobs that go along with it. They understand the need for hard-working American families to have affordable energy, whether it is gasoline, heating fuel or the like. So this makes sense on so many different levels, but I have to say that

really the biggest obstacle is the Federal Government itself.

Not approving this pipeline makes exactly zero sense. I know some people are put off a little bit—I would say to the Senator from North Dakota—by the idea of a new pipeline as if this is some novel creation. But just as an exercise in my own personal edification, I happened to Google—or maybe it was Bing or some other search engine—''oil and gas pipelines'' on the Internet, and I was astonished at the huge complex interplay of oil and gas pipelines all across the United States of America. Most Americans aren't even aware they exist because they safely operate, and they move this oil and gas around the country in a way that benefits our economy and creates jobs and helps us put people back to work which is the most important thing we can do.

So we know for the last 5 years, since the great recession, we have had an economy characterized by stubbornly slow economic growth and persistently high unemployment. We have the smallest percentage of people actually participating in the workforce since World War II. We have seen a decline in median household incomes, so average hard-working families have seen their income go down, and we have seen this nagging sense of uncertainty about the future, not just because of the economy but because of the obstacles the Federal Government puts in its way.

I would ask the Senator from North Dakota—I know that North Dakota has had some experience here—by not building this pipeline, what are the other ways that this oil is being transported, and what is the risk and benefit associated with that? People may think this is sort of an either/or—you either have the oil flow or not. But the truth is there are other alternatives, but they are not necessarily in the public interest or as safe as this pipeline might be.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. To respond to the Senator from Texas, of course, by not having a median pipeline infrastructure we are forced to move oil by other means and that means primarily railcars, and it is overburdening our rail system. As you have seen, we have had accidents, and it is just the overburdening of the current capacity of our rail system.

For example, in North Dakota we produce a million barrels of oil a day. Over 700,000 now has to move by rail car because we don't have adequate pipelines. So this is not just about bringing oil from Canada to the United States. It is also about moving oil from States such as Montana and North Dakota to refineries in the most efficient and safest way possible. For example, the Keystone XL Pipeline on the day it opens will take 500 trucks a day off some of our roads in the western part of our State. So it is clearly a safety issue. The State Department says if this pipeline isn't built, to move that amount of oil you would have to move 1,400 railcars a day. That is 14 unit trains of 100 railcars a day. Clearly, we don't have that rail capacity. Clearly we don't have that rail capacity, so we need this vital infrastructure. We can't develop the energy in this country and work with Canada to truly become energy independent without vital infrastructure, which this project represents.

Mr. CORNYN. I know there are other Senators who wish to speak, and I will conclude on this point. It is with some sense of appreciation that I note the two lowest unemployment rate cities and regions in the country are, I believe, Bismarck, ND, and Midland-Odessa, the Permian Basin in Texas. Not coincidentally, those are the sites of some of the shale gas and the oil and gas production we are seeing that is thanks to modern drilling techniques and innovative practices that produce this American renaissance in energy, for which we should be enormously grateful.

This is the way to get our economy back on track. This is the way to extract ourselves from dangerous parts of the world and unreliable sources of energy. And this is the way to get Americans back to work.

I thank the Senator for his leadership, and I am happy to participate in this colloquy. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I wish to thank the esteemed Senator from Texas.

I wish to turn to the distinguished Senator from Missouri for his thoughts on the importance of this project and the need for our country to become energy independent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I thank my friend for leading this colloquy. I think the Senator from South Carolina, Mr. SCOTT, is going to speak for a few minutes before I do, and then I will be glad to enter into this discussion. It is an important topic. Nobody has been a greater leader on this than my friend from North Dakota, and I thank him for organizing this colloquy, as many of us wish to come to the floor today to speak on this critical issue.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I turn to the Senator from South Carolina and I welcome his comments on this important topic.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SCOTT. I thank the Senator from North Dakota for his strong leadership on that which is obvious to most of us, which is the need to move forward on the Keystone Pipeline.

I was a businessman before I arrived here in Congress and I will tell my colleagues that our goal in business was to do the right thing. As a Senator, I wish to do the right thing for all of the American people. Thanks to the strong leadership of Senator HOEVEN, we have an opportunity to do just that. Yet this administration continues to ignore policies that would help hard-working, hard-hit American families.

I think back several years ago when I was growing up in a single-parent household, and I think about the very difficult choices my mom had to make between food and gas and energy consumption. What a horrible position to put any American family in. Yet every single day we delay a decision on the pipeline, we say to struggling families: Not now, not here, but maybe later. That is not the right message to send on the broader topic of this energy economy.

The fact is, if we factor in incomes under $30,000, 25 percent of that income goes toward energy consumption. What a difficult position to find a single parent in, struggling to make ends meet. Yet we have an opportunity not only to address that issue in the broader topic of the energy conversation but to specifically address the issue faced by millions and millions of Americans, and that is the issue of unemployment.

The pipeline is not an issue of politics, it is an issue of the American people. The fact is that over 42,000 jobs would be created and we would pump billions of dollars into the Nation's economy. Yet the administration simply says—after 5½ years, after several studies—we should wait a little longer, as if we have not waited long enough, with those 42,000 American families who could be positively impacted by going back to work. How long should we wait to see this administration do the right thing?

I support this proposal. I support the legislation. I support congressional action to move this administration into a position where 61 percent of the American people already find themselves. They are already saying, Let's move forward on the pipeline. They are ready to see action on constructing the pipeline because they understand that if we can't solve this simple issue, where there is already bipartisan support, how do we address the deeper challenges in the energy economy?

I don't often find myself in the position to quote from members or even presidents of labor unions. I have to gulp when I make my next statement, because it is so rare, so foreign to me. But I will say that Terry O'Sullivan, general president of the Laborers' International Union of North America, got it right when he said, ''This is once again politics at its worst.''

Here we see an amazing collaboration between labor unions, Democratic Senators, Republican Senators, and conservative groups, all coming together, asking—even begging—the President to

do the right thing. I don't know exactly what it will take to get the President to do what he said during a lunch meeting with all of the Republican Senators when he said, Do you know what we should do? By the end of 2013, we should find ourselves with a decision coming out of his office, his administration. Yet this is 2014. It reminds me a little bit of ObamaCare; they continue to move the deadlines.

We need action for the American people and we need action for the American people right now.

Let me close, Mr. President by thinking through where we are today on such a simple decision. I believe 62 Senators in this body during the budget resolution debate supported moving forward on the Keystone Pipeline; is that correct?

Mr. HOEVEN. That is correct.

Mr. SCOTT. I believe we have had a number of votes over the last 2 years where many Senators have said, have voted, and have written letters asking for action on this pipeline. I think that is correct. Yet if we can't solve a bipartisan issue on the pipeline today, how do we start solving the broader issues regarding energy, including offshore energy production? How do we get ourselves into a position, I say to the Senator from Alaska, where we could have a conversation about offshore production? My State could see 7,500 new jobs and $2.2 billion annually added to our economy, and $87.5 million of new revenue generated for my State. But we can't solve the simple, bipartisan-supported effort of the Keystone Pipeline.

I thank Senator HOEVEN for his strong leadership and I hope we will find it possible to move this legislation forward quickly, and let's get it done.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. I wish to thank the Senator from South Carolina for putting this issue in very human terms, including what it means for people in this country who want a job. I thank him for his passion on this important issue.

I turn now to the Senator from Missouri for his input on this important issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the Senator from South Carolina for pointing out that bad Economic Policies have the most impact on the most vulnerable among us, including the number he gave of the percentage of income of families who have less than $30,000 of income a year, how much of that already goes to energy.

The administration says they are for an all-of-the-above energy policy. That appears to be an all-of-the-above energy policy unless we know it works and unless we know it is available and unless we know we could get it, in this case, from a friendly source. Somehow, they are not for that. They are for ''all of the above'' until we really look at what is there and what we know works and what makes our current energy needs met in the best way.

The pipeline is an example of a solution that would decrease our country's dependence on nations we can't rely on quite as heavily. It increases our trading relationship with our very best trading partner. That oil is going to be sold to somebody and a pipeline will be built. The question is, Is the pipeline built to connect to the most logical customer and the best trading partner and come south or does the pipeline go to the west and the oil goes to Asia? This is not about whether the oil comes out of the ground. It is not about whether a pipeline gets built. It is about whether we do that which makes the most sense.

On April 18, the State Department, by the direction of the President, once again, said we are going to wait a little while longer. How many deadlines do we have to blow by? I think it is interesting that in the last couple of months when people have left the administration—when the Secretary of the Interior leaves and is asked about the pipeline, he says, Oh, of course we should build the pipeline. When the Secretary of Energy leaves and is asked about the pipeline, he says, Oh, of course we should build the pipeline. Everybody knows that the logical, commonsense thing to do is to build this pipeline and let us benefit from this energy. It has become an example of a commonsense decision versus regulators out of control—regulators who don't want us to use the resources we have or the resources that are right next to us.

The national security implications of Canadian oil are pretty great and pretty obvious for everybody to figure out. The economic security implications of doing business with somebody who does business with us—every time we send the Canadians a dollar, for decades, they have sent us back at least 90 cents. Every time we involve ourselves in that trade and strengthen their economy, they turn right back around and strengthen our economy. Why wouldn't we want to do that?

Just the cost alone of building the pipeline, talk about a shovel-ready project: 20,000 jobs, not a single taxpayer dollar involved. In fact, the company immediately starts paying taxes to State and local government as that pipeline is extended through communities and almost all of our States. Another 830,000 barrels of oil a day. Roughly 6 percent of all of our daily imports come from this one new source. But, as others have pointed out, that pipeline then becomes available for other objectives as well. A bipartisan determination on this floor has shown that we should obviously build this pipeline.

We constantly talk about private sector job creation. Believe me, it is not just building and producing more American energy that are the jobs created, it is the jobs created when we have a utility bill we can rely on and a delivery system we can count on. People will make things in the United States again. The right kind of American energy policy becomes immediately the right kind of American manufacturing policy.

The pipeline has almost become the tip of the iceberg that everybody has their eye on, but it is an example of the problem that we refuse to do things that will make our economy stronger, make our families stronger, and create jobs in America that have better takehome pay than the jobs that people have seen in the last 5 years. The takehome pay for American families has gone down and down and down in every one of those years when we look at the surveys.

This is a fight worth having. Again, nobody has been more dedicated to that effort than the Senator from North Dakota who understands what a difference energy can make in the State. He saw that happen as Governor. We have seen that happen in the State he lives in. The right kind of American energy policy can provide so many of those exact same benefits for the United States of America. This is one of the easy examples to talk about, out of a volume of examples of the administration clearly headed on a path that makes no sense when we really look at the national security impact, the economic impact, or, most importantly, the impact on American families.

I again thank the Senator for leading this fight.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the Senator from Missouri and turn to our ranking member on the Energy Committee, the Senator from Alaska, who deals with energy issues every day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I wish to thank my colleague from North Dakota. I have had an opportunity to go to North Dakota and see firsthand how, in Senator HOEVEN's State, they are embracing this energy renaissance we are seeing in this country—a renaissance that is truly allowing us to move forward with jobs and economic opportunity not only for the good of this country but really for the good of so many others.

When we are talking about our neighbors to the north in Canada—or if one is from Alaska our neighbors to the east—there is a recognition that the United States and Canada are really joined at the well, if you will. That is a term I have used quite frequently.

But when it comes to energy issues, there are 17 operating oil pipelines between the United States and Canada.

There are another 30 electric transmission lines. There are 29 natural gas pipelines. This is all energy infrastructure that crosses the border with Canada—whether it is into Montana, Washington, North Dakota, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, Idaho, Maine.

You have to wonder—you have to wonder—are not these all in the national interest? What is so unique, what is so compelling about this Keystone XL Pipeline that it is not only taking the 5 years of study that has already been done but is now on indefinite hold for yet further study?

So it causes one to kind of go back in time. Let's look at some of the pipelines that have been already determined as being in the national interest.

Back in August of 2009, the Department of State signed off on Enbridge Energy's Alberta Clipper Pipeline. When you look at what they did in signing off on that, it is exactly what we are talking about here with the Keystone XL. It said—and this is coming from the national interest determination on the Alberta Clipper. I ask unanimous consent to have that application printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

7.0 DECISION AND BASIS FOR DECISION

The Deputy Secretary of State has determined that a Presidential Permit will be issued to Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership to construct, connect, operate, and maintain facilities at the border for the transport of crude oil between the United States and Canada across the international boundary, as described in the Application for a Presidential Permit dated May 15, 2007 and as further amended by the subsequent filings of Enbridge with the DOS and by information incorporated into the Final EIS issued June 5, 2009. The Deputy Secretary also finds that:

Construction and Operation of the Alberta Clipper Project Serves the National Interest—The addition of crude oil pipeline capacity between the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin (WCSB) and the United States serves the strategic interests of the United States for the following reasons:

It increases the diversity of available supplies among the United States' worldwide crude oil sources in a time of considerable political tension in other major oil producing countries and regions. Increased output from the WCSB can be utilized by a growing number of refineries in the United States that have access and means of transport for these increased supplies.

It shortens the transportation pathway for a sizeable portion of United States crude oil imports. Crude oil supplies in Western Canada represent the largest and closest foreign supply source to domestic refineries that do not require, in contrast to other suppliers, many days or weeks of marine transportation.

It increases crude oil supplies from a major non-Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries producer which is a stable and reliable ally and trading partner of the United States, with which we have free trade agreements which augment the security of this energy supply.

Moreover, the United States and Canada, through bilateral diplomacy and a Clean Energy Dialogue process that is now underway, are working across our respective energy sectors to cooperate on best practices and technology, including carbon sequestration and storage, so as to lower the overall environmental footprint of our energy sectors. The Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have also set greenhouse gas reduction targets and implementation programs to help them achieve them.

Approval of this permit will also send a positive economic signal, in a difficult economic period, about the future reliability and availability of a portion of United State's energy imports, and in the immediate term, will provide construction jobs.

It provides additional supplies of crude oil to make up for the continued decline in imports from several other major U.S. suppliers.

Construction and Operation of the Alberta Clipper Project Meets Environmental Protection Policies—The DOS concludes that the proposed Alberta Clipper Project, if designed, constructed, and operated in accordance with the Project Description in Section 2.0 of the FEIS, as amended by additional approaches and mitigation measures agreed to by Enbridge as a result of the DOS environmental analyses and as further amended by specific permit conditions contained in the permit and those to be assigned by the state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over aspects of the project along the pipeline corridor, would result in limited adverse environmental impacts.

Concerns have been raised about higher-than-average levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with oil sands crude. The Department has considered these concerns, and considers that they are best addressed in the context of the overall set of domestic policies that Canada and the United States will take to address their respective greenhouse gas emissions. The United States will continue to reduce reliance on oil through conservation and energy efficiency measures, such as recently increased Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, as well as through the pursuit of comprehensive climate legislation and an ambitious global agreement on climate change that includes substantial emission reductions for both the United States and Canada. The Department, on behalf of the Administration, will urge ambitious action by Canada, and will cooperate with the Canadian government through the U.S.-Canada Clean Energy Dialogue and other processes to promote the deployment of technologies that reduce our respective GHG emissions.

The Scope of the Permit Issued to Enbridge shall extend only up to and including the first mainline shut-off valve or pumping station in the United States. Executive Order 11423, initially delegating the President's authority to the DOS, specifically notes that ''the proper conduct of the foreign relations of the United States requires that Executive permission be obtained for the construction and maintenance at the borders of the United States of facilities connecting the United States with a foreign country.'' Similarly, Section I of Executive Order 13337, further delegating the President's authority, states that DOS has authority for issuance of Presidential permits for the ''construction, connection, operation, and maintenance at the borders of the United States of facilities . . . to or from a foreign country.'' Hence, in reviewing an application for a Presidential permit, the DOS, takes into account the impact the proposed cross-border facility (i.e., pipeline, bridge, road, etc.) will have upon U.S. relations with the country in question, whether Canada or Mexico, and also on the impact it will have on U.S. foreign relations generally. While the DOS also takes into account the various environmental and other domestic issues mentioned above, DOS does not have, and has never had, authority over facilities, including pipeline, bridges, roads, etc., located entirely within the United States that do not cross the international border with either Canada or Mexico. For these reasons, the Department does not believe that the scope of the permit it issues in this case should extend any further than necessary to protect that foreign relations interest. The permits the DOS issues under Executive Orders 11423 and 13337 routinely include provisions permitting DOS to take possession of the facilities at the border for national security reasons or to direct the permittee to remove the facilities in the immediate vicinity of the international border if so directed by the DOS. Since that is the case, the DOS has concluded that a limitation of the scope of the permit in this case to those pipeline facilities within the United States up to and including the first mainline shut-off valve or pumping station would adequately protect the DOS' foreign relations interest in implementing Executive Orders 11423 and 13337.

8.0 NATIONAL INTEREST DETERMINATION

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under Executive Order 13337 of April 30, 2004, as amended, Department of State Delegation of Authority No. 118–2 of January 23, 2006, and Department of State Delegation No. 245–1 of February 13, 2009, and subject to satisfaction of the requirements of sections 1(g) and 1(i) of Executive Order 13337, I hereby determine that issuance of a permit to Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership, a limited partnership organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Enbridge Energy Partners, L.P. (''Enbridge Partners'') which is a Delaware master limited partnership headquartered at 1100 Louisiana, Suite 3300, Houston, Texas 77002, to construct, connect, operate and maintain facilities at the border of the United States and Canada for the transport of crude oil between the United States and Canada across the international boundary at Cavalier County, North Dakota, would serve the national interest.

The Presidential Permit issued to Enbridge shall include authorization to construct, connect, operate, and maintain at the border of the United States facilities for the transport of crude oil between the United States and Canada across the international boundary as described in the Presidential Permit application received from Enbridge by DOS on May 15, 2007, as amended, and in accordance with the mitigation measures described in the Environmental Mitigation Plan (and other similar mitigation plans) contained in the FEIS, as amended. No construction or other actions shall be taken by Enbridge prior to Enbridge's acquisition of all other necessary federal, state, and local permits and approvals from agencies of competent jurisdiction. Enbridge shall provide written notice to the Department at such time as the construction authorized by this permit is begun, and again at such time as construction is completed, interrupted or discontinued.

This determination shall become final fifteen days after the Secretaries of Defense, Interior, Commerce, Energy, Homeland Security and Transportation, the Attorney

General, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency have been notified of this determination, unless the matter must be referred to the President for consideration and final decision pursuant to section 1(i) of said Executive Order.

Date: 03 August 2009.

JAMES B. STEINBERG,
Deputy Secretary of State.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Some of the things the Alberta Clipper line provided were increasing the diversity of available supplies. It shortens the transportation pathway for a sizable portion of our crude imports. It increases crude oil supplies from major non-OPEC countries. It allows our country to cooperate on best practices in technology. And then, finally, approval of the permit would send a positive economic signal, in a difficult economic period, about the future reliability and availability of a portion of U.S. energy imports.

These are not from the Keystone XL Pipeline. This is coming from the Alberta Clipper Pipeline, approved back in 2009, for exactly the same reasons that President Obama should sign off on the Keystone XL Pipeline and sign off now. It is in the country's best interests. It is clearly in the best interests of our friend and ally and neighbor to the north, Canada.

I think we recognize there is so much opportunity for us. But we need to get out of the way of the stops and the hurdles that have been placed by this administration—limiting our jobs, limiting our economic opportunities, and truly working to restrict our energy independence.

With that, I yield the floor, as I know several other colleagues wish to speak in the time remaining.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to again express my great disappointment about a matter of importance to our Nation—the administration's decision to put off a decision to start building the Keystone Pipeline so they can do a little more study and review—again. It is getting to be like watching a rerun of the same show—over and over and over again.

How many times have we been through this? I have lost count. Time after time momentum seems to build to finally approve this project so we can reap the benefits that will come from the pipeline—namely, the jobs that will be available to people who need them and the boost to our Nation's energy supplies that will help to bring some certainty to our energy policy.

Well, we can forget about those benefits in the near term. The administration has once again spoken with certainty that they aren't certain about what they want to do—they just know they don't want to do it now. If one is supportive of the pipeline one can still hope it may happen someday. If one is opposed to it, one can be assured that ''someday'' won't happen anytime soon.

I think there is more of a political reason than a practical reason for this delay. After all, there have already been 5 years of studies that have reaffirmed the benefits of building the pipeline now.

That isn't all. The State Department reviewed the proposal and found that it was the safest way to transport the oil. Most pipelines require a presidential permit that is issued after an 18-to 24-month review process. We did that. In fact, the first leg of the Keystone XL pipeline took 21 months to obtain approval. Most times that would be a cause for optimism. Not this time. We are 5 years down the road and we are still awaiting the start of construction.

Instead of spending this week on misguided legislation that will actually discourage new hiring and harm the job prospects of long-term unemployed individuals, we should be doing everything we can to encourage the creation of new jobs and the growth of new business opportunities. According to the State Department, the Keystone XL has the potential to create 42,000 jobs with good wages that will help to get the economy going again, strengthen our energy supplies, and put those 42,000 individuals further along the road of living the American dream and supporting their families. What is not to like about that? Plus, it will accomplish all that without raising taxes or increasing our crushing national debt. In fact, this would increase revenues—jobs increase revenues, sales increase revenues. More people driving to work also creates more money for highways.

Getting this massive private sector job creator moving into high gear is a win-win for all Americans. Unfortunately, it hasn't happened yet and the White House has decided to step in again and once again delay the project for political reasons. Instead of supporting a job creator, the administration is putting up a job barrier. We deserve better. We deserve an administration that is willing to work overtime to lead us out of this dismal time of long-term unemployment—a slump that shows no signs of ending soon.

That isn't the only reason why we need to take action on this immediately. Haven't we all spoken time and time again about the need to do something to reduce our dependence on sources of energy from unstable countries? This pipeline will help us to do that.

The administration's own Department of Energy stated in a June 2011 memo that Keystone XL would lower gas prices in all the markets in the United States. Flipping the XL switch from ''standby'' to ''on'' should have been done years ago. It is a no-brainer that calls for action—not more thought, reflection, meditation, consideration, review, and planning—and who knows what else.

The record is clear. We have been told time and time again that a decision on the pipeline was ''in the pipeline'' and would be coming our way shortly. In March of last year the President told us that the final decision as to whether or not he would approve the pipeline would reach us by year's end. We never heard from him.

Before that, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made a promise that we would have a decision on the status of the pipeline by the end of 2011. We never heard from her, either.

That is unacceptable for so many different reasons. We need the jobs. We need the energy. We need the certainty that comes from knowing whether this project will be completed or not.

The resources this pipeline is intended to carry will be developed whether the administration approves it or not. Doesn't it make sense by having the United States of America receive the benefit of all that energy instead of our competitors?

We have an alternative before us. The senior Senator from North Dakota has a new bill that I am cosponsoring that would recognize the final supplemental environmental impact statement and give approval to the Keystone XL Pipeline. It will put the Senate on record and recognize the need for the pipeline and all the benefits it will provide. It has strong bipartisan support and should move forward with all deliberate speed.

There is an old saying that reminds us that he who hesitates is lost. We have been hesitating for years and have nothing to show for it but lost time. We have a chance to change things and put ourselves on the right side of this equation. It is time to do it—now! Let's leave yesterday behind and move forward to tomorrow by taking action instead of putting it off again for another round of thoughtful gazing and reflection while our problems grow more serious and our options start to diminish.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I have conferred with the good Senator from Illinois and beg his indulgence. He has offered 3 minutes for each of our remaining speakers. I thank him for that and ask for the Chair's indulgence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I again thank the Senator from Illinois and turn to the Senator from South Carolina for his thoughts on this important issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DURBIN). The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I thank you.

I have been to the Canadian oil sands that I would recommend every person in this body go visit. The Canadians are being very environmentally responsible when it comes to extracting the oil sands product. This is an equivalent to a Saudi Arabian oil find from our Canadian friends.

Here is the choice and here is the debate: They are going to sell the oil to China or they are going to sell it to us. How many people in America really have a hard time figuring out what we should do? It is not as though the oil is not going to be sold and extracted from the ground. It is going to be sold to us or the Chinese. If we buy oil from Canada, it is like buying oil from your cousin. We trade with the Canadians. They are very reliable partners. It is less oil to buy from Russia and Venezuela, and you can go down the list.

What is at stake here is that the people who object to this pipeline—I do not doubt their sincerity—would not allow us to buy oil from anybody or explore for oil here at home. The people objecting to this pipeline do not have an all-of-the-above approach when it comes to American energy. If you left it up to them, we would be doing windmills, solar, no nuclear power.

So the President of the United States has turned this issue over to the most extreme people in the country when it comes to politics. They are trumping the unions. They are trumping the former Presiding Officer. They are locking down developing an energy source that we need as a nation. I really regret that the President has let them take over this issue at a time when we need more oil from friendly people and less oil from people who hate our guts.

Dirty oil to me is buying oil from people who will take the proceeds and share it with terrorists. This oil content from Canada is slightly greater in carbon content than Mideast sweet crude, the same level as oil we find off the coast of California, and has less sulfur. So the environmental argument does not bear scrutiny.

At the end of the day, we are not going to get this oil from our friends in Canada because of the upcoming elections. President Obama is afraid of turning off environmental support so he has turned off the pipeline—very bad for America.

I yield.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from South Carolina and turn to the esteemed Senator from Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from North Dakota, and I acknowledge and thank the distinguished majority whip for allowing us extra time to talk about a subject he would probably prefer us not to talk about, but I appreciate it very much. So I will be very brief and succinct.

For this administration and our country not to build the Keystone Pipeline or delay it is at best professional malpractice. There are three reasons for that.

We are a country that 40 years ago was held hostage by OPEC. We had our parents waiting in line to fill up their cars. Businesses closed because there was no oil supply, and prices went through the roof.

With the Keystone Pipeline and its capacity added to the Marcellus and the Haynesville shale, America will truly be independent in its energy and never be held hostage again by someone like OPEC. That is No. 1.

No. 2, it is important for our diplomacy around the world. Soft power is always preferable to hard power. And one of the best soft powers you can possibly have is having energy. Think about it for a second.

If Russia were not a factor in Ukraine because America could supplant their natural gas, think what that would do to what is happening right now in that part of the world. We need it for our soft power and for our diplomatic power.

Lastly, it is environmentally the thing to do. That oil is going to be refined somewhere in the world, and it is going to be delivered in some way. The safest and most environmentally sound way to deliver it is in a pipeline, No. 1. The best country in the world to refine it is the United States of America, No. 2. And, No. 3, and most importantly, it is environmentally sound because you keep trucks off the road, trains off the track. The oil goes underground. It does not generate any carbon and go into the global warming or any other part of our environmental threat.

It is the right thing to do, and it is professional malpractice for us not to be doing it for our people, for our country, for our diplomacy, and for peace around the world.

I thank the distinguished Senator for the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank the good Senator from Georgia, who is putting forward common sense.

I would like to turn, in closing, to the Senator from Wyoming, who is a senior member of the energy committee and truly understands energy issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, it seems the President's decision is absurd, to delay the Keystone XL Pipeline. That is not just me saying that. That is the Washington Post, Thursday morning, April 24: ''Keystone XL's absurd delay. President Obama should approve the pipeline project now.'' They say:

> If foot-dragging were a competitive sport, President Obama and his administration would be world champions for their performance in delaying the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline.

They go on to say:

> The administration's latest decision is not responsible; it is embarrassing. The United States continues to insult its Canadian allies by holding up what should have been a routine permitting decision amid a funhouse-mirror environmental debate that got way out of hand.

They conclude by saying:

> The president should end this national psychodrama now, bow to reason—

Think about that: ''bow to reason''—approve the pipeline and go do something more productive for the climate.

That is not just the Washington Post. We see also the Wall Street Journal, on Wednesday: ''Keystone Uncensored.'' They talk about a labor leader calling the administration ''gutless,'' ''dirty,'' and more.

So why would a union leader—who endorsed President Obama in 2008 as a candidate, endorsed him again in 2012—why would he say this? He actually went on to say: ''It's not the oil that's dirty, it's the politics.''

To get an answer to that, you have to look at an article that Politico ran last Thursday called ''The left's secret club.'' It said:

> Some of the country's biggest Democratic donors—including Tom Steyer . . .—are huddling behind closed doors next week in Chicago to plan how to pull their party—and the country—to the left.

The meeting will be held in the ballroom of the Ritz-Carlton. Politico describes the group as ''a secretive club of wealthy liberals.''

So who is Tom Steyer? Well, he is a hedge fund billionaire who has said he is hoping to spend at least $100 million to defeat candidates who support the Keystone XL Pipeline and who oppose his extreme environmental agenda.

I want to be absolutely clear. There is nothing wrong with legal participation in elections. If a hedge fund billionaire like Mr. Steyer wants to spend his money talking about his views, he is free to do it. I disagree with his views, but I would never come to the floor of the Senate and denounce him as un-American. But that is exactly what the majority leader, Senator REID, has done, repeatedly coming to the floor to criticize and demonize people who do not share his views. I have not heard Senator REID demonizing Tom Steyer or any other wealthy liberal donors.

According to Politico, the majority leader was actually scheduled to attend a fundraising dinner at Mr. Steyer's home a few months ago.

So the coincidence, to me, of the administration's announcement right before this big liberal political event remains suspicious. The silence of the majority leader about one person's spending when he has been so outspoken about the spending of other people is certainly suspicious as well.

Maybe that is what the union head meant when he said: ''It's not the oil that's dirty, it's the politics.'' Whatever the reason, the important thing is that President Obama continues to

turn his back on thousands of middle-class families in desperate need of jobs.

That is what needs to change. The administration and this body, controlled by Senator REID and the Democrats, can no longer put politics ahead of policy substance. It is time for the administration to do the right thing and to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline no matter what the Democrats' secretive billionaires say.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I will close.

It is time for the Senate to vote on this important issue.

With that, I will turn to the Senator from Illinois and again thank him for the additional time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I have listened, as my friends—and they are my friends—and colleagues have come to the floor to talk about the Keystone XL Pipeline.

It turns out that what America needs more than anything else—more than an increase in the minimum wage, more than paycheck fairness so that men and women are paid fairly in the workplace—more than anything else, we need one more pipeline coming in from Canada.

If you listen to the other side, you would think the jobs that will be created by the Keystone XL Pipeline will finally turn this economy around.

How many jobs are we talking about? Madam President, 2,000—2,000 construction jobs? That is at the high end of estimates I have heard. How many jobs at the refineries in Texas to process this oil and ship it overseas? It is not for sale in the United States. I am not sure. But it really is amazing to me that they continue to focus on Keystone XL as if it is the only issue when it comes to the American economy.

Here is what I find particularly curious. For the record—and I am glad my friend, the Senator from North Dakota, is still in the Chamber—the Keystone XL Pipeline is not the first Keystone Pipeline. The first Keystone Pipeline, from Alberta, came into the United States and ended up in Wood River, IL, at the Conoco refinery. It is shipping Canadian tar sands down to be refined at the Conoco refinery. And then, after it is refined, in a pipeline it is distributed all across the United States.

If no Keystone XL Pipeline is ever built—and I do not know whether it will or will not be—there will still be a steady flow of Canadian tar sands into America for refining.

Just this week, Senator KIRK and I met with the North American president of BP. They have a huge refinery in Whiting, IN, at the south end of Lake Michigan. They are refining Canadian tar sands into oil that can be sold in different products.

I asked the head of the North American operations for BP what is going to happen to that refinery when it comes to Canadian tar sands? He said: We are going to triple—triple—our capacity to deal with Canadian tar sands. He did not say contingent on the Keystone XL. Because, you see, there is a vast network of pipelines moving Canadian tar sands to the United States already, and they are already going through a refinery—many of them—even the BP refinery in northern Indiana.

So this notion that we are somehow turning off the Canadian tar sands coming into the United States—if someone is suggesting that, I would ask them to bring proof to the floor. We are not.

What the President is doing is trying to make a decision on what is best for this country and our economy. He is trying to weigh it in a thoughtful manner. There is an element that needs to be part of this record. The President is trying to take into consideration the environment. I think he should. I think it is his responsibility.

We had a debate several weeks ago on the floor of the Senate. It was about global warming and climate change. It went on through the night. Many of my Democratic colleagues stayed up all night to talk about it. BRIAN SCHATZ of Hawaii, SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island spoke at great length with their colleagues about the issue.

I came up early in the debate and simply made one point. I believe the Republican Party of the United States is the only major political party in the world—in the world—that denies climate change and global warming. I have asked my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to give me an example. Tell me where I am wrong. Somebody said there may be a party in Australia. That is where they have to reach to find any other political party in the world that agrees with their position on global warming and climate change. So it is no wonder when we discuss energy and the future they do not want to talk about what is happening to our environment, the extreme weather situation we are even seeing this week, the devastation from storms in a magnitude we have never registered since we kept records.

What the President is trying to do is to take into consideration not just energy but also our environment, so ultimately we leave a world to our children and grandchildren which is safer and cleaner than the one we have today. My friend the Senator from Wyoming, Mr. BARRASSO, came to the floor and talked about what he called a highly secretive, high-level meeting in Chicago, and then he proceeded to say at what hotel it was being held. It is not much of a secret if he knows where it is being held.

It is true there are meetings of people who oppose the Keystone Pipeline and support candidates who oppose it, as there are meetings of those who support the pipeline and support the candidates who join in their position. That happens to be the nature of the political scene. He even suggested that the person opposed to the pipeline was going to put $100 million into this campaign.

I, for one, would like to see an end to big money in our political campaigns. I would certainly like to see transparency and where it is coming from and how it is being spent, but the reality is, the Citizens United decision from the Supreme Court across the street changed the rules and people can play with big money now, a lot of their own.

What he did not mention were the Koch brothers. I would like to mention them for a moment because they are relevant to this discussion about Canadian tar sands and the Keystone XL Pipeline. The Koch brothers are very wealthy, billionaires. They come to play when it comes to the American political scene. In the last cycle, we were able to identify over $248 million these two brothers spent on political causes and campaigns around the United States, and we are told they are going to spend considerably more than that this time around.

Do the Koch brothers have an agenda when it comes to this issue? Let me give an illustration. It was about 3 months ago that I went into the southeast corner of the city of Chicago, an old steel mill neighborhood, which happens to be in the neighborhood where Barrack Obama, fresh out of college, was a community organizer. They are modest homes, frame homes, primarily Hispanic and African-American populations.

They called me down to this section, the southeastern section of the city of Chicago, to show me something. What they wanted to show me were piles of black soot. It is called petcoke. Petcoke is what is left after you take the Canadian tar sands, ship them through the pipeline to a refinery, making diesel fuel, aviation fuel and gasoline. What is left over, this black gunk substance called petcoke.

It turns out that the BP refinery was selling the petcoke to a company owned by the Koch brothers. The Koch brothers were shipping this petcoke into the neighborhoods of Chicago. The mothers with their kids were calling me to their homes and schools to show me what happened when the wind blew. When the wind blew, this nasty black stuff flew through the air. It was all over windowsills and buildings, nasty as can be.

The city of Chicago is doing something about it. They are kind of changing the equation in terms of petcoke and what you have to do to store it.

But if the other side is coming to the floor and saying our people are pure of heart, they just want to see the Keystone XL Pipeline, the fact is, the largest benefactors to the Republican Party in the United States today, the Koch brothers, have a financial and commercial interest in these Canadian tar sands, at least in the disposal of this petcoke. The way they were doing it in the city of Chicago was the height of corporate irresponsibility—just pile it and let the wind blow it across the neighborhood. It is going to be criminal when it is all over after the city of Chicago changes its laws to prohibit this kind of conduct.

But those are the things that are at stake in this conversation. I hope at the end of the day the President makes the right, thoughtful decision, not just in terms of energy but in terms of our environment, does the best thing for America. I hope we also understand that if we do nothing with the Keystone XL Pipeline, we are still going to face the challenges with Canadian tar sands, coming down through the United States, being refined and sold in our country and around the world. It is a challenge we have to face honestly.

I may disagree with some of my colleagues on the other side. I believe that if we want to leave a world for future generations—our kids, our grandchildren—that is a cleaner and safer world, we have to accept some responsibility in our generation, in our time, to clean up the mess of this environment. It may call for some sacrifice as individuals, as families, as businesses, but I do not think it is too much to ask.

God gave us this great world and asked us to keep an eye on it for the next generation. Are we going to do it or will we ignore it and say: If there is money to be made, we can start bringing in any source you wish. That to me is irresponsible.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JERRY UMANOS, JOHN GABEL, AND GARY GABEL

Madam President, Robert Kennedy once said, ''The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to make things better.'' Around the world and here at home, dedicated American citizens are living by this principle, trying to improve the lives of those in greatest need. Sadly, on April 24, we lost three Americans from my home State of Illinois who were killed at the Cure International Hospital which focuses on maternity and pediatric care in Afghanistan: Dr. Jerry Umanos, John Gabel, and his father Gary Gabel.

Both John Gabel and Dr. Jerry Umanos were working to help the Afghan people receive health care. In a country still coping with the legacy of decades of terrible conflict that devastated the medical infrastructure of Afghanistan, they were helping by volunteering to address the real needs of the Afghan people and improving the lives of those whom they assisted.

This is Dr. Jerry Umanos. His picture is an indication of this dedicated, idealistic man who lost his life. He was dedicated to helping kids. After he finished his residency at the Children's Hospital of Michigan, he could have made some money with his training, but instead he decided to help those who needed a helping hand.

He worked for years at an amazing place that I have visited, the Lawndale Christian Health Center in the city of Chicago. It is one of those neighborhood health centers which makes you feel good about the world, where great professionals, such as Dr. Umanos, give of their time, make very little money, and help the poorest of the poor.

He was an important part of that community. They loved him, not only his patients but his colleagues as well. He worked to help so many in Chicago who otherwise did not have a chance for quality health care. He followed this calling to Afghanistan where the needs of people were even greater. He was dedicated to making a difference there by helping the Afghan people, by teaching, by making certain that the next generation of Afghans had a better life. The breadth and depth of his work is a testimony to his love for and commitment not only to the people of Afghanistan but to the needy. What a loss that his life was taken from us.

John Gabel was a man who cared for others and made a real difference in the lives of those he touched. He used his skills to run a health clinic in Afghanistan and to help address the glaring needs of health care with the Afghan people. John was working in other ways to help build a better tomorrow for the people of Afghanistan. He taught at Kabul University, where he was remembered as a great teacher and a great friend.

He used his expertise in computer science, not to enrich himself but to teach others. Perhaps it is not surprising that John was so focused on helping those in need when we consider the example of his parents Gary and Betty Gabel, who also dedicated their lives to others. Tragically, Gary Gabel, who was visiting his son and his family in Afghanistan, was lost as well in the senseless shooting.

Gary Gabel helped his community in and around Arlington Heights, IL. He was an active member of his church. He had a commitment to helping those most innocent and vulnerable members of society, our children. He worked with church youth groups. He provided a strong model to his community and his family of a man committed to helping others. I am sure my colleagues join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of those lost and injured in this tragic attack, as well as the countless people whom they helped, all of whom join us in mourning their loss. They represent the best of who we are as a people and make this world a better place.

MINIMUM WAGE

Tomorrow, we are going to have an important vote. It is a vote that is going to be watched carefully by over 1 million workers in the State of Illinois and millions across our Nation. The question is whether the United States of America and its government will increase the minimum wage for workers all across the country.

It is an important vote. It would raise the Federal minimum wage from $7.25 to $10.10 in three steps of 95 cents each. If we pass it this year, the final increase would occur in the year 2016. This is a 39-percent increase in the minimum wage, roughly the same percentagewise as the last minimum wage bill we enacted over the same period of time. It provides for automatic future increases in the minimum wage based on the cost of living so we do not have those lurches from one level to $2 or $3 above it.

It raises the minimum wage for tipped workers for the first time in more than 20 years. People find it hard to believe that under Federal standards, tipped workers receive $2.13 an hour as their base wage. They are expected to make up the difference with their tips. We raise it to 70 percent of the minimum wage, phased in over 6 years. We extend some business expensing rules to help businesses invest in their equipment and what they need to grow the business. We do this in a fashion to incentivize small businesses to grow.

This increase in the minimum wage brings us down to a very fundamental question as Americans. The fundamental question is this: If someone is willing to get up and go to work and work hard every single day, should they receive a compensation that lets them get by so they do not have to survive from paycheck to paycheck or should they be put in a position where the only way they can survive is with government assistance—food stamps, SNAP program, child care subsidies—things that we provide as a government to people in low-income categories?

Keep in mind, we are talking about workers. You see them in Chicago early in the morning. They are the blurry-eyed travelers on those buses heading off to the workplace. They are the ones we see on the trains, quietly moving from their homes to where they work and repeating the reverse journey every single day as they head back home at night.

Can you imagine the frustration of going through that day after weary day and never, ever catching up, living paycheck to paycheck, falling further and further behind? That is what is happening to too many of them. It is amazing to me when we hear the critics of minimum wages step forward. In our State of Illinois there are two prominent politicians, both of them happen to be multimillionaires. Their

views on minimum wage are amazing to me. One of them, who made $53 million last year, said he adamantly opposes raising the minimum wage. He made $53 million last year. He adamantly opposes raising the minimum wage.

Another one of them who is worth millions of dollars himself has said: I will agree to raise the minimum wage but only for people over the age of 26.

He just eliminated half of the people earning the minimum wage in America today who happen to be under the age of 26.

Let's think about the people whom he wants to keep on a subminimum wage. It would include all college students under the age of 26 trying to work their way through school. He would want to give them a subminimum wage. It would include single moms raising their kids—the moms being under the age of 26, they would get a subminimum wage—and it would also include veterans coming back, struggling to find a job. If they haven't reached the age of 26, he would give them a subminimum wage.

I have one basic question: What are these politicians thinking? Have they ever left where they live and where they work and met up with some people who are struggling paycheck to paycheck to get by?

Tomorrow we have a chance on the floor of the Senate to raise the minimum wage, but we cannot do it with Democratic votes alone. If there will not be five, six or seven Republicans who cross the aisle and join us in this debate, it will fail—and that will be a sad day—because for a lot of these workers this is their only hope that they will get a decent increase in the minimum wage through the law.

I hope my colleagues on the other side will take into consideration that so many of these workers are women and so many of them are even over the age of 35 and still rely on minimum wage jobs. These are not lazy people. These are hard-working people, people who are working hard every single day for a paycheck that they know is not going to cover their expenses every single week.

It is time we give them a chance and give them a break. It used to be—and I can remember it very well—a bipartisan issue to raise the minimum wage.

President Ronald Reagan, when he was President, raised the minimum wage. He understood it. If you value work and you value working people, you should give them a wage which respects the integrity and decency of work. That is what this is about. That is what this minimum wage is about tomorrow.

Without the help of Republicans, it will fail. If it isn't done on a bipartisan basis, it will not go forward.

I might add one other item. A minimum wage is injecting into the economy literally millions of dollars of purchasing power. People who are living paycheck to paycheck spend those checks as fast as they can for food, clothing or shoes, paying the utility bills, paying for a cell phone, putting gas in a car. That money goes right back into the economy.

I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, tomorrow break with some of the extreme people in your party, join us in a bipartisan fashion and raise the minimum wage. It is only fair.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. BEGICH. Before the Senator leaves I would like to ask him a quick question if I could. I know he talked toward the end of his comments—and I am going to speak on minimum wage also—but he mentioned President Reagan. I think the last time minimum wage passed was under President Bush, again a bipartisan approach; is that correct? I wasn't here during those times, but I know the Senator has served in Congress a long time.

Mr. DURBIN. I respond through the Chair to the Senator from Alaska.

There was a time when there wasn't that much controversy associated with this. We knew that we waited too long. People had fallen behind in their earning potential. We had to pick the right number. We came up with it and moved forward on a bipartisan basis. But now things are so partisan and so poisonous in the Senate that even something as basic as raising the minimum wage for hard-working families turns out to be a political lift.

Mr. BEGICH. The $10.10 wage is just getting to the poverty level. That is what I understand and why I cosponsored this legislation.

Mr. DURBIN. It basically does for some, but what I found though is if you are a family with two kids, for example, you have to make almost $15 an hour to get beyond the poverty level. We are talking about $10.10 phased in, and many of those people will still qualify for a helping hand from the government because they are still in very low-income categories.

Mr. BEGICH. Thank you for giving me a moment to ask those questions.

I rise to address an important issue—just as we were asking some questions back and forth—that would help 49,000 Alaskans, raising the minimum wage. The bill before us would increase the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour.

The minimum wage, as mentioned by my colleagues a little earlier, has lost its purchasing power by one-third over my lifetime. The increase will lift millions of Americans out of poverty, reduce their reliance on the safety net, and literally pump billions more into the economy.

I know I look at this a little differently. I come from the business world. I come from the small business world. My first business was at the age of 14. I have been in it ever since in some form or another. You can probably name the business—retail, real estate. I have been a publisher. I have owned different companies, and I have even owned a small, very small, percentage of a restaurant. I felt like I was a 100-percent owner at one point because it is a tough business. I was in there moving the slop buckets and doing a remodel to the kitchen on a Saturday night. I am there like everyone else working double time and trying to make sure we get the job done.

My wife is a small retailer. Her business is selling smoked salmon on a counter or a cart—no bigger than two of these desks—and building her business now to 5 retail stores, 30-some employees. I might note none of our employees are paid minimum wage. They are paid above minimum wage.

I know some people are concerned minimum wage will cut into their business. There is no question in my mind what it does; that is, when we increase the minimum wage, it is actually good for business because we help consumers have more resources to put into the economy that then churn back into the business world.

Along with this bill another provision a lot of people don't realize is the minimum wage is one piece, a pretty significant piece but also a provision that I requested be put in this bill, what they call a 179. It is a business tax deduction, something that is important for businesses that are growing, expanding, building new business, small businesses mostly.

This is the No. 1 priority of the business community that I talk to, not the politically driven business communities but the ones that actually do business and actually work with small businesses, the ones that look at their local communities and try to figure out what is important in legislation. One is to make sure they can write off some of their improvements in an expedited way which, in turn, puts more money into the business for reinvestment. That is another piece of this bill.

So it not only has an important part for the hard-working folks who are making minimum wage to raise that amount, but it also helps the hard-working small businesses ensure that they can continue to put money back in their business, grow their business, expand their business, and then receive some benefit from that.

As we know, we look at the whole issue in Alaska a little differently. Our minimum wage is 50 cents higher than the Federal level, $7.75. There is a reason: Because it is very expensive, similar to the Presiding Officer's State. It is not cheap in our two States, Hawaii and Alaska. The cost of living is much greater. In order for folks to have a decent living, we pay a little bit more,

and we play it off of the Federal legislation, but still it is a problem in keeping the wage competitive to the cost of living.

When we look at Alaska and we look at the cost of living in Alaska—Anchorage specifically is 30 percent higher than the average cost of living in this country and Fairbanks is 40 percent higher. Again, having this higher ratio for us is very important.

It doesn't mean all the time that a dollar still goes far. When we look at the whole country, in terms of buying power, what you can buy for the dollar you earn, Alaska has 3 of the cities in the bottom 11. When you look at the whole list, there are 11 at the bottom. Alaska has three of them: Juneau, Kodiak, and Fairbanks, because their dollar can't go far enough. That is why raising the minimum wage will help them be able to purchase more and enjoy a better quality of life.

I will say Alaskans, similar to Hawaiians, know challenges, and we have tough jobs because we are kind of isolated lots of times and sometimes forgotten that we actually exist in the Union. And we have to make that point more than once. But it doesn't matter if we are doing the drilling in the Arctic, which is a great challenge, or fishing for crab in the Bering Sea, which is an unbelievable test of someone's capacity and ability, but we know how to overcome challenges. We just don't want more challenges.

A minimum wage increase will help reduce some of those challenges. The minimum wage is truly, at the rate it is today, an obstacle to try to get people moved forward because we don't have it at the rate it should be. The $10.10, in a lot of minds, is an easy step over a 2- to 3-year period, and it is honestly one we can fix. We can fix it tomorrow. We just need a bipartisan approach as it happened under the Reagan administration, it happened under the Bush administration. Again, to remind folks who may not be familiar with those two Presidents, they were Republicans. We did it, and I wasn't here, but Democrats and Republicans sat down and said: Let's figure this out because it is important for the working people of this country who are working hard every day.

Another group it impacts in my State of 49,000 Alaskans is 1,700 veterans—veterans in our country, veterans in my State who will get a boost.

What does that mean? When you calculate by family members, it is about 3,000 families of veterans will benefit from raising the minimum wage. As I said earlier, it is 49,000 Alaskans, and this is one subset. More than half of the Alaskans are women. About 5,000 Alaskans will be boosted right out of poverty with this change, and it means they will be on less government programs such as food stamps.

I would think we are all here to try to make government run more efficiently, improve the economy, and create jobs. That is what we do every day, we attempt to do every day, and we do every day. If we can get people above poverty, that means fewer government programs, which means fewer government tax dollars, which means they are living on their own and they have their own capacity to make it in this world.

One would think this is a unique opportunity for Democrats and Republicans to be joined together. Why wouldn't we want fewer people on food stamps because they are making a living now and able to take care of themselves? That is what we all work toward, to have the American dream to buy that home or live that quality of life, have that great education, all the pieces to the equation.

Again, I cannot believe we are having a struggle trying to get just a few votes. We don't want them all. We get there are some who are opposed to anything about the Federal Government, but why not support this effort to raise people up as President Reagan thought about and President Bush thought about.

It is this moment, giving these people a fair shot, a fair shot to have their American dream come true; $10.10 doesn't seem like a big stretch, but it seems today it is by some politicians.

In fact, when we look at this—and I know the complaint on the other side is this will hurt business. Again, as I said earlier, this is good. You are talking to someone who is a small businessperson, who pays above minimum wage. I understand the value of making sure my employees, my wife's employees, have a good, decent wage, because when they leave the workplace, when they get their paycheck, they will spend it in the economy. That will help grow the economy.

I know some will talk about the CBO report and all of these government reports, but let me put it this way. The last two times the minimum wage has been raised, the economy didn't collapse, people weren't fired—actually, the economy grew. So I don't understand that comment and debate.

I know they will whip out these reports, and I am appreciative of those and the work CBO does, but I can only go by history and what has happened. If we raise the minimum wage, jobs are great, economy grows, and the next issue is businesses are reinvesting because they have more customers, which means more customers more profit. More profit means more investment. This is not only a fair shot for the people working, it gives an opportunity for small businesses and businesses across this country.

To put it in perspective for my colleagues who have never been in small business or have not run a business, the reason you hire people is because you have demand. Demand is created by expenditures, expenditures by consumers.

The reason you lay off people is because demand has gone down because there are not expenditures by consumers. Raising the minimum wage gives more opportunity, more investment, more people making money, and more return.

Let me give some national statistics. Again, this is about making sure we give every American, especially those making a minimum wage today—a raise in their minimum wage, to give them a fair shot to be part of the American dream.

The bill will help 30 million Americans earning an additional $51 billion to put back into the economy over the next 3 years by this raise—huge. The family who today can't afford the new car can now maybe look at a new car or maybe they are choosing between groceries and paying their heating bill. Now because you are raising the minimum wage they have an opportunity to pay these bills and enjoy life a little bit more.

The higher minimum wage will also help 12 million people in our country to get out of poverty. It could lift 4.6 million out of poverty immediately.

This is about empowering families, giving them a fair shot, a chance again to achieve the American dream, helping parents to make ends meet and to raise children in a healthy home and an opportunity for them. More than a one-fifth of all children in our country have a parent on minimum wage; 56 percent on a national level are women making the minimum wage.

Right now, thousands of Alaskans work full time—maybe extra work on the side—but still struggle to put food on the table. It is wrong. That is why raising the minimum wage will be helpful to those families. It saves the government money by helping people get off food stamps. Also, higher wages would cut, as I said, food stamps, they estimate by $4.6 billion a year. We have been very good at moving the deficit down—a $1.4 trillion deficit annually, down a little over $500 billion and continuing to go down. I think we all want to see that deficit go to zero.

The way we do that is with programs such as this that engage the private sector and their responsibility, at the same time lowering costs for the government. Also, an interesting statistic is that it also increases the wages, obviously, by the minimum wage going up. So it increases and strengthens Social Security because now they are paying into Social Security. Social Security contributions from an extra $51 billion in wages would go right to the trust fund. Since benefits are tied to lifetime earnings, workers will earn larger checks when they retire. Right now an average minimum wage worker with 40 years of paying into the system receives only 900 bucks, give or take a few bucks, at the age of 65. That is well below the poverty line.

So why wouldn't we want to raise the minimum wage, move people out of poverty, get more people off of food stamps, save the government some money, and, by the way, help strengthen Social Security and give families and individuals a fair shot to meet and reach the American dream? Why wouldn't we want to do that? Again, under the Reagan administration and the Bush administration, they seemed to think it was a good idea.

I agree with the Senator from Illinois who was on the floor a little while ago. If we weren't in this toxic political environment where everything has to be politicized until the last man is standing, we would probably do this. We would be down here together talking about how it would help our folks in our different States and in our communities and in the country overall. Instead, everyone wants to just kind of even the scorecard. This is not about a scorecard; this is about giving a fair shot to Americans, to Alaskans, so they have a chance to make a living and meet and reach the American dream.

This is a simple thing for us to do, and we could do it tomorrow. I don't know what the House will do, but maybe if we act in a bipartisan way here, the House will see that. Maybe they will wake up and see this is a good thing to do because if we want to build the economy, if we want to make a difference, as I said—and I am talking as a small businessperson—if we grow the amount of money consumers spend by making sure they make a good living, the net result will be that every businessperson benefits because they have more consumers, more people buying products. In turn, everything from manufacturing, to shipping to the retailer, to the large business, the small business—all benefit.

Again, it is amazing to me that we debate this issue. Actually, I was not planning to come to the floor until last week because I thought this should be easy. Why are we not doing this? Republican Presidents saw it as a good idea. Now that it has been a long time coming, it is time.

I know some don't like the current President. I have my issues with him, I can tell you that. The list is long. But we should not get caught up in the personalities. I tell my staff all the time—when I get a piece of legislation a Member is proposing, I say: Don't look at who is sponsoring; look at the content of the bill. If we like the bill, we sign on. We participate. Too much time is spent here worrying about who is sponsoring what, who is on the list, who made the comment. Who cares? If it is a good piece of legislation, then we should do it.

In my State we will have raising the minimum wage on the November ballot because Alaskans signed an initiative—35,000 or 40,000 people—saying this is the right thing to do for Alaska. I think it is the right thing to do not only for Alaska but for this country. It is important that we do this because it is our obligation to make sure for Alaskans and for all Americans that we don't create obstacles in their ability to reach the American dream, that we make sure they have a fair shot at anything they want to do.

I hope tomorrow we will have a different outcome than the pundits are predicting. They think it will fail tomorrow. I hope not. But if we fail tomorrow and don't get enough votes from the other side, it is not that we lose the battle today but that the American people lose. Alaskans lose. The 49,000 Alaskans I mentioned will lose. The 1,700 veterans in my State will lose. Let's try to do something to make them winners and give them a shot.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I think many of my colleagues feel very at home with this image, which is a reminder of a household name—Ramona and her father. It is a great story written by Beverly Cleary. In fact, it is a prize-winning story, part of a series, and my favorite of the series, Ramona the Pest, was written in 1968.

In 1968 and in this story Ramona's dad is struggling, along with his wife Dorothy—his name is Robert—to get by and keep the family together on a minimum wage job, which in 1968 paid $1.60 an hour. Today the minimum wage, if it had kept pace with inflation, would be $10.71 an hour.

We know, many of us—and probably many of my colleagues who have read this story—that Robert and Dorothy Quimby are engaged in a quiet struggle to make ends meet. Even as Ramona is engaged in all kinds of antics and play, he is working as a grocery bagger at a local store. Ramona's mother is working too—an early example of a two-family household and two-income family. They are able to keep their family afloat on that minimum wage in 1968—$1.60 an hour in 1968.

For millions of Americans who read Ramona's story today, the idea of a minimum wage enabling a family to stay afloat, keep a roof over their heads, and food on the table is a storybook fiction. It is very difficult today to believe that Robert Quimby, as a bagger in a grocery store, could enable his daughters, Ramona and her sister, to have the life they did then. In fact, it would be impossible because today the minimum wage has failed to keep pace with inflation. The minimum wage today is $7.25—nowhere near what it would need to be to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living.

That is why we are here today—to raise the minimum wage to $10.10, which is still below the $10.71 it would have been for Robert Quimby, making minimum wage in a grocery store, if it had kept pace with inflation. In fact, it is well below what is necessary to enable families to continue a normal life. That is why they are living in poverty—working men and women living in poverty—despite being paid the minimum wage. That is a travesty and a mockery. It is a moral outrage. It is bad for our economy, it is bad for our families, it is bad for the fabric of our society, and it is bad for America.

I am proud to support an increase in the minimum wage. I am proud Connecticut has decided it will raise the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour—still below that $10.71 that is needed to get by today.

We know the impact on families. We know the impact on children. We see them in our schools—millions of children, 14 million children—in families who are paid less than a minimum wage. We know the impact on our veterans. Half a million or more are paid less than the new minimum wage our bill would establish. That is itself an outrage. Men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country come back to civilian life to be paid less than what they need to stay out of poverty. They are working and working hard but still making less than a minimum wage. These are veterans who have served our country, who have put their lives on the line, have put themselves at risk, coming back to a society that rewards them—rewards them—with less than what they need to survive.

I have talked to a lot of businesspeople. Some of them are apprehensive, no question about it, but a lot of them say: Our workers are more productive because we pay well above the minimum wage.

Many who will be impacted by this law if it is passed say it is the right thing to do, and they support it. I am talking about, for example, Max Kothari. For 25 years he, along with his wife Parul, has owned and operated Star Hardware in Hartford—one of the oldest hardware stores in the State of Connecticut. He supports this measure to raise the minimum wage to $10.10.

So does Doug Wade, who operates one of the oldest dairy companies in the State, started by Doug's great-grandfather in 1893—Wade's Dairy in Bridgeport. He supports raising the minimum wage.

A thousand businesspeople have signed a statement and petition—we mentioned it this morning—that supports raising the minimum wage. They say it is a fairness issue. It is simply a way to give folks a fair shot at the American dream, a fair shot at a quality of life that is good for their families and children, good for our society, and, by the way, also good for our economy.

We know that $35 billion would be added to consumer demand because folks who make minimum wage, if it is raised to $10.10, are not going to put the difference under their mattresses. They are going to spend it. They are going to buy more food, clothing, and gas for their cars. They are going to buy things that drive the economy. They are going to purchase stuff that creates demand and more jobs and business for Max Kothari at his hardware store and for Dough Wade at his dairy.

This kind of reasoning is not advanced economic theory; it is basic common sense. Americans understand it. That is why Americans support raising the minimum wage as a matter of fairness and enlightened self-interest economically. It is the right thing to do.

The arguments made against it are without basis rationally and economically. The ones who suffer from the minimum wage as it exists right now are not teenagers. I know there is a myth that they are part-time workers or teenagers. That is just not true. Nearly ninety percent of minimum wage workers are adults. They are disproportionately women and people of color and workers with disabilities, and they will be helped disproportionately by raising the minimum wage. But they are not teenagers or part-time workers. They are deserving, for the hard work they do, of fair pay and a fair shot. That is all the minimum wage would really do, is give them a fair shot at economic opportunity.

And those veterans, they deserve more than a fair shot. They deserve a hand up, not a handout. There is nothing about the minimum wage that is an entitlement. It is simply fair pay and a fair shot. We have trapped half a million of those veterans in poverty—3,800 veterans in Connecticut alone who will benefit from the $10.10 minimum wage.

But we should guarantee that in this great land—the greatest in the history of the world—people such as Ramona's dad, Robert Quimby, and Dorothy Quimby and her sister are being paid at least what they were getting back in 1968 in today's dollars. That is the way to keep families together. That is the way to keep faith with the dream all Americans have that they will have a fair shot.

No one who works full time should live in poverty. No one who works should be so poor that they can't put food on the table or provide clothes for their children, or give them the erasers that Robert Quimby gave his daughters as a gift.

To enable 14 million children in America to have a better life, let's pass this measure. And let's make sure that if it fails this week—and it shouldn't, but if it does, we bring it back, and we continue to bring it back as long as necessary to ensure a fair shot for all Americans who work hard and play by the rules.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for up to 2 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO BILL CATHCART

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, this Friday, May 2, a gentleman from Georgia will retire after 29 years of service.

William—Bill—Cathcart, with WTOC for 29 years as general manager and 2 years with the firm, will be saying goodbye to his leadership with WTOC, one of the leading media stations of the coast of Georgia and one of the leading media stations around our State—a station I have dealt with often, and a station I have found to be professional, fair, and thorough.

In fact, even as I speak on the floor of the Senate today, my State of Georgia has already had a bad shooting incident this morning, terrible tornadoes this afternoon, and bad weather coming in this evening. It makes me appreciate the broadcast network and the people who come together to let our citizens know about things happening, giving them early warnings about bad weather and reporting the news fairly and straight.

Bill Cathcart is a great Georgian and a great American. He has done a tremendous job for our State and for WTOC. I wish him the best upon his retirement. I hope he will always call on me if I can ever be of help, and I thank him for all he has done for me.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, tomorrow about noon we will be voting on something in the Senate that I daresay a lot of Americans will be paying close attention to. The reason they are going to be paying close attention is because that vote will affect them and their families in the future in a very big way. That vote will be on whether we will actually bring debate to a close and vote on increasing the minimum wage in America.

If we were to bring that to a vote, we could pass it, the President would sign something like that into law, and in 6 months the minimum wage would go up by 95 cents an hour; then next year it would go up by another 95 cents; and the year after another 95 cents from where it is now at $7.25 an hour.

What we are going to vote on tomorrow will have a drastic effect on millions of American families—and it is going to have a big effect on our economy, because it will boost our economy and get the wheels going again, because people will have more money to spend. They will spend it on Main Street. And that is what is lacking right now—consumer demand—consumers with enough money to spend on Main Street. All the economists will basically tell you it is the lack of aggregate demand that is keeping our economy from moving ahead. Tomorrow at noon we will have a vote on that.

Tens of millions of American families are struggling, trying to make ends meet to give their kids a little bit better life. And, quite frankly, a lot of them on low wages are on public assistance which is costing American taxpayers nearly $250 billion every year—in food stamps, earned income tax credits, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, and Medicaid. Add all those up and it is about $243 billion a year.

Taxpayers are subsidizing a lot of these companies that are paying very low wages. Many of the companies that pay such low wages are large, multibillion dollar companies raking in big profits and showering their CEOs with wealth. The average CEO pay of a Standard & Poors 500 company was 21 percent more last year than in 2009. In other words, from 2009 until the end of last year, CEO pay at these 500 companies went up an average of 21 percent. However, since 2009, the minimum wage has not increased 1 penny. The CEO pay averages now about $11.7 million a year, while a minimum-wage worker today makes $15,000 a year. That is working full time, all year, no time off.

It was pointed out to me that a CEO earns that $15,000 by about 11:30 a.m. on the first day of work of the year. Imagine that. By 11:30 a.m. on January 2—assuming they don't work on January 1—they make $15,000. The minimum-wage earner has to work the rest of the year to make that $15,000. And many of these companies are paying the minimum wage.

It is the families who are getting hurt. This is wrong. This is not what America is about. We want people who get up and go to work every day to be able to rely on that work to support themselves. Working families want that, too. They want a paycheck which supports them, gives them a fair shot at being a member of the middle class, and a fair shot of achieving the American dream.

So now we can do something about it. We know that raising the minimum wage will help tens of millions of workers. When we raise it to $10.10, as our bill does, the bottom fifth of the workforce—nearly 30 million workers—will get a raise.

By the time this fully phases in at $10.10 in 3 years, nearly 7 million people will be lifted out of poverty. If we want an antipoverty program, we have it tomorrow when we vote on raising the minimum wage. Seven million people will be lifted out of poverty, and it

won't cost the American taxpayers one single dime, and taxpayers basically will save money because we won't be putting as much money out for public assistance such as food stamps.

I thought it was kind of interesting that the Ryan budget the House passed cuts more than 3.8 million people off of food stamps. In raising the minimum wage, our bill would save billions of dollars—about $4.6 billion a year—not by cutting people off of food stamps, but by getting their income up so that over 3 million people don't have to rely on food stamps. So under the Ryan budget, people are kicked off of food stamps and they still get minimum wage. Under ours, you get a raise in the minimum wage and you don't have to rely on food stamps, and you save about the same amount of money.

Again, I am mystified by how vehemently my Republican colleagues oppose raising the minimum wage. Certainly they must know the polling data, that the vast majority of Americans support raising the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour. But it seems my friends on the Republican side are sort of locked into some philosophy or ideology that says there shouldn't be a minimum wage. In fact, some of my colleagues on the Republican side actually believe there should be no minimum wage. None. Nothing. Well, we got over that 70 years or more ago, in 1938, when we first passed a minimum-wage law in America.

Again, we hear from the other side that by raising the minimum wage there will be this massive loss of jobs. That is simply not true. It is a myth. But it is brought up every time.

I have been in Congress now 40 years. We have raised the minimum wage several times during that period of time both under Democratic and Republican Presidents. Every time it has come up, we hear that same old song: It is going to cost jobs. Guess what. Every time we raise the minimum wage, there has been no big loss of jobs. So there are no historic facts my Republican colleagues can point to to show that raising the minimum wage costs jobs.

They do refer to the Congressional Budget Office study. Actually, that is wrong. It was not a Congressional Budget Office study. They didn't do a study themselves. What they did is looked at the literature out there going back many years on potential job losses. Some of the old studies showed there would be a job loss; under a new study they said there wouldn't be. What CBO did is they averaged them all and said: Here is the average. They didn't say specifically 500,000 jobs would be lost. They said somewhere between zero and 1 million jobs will be lost, so we will pick the midpoint at 500,000. But, again, there is no historical evidence for this in terms of looking back.

We can go back and look at what happened to our economy every time we raised the minimum wage, and there has not been a massive job loss. There has been shifting of jobs. People have been raised out of poverty. Working families do better. But there has been no massive job loss. So this is another myth.

As I said, the historical evidence is there has not been any job loss generally—not among teenagers, not among restaurant workers. In fact, this year there has been more job growth in the 13 States that raised their State minimum wages at the start of this year than in the States that didn't raise their minimum wage. Let me repeat that. There has been more job growth in States that raised their minimum wage beginning in January of this year than in the States that didn't raise their minimum wage. A lot of businesses are now understanding this. They understand that, as economists will tell you, it is the lack of aggregate demand: not enough customers. People don't have enough money.

My Republican friends want to give more money to the top, more tax cuts for the wealthy. They get more money—millions more—a year. They don't necessarily spend that on Main Street. They may go to Paris, they may buy a new jet, a new big yacht. They do things like that, but it doesn't really put money right on Main Street.

What small businesses and most economists know is that when you raise the minimum wage, those people who get that raise aren't going off to Paris. They aren't buying a private jet. They are spending it on Main Street in their local stores and local businesses, and that gives a great economic boost to our whole economy.

So when we focus on the best research, the latest research that has been done, it unequivocally shows that raising the minimum wage does not cause a job loss. Again, 600 economists, including 7 Nobel prize winners, have endorsed a minimum wage hike of $10.10 an hour. Six hundred economists, including 7 Nobel prize winners, signed a letter supporting $10.10.

> We urge you to act now and enact a three-step raise of 95 cents a year for three years—which would mean a minimum wage of $10.10 by 2016—and then index it to protect against inflation . . . these proposals will also usefully raise the tipped minimum wage to 70 percent of the regular minimum.
>
> The evidence now shows that increases in the minimum wage have had little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum-wage workers. Even during times of weakness in the labor market research suggests that a minimum-wage increase could have a small stimulative effect on the economy, as low-wage workers spend their additional earnings raising demand and job growth and providing some help on the job front.

So, again, forget about the job loss. That is not going to take place. What will take place is we will lift 7 million people out of poverty and 14 million children in America will be in families who will get a raise. That will be good for our kids.

We also hear from Republicans that some of the people who are going to benefit from a raise in the minimum wage aren't the poorest of the poor. It is not just people below the poverty line, but a lot of other people will make more money, so therefore it must not be a good policy.

First of all, I want to dispel the myth that raising the minimum wage does not affect poverty. It does. Whether you use the CBO estimate of close to 1 million workers lifted out of poverty or the results of more sophisticated economic research showing that up to 7 million workers will be lifted out of poverty by the time the bill is fully implemented, the evidence unequivocally shows that raising the minimum wage is an effective poverty-reduction tool.

But I will be the first to admit—and gladly, proudly—that this bill doesn't just help people in poverty. It also helps low-income families who are above the poverty line, and that is a good thing. That is a good thing. A lot of low-income working families will get a raise. Here is basically the breakdown: 52 percent of those who will get a raise have family incomes under $40,000; 31 percent, $60,000; and 17 percent, $40 to $60,000. So, again, it is for the people. Families making $40,000 a year will actually get a boost. How could that be? One person may be making $20,000 and the other person may be making $15,000 or $18,000. They get a boost in the minimum wage, and they benefit. Is that wrong? I don't think that is wrong at all. These are still struggling families, struggling to make sure they get enough for their kids, make sure they put a little away for a rainy day, help their kids get a good education.

Evidently, our friends the Republicans are saying: Look, we should only have something that benefits those who are in extreme poverty. Then they turn around in the Ryan budget and cut food stamps. What are they saying? You know what they are really saying: Tough luck. You are on your own. If you are a minimum wage worker, tough luck, and we don't want to raise your minimum wage.

Well, 69 percent of the workers who would get a raise under this bill have incomes that are under $60,000. So, yes, not everybody who is going to get a benefit from this is in poverty, but it will raise nearly 7 million people out of poverty and will also help some of our lower and middle-income families in America. I say that is a good thing, and I am proud that it does.

Consider an example. Jane and Joe—those are not their real names—are from Buchanan County in Iowa. They have two young boys. She is a waitress and earns a few dollars an hour plus tips. He works at a gas station for $7.25 an hour. They rely on food stamps and Medicaid. They have applied for assistance through the Low Income Home

Energy Assistance Program. They work opposite shifts, so they don't have to pay for childcare—and it is difficult to find adequate care for their younger son's medical needs—but this means they hardly ever see each other. A minimum wage increase would allow them to be together more as a family.

David is a pizza cook in Iowa. He is getting married soon and has a child on the way. He earns $9 an hour at his pizza job. So what did he do? He took on another job framing houses. He is working about 65 hours a week, no overtime. He has two jobs, so he is working 65 hours a week. That is still not enough. If he worked an entire year at 65 hours a week, he would only earn $30,400 a year. He is working 65 hours a week. That is technically above the poverty line, but no one would say he is making plenty of money and he couldn't use a raise. He is starting a family.

When we raise the minimum wage, David will get a raise at both of his jobs. At one job he is making $9 an hour, and at the other job he is making $9 an hour. He gets a raise at both. He told the Quad City Times that a minimum wage raise would mean quite a bit to improve his life and help his growing family. So, yes, he is making 30,400 bucks a year working 65 hours a week—two jobs.

You say: No, he shouldn't get this minimum wage increase.

That is what I hear from my Republican colleagues. But these are the types of families who are struggling. They need a boost, and we want to give them a boost. We want to help them earn more money—not get more in food stamps or government programs but earn more money to provide for their families and build a better life and have a fair shot at the American dream.

My Republican friends are not only opposing a raise, they are proposing drastic cuts to programs that low-wage workers must rely on to survive. As I said earlier, the Ryan budget cuts more than 3.8 million people off of food stamps, leaving them without any lifeline to put food on the table. By contrast, raising the minimum wage would reduce the food stamp rolls by almost the same amount—as many as 3.6 million people—because it would allow them to earn enough money to buy food for themselves. Both proposals save the taxpayer money, but under our proposal people get to eat. They get to put food on the table.

I have a hard time giving a lot of credence to people who say the increase of the minimum wage doesn't really help people who are in poverty. It is untrue. The professed concern about the poorest of the poor stands in stark contrast with a Republican agenda that would increase poverty and sacrifice a program that helps low-wage working families survive.

Now I want to dispel another myth—that it would hurt small business. We hear about this all the time, but every small business I have talked to says their biggest problem is not payroll costs; it is lack of demand, lack of customers. They don't have customers with money to spend. So raising the minimum wage would help their bottom line.

A lot of small businesses I talk to also tell me they are frustrated, infuriated by the fact that their competitors—the Walmarts and McDonalds and other big businesses—pay rock-bottom wages that force their workers into public assistance. Well, this places responsible small businesses at a competitive disadvantage. It forces them to subsidize their competitors' low wages through their tax dollars. That is not fair. It is bad for workers, small business, and our economy. Small business owners understand this, and that is why the majority of them support this bill. Again, opinion polls—small businesses support the minimum wage 57 percent to 43 percent because they understand that a raise in the minimum wage means their customers are going to have more money to spend on Main Street.

That is why today I received a letter from Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, and 1,000 businesses, large and small, across the country support raising the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour—1,000 all across America. I ask unanimous consent to have this letter printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

So this letter and the polls show that most small businesses get it. They know that increases in the minimum wage will increase consumer demand. They also know they will have loyal, productive workers who will stay longer and save businesses from having to constantly hire and train new people. Experienced workers who have been on the job longer are more efficient and deliver great customer service that keeps customers coming back.

Finally, some of my Republican colleagues have suggested that we shouldn't raise the minimum wage because they are better served by the earned-income tax credit. I support the earned-income tax credit, and, unlike many of my colleagues on the other side, I actually want to see it expanded so it better serves young and childless workers. Right now, if you are under the age of 25 and you are making the minimum wage of $7.25 an hour, you are making too much money to qualify for the earned-income tax credit. If you are over age 25 and you make the minimum wage, $7.25 an hour, and you have one child, you get $3,250 in earned-income tax credit, plus your childcare tax credit. That gets you up to 19,300 bucks a year. What a deal. But if you are childless, you get no earned-income tax credit.

The veterans who were mentioned earlier—let's say a vet went into the military when he or she was age 18. They got out after 3 years, 21 or 22, and they went out and got a job, a minimum wage job. They do not get the earned-income tax credit.

I am for expanding it. Let's expand the earned-income tax credit to cover childless workers under the age of 25. My Republican colleagues won't support that. They won't support that.

The earned-income tax credit does provide some good support, but think about this: It only does it once a year. The only time you get the earned-income tax credit is after you file your taxes—then you get a refund. That is once a year. Families don't live like that, especially low-income families. They have a budget month after month for heating, for electricity, for fuel, for car repairs, for clothes for the kids. They cannot count on what is going to happen next year. Their income tax credit is good, but it only happens once a year. That is not very good for budgeting purposes for any family. After all, the gas company will turn your gas off in the winter even if you are going to get an earned-income tax credit next April or May. They don't take that into account. They take into account the fact that you cannot pay your bill then. So the best way to help low-income families—minimum wage-earning families plus low-income families—the best way to help them throughout the year is to increase the minimum wage.

Again, all the arguments we hear from the other side of the aisle don't hold water. Today, while what I heard from the other side of the aisle is more talk about the Keystone Pipeline—as if that is going to solve all our problems—all we have to do is build the Keystone Pipeline, and that solves all of our problems. It does? The restaurant worker in Maine, the hospital orderly in South Carolina, the parking lot attendant in Mississippi—they are all going to benefit from the Keystone Pipeline? I don't think so. Somehow that is going to take the place of raising the minimum wage.

So they are trying a little diversion on this Keystone Pipeline. We will provide some jobs, yes, for a couple of years, and when that is over, then what are you left with? And those kinds of jobs are not the kinds of jobs low-income workers would get, which would be pretty high-skilled, high-paying jobs for the Keystone Pipeline. So it doesn't really hold water that the Keystone Pipeline is going to be the end-all and be-all for the economy. It just won't.

Raising the minimum wage is the most commonsense, practical thing we can do right now to help low-income families, give a boost to our economy, and save the taxpayers money. So I hope all my colleagues will do the right thing.

So I hope all of my colleagues will do the right thing tomorrow, allow us to

proceed to debate, and vote on increasing the minimum wage. Millions of American families will be watching this vote tomorrow. If they are working hard during the day, they won't be tuning in to C–SPAN, but they will read about it, and they will know what this Senate did about their paychecks and what we did about their desire to have a better life for their families, for their kids, and for their future.

I will also say this. If my Republican colleagues will join with us—at least five or six of them because we need 60 votes to get over the filibuster—if we get five or six, then we can move to the bill. I hope we will get 5 or 6 or 8 or 10 Republicans who will join us. If not, we will be back. This issue is not going away. I can guarantee we will be back. We will be back again and again and again.

The American people need a raise. CEOs are getting their raises: a 21-percent increase since 2009—a 21-percent increase, an average CEO is paid; zero increase for minimum wage workers. It is now time to play a little catchup ball and provide fairness for low-income workers in America. So that is the vote tomorrow—a values vote, American values, family values, sound economic values. That is what the vote is about tomorrow. I hope and I trust that some of my colleagues on the Republican side will join with us so we can move ahead to give working Americans a raise and a fair shot at the American dream.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BUSINESS FOR A FAIR MINIMUM WAGE
FEDERAL SIGN ON STATEMENT

As business owners and executives, we support raising the federal minimum wage to strengthen our economy. The minimum wage of $7.25 an hour amounts to just $15,080 a year for health aides, childcare workers, cashiers, security guards and other minimum wage workers. With less buying power than it had in the 1960s, today's minimum wage impoverishes working families and weakens the consumer demand at the heart of our economy.

Raising the minimum wage makes good business sense. Workers are also customers. Minimum wage increases boost sales at local businesses as workers buy needed goods and services they could not afford before. And nothing drives job creation more than consumer demand. Businesses also see cost savings from lower employee turnover and benefit from increased productivity, product quality and customer satisfaction. Increasing the minimum wage will also reduce the strain on our social safety net caused by inadequate wages.

A recent national poll shows that 67 percent of small business owners support increasing the federal minimum wage and adjusting it yearly to keep pace with the cost of living. The most rigorous studies of the impact of actual minimum wage increases show they do not cause job loss—whether during periods of economic growth or during recessions. The minimum wage would be over $10 if it had kept up with the rising cost of living since the 1960s instead of falling behind.

We support gradually raising the federal minimum wage over three years to at least $10.10 an hour, and then adjusting it annually for inflation to keep up with the cost of living. A fair minimum wage makes good sense for our businesses, our workforce, our communities and our nation.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to address the idea of raising the Federal minimum wage from $7.25 an hour to $10.10 an hour. But first I wish to spend a few moments talking about the state of the Senate and why the latest push for a higher Federal minimum wage isn't an issue that appears to be driven by solving the underlying economic problems our Nation faces.

Over the past few weeks, the Senate majority leader has relished in making personal attacks on two private citizens, David and Charles Koch, on this Senate floor. He has used the Senate floor for the purpose of attempting to assassinate their character. They have committed no crimes, although the majority leader appears to treat it as a crime that they don't support him politically. Many political observers can see this for exactly what it is: a desperate political strategy designed to distract from the economic misery that is being visited on the American people by a failed economic agenda. The Senate majority leader is using the Senate floor to run a political campaign against entrepreneurs and philanthropists who have dared to stand and speak out against the failed Obama economic agenda. The reason he is doing so should not surprise anyone. On substance, the record of this administration cannot be defended. They can't talk about how great ObamaCare is working because millions of Americans have lost their health insurance plans and lost the doctors they like, despite the President's repeated promises to the contrary. Health insurance plans have skyrocketed in States all across this country, especially for young people in the individual market who are seeing their rates sometimes double or triple. And they certainly can't talk about the state of the economy.

Today, we have the lowest labor force participation since 1978. The official unemployment rate is 6.7 percent, but that doesn't capture the millions who are underemployed. When we include them, the number rises to 12.7 percent. The rates of poverty in the United States are right now at historic highs—15 percent. As CNN recently noted, this is ''the first time the poverty rate has remained at or above 15 percent 3 years running since 1965.''

Among full-time workers, there are more than 3.8 million fewer employed today than there were before the recession. The number of people not in the labor force today is at its highest level since 1978. Over 91 million people are not in the American workforce. Roughly three of five working-age Americans have jobs today. This is a travesty. It is a denial of the American dream to millions of people across this country.

Long-term unemployment persists. Nearly 36 percent of the unemployed are long-term unemployed. When President Obama took office, the average number of weeks that an individual was unemployed was 19.8. Today, the average duration is 35.6 weeks.

It is also a good thing the President has begun to talk about income inequality. It is a good thing because income inequality has increased dramatically under President Obama. Today, the top 1 percent in our economy earn a higher share of our income than any year since 1928, and those who are being hurt the most in the Obama economy are the most vulnerable among us—the people who are struggling. The working class Hispanics, African Americans, and single moms are the ones paying the price for the great stagnation in which we find ourselves.

According to Gallup, the percentage of Americans who describe themselves as middle or upper class fell 8 points between 2008 and 2012. President Obama's terrible economy doesn't discriminate. It hurts Americans from every demographic. On the President's watch, women have lower incomes today. The median income for women has dropped by $733 since President Obama took office, and, indeed, poverty among women has gone up markedly under President Obama. The poverty rate for women has increased from 14.4 percent when the President took office to 16.3 percent. In real terms, that means 3.7 million more American women are in poverty today than when the President took office.

The President is not responding to any of this. Instead, we see the President, we see the Senate majority leader shifting to the topic of a mandated Federal minimum wage in an effort to change the subject. But the undeniable reality, the undeniable truth is that if the President succeeded in raising the minimum wage, it would cost jobs for the most vulnerable. The people who have been hurt by this Obama economy would be hurt worse by the minimum wage proposal before this body.

In 2013, the President, in his State of the Union address, proposed raising the minimum wage to $9. A year later, the request has magically changed to $10.10. There is no economic justification. The only reason is politics. I suppose if the approval ratings of Democratic Members of this body continue to fall, in another month we will see a proposal for $15 an hour and then maybe $20 or $25 an hour.

But I think the American people are tired of empty political show votes.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says that raising the minimum wage could cause the loss of

500,000 to 1 million jobs. I want the American people to realize, and every Member of this Senate, that votes for the minimum wage is voting to tell up to 1 million Americans: Your jobs don't matter to me because I am voting to take away your job.

By the way, this view is not only the view of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. On March 12, 2014, over 500 economists, including three Nobel Laureates, sent a letter to Congress that said the minimum wage is a poorly targeted anti-poverty measure. I will give one example from my home State. GO-Burgers, which is a Texas company with six Burger King restaurants, analyzed the effect of the minimum wage increase on their employees and their businesses. The last minimum wage increase we have seen was from $5.85 an hour in 2007 to $7.25 an hour in July of 2009, and 2010 was the first complete calendar year that GO-Burgers had to analyze the impact on their workers. GO-Burgers discovered that raising the minimum wage by 23.93 percent caused these Burger King restaurants to reduce the available hours worked by 24.98 percent, for a net sum loss in hours and wages for the typical employee.

Let me repeat that. The experience in these Burger King restaurants was the employees were worse off after the minimum wage was raised because their hours got cut in direct response to the increase. These six restaurants eliminated over 40 jobs and reduced the average number of hours worked per employee. In total, these six Burger King restaurants reduced the manhours allocated by over 60,000 hours in 2010. Sadly, the people that bear the brunt of that are not the rich and powerful. They are not those who walk the corridors of power in Washington, DC, and have gotten fat and happy under the Obama administration. The people who would bear the brunt if this bill were passed would be, to a substantial degree, young African American teenagers and young Hispanic teenagers. Right now, young minorities, if we look at unemployment rates by race—just looking at the official unemployment rates, Anglos have an unemployment rate of 5.8 percent; Hispanics, 7.9 percent; African Americans, 12.4 percent—nearly double that in the white community. It is even more heartbreaking among teenagers. White teens currently have an unemployment rate of 18.3 percent, but African American teenagers have an unemployment rate of 36.1 percent—36.1 percent. Every Senator who votes yes is voting with an absolute certainty that hundreds of thousands of workers, including a great many African American teenagers and a great many Hispanic teenagers, will be laid off as a consequence of their vote. I would challenge any of the Senators in this Chamber to look in the eyes of those African American teenagers, those Hispanic teenagers who are looking for a better opportunity.

If my colleagues detect a note of passion in my voice as I discuss this, it is because in my family this is not an abstract, hypothetical situation. Fifty-seven years ago, when my father fled Cuba and came to Texas at the age of 18, penniless, not speaking English, his first job was working in the restaurant industry as a dishwasher making 50 cents an hour. The restaurant industry had been such a terrific avenue for climbing the economic ladder, for achieving the American dream. My dad washed dishes at 50 cents an hour to pay his way through college to go on and start a small business to work toward the American dream. If the majority leader had his way, if the minimum wage were jacked up, if back in 1957 the restaurant where my father worked were forced to pay every worker $2 an hour, the odds are very high that restaurant would have fired my dad and bought a dishwasher instead. It was that entry-level job that gave him the grip on the first rung of the economic ladder that led him to pull to the second and the third and the fourth. This bill, if it were to pass, would hammer those on the bottom of the economic ladder and would take away jobs from the most vulnerable among us.

So what should we do instead? We can talk about the problems we have in this country, but we need to talk proactively about better solutions. Fortunately, we are on the cusp of a great American energy renaissance.

I have introduced legislation to remove the barriers to developing the abundant energy resources we have in this country—barriers that, if removed, would allow the creation of millions of high-paying jobs.

The discussion before this Chamber is whether to raise the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour. But even if it passed, that is not the Obama minimum wage. Rather, the real Obama minimum wage is $0.00 an hour. We have right now the lowest labor participation rate since 1978.

To the millions of Americans who have lost their job because of $1.7 trillion in new taxes, because of crushing regulations, this is the Obama minimum wage: $0.00—not the political window dressing of $10.10; the reality, the hard, brutal reality.

Last week, I was in Nebraska at a rally. A woman named Barb came up to me. She hugged my neck. She said: TED, I am a single mom. I have six little kids at home. My husband left me, and he is not paying child support. I am working five jobs, trying to keep my kids fed, trying to keep them with clothes on their backs. Barb had tears in her eyes.

One of the most brutal consequences of ObamaCare is it has forced millions of Americans like Barb into part-time work because the threshold for ObamaCare is 30 hours a week.

So instead of having one or two jobs, Barb and millions of other single moms are going from one job to another, to another, to another, and they are not spending the time with their kids. This is the brutal reality of the Obama minimum wage.

But, Madam President, I am happy to tell you, there is a better alternative. The better alternative, I would note—far better than zero, far better than the promise of $10.10 an hour—is $46.98. Madam President, $46.98—that is the average hourly wage in the oil and gas industry in the State of North Dakota.

Every one of us should want to see millions more jobs at $46.98 an hour, and we should want millions rescued from the Obama minimum wage of $0.00 an hour. That is the choice before this body—of expanding this American energy renaissance, creating opportunity.

Let me tell you, in the State of Texas—Texas is an incredible example—there is a reason why 1,400 people a day are moving to Texas, moving from high-tax, high-regulation States, represented by many of our friends on the Democratic side of the aisle. They are coming to Texas because Texas is where the jobs are and Texas is where the salaries are.

Oil and gas industry jobs in Texas paid, on average, 150 percent more than other private sector jobs in Texas—$128,000 a year compared to $51,000 a year—in 2012.

In the 23 counties atop the Eagle Ford shale in South Texas, average wages for all citizens have grown by 14.6 percent annually since 2005.

The top five counties in the Eagle Ford shale region have experienced an average 63-percent annual rate of wage growth.

How many millions of Americans would love to see 63 percent annual wage growth?

In Texas, the average pay for an entry-level truckdriver ranges from $36,000 to $45,000, but it rises to $50,000 to $70,000 in the oilfield. These are kids straight out of high school making $70,000 a year.

As reported in an AP story from March 28, 2014: ''James LeBas, economist for the Texas Oil and Gas Association, said the industry directly employed 416,000 employees in 2013 and they averaged $120,000 a year in wages.''

As a separate nation, Texas right now would rank as the ninth largest oil-producing country in the world.

Not only can energy development bring good-paying jobs, it can also help our children and schools. Cotulla, TX, was once one of the poorest districts in Texas, but now—because of the Eagle Ford shale energy development—it is one of the richest. The taxes that are coming from the energy development mean money for fixing schools, for hiring teachers, for paying them more,

and for purchasing technology in the classrooms.

One thing that is striking is what has happened across the country. If you look, this is a map I have in the Chamber of changes in median household income by county from 2007 to 2012. Madam President, 2007 to 2012 is a long time.

On this map, green indicates that the median household income has gone up; yellow indicates no statistically significant change; and red indicates it has gone down.

Overlaid on this map is an overlay of the geological shale formations in this country. What is striking about looking at median incomes in the United States is where median incomes have gone up. This is almost exactly a geological shale map of the United States.

You can see median incomes have gone up up here in the Bakken shale in and around North Dakota. You can see the Permian Basin shale, the Eagle Ford shale, the Barnett shale. You can see the Marcellus shale. Green, green, green, green—median income going up—for everyone in the county median income going up where energy production is occurring.

Now, strikingly, the Marcellus shale extends north to New York, and yet for the entire State of New York, you can see there is not a county in the State of New York where median income has gone up. Why? Well, one of the main reasons is the Democratic politicians in New York have prohibited developing those natural resources because they ban fracking.

So in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvanians apparently would like jobs, would like higher median incomes. They are seeing the benefits. But in New York, New Yorkers are not because Democratic politicians in New York have prohibited developing those resources.

I would note that one of the most promising areas is the Monterey shale in California—abundant resources—and you would note, in the entire State of California there is not one green county. That is because California, likewise—even though they have those resources, the Democratic politicians there have concluded Californians do not want jobs, they do not want higher incomes, and they are going to prohibit developing their natural resources rather than providing for the very real suffering that is being caused.

I would note, there is one striking exception from this pattern being largely a geological shale formation of this country, and that is the bright green on the map that is located right here where we are standing—the District of Columbia and the surrounding areas.

Let me tell you, it is a good time to be in and around government. The lobbyists, the consultants, those who make money on the growing and growing and growing Federal Government spending and debt, are getting fatter and happier every day. You look at the rest of the country, and you see stagnation, you see median income falling.

Rather than engaging in political games—driven by polling done by the Democratic Senatorial Committee on this minimum wage bill that, if passed, would only hurt low-income African-American and Hispanic teenagers—instead, we ought to come together with bipartisan unanimity to say: We will stand with the American people to bring millions of jobs. We will stand with the American people to raise median income. We will stand with the American people to make it easier for people who are struggling to achieve the American dream.

Therefore, I have proposed an amendment to replace the text of S. 2223, the minimum wage act, with the text of the American Energy Renaissance Act that I have introduced, S. 2170.

We should all come together and vote on removing the government barriers, opening new Federal lands and resources, developing high-paying, promising jobs that expand opportunity.

In conclusion, let me say this debate comes down to two numbers. It is not a complicated debate. This debate comes down to two numbers. On my left, the real Obama minimum wage: $0.00 an hour. I am sorry to say, in this Democratic Senate, this Chamber is largely empty. There is no discussion of fundamental tax reform or regulatory reform, of removing the barriers that have caused the lowest labor force participation since 1978.

Instead, we are debating a bill to increase unemployment. This minimum-wage bill—the nonpartisan CBO has told us more people would be paid $0.00 an hour under the bill before this Chamber. No wonder Congress's approval rating is 8, 10, 12 percent, when you take the greatest challenge facing Americans right now—the need for economic growth and jobs—and the U.S. Senate in Democratic control will not even talk about providing real relief there. No wonder people are disgusted with the U.S. Congress.

You want to know what this debate is about? Compare $0.00 an hour to $46.98 an hour. I want to see millions of Americans making $40, $50, $60 an hour, providing for their kids, having a better future.

As I travel this country, over and over again, men and women come up to me. They look me in the eyes and say: TED, I am scared. I am scared that we are bankrupting this country. I am scared that my kids and grandkids are not going to have the future, the opportunity, the freedom we have been blessed to have.

This U.S. Senate has an opportunity to address that. We should pass the American Energy Renaissance Act. We should stop making it harder for working Americans, but, instead, we should come together for jobs and economic growth.

Thank you, Madam President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF THEODORE DAVID CHUANG TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 591.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Theodore David Chuang, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Theodore David Chuang, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Barbara Mikulski, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Thomas R. Carper, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF GEORGE JARROD HAZEL TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

Mr. REID. I now proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 592.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of George Jarrod Hazel, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of George Jarrod Hazel, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Barbara Mikulski, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Thomas R. Carper, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NANCY L. MORITZ TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 575.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Dianne Feinstein, John D. Rockefeller IV, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Mikulski, Carl Levin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Harkin, Amy Klobuchar, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Robert Menendez, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH A.P. HERSMAN

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to commend the departing Chairman of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, Deborah A.P. Hersman, as she prepares to launch a new career as president and CEO of the century-old National Safety Council.

A 12-year veteran staffer of Capitol Hill, Debbie is no stranger to many Senators on both sides of the aisle. After graduating with a degree in political science from Virginia Tech and receiving a master's in conflict resolution from George Mason University, she worked as a staffer for my former colleague, Congressman Bob Wise, where she rose from intern to staff director and then to senior legislative aide. He used to say, ''She has a backbone. Don't ever think that you are ever going to push her over.'' I can see why.

Debbie came to the Senate in 1999 to work for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation under the leadership of Senator Jay Rockefeller. Her efforts during that time contributed to the passage of some of the benchmark legislation underpinning the transportation safety framework she vigorously upheld as NTSB Chairman, such as the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999, Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century, and Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act.

Debbie's outstanding leadership at the NTSB has helped make traveling safer for all Americans. She was the NTSB member on scene for the terrible Metro train collision in 2009 in this city where nine people lost their lives and dozens were injured. I was glad to see that she and the agency took charge of the investigation, and I admire her commitment to ensuring such a horrific incident will not occur again.

Debbie oversaw the timely completion of several high-profile accident investigations during her tenure as Chairman, including the deadly 2011 crash at the Reno National Championship Air Races. During the third lap of a six-lap race, 11 people lost their lives and many suffered injuries when a show plane plummeted into the spectator stands. As many of you know, these are enormously popular events. I have attended them many times. Our late colleague Senator Ted Stevens was a big fan. My own grandchildren attended those races the very week of the crash.

I commend Debbie and her team for the work they did in the aftermath of the tragedy, and to issue timely and effective recommendations to help save lives and prevent injuries in the future. Her efficient work prior to the first anniversary of the crash enabled the annual air show tradition—so important to northern Nevada for nearly 50 years—to continue even more safely than before. The recommendations provided by the NTSB will ensure that tens of thousands of spectators can safely enjoy these races.

Debbie is acknowledged as a visionary, passionate, and bipartisan safety leader who advocates for safety across all modes of transportation. At the NTSB, she has been on scene for more than 20 major transportation incidents; chaired scores of NTSB hearings, forums, and events; and regularly testifies before Congress. She was first appointed as an NTSB board member by President George W. Bush in 2004. In 2009, President Obama reappointed her to a second 5-year term and appointed her to a 2-year term as Chairman, making her, at age 39, the youngest person ever to fill that position. President Obama reappointed her as Chairman in 2011, and in August 2013, he nominated her for a third term as Chairman and for a third term as a Board member, all with unanimous Senate confirmation.

Among her many initiatives, Debbie has focused attention and actions on distracted driving, child passenger safety, and helping accident victims and their families. Her leadership has created a more transparent and accountable organization by significantly increasing the quantity and quality of NTSB information available on the agency's Web site, holding more public meetings to highlight safety issues, and embracing social media to communicate with the broadest possible audience of the traveling public.

Debbie always emphasizes the NTSB's role as ''the conscience and the compass of the transportation industry.'' The Nation has benefitted from nearly a decade of her stewardship in the agency's leadership. While we are saying goodbye to this passionate standard bearer of public safety in the Federal realm, I am very pleased that we are not losing her energy on these issues altogether. Her move to lead the National Safety Council will open up new doors to her, that organization, and to safety initiatives benefitting the entire county. It is yet another step forward in an illustrious career of heartfelt public service dedicated to protecting the well-being of all Americans.

WRIGLEY FIELD'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I wish to recognize the 100th birthday of an American icon: Wrigley Field. As the second oldest Major League ball park and oldest in the National League, Wrigley Field has hosted millions of fans and easily earned its nickname, The Friendly Confines.

On April 23rd, 1914, it opened its doors not to the Chicago Cubs, and it wasn't even called Wrigley Field. It was called Weeghman Park, and the Chicago Chifeds of the short-lived Federal League played there. The Chicago Cubs moved into their home in 1916.

From the ivy-covered outfield walls, to its hand-turned score board, to the bleachers and the marquee, you always know you are at Wrigley Field. It was the last baseball stadium to have lights installed in 1988. It was the first stadium to have an organ playing music, and that music remains to this day, the first to build permanent concession stands, the first to have live broadcast of games. While there is some dispute whether Wrigley was the first place to allow fans to keep the balls hit into the stands, it certainly is where the custom began of throwing back the opponent's homerun balls.

Wrigley hasn't always been home to the Cubs exclusively. The Decatur Staleys moved to play football there in 1921. You know them today as the Chicago Bears, and from 1921 to 1970, Wrigley was their home too. And the reason they are called the Bears is because the Cubs were already playing there. Wrigley has hosted soccer matches, concerts, and even a National Hockey League game. The first All-American Girls Professional Baseball League's first All Star Game during the 1943 midseason was played at Wrigley Field. They brought in temporary lights for that game.

The Wrigley experience means people come to have fun at the game and be involved in the game. It was as true in 1920 as it is today. Generations of kids have come to Wrigley to watch their first ballgame in the same seat their parents and grandparents watched theirs. For Cubs fans, the ball park is a community as much as a place where baseball is played. Wrigley Field is surrounded by small businesses that depend on the community. Fans go every day by foot, by bicycle, by train, or by car into the neighborhood known as Wrigleyville to see the Chicago Cubs play at their treasure of a stadium.

And they have seen legends. On June 26, 1920, a 17-year-old high school player hit a game-winning grand slam completely out of the park when his New York School of Commerce team played Chicago's Lane Tech High School. That was Lou Gehrig. Babe Ruth's called shot? It was at Wrigley Field in 1932 in the World Series. It is still debated. My boyhood hero, St. Louis Cardinal Stan Musial, recorded his 3000th hit in Wrigley. In fact, it has been said that the visiting clubhouse has had more Hall of Famers in one room than any other facility that exists in sports.

It is not just those visiting Wrigley that made the memories but those we claim as our own. Harry Caray was an announcer for decades, but it was at Wrigley Field where he became a legend with his dark-framed glasses, joviality, and his singing ''Take Me Out To The Ball Game'' with the crowd. It is a tradition still carried today. Ernie Banks' boundless energy and joy for the game, ''Let's play two!'' Ron Santo, Billy Williams, Fergie Jenkins, Ryne Sandberg, Hack Wilson, Andre Dawson, Kerry Wood, and so many others are beloved for their time playing for the Cubs in The Friendly Confines.

''There is always next year,'' a phrase too often uttered by Cubs fans, could just as easily be a promise that our field, Wrigley Field, is as much a part of the future as it is our past.

Madam President, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of one of America's greatest landmarks, Wrigley Field. Holy cow, what a ride it has been for such a wonderful place at 1060 W. Addison in Chicago, IL.

REMEMBERING THE COLUMBINE TRAGEDY

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, fifteen years ago, Colorado communities were shaken by a horrific act of violence at Columbine High School where 12 students and a teacher tragically lost their lives and many others were injured. In the wake of this violence, Coloradans came together to be there for their friends and neighbors and stood united as one community.

The strength of this community is embodied no more clearly than by Columbine High School principal Frank DeAngelis. Principal DeAngelis is retiring at the end of the school year, capping 34 years of dedication to education, community service, resilience, and leadership.

Principal DeAngelis has spent the past 18 years leading the school, fulfilling the promise he made after the attack that he would remain as principal until all the students in Columbine feeder schools at the time had graduated.

It is this enduring spirit and the strength of so many in the community that have allowed us to heal and reflect. On this somber anniversary, let's remember the victims, honor the resilience of the survivors, and collaborate to find ways to reduce these types of senseless tragedies.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, April 20 marked the 15th anniversary of the tragic shooting at Columbine High School. I come to the floor to honor the memories of the 12 young, innocent students, and beloved teacher we lost, and to recognize the bravery that so many educators and first responders showed on that horrific day.

On the day of the anniversary, Coloradans gathered at Clement Park in Littleton to remember the victims and recommit to preventing these acts of senseless violence from ever happening again. Coni Sanders, the daughter of Coach Dave Sanders who was killed that day, spoke at the gathering. If I could just share a few of her words, I think they ring very true.

She said,

> Fifteen years ago, Columbine was a massacre. Columbine was a tragedy. Columbine was synonymous with death. Today, we recognize that Columbine is a community and that even the most violent of hate could not shake us.

Coni's words express the pain we have all been left with in the wake of too many similar tragedies in Colorado and across the country. But her words also remind us of the enduring strength of our communities and the need to do more to combat gun violence in the United States.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, this month, 46 veterans from the Last Frontier and Golden Heart Chapters of the Honor Flight Network are traveling from Alaska to Washington, DC, to visit their memorials. I know you will join me in welcoming these heroes to our Nation's capital and recognizing their service to our Nation.

I would like to record the individual names of those who traveled from Alaska to be here today. World War II Veterans of the Alaska Territorial Guard: Mr. Wesley Aiken, Mr. Gust Bartman, Mr. Sigurd L. Edwards, Mr. Daniel E. Henry, Sr., Mr. Daniel K. Karmun, Mr. David U. Leavitt, Sr., Mr. Henry H. Neligan, and Mr. Vincent Tocktoo, Sr. World War II Veterans: Mr. William R. Alter, Army; Mr. Bruce E. Arndt, Army; Ms. Nancy Baker, Army Air Corp; Mr. Robert H. Breakfield, Navy; Mr. William E. Bush, Marines; Mr. Norman H.V. Elliott, Army; Mr. David K. Fison, Navy; Mr. Frank E. Flavin, Army; Mr. Kirtley E. Franse, Air Force & Army; Mr. Malven R. Gaither, Navy; Mr. Eldon L. Gallear, Merchant Marines; Mr. George G. Gilbertson, Navy; Mr. Warren G. Hackney, Merchant Marines; Mr. Arthur Hammer, Air Force, Mr. Robert P. Harrison, Army; Mr. Donald M. Hoover, Navy; Mr. Robert L. Johnston, Navy; Mr. Willard J. Jorgensen, Army; Mr. Robert W. Kittleson, Navy & Air Force; Mr. Gordon E. Kler, Navy; Mr. Thomas Lewis, Navy; Mr. Gerald J. Lind, Air Force & Army; Ms. Bette-Rae Mattoon, Navy WAVE; Mr. Roby S. Mchone, Army; Mr. Leon N. Merkes, Army; Mr. George R. Painter, Merchant Marines; Ms. Charlotte K. Schwid, Army; Mr. Joseph E. Stanger, Air Force; Ms. Francis A. Swaim, Army; Mr. George C. Swift, Coast Guard; Mr. James H. Weaver, Army; and Mr. Edward C. Willis, Merchant Marines. Korean War Veterans: Mr. William Blocolsky, Navy; Ms. Lorane J. Mobley, Navy; and Mr. Richard C. Sullivan, Marines. Vietnam War Veterans: Mr. Roger W. Brooks, Army; Mr. Alan L. Coble, Army; and Mr. Clifford E. Mobley, Army.

These veterans from Alaska join over 118,000 other veterans from across the land who, since 2005, have traveled to our Nation's capital to visit and reflect at memorials built here in their honor. This Honor Flight was made possible by generous public donations and contributions from those who wish to honor these heroes.

We owe so much to our active duty military and veterans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and protect our freedoms. Without their courage, commitment and sacrifice, we would not enjoy the liberties we cherish today.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I extend my sincerest gratitude. I also extend my thanks to the staff, volunteers and supporters of the Honor Flight program who make these trips possible.

Again, thank you to all Alaska veterans and volunteers for their dedication, commitment, and service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RENEE HENDERSON

● Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, today I wish to thank Renee Henderson for her 43 years of outstanding service to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, Kenai community, and Kenai Central High School on the occasion of her retirement.

Since her first day working for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District on August 30, 1971, Ms. Henderson has taught over 13,000 students. Ms. Henderson provided students with many life-changing experiences, including traveling to destinations across the world to perform.

Ms. Henderson has contributed to the Kenai Peninsula community through her hard work and dedication. She has touched thousands of lives by being a world-class musical professional. It is only appropriate through her contributions to the community that the school's auditorium was named the Renee C. Henderson Auditorium. She has shared her appreciation for the gift of music, through her concerts, tours, private lessons and choir program, to help countless young people nurture their musical gifts and enrich the world around them.

Along with Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Renee for her many years of educational excellence. We wish the absolute best to her as she begins this next stage in her life.●

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ALASKA

● Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I wish to recognize Special Olympics Alaska for their outstanding job in improving the lives of those with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics was founded by the late Eunice Mary Kennedy Shriver in 1962. Mrs. Shriver saw how unfairly people with intellectual disabilities were treated and founded Camp Shriver, which eventually evolved to Special Olympics in 1968. Special Olympics Alaska also traces its beginnings back to 1968, when they held their first State games in 1969 in Fairbanks. Since then, the Special Olympics Alaska programs have grown to include over 500 athletes and 1,000 volunteers around the State.

Through sports, the athletes are able to see what they are capable of achieving and quickly gain confidence. I have seen firsthand how Special Olympics Alaska uses the power of sports to help athletes learn about friendly competition and sportsmanship, as well as provide them with an opportunity to make friendships that will last a lifetime.

In 2001, Anchorage hosted the Special Olympics World Winter Games. More than 1,800 athletes representing 70 countries competed in 7 Olympic-type winter sports—making this the largest sporting event ever held in the history of Alaska. This year, Special Olympics Alaska will open its first Athlete Training Center and Campus in Anchorage on May 8. This facility will give the athletes a dedicated facility to practice and prepare for future games in which they will represent Alaska.

I would like to recognize Special Olympics Alaska and all the work they do to improve the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. I wish the absolute best to the athletes, families and supporters as they transition into their new training center.●

REMEMBERING BUD PURDY

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I wish to honor a true Idaho original, a man who set the bar high for ranching and conservation in my State and established a world-class trout fishery.

Every so often, a generation produces remarkable characters—individuals who set their sights high and leave the bar higher for us. Bud Purdy of Picabo, ID, was one of those people. While he could not claim Idaho by birth, he more than proved to be an Idahoan through his experiences, work ethic, and inclinations. He began working on a family sheep ranch in Blaine County at Picabo, near Sun Valley, during summers in 1928. Not long after, a young Bud Purdy climbed nearby Hyndman Peak at over 12,000 feet. He graduated from college by the time he was 20, and despite an offer to go into banking, he chose to manage that family ranch. He was a hunting partner for writer Ernest Hemingway. There wasn't much Bud Purdy could not do. He was still flying his own airplane at the age of 94. He was—and is—considered an Idaho legend.

Bud made his mark in Picabo, Sun Valley, and Idaho. Near his ranch there is a creek that is world-renown—Silver Creek. It was along that creek that Bud joined a young Hemingway, actor Gary Cooper, and many others to fish and hunt birds. When Hemingway moved to Idaho in 1959, he had already been hunting with Bud for many years. The Purdy ranch consisted of 6,000 acres along Silver Creek. The waters of that creek are so crystal clear that you can see the trout. I have been one of those lucky enough to fish there. Bud and his family were visionaries. They donated a 3,500 acre easement to the Nature Conservancy that meant the land could never be subdivided, and the world-class fishery remains there today, just like it was when Bud arrived 86 years ago.

Bud felt all ranchers should have a strong conservation ethic, and he was one of the first to employ rest-rotation grazing to protect the land and water. Bud got that message out as a founder of the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. He was recently inducted into the Idaho Hall of Fame, joining the likes of Hemingway, poet Ezra Pound, skier Picabo Street, former U.S. Senator William Borah, and agri-businessman J.R. Simplot.

It was important to Bud to pass along the message to care about the

land, and he has succeeded admirably. As he told writer Steven Stuebner in an article for the Rangeland Commission about the ranching profession:

Once you get started in it, you're hooked. Every morning, you get up and do something different. You turn out on the range and ride a horse every day. Even now, I go out and make sure the water is OK, check the fences and make sure the gates are closed. It's just a constant going out there and doing it. I was never a cowboy, but I've ridden a million miles.

That description of the ranch life in Central Idaho sounds a long way from Capitol Hill, but the hard work ethic and the dedication to principle is what made Bud Purdy an Idaho, and American, hero. His life of service is something we can all aspire to, or as Idaho Governor Butch Otter said, ''someone whose life was a lesson in cowboy ethics, common sense, stewardship and the value of hard work and perseverance''.●

REMEMBERING RICKY DEL FIORENTINO

● Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Sheriff's Deputy Ricky Del Fiorentino, an exceptional law enforcement officer, a devoted and loyal friend, and most of all a dedicated family man, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on March 19, 2014.

Ricky Del Fiorentino was born and raised in Napa, CA, where he excelled in both football and wrestling at Napa High School. His high school football coach called him the best lineman he had ever trained. Ricky also placed second in the heavyweight division of the State wrestling championship in 1982 and later earned a scholarship to wrestle at the University of Oklahoma. In 1998, he was inducted into the Napa High Athletic Hall of Fame.

After graduating from the Napa Valley Police Academy, Ricky joined the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. His distinguished 26-year law enforcement career in Mendocino County included 10 years with the Fort Bragg Police before he returned to the sheriff's department in 2000. Residents of the Mendocino coast remember Deputy Del Fiorentino as a calm, towering presence and a guardian of the community. At a candlelight vigil in his honor, many community members described him as gentle, helpful, trusting, loving, and caring, relating personal interactions that had stayed with them for years.

Deputy Del Fiorentino was a respected and experienced leader, passionate about his work and never hesitant to help someone in need. In 1992, he dove into the Noyo River to rescue a young man who had jumped off the Noyo Bridge. In 1998, he again showed his courage by rescuing four people who had been swept into the water at Pudding Creek by a sneaker wave. These heroic acts were second nature to Deputy Del Fiorentino, who received many official commendations from the community he served.

Deputy Del Fiorentino's friends say he had a ready smile, was quick to laugh, was an avid outdoorsman and a devoted husband, father, and brother. When he was not on duty he spent as much time as he could with his friends and family.

Ricky Del Fiorentino devoted his life to his family, his community, and his country. His dedicated and courageous service will not be forgotten. On behalf of the people of California, whom he served so bravely, I extend my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.●

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

● Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I wish to congratulate the hard-working members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers—IBEW—Local 153 as they celebrate 100 years of working together to improve living standards by building safe communities throughout Michiana.

IBEW Local 153 was started by just 18 members in 1914 in South Bend, IN. Its charter members were Fred Champaigne, Louis Brehmer, Omer C. Naftzger, Roy Watt, Calvin Beatty, William Weber, C. Sinnoth, Rob Elliott, R.J. Suabedissen, W.A. Henry, Walter A. Stickley, Lester E. Beatty, E.A. Nimtz, R.M. Dice, Leo A. Mathis, Frank Hamer, Oliver Doehmer and B.J. Doehmer. These men represent the determination and leadership that have shaped our commitment to fair labor standards and strong communities across the country. On April 21, 1914, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers granted them their charter.

Today, IBEW Local 153 covers St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall and Kosciusko counties in north central Indiana and Berrien and Cass counties in Michigan. It counts over 900 men and women as its members. Over the years, it has worked vigilantly to promote the interests and values of working men and women by advocating for the best education and training to achieve the highest quality standards, safer working conditions, fair compensation, individual security and strong intellectual, moral, and social conditions. While these efforts have been critical to the success of its members, every American has benefitted from the work of organized labor and locals like IBEW Local 153, to promote standard working hours, a living wage, worker safety, as well as strong families and stronger communities.

Congratulations to the officers of IBEW Local 153 including Michael Leda, president; Shawn Huffine, vice president; Dustin Hansen, treasurer; Marshall Kaminsky, recording secretary; Mike Compton, business manager; Bill Haase, assistant business manager; Stan Miles, director of membership development; the members of the executive board, exam board, and office staff for guiding IBEW Local 153 to this remarkable milestone, as it continues to support the goals first envisioned by its founders.

Most importantly, I congratulate all IBEW Local 153 members and their families for their loyalty, ongoing support, and hard work they give the Michiana community.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I sincerely congratulate each and every member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 153 on their 100th Anniversary, and I wish them continued success and growth over the next 100 years.●

REMEMBERING MATTHEW KLEMCHALK

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I wish to honor the memory of an exemplary citizen of New Jersey who we lost too soon: Matthew E. Klemchalk of Allendale. Matthew passed away on April 10, 2014 at the age of 35. He was an outstanding member of his community, beloved by his family and friends, and a professional engineer whose work will be appreciated by generations of New Jersey residents as they drive over the roads and ride the rails that he designed and saw to completion.

Matthew was a 1996 graduate of Northern Highlands High School, and a lifelong train enthusiast. He brought his passion for trains to his work as chief estimator of track at the Railroad Construction Company, where he worked for the past 14 years. Matthew worked on major infrastructure projects that New Jersey's citizens see and use every day, including the Secaucus Road separation project, the U.S. Route 46 interchange improvements in Wayne, Route 46 over Overpeck Creek in Bergen County, and the Lackawanna Avenue improvement and bridge replacement in West Paterson.

He taught concurrently as a professor at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, where he earned his bachelors and masters degrees. The institute has organized the Matt Klemchalk Scholarship in his name to honor his memory and help other prospective engineers follow in Matt's footsteps to meaningful community engagement and service.

He is survived by his parents Matthew and Jane and his sister, Jennifer, and will be missed by many others whom he touched during his short life.

The great State of New Jersey is better today for his dedication to detail and passion for engineering, and my condolences go to his family and loved

ones. I would encourage more of America's youth to follow his example of living your dreams to the benefit of your community and your country.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB SILBERNAGEL

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Bob Silbernagel, who retired in March after a 40-year career working for Colorado newspapers, including the last 18 years as the editorial page editor and voice of the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. The Colorado Press Association wisely named Mr. Silbernagel the 2013 ''Newspaper Person of the Year,'' and the Colorado Associated Press Editors and Reporters Association awarded him the first place award for editorial writing in 2012. Over his years in journalism, Mr. Silbernagel received dozens of other awards for editorial writing, column writing, news reporting, and online content from the Colorado Press Association, the Colorado Associated Press Editors and Reporters, Cox Newspapers, and the National Associated Press Editors.

Born in Madison, WI, Mr. Silbernagel received his journalism degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1973, after which he worked as a political reporter, environmental writer, business writer, city editor, and bureau reporter. He authored three books, most recently ''Troubled Trails: The Meeker Affair and the Expulsion of Utes from Colorado'' in 2011; ''Dinosaur Stalkers, Tracking Dinosaur Discoveries of Western Colorado and Eastern Utah'' in 1996, and ''Parks & Trails, A Guide and History for the Colorado Riverfront Project in Mesa County'' in 2004.

Upon his retirement from the Daily Sentinel, Jay Seaton, publisher of the newspaper, aptly described Mr. Silbernagel as ''not a purveyor of sound bites or catchy gotchas'' but as ''a careful journalist whose logic and dispassionate presentation of undisputed facts [made] his editorials not just compelling but illuminating.'' I could not agree more. Coloradans are well served by such honorable journalists as Bob Silbernagel.●

LUDLOW MASSACRE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Ludlow Massacre. On April 20, 1914, 20 southern Coloradan men, women and children tragically lost their lives in one of the most dramatic confrontations for workers' rights in the United States. As we reflect on this tragedy, let us remember these brave Coloradans whose courageousness prompted lasting changes in national labor relations.

The families of Ludlow 100 years ago aren't that different from Coloradans today. They, too, came to Colorado in search of opportunity and a better life. But unlike today's Coloradans, these miners worked prolonged days in unsafe working conditions, had few protections or avenues for airing grievances, and spent much of their income to pay mine operators for inflated rent and supplies. Ludlow miners, representing a cross-section of early 20th century America, stood together as one to fight for fair wages, safer working conditions, the right to live and shop where they wanted, an 8-hour workday, and dignity in the workplace. In doing so, some of these men, women, and children paid dearly with their lives.

After major coal companies rejected the demands of the miners and evicted Ludlow residents from their company homes for striking, a tent community arose outside of Ludlow. This camp is where months of escalation would reach its dramatic and tragic conclusion. On April 20, 1914, a gun battle erupted between miners and National Guardsmen acting alongside the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company security personnel. Over 20 individuals lost their lives in this fight, including 11 children and 2 women trapped beneath a burning tent in a pit meant to serve as refuge. The public outrage over the Ludlow Massacre, as it came to be known, was intense and deep.

A century after this historic event, we remember those who lost their lives and honor the courage of the Coloradans who stood up for their rights. Because of their bravery, mining towns began to enact reforms that banned child labor, improved worker safety, and protected unionized workers from discrimination. Legislation in 1933 enabled unionization throughout Colorado's coalfields, protecting mine workers who continue contributing to our State's economy. The Ludlow Massacre was also a watershed moment that ushered in a national shift in labor relations, including the passage of the National Labor Relations Act, which protects workers' most basic rights.

During the 100th anniversary of the Ludlow Massacre, we recognize our appreciation for the progress of American labor relations in exchange for the ultimate sacrifices of these Coloradans and many other American workers.

Thank you for joining me in remembrance and reflection of this important day.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 298. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 930. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia town site in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1501. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System.

H.R. 3110. An act to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska.

H.R. 4032. An act to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4120. An act to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date.

H.R. 4192. An act to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed.

H.R. 4194. An act to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 994. A bill to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 298. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 930. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia town site in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1501. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4032. An act to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4194. An act to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting

requirements; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2262. A bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3110. An act to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5364. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2013''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–5365. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2014''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–5366. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of violations of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–5367. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs, Payment Limitations, and Payment Eligibility'' (RIN0560–AI21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5368. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tobacco Transition Program Assessments; Final Appeals and Revisions Procedures'' (RIN0560–AH30) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5369. A communication from the Director of the Issuances Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prior Label Approval System: Generic Label Approval'' (RIN0583–AC59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5370. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Office, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010'' (RIN0584–AE19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5371. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulations Issued Under the Export Apple Act; Exempting Bulk Shipments to Canada From Minimum Requirements and Inspection'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–14–0022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5372. A communication from the Associate Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities'' (RIN0524–AA39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5373. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pine Shoot Beetle; Addition of Quarantined Areas and Regulated Articles'' (Docket No. APHIS–2010–0031) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5374. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Asian Longhorned Beetle; Quarantined Areas in Ohio'' (Docket No. APHIS–2013–0004) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5375. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Program Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) and Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) for the Handheld, Manpack and Small Form Fit program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5376. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John F. Mulholland, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5377. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense corrosion report for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5378. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contracting Officer's Representative'' ((RIN0750–AI21) (DFARS Case 2013–D023)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5379. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Contract Financing'' ((RIN0750–AI) (DFARS Case 2013–D014)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5380. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Photovoltaic Devices'' ((RIN0750–AI18) (DFARS Case 2014–D006)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5381. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments'' (FAC 2005–73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5382. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Small Entity Compliance Guide'' (FAC 2005–73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5383. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005–73; Introduction'' (FAC 2005–73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5384. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2011–018, Positive Law Codification of Title 41'' (RIN9000–AM30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5385. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the utilization of a contribution to the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5386. A communication from the Secretary of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Program Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) and Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) for the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS)

Block 40/45 Upgrade program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5387. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Program Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) and Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) for the Vertical Takeoff and Landing Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (VTUAV) program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5388. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the operations of the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5389. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Annual Materials Plan for fiscal year 2015 and the succeeding 4 years, fiscal years 2016–2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5390. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department of Defense 2014 Major Automated Information System (MAIS) Annual Reports (MARs) and an index of the 41 MARs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5391. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Michael A. LeFever, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5392. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of six (6) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5393. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict) Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Combating Terrorism Activities Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Estimates''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5394. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting a legislative proposal relative to providing a five-year reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5395. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' (Docket No. FEMA–2013–0002) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5396. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Implementation of Basel III, Capital Adequacy, Transition Provisions, Prompt Corrective Action, Standardized Approach for Risk-Weighted Assets, Market Discipline and Disclosure Requirements, Advanced Approaches Risk-Based Capital Rule, and Market Risk Capital Rule'' (RIN3064–AD95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5397. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Addition of Person to the Entity List'' (RIN0694–AG14) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5398. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5399. A communication from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2013 management reports; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5400. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was originally declared in Executive Order 13611 on May 16, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5401. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5402. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5403. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Technical Amendments'' (RIN3133–AE33) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5404. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Transnuclear, Inc. Standardized NUHOMS Cask System'' (RIN3150–AJ28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5405. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, flood risk management project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5406. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Secretary of the Army's recommendation to increase the authorized cost of the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Reconstruction project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5407. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Timing Requirements for the Submission of a Site Assessment Plan (SAP) or General Activities Plan (GAP) for a Renewable Energy Project on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)'' (RIN1010–AD77) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5408. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Refrigerators, Refrigerator-Freezers, and Freezers'' (RIN1904–AC76) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5409. A communication from the Human Resources Specialist, Office of the Executive Director, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's annual report on the category rating system; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–5410. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Frequency Response and Frequency Bias Setting Reliability Standard'' (Docket No. RM13–11–000) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5411. A communication from the Designated Federal Official, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the United States World War One Centennial Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5412. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5413. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''2013 Economic Dispatch and Technological Change''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5414. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Department of the Treasury Acquisition Regulations; Contract Clause on Minority and Women Inclusion in Contractor Workforce'' (RIN1505–AC40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5415. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Treatment of United States Persons that Own Stock of

Passive Foreign Investment Companies Through Certain Organizations and Accounts that Are Tax Exempt'' (Notice 2014–28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5416. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Determination of Housing Cost Amounts Eligible for Exclusion or Deduction for 2014'' (Notice 2014–29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5417. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Extension of the Payment Adjustment for Low-Volume Hospitals and the Medicare-Dependent Hospital (MDH) Program Under the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (IPPS) for Acute Care Hospitals for Fiscal Year 2014'' (RIN0938–AR12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5418. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicaid Program; Preliminary Disproportionate Share Hospital Allotments (DSH) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and the Preliminary Institutions for Mental Diseases Disproportionate Share Hospital Limits for FY 2014'' (CMS–2389–N) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5419. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to entering into a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Categories of Archaeological and Ecclesiastical Ethnological Material of the Republic of Bulgaria; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5420. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on Preventive Services and Obesity-related Services Available to Medicaid Enrollees''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5421. A communication from the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Medicaid Integrity Program Report for Fiscal Year 2013''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5422. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to contracting with the National Academy of Sciences for a committee of medical experts to assist with disability issues; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, of South Dakota, for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*J. Mark McWatters, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2019.

*Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

*Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2006.

*Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012.

*Gustavo Velázquez Aguilar, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

*Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2014.

*Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COATS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. LEE):

S. 2265. A bill to prohibit certain assistance to the Palestinian Authority; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2266. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to establish a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by certain diseases is the result of the performance of the duties of the employee; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2267. A bill to modify chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for theft of trade secrets; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2268. A bill to establish grant programs to improve the health of border area residents and for all hazards preparedness in the border area including bioterrorism, infectious disease, and noncommunicable emerging threats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. 2269. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to prepare individuals with multiple barriers to employment to enter the workforce by providing such individuals with support services, job training, and education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2270. A bill to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY:

S. Res. 425. A resolution expressing support for the goals and ideals of ''National Donate Life Month''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. KIRK):

S. Res. 426. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 427. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate about the importance of effective civic education programs in schools in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 428. A resolution promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2014, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States, such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. REED, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 429. A resolution designating April 30, 2014, as ''Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.

375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, supra.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 727, a bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 872

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 872, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, to make the shareholder threshold for registration of savings and loan holding companies the same as for bank holding companies.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2018.

S. 1069

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1069, a bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1688

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1688, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), collectively, in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 1911

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1911, a bill to reform and strengthen the workforce investment system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century, and for other purposes.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders.

S. 1996

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1996, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2004, a bill to ensure the safety of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, as they travel on and across federally funded streets and highways.

S. 2009

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2009, a bill to improve the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans in rural and highly rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2092

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2092, a bill to provide certain protections from civil liability with respect to the emergency administration of opioid overdose drugs.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and

the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2125, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2244

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2244, a bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 2248

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2248, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the number of children eligible for free school meals, with a phased-in transition period, with an offset.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2252, a bill to reaffirm the importance of community banking and community banking regulatory experience on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, to ensure that the Federal Reserve Board of Governors has a member who has previous experience in community banking or community banking supervision, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 372

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 372, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights.

S. RES. 421

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 421, a resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and military achievement by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending them for leadership and valor in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

S. RES. 423

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 423, a resolution designating April 2014 as ''Financial Literacy Month''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2270. A bill to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to be joined today by my colleagues, MIKE JOHANNS and SHERROD BROWN, in introducing the Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014. We are pleased to be joined by Senators KIRK and TESTER as cosponsors. This legislation clarifies the Federal Reserve's authority to recognize the distinctions between banking and insurance when implementing section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Act, commonly referred to as the ''Collins Amendment'' since I wrote this provision of the law.

Before I describe our bill in detail, I would like to provide some background on section 171 and why it is so important that nothing be done to diminish or weaken it.

We all recall the circumstances we faced 4 years ago, as our Nation was emerging from the most serious financial crisis since the Great Depression. That crisis had many causes, but among the most important was the fact that some of our nation's largest financial institutions were dangerously undercapitalized, while at the same time, they held interconnected assets and liabilities that could not be disentangled in the midst of a crisis.

The failure of these over-leveraged financial institutions threatened to bring the American economy to its knees. As a consequence, the federal government was forced to step in to prop-up financial institutions that were considered ''too big to fail.'' Little has angered the American public more than these taxpayer-funded bailouts.

That is the context in which I offered my capital standards amendment, which became section 171 of Dodd-Frank. Section 171 is aimed at addressing the ''too big to fail'' problem at the root of the 2008–2009 crisis by requiring large financial holding companies to maintain a level of capital at least as high as that required for our nation's community banks, equalizing their minimum capital requirements, and eliminating the incentive for banks to become ''too big to fail.''

Incredibly, prior to the passage of Section 171, the capital and risk standards for our Nation's largest financial institutions were more lax than those that applied to smaller depository banks, even though the failure of larger institutions was much more likely to trigger the kind of cascade of economic harm that we experienced during the crisis. Section 171 gave the regulators the tools, and the direction, to fix this problem.

It is important to recognize that Section 171 allows the federal regulators to take into account the significant distinctions between banking and insurance, and the implications of those distinctions for capital adequacy. I have written to the financial regulators on more than one occasion to underscore this point. For example, in a November 26, 2012, letter I stressed that it was not Congress's intent to replace State-based insurance regulation with a bank-centric capital regime. For that reason, I called upon the federal regulators to acknowledge the distinctions between banking and insurance, and to take those distinctions into account in the final rules implementing Section 171.

While the Federal Reserve has acknowledged the important distinctions between insurance and banking, it has repeatedly suggested that it lacks authority to take those distinctions into account when implementing the consolidated capital standards required by Section 171. As I have already said, I do not agree that the Fed lacks this authority and find its disregard of my clear intent as the author of section 171 to be frustrating, to say the least. Experts testifying before the Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection subcommittee of the Senate Banking Committee, chaired by Senator BROWN, concur that the Federal Reserve has ample authority to draw these distinctions.

Nevertheless, the bill we are introducing today clarifies the Federal Reserve's authority to recognize the distinctions between insurance and banking.

Specifically, our legislation would add language to section 171 to clarify that, in establishing minimum capital requirements for holding companies on a consolidated basis, the Federal Reserve is not required to include insurance activities so long as those activities are regulated as insurance at the State level. Our legislation also provides a mechanism for the Federal Reserve, acting in consultation with the appropriate State insurance authority, to provide similar treatment for foreign insurance entities within a U.S. holding company where that entity does not itself do business in the United States. In addition, our legislation directs the Fed not to require insurers which file holding company financial statements using Statutory Accounting Principles to instead prepare their financial statements using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

I should point out that our legislation does not, in any way, modify or supersede any other provision of law upon which the Federal Reserve may rely to set appropriate holding company capital requirements.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues, Senators BROWN and JOHANNS, for working so hard with me over many months to help craft the language we are introducing today. I believe our language removes any doubt about the Federal Reserve's authority to address the legitimate concerns raised by insurers that they not have a bank-centric capital regime for their insurance activities imposed upon them. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2270

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF LEVERAGE AND RISK-BASED CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS.

Section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5371) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(4) BUSINESS OF INSURANCE.—The term 'business of insurance' has the same meaning as in section 1002(3).

''(5) PERSON REGULATED BY A STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR.—The term 'person regulated by a State insurance regulator' has the same meaning as in section 1002(22).

''(6) REGULATED FOREIGN SUBSIDIARY AND REGULATED FOREIGN AFFILIATE.—The terms 'regulated foreign subsidiary' and 'regulated foreign affiliate' mean a person engaged in the business of insurance in a foreign country that is regulated by a foreign insurance regulatory authority that is a member of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors or other comparable foreign insurance regulatory authority as determined by the Board of Governors following consultation with the State insurance regulators, including the lead State insurance commissioner (or similar State official) of the insurance holding company system as determined by the procedures within the Financial Analysis Handbook adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, where the person, or its principal United States insurance affiliate, has its principal place of business or is domiciled, but only to the extent that—

''(A) such person acts in its capacity as a regulated insurance entity; and

''(B) the Board of Governors does not determine that the capital requirements in a specific foreign jurisdiction are inadequate.

''(7) CAPACITY AS A REGULATED INSURANCE ENTITY.—The term 'capacity as a regulated insurance entity'—

''(A) includes any action or activity undertaken by a person regulated by a State insurance regulator or a regulated foreign subsidiary or regulated foreign affiliate of such person, as those actions relate to the provision of insurance, or other activities necessary to engage in the business of insurance; and

''(B) does not include any action or activity, including any financial activity, that is not regulated by a State insurance regulator or a foreign agency or authority and subject to State insurance capital requirements or, in the case of a regulated foreign subsidiary or regulated foreign affiliate, capital requirements imposed by a foreign insurance regulatory authority.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) CLARIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing the minimum leverage capital requirements and minimum risk-based capital requirements on a consolidated basis for a depository institution holding company or a nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors as required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), the appropriate Federal banking agencies shall not be required to include, for any purpose of this section (including in any determination of consolidation), a person regulated by a State insurance regulator or a regulated foreign subsidiary or a regulated foreign affiliate of such person engaged in the business of insurance, to the extent that such person acts in its capacity as a regulated insurance entity.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON BOARD'S AUTHORITY.—This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit, modify, limit, or otherwise supersede any other provision of Federal law that provides the Board of Governors authority to issue regulations and orders relating to capital requirements for depository institution holding companies or nonbank financial companies supervised by the Board of Governors.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a depository institution holding company or nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve that is also a person regulated by a State insurance regulator or a regulated foreign subsidiary or a regulated foreign affiliate of such person that files its holding company financial statements utilizing only Statutory Accounting Principles in accordance with State law, shall not be required to prepare such financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.''.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, November 26, 2012.

Hon. BEN S. BENANKE,
Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC.

Hon. MARTIN J. GRUENBERG,
Acting Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Washington, DC.

Hon. THOMAS J. CURRY,
Comptroller, Department of the Treasury, Office of the Comptroller, Washington, DC.

Re Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Implementation of Basel III, Minimum Regulatory Capital Ratios, Capital Adequacy, Transition Provisions, and Prompt Corrective Action (RIN 3064–AD95); Regulatory Capital Rules: Standardized Approach for Risk-weighted Assets; Market Discipline and Disclosure Requirements (RIN 3064–AD96); Regulatory Capital Rules: Advanced-Approaches Risk-Based Capital Rule; Market Risk Capital Rule (RN 3064–AD87).

DEAR CHAIRMAN BERNANKE, ACTING CHAIRMAN GRUENBERG, AND COMPTROLLER CURRY: I am writing to comment on the proposed rules implementing the Basel III regulatory capital framework.

As the author of Section 171 (the ''Collins Amendment'') of the Dodd-Frank Act, I believe strongly that capital requirements must ensure that firms have an adequate capital cushion in difficult economic times, and provide a disincentive to their becoming 'too big to fail.' To achieve this, Section 171 requires that large bank holding companies be subject, at a minimum, to the same capital requirements that small community banks have traditionally faced.

During consideration of the Dodd-Frank Act, I supported modifications to the final language to Section 171 to ensure a smooth transition to increased capital standards. Among these modifications were provisions to delay, for five years, the application of new capital requirements for savings and loan holding companies (''SLHCs''), and for certain foreign-owned bank holding companies. See subsections (b)(4)(D) and (E) of Section 171. These modifications were intended to allow these entities the time they need to adjust their balance sheets and capital levels in order to come into compliance with the new capital standards. The proposed rules implement the five year delay provided to foreign-owned bank holding companies by Section 171 (b)(4)(E), but neglect to implement the nearly identical delay for SLHCs provided by Section 171 (b)(4)(E). I do not understand why the proposed rules fail to implement this provision, as required by Congressional intent and the clear language of the statute.

I am hopeful, too, that in crafting final rules, you will give further consideration to the distinctions between banking and insurance, and the implications of those distinctions for capital adequacy. It is, of course, essential that insurers with depository institution holding companies in their corporate structure be adequately capitalized on a consolidated basis. Even so, it was not Congress's intent that federal regulators supplant prudential state-based insurance regulation with a bank-centric capital regime. Instead, consideration should be given

to the distinctions between banks and insurance companies, a point which Chairman Bernanke rightly acknowledged in testimony before the House Banking Committee this summer. For example, banks and insurers typically have a different composition of assets and liabilities, since it is fundamental to insurance companies to match assets to liabilities, but this is not characteristic of most banks. I believe it is consistent with my amendment that these distinctions be recognized in the final rules.

I am hopeful you will keep these concerns in mind as you continue to implement the Dodd-Frank Act and the proposed rules referenced above implementing the Basel III regulatory capital framework.

Sincerely,

SUSAN M. COLLINS,
United States Senator.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 425—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF ''NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH''

Mr. CASEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 425

Whereas in March 2014, over 118,800 individuals were on the official waiting list for organ donation managed by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network;

Whereas in 2013, 31,422 organs from 14,257 donors (including both living and deceased donors) were transplanted into 28,952 patients, yet 6,123 candidates for transplantation died while waiting for an organ transplant;

Whereas on average, 18 people die every day of every year while waiting for an organ donation;

Whereas over 100,000,000 people in the United States are registered to be organ and tissue donors, yet the demand for donated organs still outweighs the supply of organs made available each day;

Whereas many people do not know about their options for organ and tissue donation, or have not made their wishes clear to their families;

Whereas organ and tissue donation can give meaning to the tragic loss of a loved one by enabling up to 8 people to receive the gift of life from a single deceased donor;

Whereas living donors can donate a kidney or a portion of a lung or liver to save the life of another individual; and

Whereas April is traditionally recognized as ''National Donate Life Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of ''National Donate Life Month'';

(2) supports promoting awareness of organ donation;

(3) encourages States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of National Donate Life Month by issuing proclamations designating April 2014 as National Donate Life Month;

(4) commends the generous gift of life provided by individuals who indicate their wish to become organ donors;

(5) acknowledges the grief of families facing the loss of a loved one and commends those families who, in their grief, choose to donate the organs of their deceased family member;

(6) recognizes the generous contribution made by each living individual who has donated an organ to save a life;

(7) acknowledges the advances in medical technology that have enabled organ transplantation with organs donated by living individuals to become a viable treatment option for an increasing number of patients;

(8) commends the medical professionals and organ transplantation experts who have worked to improve the process of living organ donation and increase the number of living donors; and

(9) salutes all individuals who have helped to give the gift of life by supporting, promoting, and encouraging organ donation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 426—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD MALARIA DAY

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. KIRK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 426

Whereas April 25th of each year is recognized internationally as World Malaria Day;

Whereas malaria is a leading cause of death and disease in many developing countries, despite being preventable and treatable;

Whereas fighting malaria is in the national security interest of the United States, as reducing the risk of malaria protects members of the United States Armed Forces serving overseas in malaria-endemic regions, and reducing malaria deaths helps to lower risks of instability in less developed countries;

Whereas support for efforts to fight malaria is in the diplomatic and moral interests of the United States, as that support generates goodwill toward the United States and highlights the values of the people of the United States through the work of governmental, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations of the United States;

Whereas efforts to fight malaria are in the long-term economic interest of the United States because those efforts help developing countries identify at-risk populations, provide better health services, produce healthier and more productive workforces, advance economic development, and promote stronger trading partners;

Whereas 90 percent of all malaria deaths in the world are in sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas young children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to and disproportionately affected by malaria;

Whereas malaria greatly affects child health, as children under the age of 5 accounted for an estimated 77 percent of malaria deaths in 2012;

Whereas malaria poses great risks to maternal and neonatal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weights, with estimates that malaria causes approximately 10,000 cases maternal deaths and over 200,000 infant deaths annually in Africa;

Whereas heightened national, regional, and international efforts to prevent and treat malaria during recent years have made significant progress and helped save hundreds of thousands of lives;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2013 by the World Health Organization states that in 2012, approximately 54 percent of households in sub-Saharan Africa owned at least one insecticide-treated mosquito net, and household surveys indicated that 86 percent of people used an insecticide-treated mosquito net if one was available in the household;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2013 further states that between 2000 and 2012, malaria mortality rates decreased by 45 percent around the world and by 45 percent in the African Region of the World Health Organization, and an estimated 3,300,000 lives were spared from malaria globally, 90 percent of which were children under five in sub-Saharan Africa.

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2013 further states that out of 97 countries with ongoing transmission of malaria in 2013, 12 countries are classified as being in the pre-elimination phase of malaria control, 7 countries are classified as being in the elimination phase, and 7 countries are classified as being in the prevention of introduction phase;

Whereas, according to the World Malaria Report 2013, there were 207,000,000 cases of malaria globally in 2012, resulting in an estimated 627,000 deaths;

Whereas continued national, regional, and international investment in efforts to eliminate malaria, including prevention and treatment efforts, the development of a vaccine to immunize children from the malaria parasite, and advancements in insecticides, are critical in order to continue to reduce malaria deaths, prevent backsliding in areas where progress has been made, and equip the United States and the global community with the tools necessary to eliminate malaria and other global health threats;

Whereas the United States Government has played a leading role in the recent progress made toward reducing the global burden of malaria, particularly through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and the contribution of the United States to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

Whereas, in May 2011, an independent, external evaluation, prepared through the Global Health Technical Assistance Project, examining 6 objectives of the President's Malaria Initiative, found the President's Malaria Initiative to be a successful, well-led component of the Global Health Initiative that has ''earned and deserves the task of sustaining and expanding the United States Government's response to global malaria control efforts'';

Whereas the United States Government is pursuing a comprehensive approach to ending malaria deaths through the President's Malaria Initiative, which is led by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and private sector entities;

Whereas, in 2014, the President's Malaria Initiative Report found that, in 2013, the PMI alone had protected more than 21,000,000 residents by spraying over 5,000,000 houses with insecticides, procured more than 40,000,000 long-lasting ITNs, procured more than 10,000,000 sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine treatments for intermittent preventive treatment (IPTp) in pregnant women, trained more than 16,000 health workers in IPTp, procured more than 48,000,000 treatments of

artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) and over 51,000,000 malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), and trained more than 61,000 health workers in treatment of malaria with ACTs and more than 26,000 health workers in laboratory diagnosis of malaria;

Whereas the President's Malaria Initiative focuses on helping partner countries achieve major improvements in overall health outcomes through improved access to, and quality of, healthcare services in locations with limited resources; and

Whereas the President's Malaria Initiative, recognizing the burden of malaria on many partner countries, has set a target of reducing the burden of malaria by 50 percent for 450,000,000 people, representing 70 percent of the at-risk population in Africa, by 2015: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day, including the target of ending malaria deaths by 2015;

(2) recognizes the importance of reducing malaria prevalence and deaths to improve overall child and maternal health, especially in sub-Saharan Africa;

(3) commends the recent progress made toward reducing global malaria morbidity, mortality, and prevalence, particularly through the efforts of the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

(4) supports ongoing public-private partnerships to research and develop more effective and affordable tools for malaria diagnosis, treatment, and vaccination;

(5) recognizes the goals, priorities, and authorities to combat malaria set forth in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–293);

(6) supports continued leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to combat malaria and to work with developing countries to create long-term strategies to increase ownership over malaria programs; and

(7) encourages other members of the international community to sustain and increase their support for and financial contributions to efforts to combat malaria worldwide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 427—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 427

Whereas civic education is essential to the preservation and improvement of the constitutional government of the United States;

Whereas civic education programs foster understanding of the history and principles of the constitutional government of the United States, including principles that are embodied in certain fundamental documents and speeches, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, the Federalist Papers, the Gettysburg Address, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ''I Have a Dream'' speech;

Whereas research shows that too few people in the United States understand basic principles of the constitutional government of the United States, such as the natural rights set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the existence and functions of the 3 branches of the Federal Government, checks and balances, and other concepts fundamental to informed citizenship;

Whereas since the founding of the United States, schools in the United States have had a strong civic mission to prepare students to be informed, rational, humane, and involved citizens who are committed to the values and principles of the constitutional government of the United States;

Whereas a free society relies on the knowledge, skills, and virtue of the citizens of such society, particularly the individuals elected to public office to represent such citizens;

Whereas while many institutions help to develop the knowledge and skills and shape the civic character of people in the United States, schools in the United States, including elementary schools, bear a special and historic responsibility for the development of civic competence and civic responsibility of students;

Whereas student learning is enhanced by well-designed classroom civic education programs that—

(1) incorporate instruction in government, history, law, and democracy;

(2) promote discussion of current events and controversial issues;

(3) link community service and the formal curriculum; and

(4) encourage students to participate in simulations of democratic processes; and

Whereas research shows that the knowledge and expertise of teachers are among the most important factors in increasing student achievement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) civic education is essential to the well-being of the constitutional government of the United States;

(2) comprehensive and formal instruction in civics and government provides students with a basis for understanding the rights and responsibilities of citizens in the constitutional government of the United States;

(3) elementary and secondary schools in the United States are encouraged to offer courses on history and theories of the constitutional government of the United States, using programs and curricula with a demonstrated effectiveness in fostering civic competence, civic responsibility, and a reasoned commitment to the fundamental values and principles underlying the constitutional government of the United States; and

(4) all teachers of civics and government are well served by having access to adequate opportunities to enrich teaching through professional development programs that enhance the capacity of such teachers to provide effective civic education in the classroom.

SENATE RESOLUTION 428—PROMOTING MINORITY HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN APRIL 2014, WHICH INCLUDE BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE HEALTH DISPARITIES FACED BY MINORITY POPULATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, SUCH AS AMERICAN INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, ASIAN AMERICANS, AFRICAN AMERICANS, HISPANIC AMERICANS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 428

Whereas through the ''National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity'' and the ''HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities'', the Department of Health and Human Services has set goals and strategies to advance the safety, health, and well-being of people of the United States;

Whereas a study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, entitled ''The Economic Burden of Health Inequalities in the United States'', concludes that, between 2003 and 2006, the combined cost of ''health inequalities and premature death in the United States'' was $1,240,000,000,000;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has identified 6 main categories in which racial and ethnic minorities experience the most disparate access to health care and health outcomes, including infant mortality, cancer screening and management, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and immunizations;

Whereas African-American women are more than twice as likely to die of cervical cancer than White women and are more likely to die of breast cancer than women of any other racial or ethnic group;

Whereas the death rate from stroke is 50 percent higher among African Americans than among Whites;

Whereas Native Hawaiians living in Hawaii are 5.7 times more likely to die of diabetes than non-Hispanic Whites living in Hawaii;

Whereas in 2011, Asian Americans were 2.9 times more likely than Whites to contract Hepatitis A;

Whereas among all ethnic groups in 2011, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders had the highest incidence of Hepatitis A;

Whereas Asian-American women are 1.5 times more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to die from viral hepatitis;

Whereas Asian Americans are 5.5 times more likely than Whites to develop chronic Hepatitis B;

Whereas in 2011, 82 percent of children born infected with HIV belonged to minority groups;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has identified diseases of the heart, malignant neoplasm, unintentional injuries, and diabetes as some of the leading causes of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives die from diabetes, alcoholism, unintentional injuries, homicide, and suicide at higher rates than other people in the United States;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives have a life expectancy that is 4.2 years shorter than the life expectancy of the overall population of the United States;

Whereas marked differences in the social determinants of health, described by the World Health Organization as ''the high burden of illness responsible for appalling premature loss of life [that] arises in large part because of the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age'', lead to poor health outcomes and declines in longevity; and

Whereas community-based health care initiatives, such as prevention-focused programs, present a unique opportunity to use innovative approaches to improve health care practices across the United States and sharply reduce disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2014, which include bringing attention to the severe health disparities faced by minority populations in the United States, such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 429—DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 2014, AS ''DIA DE LOS NINOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS''

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. REED, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 429

Whereas many countries throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate ''Día de los Niños'', or ''Day of the Children'', on April 30 each year, in recognition and celebration of the future of their country: their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States, and children are the center of families in the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States should nurture and invest in children to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the spirit of the United States;

Whereas, according to the 2012 American Community Survey by the Bureau of the Census, approximately 17,500,000 of the nearly 53,000,000 individuals of Hispanic descent living in the United States are children under the age of 18, representing about ⅓ (33 percent) of the total Hispanic population residing in the United States and roughly ¼ of the total population of children in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic Americans, the youngest and fastest-growing racial or ethnic community in the United States, celebrate the tradition of honoring their children on Día de los Niños and wish to share this custom with the rest of the United States;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and children are responsible for passing on family values, morality, and culture to future generations;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education is most often communicated to children through their family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore and develop confidence;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm the significance of family, education, and community for the people of the United States;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, articulate their aspirations, and find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the United States to declare April 30, 2014, to be ''Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans'', a day to bring together Latinos and other communities in the United States to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a country are the responsibility of all people of that country, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2014, as ''Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans''; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all people;

(B) are positive and uplifting, and help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about one another's cultures and share ideas;

(D) include all members of a family, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, which will enable children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to build relationships; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence and find the inner strength, will, and fire of the human spirit to make their dreams come true.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2972. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2223, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2973. Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2223, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2972. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2223, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''American Energy Renaissance Act of 2014''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—EXPANDING AMERICAN ENERGY EXPORTS

SEC. 1001. FINDING.

Congress finds that opening up energy exports will contribute to economic development, private sector job growth, and continued growth in American energy production.

SEC. 1002. NATURAL GAS EXPORTS.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that expanding natural gas exports will lead to increased investment and development of domestic supplies of natural gas that will contribute to job growth and economic development.

(b) NATURAL GAS EXPORTS.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''or any other nation not excluded by this section'' after ''trade in natural gas'';

(2) by striking ''(c) For purposes'' and inserting the following:

''(c) EXPEDITED APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) EXCLUSIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any nation subject to sanctions or trade restrictions imposed by the United States is excluded from expedited approval under paragraph (1).

''(B) DESIGNATION BY PRESIDENT OR CONGRESS.—The President or Congress may designate nations that may be excluded from expedited approval under paragraph (1) for reasons of national security.

''(3) ORDER NOT REQUIRED.—No order is required under subsection (a) to authorize the export or import of any natural gas to or from Canada or Mexico.''.

SEC. 1003. CRUDE OIL EXPORTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the restrictions on crude oil exports from the 1970s are no longer necessary due to the technological advances that have increased the domestic supply of crude oil; and

(2) repealing restrictions on crude oil exports will contribute to job growth and economic development.

(b) REPEAL OF PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT OIL EXPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 103 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6212) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 12 of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719j) is amended—

(i) by striking ''and section 103 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act''; and

(ii) by striking ''such Acts'' and inserting ''that Act''.

(B) The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended—

(i) in section 251 (42 U.S.C. 6271)—

(I) by striking subsection (d); and

(II) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d); and

(ii) in section 523(a)(1) (42 U.S.C. 6393(a)(1)), by striking ''(other than section 103 thereof)''.

(c) REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS ON EXPORTS OF OIL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (u); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (v) through (y) as subsection (u) through (x), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 1107(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3167(c)) is amended by striking ''(u) through (y)'' and inserting ''(u) through (x)''.

(B) Section 23 of the Deep Water Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1522) is repealed.

(C) Section 203(c) of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act (43 U.S.C. 1652(c)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''(w)(2), and (x))'' and inserting ''(v)(2), and (w))''.

(D) Section 509(c) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 2009(c)) is amended by striking ''subsection (w)(2)'' and inserting ''subsection (v)(2)''.

(d) REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS ON EXPORT OF OCS OIL OR GAS.—Section 28 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1354) is repealed.

(e) TERMINATION OF LIMITATION ON EXPORTATION OF CRUDE OIL.—Section 7(d) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2406(d)) (as in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)) shall have no force or effect.

(f) CLARIFICATION OF CRUDE OIL REGULATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 754.2 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to crude oil) shall have no force or effect.

(2) CRUDE OIL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS.—The Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce shall grant licenses to export to a country crude oil (as the term is defined in subsection (a) of the regulation referred to in paragraph (1)) (as in effect on the date that is 1 day before the date of enactment of this Act) unless—

(A) the country is subject to sanctions or trade restrictions imposed by the United States; or

(B) the President or Congress has designated the country as subject to exclusion for reasons of national security.

SEC. 1004. COAL EXPORTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) increased international demand for coal is an opportunity to support jobs and promote economic growth in the United States; and

(2) exports of coal should not be unreasonably restricted or delayed.

(b) NEPA REVIEW FOR COAL EXPORTS.—In completing an environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for an approval or permit for coal export terminals, or transportation of coal to coal export terminals, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers—

(1) may only take into account domestic environmental impacts; and

(2) may not take into account any impacts resulting from the final use overseas of the exported coal.

TITLE II—IMPROVING NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A—North American Energy Infrastructure

SEC. 2001. FINDING.

Congress finds that the United States should establish a more efficient, transparent, and modern process for the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of oil and natural gas pipelines and electric transmission facilities for the import and export of oil, natural gas, and electricity to and from Canada and Mexico, in pursuit of a more secure and efficient North American energy market.

SEC. 2002. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Electric Reliability Organization'' has the meaning given the term in section 215(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o(a)).

(2) INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR.—The term ''Independent System Operator'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

(3) NATURAL GAS.—The term ''natural gas'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717a).

(4) OIL.—The term ''oil'' means petroleum or a petroleum product.

(5) REGIONAL ENTITY.—The term ''regional entity'' has the meaning given the term in section 215(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o(a)).

(6) REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Regional Transmission Organization'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

SEC. 2003. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT THE NATIONAL BOUNDARY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e), no person may construct, connect, operate, or maintain an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico without obtaining approval of the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance under this section.

(b) APPROVAL.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after receiving a request for approval of construction, connection, operation, or maintenance under this section, the relevant official identified under paragraph (2), in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, shall approve the request unless the relevant official finds that the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance harms the national security interests of the United States.

(2) RELEVANT OFFICIAL.—The relevant official referred to in paragraph (1) is—

(A) the Secretary of Commerce with respect to oil pipelines;

(B) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with respect to natural gas pipelines; and

(C) the Secretary of Energy with respect to electric transmission facilities.

(3) APPROVAL NOT MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—An approval of construction, connection, operation, or maintenance under paragraph (1) shall not be considered a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(4) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES.—In the case of a request for approval of the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of an electric transmission facility, the Secretary of Energy shall require, as a condition of approval of the request under paragraph (1), that the electric transmission facility be constructed, connected, operated, or maintained consistent with all applicable policies and standards of—

(A) the Electric Reliability Organization and the applicable regional entity; and

(B) any Regional Transmission Organization or Independent System Operator with operational or functional control over the electric transmission facility.

(c) NO OTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED.—No Presidential permit (or similar permit) required under Executive Order 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note; 69 Fed. Reg. 25299 (April 30, 2004)), Executive Order 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note; 33 Fed. Reg. 11741 (August 16, 1968)), section 301 of title 3, United States Code, Executive Order 12038 (43 Fed. Reg. 3674 (January 26, 1978)), Executive Order 10485 (18 Fed. Reg. 5397 (September 9, 1953)), or any other Executive order shall be necessary for construction, connection, operation, or maintenance to which this section applies.

(d) EXCLUSIONS.—This section shall not apply to—

(1) any construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico if—

(A) the pipeline or facility is operating at the national boundary for that import or export as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) a permit described in subsection (c) for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance has been issued;

(C) approval of the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance has previously been obtained under this section; or

(D) an application for a permit described in subsection (c) for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance is pending on the date of enactment of this Act, until the earlier of—

(i) the date on which the application is denied; and

(ii) July 1, 2015; or

(2) the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline.

(e) MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING PROJECTS.—No approval under this section, or permit described in subsection (c), shall be required for modifications to construction, connection, operation, or maintenance described in subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (d)(1), including reversal of flow direction, change in ownership, volume expansion, downstream or upstream interconnection, or adjustments to maintain flow (such as a reduction or increase in the number of pump or compressor stations).

(f) EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section affects the application of any other Federal law to a project for which approval of construction, connection, operation, or maintenance is sought under this section.

SEC. 2004. TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY TO CANADA AND MEXICO.

(a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO SECURE ORDER.—Section 202 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) STATE REGULATIONS.—Section 202 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsection (e) and (f), respectively; and

(B) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by striking ''insofar as such State regulation does not conflict with the exercise of the Commission's powers under or relating to subsection 202(e)''.

(2) SEASONAL DIVERSITY ELECTRICITY EXCHANGE.—Section 602(b) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a–4(b)) is amended by striking ''the Commission has conducted hearings and made the findings required under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''the Secretary has conducted hearings and finds that the proposed transmission facilities would not impair the sufficiency of electric supply within the United States or would not impede or tend to impede the coordination in the public interest of facilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Secretary.''.

SEC. 2005. EFFECTIVE DATE; RULEMAKING DEADLINES.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Sections 2003 and 2004, and the amendments made by those sections, shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

(b) RULEMAKING DEADLINES.—Each relevant official described in section 2003(b)(2) shall—

(1) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, publish in the Federal Register notice of a proposed rulemaking to carry out the applicable requirements of section 2003; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, publish in the Federal Register a final rule to carry out the applicable requirements of section 2003.

Subtitle B—Keystone XL Permit Approval

SEC. 2011. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) building the Keystone XL pipeline will provide jobs and economic growth to the United States; and

(2) the Keystone XL pipeline should be approved immediately.

SEC. 2012. KEYSTONE XL PERMIT APPROVAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding Executive Order 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note ; 69 Fed. Reg. 25299 (April 30, 2004)), Executive Order 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note; 33 Fed. Reg. 11741 (August 16, 1968)), section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and any other Executive order or provision of law, no presidential permit shall be required for the pipeline described in the application filed on May 4, 2012, by TransCanada Corporation to the Department of State for the northern portion of the Keystone XL pipeline from the Canadian border to the border between the States of South Dakota and Nebraska.

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The final environmental impact statement issued by the Secretary of State on January 31, 2014, regarding the pipeline referred to in subsection (a), shall be considered to satisfy all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(c) CRITICAL HABITAT.—No area necessary to construct or maintain the Keystone XL pipeline shall be considered critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or any other provision of law.

(d) PERMITS.—Any Federal permit or authorization issued before the date of enactment of this Act for the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a),

and the related facilities in the United States, shall remain in effect.

(e) FEDERAL JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, that are approved by this section, and any permit, right-of-way, or other action taken to construct or complete the project pursuant to Federal law, shall only be subject to judicial review on direct appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

TITLE III—OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEASING

SEC. 3001. FINDING.

Congress finds that the United States has enormous potential for offshore energy development and that the people of the United States should have access to the jobs and economic benefits from developing those resources.

SEC. 3002. EXTENSION OF LEASING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), the Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2010–2015 issued by the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this title as the ''Secretary'') under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) shall be considered to be the final oil and gas leasing program under that section for the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2019.

(b) FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The Secretary is considered to have issued a final environmental impact statement for the program applicable to the period described in subsection (a) in accordance with all requirements under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—Lease Sales 214, 232, and 239 shall not be included in the final oil and gas leasing program for the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2019.

SEC. 3003. LEASE SALES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and every 270 days thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct a lease sale in each outer Continental Shelf planning area for which the Secretary determines that there is a commercial interest in purchasing Federal oil and gas leases for production on the outer Continental Shelf.

(b) SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATIONS AND SALES.—If the Secretary determines that there is not a commercial interest in purchasing Federal oil and gas leases for production on the outer Continental Shelf in a planning area under this section, not later than 2 years after the date of the determination and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(1) make an additional determination on whether there is a commercial interest in purchasing Federal oil and gas leases for production on the outer Continental Shelf in the planning area; and

(2) if the Secretary determines that there is a commercial interest under paragraph (1), conduct a lease sale in the planning area.

(c) PROTECTION OF STATE INTEREST.—In developing future leasing programs, the Secretary shall give deference to affected coastal States (as the term is used in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.)) in determining leasing areas to be included in the leasing program.

(d) PETITIONS.—If a person petitions the Secretary to conduct a lease sale for an outer Continental Shelf planning area in which the person has a commercial interest, the Secretary shall conduct a lease sale for the area in accordance with subsection (a).

SEC. 3004. APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.

Section 5 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1334) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove an application for a permit to drill submitted under this Act not later than 20 days after the date on which the application is submitted to the Secretary.

''(2) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary disapproves an application for a permit to drill under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(A) provide to the applicant a description of the reasons for the disapproval of the application;

''(B) allow the applicant to resubmit an application during the 10-day period beginning on the date of the receipt of the description described in subparagraph (A) by the applicant; and

''(C) approve or disapprove any resubmitted application not later than 10 days after the date on which the application is submitted to the Secretary.''.

SEC. 3005. LEASE SALES FOR CERTAIN AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable but not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct Lease Sale 220 for areas offshore of the State of Virginia.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS.—For purposes of the lease sale described in subsection (a), the environmental impact statement prepared under section 3001 shall satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(c) ENERGY PROJECTS IN GULF OF MEXICO.—

(1) JURISDICTION.—The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit shall have exclusive jurisdiction over challenges to offshore energy projects and permits to drill carried out in the Gulf of Mexico.

(2) FILING DEADLINE.—Any civil action to challenge a project or permit described in paragraph (1) shall be filed not later than 60 days after the date of approval of the project or the issuance of the permit.

TITLE IV—UTILIZING AMERICA'S ONSHORE RESOURCES

SEC. 4001. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) current policy has failed to take full advantage of the natural resources on Federal land;

(2) the States should be given the option to lead energy development on all available Federal land in a State; and

(3) the Federal Government should not inhibit energy development on Federal land.

SEC. 4002. STATE OPTION FOR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, a State may elect to control energy development and production on available Federal land in accordance with the terms and conditions of subtitle A and the amendments made by subtitle A in lieu of being subject to the Federal system established under subtitle B and the amendments made by subtitle B.

Subtitle A—Energy Development by States

SEC. 4011. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) AVAILABLE FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''available Federal land'' means any Federal land that, as of the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) is located within the boundaries of a State;

(B) is not held by the United States in trust for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian tribe;

(C) is not a unit of the National Park System;

(D) is not a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(E) is not a congressionally designated wilderness area.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) a State; and

(B) the District of Columbia.

SEC. 4012. STATE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A State—

(1) may establish a program covering the leasing and permitting processes, regulatory requirements, and any other provisions by which the State would exercise the rights of the State to develop all forms of energy resources on available Federal land in the State; and

(2) as a condition of certification under section 4013(b) shall submit a declaration to the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Energy that a program under paragraph (1) has been established or amended.

(b) AMENDMENT OF PROGRAMS.—A State may amend a program developed and certified under this subtitle at any time.

(c) CERTIFICATION OF AMENDED PROGRAMS.—Any program amended under subsection (b) shall be certified under section 4013(b).

SEC. 4013. LEASING, PERMITTING, AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS.

(a) SATISFACTION OF FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS.—Each program certified under this section shall be considered to satisfy all applicable requirements of Federal law (including regulations), including—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(2) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(3) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

(b) FEDERAL CERTIFICATION AND TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS.—Upon submission of a declaration by a State under section 4012(a)(2)—

(1) the program under section 4012(a)(1) shall be certified; and

(2) the State shall receive all rights from the Federal Government to develop all forms of energy resources covered by the program.

(c) ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND LEASES.—If a State elects to issue a permit or lease for the development of any form of energy resource on any available Federal land within the borders of the State in accordance with a program certified under subsection (b), the permit or lease shall be considered to meet all applicable requirements of Federal law (including regulations).

SEC. 4014. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Activities carried out in accordance with this subtitle shall not be subject to Federal judicial review.

SEC. 4015. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT.

Activities carried out in accordance with this subtitle shall not be subject to subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Administrative Procedure Act'').

Subtitle B—Onshore Oil and Gas Permit Streamlining

PART I—OIL AND GAS LEASING CERTAINTY

SEC. 4021. MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE LEASE SALES.

Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is amended—

(1) by striking ''SEC. 17. (a) All lands'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 17. LEASE OF OIL AND GAS LAND.

''(a) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—All land''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(2) MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE LEASE SALES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting lease sales under paragraph (1)—

''(i) there shall be a presumption that nominated land should be leased; and

''(ii) the Secretary of the Interior shall offer for sale all of the nominated acreage not previously made available for lease, unless the Secretary demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that an individual lease should not be granted.

''(B) ADMINISTRATION.—Acreage offered for lease pursuant to this paragraph—

''(i) shall not be subject to protest; and

''(ii) shall be eligible for categorical exclusions under section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942), except that the categorical exclusions shall not be subject to the test of extraordinary circumstances or any other similar regulation or policy guidance.

''(C) AVAILABILITY.—In administering this paragraph, the Secretary shall only consider leasing of Federal land that is available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.''.

SEC. 4022. LEASING CERTAINTY.

Section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(a)) (as amended by section 4061) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) LEASING CERTAINTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall not withdraw any covered energy project (as defined in section 4051 of the American Energy Renaissance Act of 2014) issued under this Act without finding a violation of the terms of the lease by the lessee.

''(B) DELAY.—The Secretary shall not infringe on lease rights under leases issued under this Act by indefinitely delaying issuance of project approvals, drilling and seismic permits, and rights-of-way for activities under the lease.

''(C) AVAILABILITY FOR LEASE.—Not later than 18 months after an area is designated as open under the applicable land use plan, the Secretary shall make available nominated areas for lease using the criteria established under section 2.

''(D) LAST PAYMENT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue all leases sold not later than 60 days after the last payment is made.

''(ii) CANCELLATION.—The Secretary shall not cancel or withdraw any lease parcel after a competitive lease sale has occurred and a winning bidder has submitted the last payment for the parcel.

''(E) PROTESTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date a lease sale is held under this Act, the Secretary shall adjudicate any lease protests filed following a lease sale.

''(ii) UNSETTLED PROTEST.—If, after the 60-day period described in clause (i) any protest is left unsettled—

''(I) the protest shall be considered automatically denied; and

''(II) the appeal rights of the protestor shall begin.

''(F) ADDITIONAL LEASE STIPULATIONS.—No additional lease stipulation may be added after the parcel is sold without consultation and agreement of the lessee, unless the Secretary considers the stipulation as an emergency action to conserve the resources of the United States.''.

SEC. 4023. LEASING CONSISTENCY.

A Federal land manager shall follow existing resource management plans and continue to actively lease in areas designated as open when resource management plans are being amended or revised, until such time as a new record of decision is signed.

SEC. 4024. REDUCE REDUNDANT POLICIES.

Bureau of Land Management Instruction Memorandum 2010–117 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 4025. STREAMLINED CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

Section 31(e) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 188(e)) is amended in the first sentence of the matter following paragraph (4) by striking ''at least thirty days in advance of the reinstatement'' and inserting ''in an annual report''.

PART II—APPLICATION FOR PERMITS TO DRILL PROCESS REFORM

SEC. 4031. PERMIT TO DRILL APPLICATION TIMELINE.

Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL REFORM AND PROCESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date an application for a permit to drill is received by the Secretary, the Secretary shall decide whether to issue the permit.

''(B) EXTENSION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may extend the period described in subparagraph (A) for up to 2 periods of 15 days each, if the Secretary has given written notice of the delay to the applicant.

''(ii) NOTICE.—The notice shall—

''(I) be in the form of a letter from the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary; and

''(II) include—

''(aa) the names and titles of the persons processing the application;

''(bb) the specific reasons for the delay; and

''(cc) a specific date a final decision on the application is expected.

''(C) NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DENIAL.—If the application is denied, the Secretary shall provide the applicant—

''(i) a written statement that provides clear and comprehensive reasons why the application was not accepted and detailed information concerning any deficiencies; and

''(ii) an opportunity to remedy any deficiencies.

''(D) APPLICATION DEEMED APPROVED.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), if the Secretary has not made a decision on the application by the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date the application is received by the Secretary, the application shall be considered approved.

''(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply in cases in which existing reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) are incomplete.

''(E) DENIAL OF PERMIT.—If the Secretary decides not to issue a permit to drill under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

''(i) provide to the applicant a description of the reasons for the denial of the permit;

''(ii) allow the applicant to resubmit an application for a permit to drill during the 10-day period beginning on the date the applicant receives the description of the denial from the Secretary; and

''(iii) issue or deny any resubmitted application not later than 10 days after the date the application is submitted to the Secretary.

''(F) FEE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall collect a single $6,500 permit processing fee per application from each applicant at the time the final decision is made whether to issue a permit under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) RESUBMITTED APPLICATION.—The fee required under clause (i) shall not apply to any resubmitted application.

''(iii) TREATMENT OF PERMIT PROCESSING FEE.—Subject to appropriation, of all fees collected under this paragraph for each fiscal year, 50 percent shall be—

''(I) transferred to the field office at which the fees are collected; and

''(II) used to process protests, leases, and permits under this Act.''.

SEC. 4032. ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST DOCUMENTATION REFORM.

Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) (as amended by section 4031) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) PROTEST FEE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect a $5,000 documentation fee to accompany each administrative protest for a lease, right-of-way, or application for a permit to drill.

''(B) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Subject to appropriation, of all fees collected under this paragraph for each fiscal year, 50 percent shall—

''(i) remain in the field office at which the fees are collected; and

''(ii) be used to process protests.''.

SEC. 4033. IMPROVED FEDERAL ENERGY PERMIT COORDINATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ENERGY PROJECT.—The term ''energy project'' includes any oil, natural gas, coal, or other energy project, as defined by the Secretary.

(2) PROJECT.—The term ''Project'' means the Federal Permit Streamlining Project established under subsection (b).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Federal Permit Streamlining Project in each Bureau of Land Management field office with responsibility for permitting energy projects on Federal land.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for purposes of carrying out this section with—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(C) the Chief of Engineers.

(2) STATE PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may request that the Governor of any State with energy projects on Federal land to be a signatory to the memorandum of understanding.

(d) DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the signing of the memorandum of understanding under subsection

(c), each Federal signatory party shall, if appropriate, assign to each Bureau of Land Management field office an employee who has expertise in the regulatory issues relating to the office in which the employee is employed, including, as applicable, particular expertise in—

(A) the consultations and the preparation of biological opinions under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536);

(B) permits under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344);

(C) regulatory matters under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(D) planning under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.); and

(E) the preparation of analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) DUTIES.—Each employee assigned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of assignment, report to the Bureau of Land Management Field Managers in the office to which the employee is assigned;

(B) be responsible for all issues relating to the energy projects that arise under the authorities of the home agency of the employee; and

(C) participate as part of the team of personnel working on proposed energy projects, planning, and environmental analyses on Federal land.

(e) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Secretary shall assign to each Bureau of Land Management field office described in subsection (b) any additional personnel that are necessary to ensure the effective approval and implementation of energy projects administered by the Bureau of Land Management field office, including inspection and enforcement relating to energy development on Federal land, in accordance with the multiple use mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(f) FUNDING.—Funding for the additional personnel shall come from the Department of the Interior reforms under paragraph (2) of section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) (as amended by section 4031 and section 4032).

(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) the operation of any Federal or State law; or

(2) any delegation of authority made by the head of a Federal agency any employee of which is participating in the Project.

SEC. 4034. ADMINISTRATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not require a finding of extraordinary circumstances in administering section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942).

PART III—OIL SHALE

SEC. 4041. EFFECTIVENESS OF OIL SHALE REGULATIONS, AMENDMENTS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS, AND RECORD OF DECISION.

(a) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), the final regulations regarding oil shale management published by the Bureau of Land Management on November 18, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 69414) shall be considered to satisfy all legal and procedural requirements under any law, including—

(A) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall implement the regulations described in paragraph (1) (including the oil shale leasing program authorized by the regulations) without any other administrative action necessary.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND RECORD OF DECISION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations) to the contrary, the Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision for Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources to Address Land Use Allocations in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming and the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement of the Bureau of Land Management, as in effect on November 17, 2008, shall be considered to satisfy all legal and procedural requirements under any law, including—

(A) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall implement the oil shale leasing program authorized by the regulations described in paragraph (1) in those areas covered by the resource management plans covered by the amendments, and covered by the record of decision, described in paragraph (1) without any other administrative action necessary.

SEC. 4042. OIL SHALE LEASING.

(a) ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LEASE SALES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall hold a lease sale offering an additional 10 parcels for lease for research, development, and demonstration of oil shale resources, under the terms offered in the solicitation of bids for such leases published on January 15, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 2611).

(b) COMMERCIAL LEASE SALES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Interior shall hold not less than 5 separate commercial lease sales in areas considered to have the most potential for oil shale development, as determined by the Secretary, in areas nominated through public comment.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—Each lease sale shall be—

(A) for an area of not less than 25,000 acres; ;and

(B) in multiple lease blocs.

PART IV—NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA ACCESS

SEC. 4051. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REAFFIRMING NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska remains explicitly designated, both in name and legal status, for purposes of providing oil and natural gas resources to the United States; and

(2) accordingly, the national policy is to actively advance oil and gas development within the Reserve by facilitating the expeditious exploration, production, and transportation of oil and natural gas from and through the Reserve.

SEC. 4052. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: LEASE SALES.

Section 107 of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6506a) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the Reserve—

''(1) in accordance with this Act; and

''(2) that shall include at least 1 lease sale annually in the areas of the Reserve most likely to produce commercial quantities of oil and natural gas for each of calendar years 2014 through 2023.''.

SEC. 4053. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: PLANNING AND PERMITTING PIPELINE AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall facilitate and ensure permits, in a timely and environmentally responsible manner, for all surface development activities, including for the construction of pipelines and roads, necessary—

(1) to develop and bring into production any areas within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska that are subject to oil and gas leases; and

(2) to transport oil and gas from and through the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska in the most direct manner possible to existing transportation or processing infrastructure on the North Slope of Alaska.

(b) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall ensure that any Federal permitting agency shall issue permits in accordance with the following timeline:

(1) Permits for the construction described in subsection (a) for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under existing Federal oil and gas leases with respect to which the Secretary has issued a permit to drill shall be approved not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) Permits for the construction described in subsection (a) for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under Federal oil and gas leases shall be approved not later than 180 days after the date on which a request for a permit to drill is submitted to the Secretary.

(c) PLAN.—To ensure timely future development of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a plan for approved rights-of-way for a plan for pipeline, road, and any other surface infrastructure that may be necessary infrastructure that will ensure that all leasable tracts in the Reserve are within 25 miles of an approved road and pipeline right-of-way that can serve future development of the Reserve.

SEC. 4054. ISSUANCE OF A NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

(a) ISSUANCE OF NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue—

(1) a new proposed integrated activity plan from among the nonadopted alternatives in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of the Interior and dated February 21, 2013; and

(2) an environmental impact statement under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) for issuance of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska to

promote efficient and maximum development of oil and natural gas resources of the Reserve.

(b) NULLIFICATION OF EXISTING RECORD OF DECISION, IAP, AND EIS.—Except as provided in subsection (a), the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of the Interior and dated February 21, 2013, including the integrated activity plan and environmental impact statement referred to in that record of decision, shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 4055. DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

The Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate regulations not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act that establish clear requirements to ensure that the Department of the Interior is supporting development of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

SEC. 4056. DEADLINES UNDER NEW PROPOSED INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN.

At a minimum, the new proposed integrated activity plan issued under section 4054(a)(1) shall—

(1) require the Department of the Interior to respond within 5 business days to a person who submits an application for a permit for development of oil and natural gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska acknowledging receipt of the application; and

(2) establish a timeline for the processing of each application that—

(A) specifies deadlines for decisions and actions on permit applications; and

(B) provides that the period for issuing a permit after the date on which the application is submitted shall not exceed 60 days without the concurrence of the applicant.

SEC. 4057. UPDATED RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall complete a comprehensive assessment of all technically recoverable fossil fuel resources within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, including all conventional and unconventional oil and natural gas.

(b) COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall be carried out by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation and consultation with the State of Alaska and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

(c) TIMING.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall be completed not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) FUNDING.—In carrying out this section, the United States Geological Survey may cooperatively use resources and funds provided by the State of Alaska.

PART V—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 4061. SANCTIONS.

Nothing in this title authorizes the issuance of a lease under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) to any person designated for the imposition of sanctions pursuant to—

(1) the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note; Public Law 108–175);

(2) the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestiture Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.);

(3) section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a);

(4) the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.);

(5) the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.);

(6) the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; Public Law 104–172);

(7) Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism);

(8) Executive Order 13338 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting the export of certain goods to Syria);

(9) Executive Order 13622 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to authorizing additional sanctions with respect to Iran);

(10) Executive Order 13628 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to authorizing additional sanctions with respect to Iran); or

(11) Executive Order 13645 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to authorizing additional sanctions with respect to Iran).

SEC. 4062. INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 17(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the third sentence, by inserting '', except as provided in subparagraph (C)'' after ''by oral bidding''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) INTERNET-BASED BIDDING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In order to diversify and expand the onshore leasing program of the United States to ensure the best return to the Federal taxpayer, reduce fraud, and secure the leasing process, the Secretary may conduct onshore lease sales through Internet-based bidding methods.

''(ii) CONCLUSION.—Each individual Internet-based lease sale shall conclude not later than 7 days after the date on which the sale begins.''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the tenth Internet-based lease sale conducted under the amendment made by subsection (a) concludes, the Secretary of the Interior shall analyze the first 10 Internet-based lease sales and report to Congress the findings of the analysis, including—

(1) estimates on increases or decreases in Internet-based lease sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding, in—

(A) the number of bidders;

(B) the average amount of bid;

(C) the highest amount bid; and

(D) the lowest bid;

(2) an estimate on the total cost or savings to the Department of the Interior as a result of Internet-based lease sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding; and

(3) an evaluation of the demonstrated or expected effectiveness of different structures for lease sales which may provide an opportunity to better—

(A) maximize bidder participation;

(B) ensure the highest return to the Federal taxpayers;

(C) minimize opportunities for fraud or collusion; and

(D) ensure the security and integrity of the leasing process.

PART VI—JUDICIAL REVIEW

SEC. 4071. DEFINITIONS.

In this part:

(1) COVERED CIVIL ACTION.—The term ''covered civil action'' means a civil action containing a claim under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, regarding agency action (as defined for the purposes of that section) affecting a covered energy project on Federal land.

(2) COVERED ENERGY PROJECT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''covered energy project'' means—

(i) the leasing of Federal land for the exploration, development, production, processing, or transmission of oil, natural gas, wind, or any other source of energy; and

(ii) any action under the lease.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''covered energy project'' does not include any dispute between the parties to a lease regarding the obligations under the lease, including any alleged breach of the lease.

SEC. 4072. EXCLUSIVE VENUE FOR CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS RELATING TO COVERED ENERGY PROJECTS.

Venue for any covered civil action shall lie in the United States district court in which the covered energy project or lease exists or is proposed.

SEC. 4073. TIMELY FILING.

To ensure timely redress by the courts, a covered civil action shall be filed not later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the final Federal agency action to which the covered civil action relates.

SEC. 4074. EXPEDITION IN HEARING AND DETERMINING THE ACTION.

The court shall endeavor to hear and determine any covered civil action as expeditiously as practicable.

SEC. 4075. LIMITATION ON INJUNCTION AND PROSPECTIVE RELIEF.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In a covered civil action, a court shall not grant or approve any prospective relief unless the court finds that the relief—

(1) is narrowly drawn;

(2) extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of a legal requirement; and

(3) is the least intrusive means necessary to correct the violation.

(b) DURATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A court shall limit the duration of preliminary injunctions to halt covered energy projects to not more than 60 days, unless the court finds clear reasons to extend the injunction.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In the case of an extension, the extension shall—

(A) only be in 30-day increments; and

(B) require action by the court to renew the injunction.

SEC. 4076. LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COURT COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 504 of title 5 and 2412 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Equal Access to Justice Act''), shall not apply to a covered civil action.

(b) COURT COSTS.—A party to a covered civil action shall not receive payment from the Federal Government for the attorneys' fees, expenses, or other court costs incurred by the party.

SEC. 4077. LEGAL STANDING.

A challenger that files an appeal with the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals shall meet the same standing requirements as a challenger before a United States district court.

TITLE V—ADDITIONAL ONSHORE RESOURCES

Subtitle A—Leasing Program for Land Within Coastal Plain

SEC. 5001. FINDING.

Congress finds that development of energy reserves under the Coastal Plain of Alaska, performed in an environmentally responsible manner, will contribute to job growth and economic development.

SEC. 5002. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COASTAL PLAIN.—The term ''Coastal Plain'' means the area described in appendix I to part 37 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) PEER REVIEWED.—The term ''peer reviewed'' means reviewed—

(A) by individuals chosen by the National Academy of Sciences with no contractual relationship with, or those who have no application for a grant or other funding pending with, the Federal agency with leasing jurisdiction; or

(B) if individuals described in subparagraph (A) are not available, by the top individuals in the specified biological fields, as determined by the National Academy of Sciences.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 5003. LEASING PROGRAM FOR LAND ON THE COASTAL PLAIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish and implement, in accordance with this subtitle and acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management in consultation with the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, a competitive oil and gas leasing program that will result in the exploration, development, and production of the oil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain; and

(2) administer the provisions of this subtitle through regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibitions, stipulations, and other provisions that ensure the oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities on the Coastal Plain do not result in any significant adverse effect on fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, subsistence resources, or the environment, including, in furtherance of this goal, by requiring the application of the best commercially available technology for oil and gas exploration, development, and production to all exploration, development, and production operations under this subtitle in a manner that ensures the receipt of fair market value by the public for the mineral resources to be leased.

(b) REPEAL OF EXISTING RESTRICTION.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 1003 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3143) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents contained in section 1 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 note) is amended by striking the item relating to section 1003.

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS UNDER CERTAIN OTHER LAWS.—

(1) COMPATIBILITY.—For purposes of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.), the oil and gas leasing program and activities authorized by this section on the Coastal Plain are deemed to be compatible with the purposes for which the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was established, and no further findings or decisions are required to implement this determination.

(2) ADEQUACY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The document of the Department of the Interior entitled ''Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement'' and dated April 1987 relating to the Coastal Plain prepared pursuant to section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3142) and section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) is deemed to satisfy the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) that apply with respect to prelease activities under this subtitle, including actions authorized to be taken by the Secretary to develop and promulgate regulations for the establishment of a leasing program authorized by this subtitle before the conduct of the first lease sale.

(3) COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA FOR OTHER ACTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Prior to conducting the first lease sale under this subtitle, the Secretary shall prepare an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to the actions authorized by this subtitle not covered by paragraph (2).

(B) NONLEASING ALTERNATIVES NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in preparing the environmental impact statement under subparagraph (A), the Secretary—

(i) shall—

(I) only identify a preferred action for leasing and a single leasing alternative; and

(II) analyze the environmental effects and potential mitigation measures for those 2 alternatives; and

(ii) is not required—

(I) to identify nonleasing alternative courses of action; or

(II) to analyze the environmental effects of nonleasing alternative courses of action.

(C) DEADLINE.—The identification under subparagraph (B)(i)(I) for the first lease sale conducted under this subtitle shall be completed not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(D) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall only consider public comments that—

(i) specifically address the preferred action of the Secretary; and

(ii) are filed not later than 20 days after the date on which the environmental analysis is published.

(E) COMPLIANCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, compliance with this paragraph is deemed to satisfy all requirements for the analysis and consideration of the environmental effects of proposed leasing under this subtitle.

(d) RELATIONSHIP TO STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this subtitle expands or limits State or local regulatory authority.

(e) SPECIAL AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, after consultation with the State of Alaska, the city of Kaktovik and the North Slope Borough of the State of Alaska, may designate not more than 45,000 acres of the Coastal Plain as a ''Special Area'' if the Secretary determines that the area is of such unique character and interest so as to require special management and regulatory protection.

(2) SADLEROCHIT SPRING AREA.—The Secretary shall designate the Sadlerochit Spring area, consisting of approximately 4,000 acres, as a Special Area.

(3) MANAGEMENT.—Each Special Area shall be managed to protect and preserve the unique and diverse character of the area, including the fish, wildlife, and subsistence resource values of the area.

(4) EXCLUSION FROM LEASING OR SURFACE OCCUPANCY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may exclude any Special Area from leasing.

(B) NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY.—If the Secretary leases a Special Area, or any part of a Special Area, for oil and gas exploration, development, production, or related activities, there shall be no surface occupancy of the land comprising the Special Area.

(5) DIRECTIONAL DRILLING.—Notwithstanding the other provisions of this subsection, the Secretary may lease all or a portion of a Special Area under terms that permit the use of horizontal drilling technology from sites on leases tracts located outside the Special Area.

(f) LIMITATION ON CLOSED AREAS.—The authority of the Secretary to close land on the Coastal Plain to oil and gas leasing, exploration, development, or production shall be limited to the authority provided under this subtitle.

(g) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations necessary to carry out this subtitle, including regulations relating to protection of fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, subsistence resources, and environment of the Coastal Plain.

(2) REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall, through a rulemaking conducted in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, periodically review and, if appropriate, revise the regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) to reflect a preponderance of the best available scientific evidence that has been peer reviewed and obtained by following appropriate, documented scientific procedures, the results of which can be repeated using those same procedures.

SEC. 5004. LEASE SALES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the requirements of this subtitle, the Secretary may lease land under this subtitle to any person qualified to obtain a lease for deposits of oil and gas under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

(b) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall, by regulation and not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, establish procedures for—

(1) receipt and consideration of sealed nominations for any area of the Coastal Plain for inclusion in, or exclusion from, a lease sale;

(2) the holding of lease sales after the nomination process; and

(3) public notice of and comment on designation of areas to be included in, or excluded from, a lease sale.

(c) LEASE SALE BIDS.—Lease sales under this subtitle may be conducted through an Internet leasing program, if the Secretary determines that the Internet leasing program will result in savings to the taxpayer, an increase in the number of bidders participating, and higher returns than oral bidding or a sealed bidding system.

(d) SALE ACREAGES AND SCHEDULE.—The Secretary shall—

(1) offer for lease under this subtitle—

(A) those tracts the Secretary considers to have the greatest potential for the discovery of hydrocarbons, taking into consideration nominations received under subsection (b)(1); and

(B)(i) not fewer than 50,000 acres by not later than 22 months after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(ii) not fewer than an additional 50,000 acres at 6-, 12-, and 18-month intervals following the initial offering under subclause (i);

(2) conduct 4 additional lease sales under the same terms and schedule as the last lease sale under paragraph (1)(B)(ii) not later than 2 years after the date of that sale, if sufficient interest in leasing exists to warrant, in the judgment of the Secretary, the conduct of the sales; and

(3) evaluate the bids in each lease sale under this subsection and issue leases resulting from the sales not later than 90 days after the date on which the sale is completed.

SEC. 5005. GRANT OF LEASES BY THE SECRETARY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may grant to the highest responsible qualified bidder in a lease sale conducted under section 5004 any land to be leased on the Coastal Plain upon payment by the bidder of any bonus as may be accepted by the Secretary.

(b) SUBSEQUENT TRANSFERS.—No lease issued under this subtitle may be sold, exchanged, assigned, sublet, or otherwise transferred except with the approval of the Secretary after the Secretary consults with, and gives due consideration to the views of, the Attorney General.

SEC. 5006. LEASE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

An oil or gas lease issued under this subtitle shall—

(1) provide for the payment of a royalty of not less than 12.5 percent in amount or value of the production removed or sold under the lease, as determined by the Secretary under the regulations applicable to other Federal oil and gas leases;

(2) provide that the Secretary may close, on a seasonal basis, portions of the Coastal Plain to exploratory drilling activities as necessary to protect caribou calving areas and other species of fish and wildlife based on a preponderance of the best available scientific evidence that has been peer reviewed and obtained by following appropriate, documented scientific procedures, the results of which can be repeated using those same procedures;

(3) require that the lessee of land on the Coastal Plain shall be fully responsible and liable for the reclamation of land on the Coastal Plain and any other Federal land that is adversely affected in connection with exploration, development, production, or transportation activities conducted under the lease and on the Coastal Plain by the lessee or by any of the subcontractors or agents of the lessee;

(4) provide that the lessee may not delegate or convey, by contract or otherwise, the reclamation responsibility and liability to another person without the express written approval of the Secretary;

(5) provide that the standard of reclamation for land required to be reclaimed under this subtitle shall be, as nearly as practicable, a condition capable of supporting the uses which the land was capable of supporting prior to any exploration, development, or production activities, or upon application by the lessee, to a higher or better use as certified by the Secretary;

(6) contain terms and conditions relating to protection of fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, subsistence resources, and the environment as required under section 5003(a)(2);

(7) provide that the lessee, agents of the lessee, and contractors of the lessee use best efforts to provide a fair share, as determined by the level of obligation previously agreed to in the 1974 agreement implementing section 29 of the Federal Agreement and Grant of Right of Way for the Operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, of employment and contracting for Alaska Natives and Alaska Native corporations from throughout the State; and

(8) contain such other provisions as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure compliance with this subtitle and the regulations issued pursuant to this subtitle.

SEC. 5007. COASTAL PLAIN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

(a) NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECT STANDARD TO GOVERN AUTHORIZED COASTAL PLAIN ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall, consistent with the requirements of section 5003, administer this subtitle through regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibitions, stipulations, and other provisions that—

(1) ensure the oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities on the Coastal Plain shall not result in any significant adverse effect on fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, or the environment;

(2) require the application of the best commercially available technology for oil and gas exploration, development, and production on all new exploration, development, and production operations; and

(3) ensure that the maximum amount of surface acreage covered by production and support facilities, including airstrips and any areas covered by gravel berms or piers for support of pipelines, does not exceed 10,000 acres on the Coastal Plain for each 100,000 acres of area leased.

(b) SITE-SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION.—With respect to any proposed drilling and related activities, the Secretary shall require that—

(1) a site-specific analysis be made of the probable effects, if any, that the drilling or related activities will have on fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, subsistence resources, and the environment;

(2) a plan be implemented to avoid, minimize, and mitigate (in that order and to the extent practicable) any significant adverse effect identified under paragraph (1); and

(3) the development of the plan shall occur after consultation with the agency or agencies having jurisdiction over matters mitigated by the plan.

(c) REGULATIONS TO PROTECT COASTAL PLAIN FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, SUBSISTENCE USERS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT.—Prior to implementing the leasing program authorized by this subtitle, the Secretary shall prepare and promulgate regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibitions, stipulations, and other measures designed to ensure that the activities undertaken on the Coastal Plain under this subtitle are conducted in a manner consistent with the purposes and environmental requirements of this subtitle.

(d) COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The proposed regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibitions, and stipulations for the leasing program under this subtitle shall require compliance with all applicable provisions of Federal and State environmental law and compliance with the following:

(1) Standards at least as effective as the safety and environmental mitigation measures set forth in items 1 through 29 at pages 167 through 169 of the document of the Department of the Interior entitled ''Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement'' and dated April 1987 relating to the Coastal Plain.

(2) Seasonal limitations on exploration, development, and related activities, where necessary, to avoid significant adverse effects during periods of concentrated fish and wildlife breeding, denning, nesting, spawning, and migration based on a preponderance of the best available scientific evidence that has been peer reviewed and obtained by following appropriate, documented scientific procedures, the results of which can be repeated using those same procedures.

(3) That exploration activities, except for surface geological studies—

(A) be limited to the period between approximately November 1 and May 1 each year; and

(B) be supported, if necessary, by ice roads, winter trails with adequate snow cover, ice pads, ice airstrips, and air transport methods, except that exploration activities may occur at other times if the Secretary finds that the exploration will have no significant adverse effect on the fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, and the environment of the Coastal Plain.

(4) Design safety and construction standards for all pipelines and any access and service roads, that minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, adverse effects on—

(A) the passage of migratory species such as caribou; and

(B) the flow of surface water by requiring the use of culverts, bridges, and other structural devices.

(5) Prohibitions on general public access and use on all pipeline access and service roads.

(6) Stringent reclamation and rehabilitation requirements, consistent with the standards set forth in this subtitle, requiring the removal from the Coastal Plain of all oil and gas development and production facilities, structures, and equipment upon completion of oil and gas production operations, except that the Secretary may exempt from the requirements of this paragraph those facilities, structures, or equipment that the Secretary determines would assist in the management of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and that are donated to the United States for that purpose.

(7) Appropriate prohibitions or restrictions on access by all modes of transportation.

(8) Appropriate prohibitions or restrictions on sand and gravel extraction.

(9) Consolidation of facility siting.

(10) Appropriate prohibitions or restrictions on the use of explosives.

(11) Avoidance, to the extent practicable, of springs, streams, and river systems, the protection of natural surface drainage patterns, wetlands, and riparian habitats, and the regulation of methods or techniques for developing or transporting adequate supplies of water for exploratory drilling.

(12) Avoidance or minimization of air traffic-related disturbance to fish and wildlife.

(13) Treatment and disposal of hazardous and toxic wastes, solid wastes, reserve pit fluids, drilling muds and cuttings, and domestic wastewater, including an annual waste management report, a hazardous materials tracking system, and a prohibition on chlorinated solvents, in accordance with applicable Federal and State environmental law (including regulations).

(14) Fuel storage and oil spill contingency planning.

(15) Research, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

(16) Field crew environmental briefings.

(17) Avoidance of significant adverse effects upon subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping by subsistence users.

(18) Compliance with applicable air and water quality standards.

(19) Appropriate seasonal and safety zone designations around well sites, within which subsistence hunting and trapping shall be limited.

(20) Reasonable stipulations for protection of cultural and archeological resources.

(21) All other protective environmental stipulations, restrictions, terms, and conditions determined necessary by the Secretary.

(e) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing and promulgating regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibitions, and stipulations under this section, the Secretary shall consider—

(1) the stipulations and conditions that govern the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska leasing program, as set forth in the 1999 Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Final Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement;

(2) the environmental protection standards that governed the initial Coastal Plain seismic exploration program under parts 37.31 to 37.33 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(3) the land use stipulations for exploratory drilling on the KIC–ASRC private land that are set forth in appendix 2 of the August 9, 1983, agreement between Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and the United States.

(f) FACILITY CONSOLIDATION PLANNING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, after providing for public notice and comment, prepare and update periodically a plan to govern, guide, and direct the siting and construction of facilities for the exploration, development, production, and transportation of Coastal Plain oil and gas resources.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—The plan shall have the following objectives:

(A) Avoiding unnecessary duplication of facilities and activities.

(B) Encouraging consolidation of common facilities and activities.

(C) Locating or confining facilities and activities to areas that will minimize impact on fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, and the environment.

(D) Using existing facilities wherever practicable.

(E) Enhancing compatibility between wildlife values and development activities.

(g) ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND.—The Secretary shall—

(1) manage public land in the Coastal Plain subject to section 811 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3121); and

(2) ensure that local residents shall have reasonable access to public land in the Coastal Plain for traditional uses.

SEC. 5008. EXPEDITED JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) FILING OF COMPLAINT.—

(1) DEADLINE.—Subject to paragraph (2), any complaint seeking judicial review of—

(A) any provision of this subtitle shall be filed by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) any action of the Secretary under this subtitle shall be filed—

(i) except as provided in clause (ii), during the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the action is challenged; or

(ii) in the case of a complaint based solely on grounds arising after the period described in clause (i), not later than 90 days after the date on which the complainant knew or reasonably should have known of the grounds for the complaint.

(2) VENUE.—Any complaint seeking judicial review of any provision of this subtitle or any action of the Secretary under this subtitle may be filed only in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

(3) LIMITATION ON SCOPE OF CERTAIN REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Judicial review of a decision by the Secretary to conduct a lease sale under this subtitle, including an environmental analysis, shall be—

(i) limited to whether the Secretary has complied with this subtitle; and

(ii) based on the administrative record of that decision.

(B) PRESUMPTION.—The identification by the Secretary of a preferred course of action to enable leasing to proceed and the analysis by the Secretary of environmental effects under this subtitle is presumed to be correct unless shown otherwise by clear and convincing evidence.

(b) LIMITATION ON OTHER REVIEW.—Actions of the Secretary with respect to which review could have been obtained under this section shall not be subject to judicial review in any civil or criminal proceeding for enforcement.

(c) LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COURT COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Sections 504 of title 5 and 2412 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Equal Access to Justice Act''), shall not apply to any action under this subtitle.

(2) COURT COSTS.—A party to any action under this subtitle shall not receive payment from the Federal Government for the attorneys' fees, expenses, or other court costs incurred by the party.

SEC. 5009. TREATMENT OF REVENUES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, 90 percent of the amount of bonus, rental, and royalty revenues from Federal oil and gas leasing and operations authorized under this subtitle shall be deposited in the Treasury.

SEC. 5010. RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS THE COASTAL PLAIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue rights-of-way and easements across the Coastal Plain for the transportation of oil and gas produced under leases under this subtitle—

(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185), without regard to title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3161 et seq.); and

(2) under title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (30 U.S.C. 3161 et seq.), for access authorized by sections 1110 and 1111 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3170, 3171).

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall include in any right-of-way or easement issued under subsection (a) such terms and conditions as may be necessary to ensure that transportation of oil and gas does not result in a significant adverse effect on the fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, subsistence resources, or the environment of the Coastal Plain, including requirements that facilities be sited or designed so as to avoid unnecessary duplication of roads and pipelines.

(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall include in regulations promulgated under section 5003(g) provisions granting rights-of-way and easements described in subsection (a).

SEC. 5011. CONVEYANCE.

In order to maximize Federal revenues by removing clouds on titles to land and clarifying land ownership patterns on the Coastal Plain, and notwithstanding section 1302(h)(2) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3192(h)(2)), the Secretary shall convey—

(1) to the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation, the surface estate of the land described in paragraph 1 of Public Land Order 6959, to the extent necessary to fulfill the entitlement of the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation under sections 12 and 14 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1611, 1613) in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement between the Department of the Interior, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation dated January 22, 1993; and

(2) to the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation the remaining subsurface estate to which the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation is entitled pursuant to the August 9, 1983, agreement between the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and the United States of America.

Subtitle B—Native American Energy

SEC. 5021. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Federal Government has unreasonably interfered with the efforts of Indian tribes to develop energy resources on tribal land; and

(2) Indian tribes should have the opportunity to gain the benefits of the jobs, investment, and economic development to be gained from energy development.

SEC. 5022. APPRAISALS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Title XXVI of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 2607. APPRAISAL REFORMS.

''(a) OPTIONS TO INDIAN TRIBES.—With respect to a transaction involving Indian land or the trust assets of an Indian tribe that requires the approval of the Secretary, any appraisal or other estimates of value relating to fair market value required to be conducted under applicable law, regulation, or policy may be completed by—

''(1) the Secretary;

''(2) the affected Indian tribe; or

''(3) a certified, third-party appraiser pursuant to a contract with the Indian tribe.

''(b) TIME LIMIT ON SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND ACTION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an appraisal conducted by or for an Indian tribe pursuant to paragraphs (2) or (3) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

''(1) review the appraisal; and

''(2) provide to the Indian tribe a written notice of approval or disapproval of the appraisal.

''(c) FAILURE OF SECRETARY TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE.—If the Secretary has failed to approve or disapprove any appraisal by the date that is 60 days after the date on which the appraisal is received, the appraisal shall be deemed approved.

''(d) OPTION OF INDIAN TRIBES TO WAIVE APPRAISAL.—An Indian tribe may waive the requirements of subsection (a) if the Indian tribe provides to the Secretary a written resolution, statement, or other unambiguous indication of tribal intent to waive the requirements that—

''(1) is duly approved by the governing body of the Indian tribe; and

''(2) includes an express waiver by the Indian tribe of any claims for damages the Indian tribe might have against the United States as a result of the waiver.

''(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to implement this section, including standards the Secretary shall use for approving or disapproving an appraisal under subsection (b).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13201 note) is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title XXVI the following:

''Sec. 2607. Appraisal reforms.''.

SEC. 5023. STANDARDIZATION.

As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall implement procedures to ensure

that each agency within the Department of the Interior that is involved in the review, approval, and oversight of oil and gas activities on Indian land shall use a uniform system of reference numbers and tracking systems for oil and gas wells.

SEC. 5024. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS OF MAJOR FEDERAL ACTIONS ON INDIAN LAND.

Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''The Congress authorizes''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) REVIEW OF MAJOR FEDERAL ACTIONS ON INDIAN LAND.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS OF INDIAN LAND AND INDIAN TRIBE.—In this subsection, the terms 'Indian land' and 'Indian tribe' have the meaning given those terms in section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501).

''(2) IN GENERAL.—For any major Federal action on Indian land of an Indian tribe requiring the preparation of a statement under subsection (a)(2)(C), the statement shall only be available for review and comment by—

''(A) the members of the Indian tribe; and

''(B) any other individual residing within the affected area.

''(3) REGULATIONS.—The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, in consultation with Indian tribes, shall develop regulations to implement this section, including descriptions of affected areas for specific major Federal actions.''.

SEC. 5025. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term ''agency action'' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) ENERGY RELATED ACTION.—The term ''energy-related action'' means a civil action that—

(A) is filed on or after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) seeks judicial review of a final agency action relating to the issuance of a permit, license, or other form of agency permission allowing—

(i) any person or entity to conduct on Indian Land activities involving the exploration, development, production, or transportation of oil, gas, coal, shale gas, oil shale, geothermal resources, wind or solar resources, underground coal gasification, biomass, or the generation of electricity; or

(ii) any Indian Tribe, or any organization of 2 or more entities, not less than 1 of which is an Indian tribe, to conduct activities involving the exploration, development, production, or transportation of oil, gas, coal, shale gas, oil shale, geothermal resources, wind or solar resources, underground coal gasification, biomass, or the generation of electricity, regardless of where such activities are undertaken.

(3) INDIAN LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''Indian land'' has the meaning given the term in section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501).

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''Indian land'' includes land owned by a Native Corporation (as that term is defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)) under that Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(4) ULTIMATELY PREVAIL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''ultimately prevail'' means, in a final enforceable judgment that the court rules in the party's favor on at least 1 civil claim that is an underlying rationale for the preliminary injunction, administrative stay, or other relief requested by the party.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''ultimately prevail'' does not include circumstances in which the final agency action is modified or amended by the issuing agency unless the modification or amendment is required pursuant to a final enforceable judgment of the court or a court-ordered consent decree.

(b) TIME FOR FILING COMPLAINT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any energy related action shall be filed not later than the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the action or decision by a Federal official that constitutes the covered energy project concerned.

(2) PROHIBITION.—Any energy related action that is not filed within the time period described in paragraph (1) shall be barred.

(c) DISTRICT COURT VENUE AND DEADLINE.—An energy related action—

(1) may only be brought in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia; and

(2) shall be resolved as expeditiously as possible, and in any event not more than 180 days after the energy related action is filed.

(d) APPELLATE REVIEW.—An interlocutory order or final judgment, decree or order of the district court in an energy related action—

(1) may be appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; and

(2) if the court described in paragraph (1) undertakes the review, the court shall resolve the review as expeditiously as possible, and in any event by not later than 180 days after the interlocutory order or final judgment, decree or order of the district court was issued.

(e) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN PAYMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, no award may be made under section 504 of title 5, United States Code, or under section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, and no amounts may be obligated or expended from the Claims and Judgment Fund of the United States Treasury to pay any fees or other expenses under such sections, to any person or party in an energy related action.

(f) LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COURT COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Sections 504 of title 5 and 2412 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Equal Access to Justice Act''), shall not apply to an energy related action.

(2) COURT COSTS.—A party to a covered civil action shall not receive payment from the Federal Government for the attorneys' fees, expenses, or other court costs incurred by the party.

SEC. 5026. TRIBAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.

Unless otherwise explicitly exempted by Federal law enacted after the date of enactment of this Act, any activity conducted or resources harvested or produced pursuant to a tribal resource management plan or an integrated resource management plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior under the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) or the American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), shall be considered a sustainable management practice for purposes of any Federal standard, benefit, or requirement that requires a demonstration of such sustainability.

SEC. 5027. LEASES OF RESTRICTED LANDS FOR THE NAVAJO NATION.

Subsection (e)(1) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415) (commonly known as the ''Long-Term Leasing Act''), is amended—

(1) by striking '', except a lease for'' and inserting '', including leases for'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''25 years, except'' and all that follows through ''; and'' and inserting ''99 years;'';

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) in the case of a lease for the exploration, development, or extraction of mineral resources, including geothermal resources, 25 years, except that the lease may include an option to renew for 1 additional term not to exceed 25 years.''.

SEC. 5028. NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN RULES.

No rule promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior regarding hydraulic fracturing used in the development or production of oil or gas resources shall affect any land held in trust or restricted status for the benefit of Indians except with the express consent of the beneficiary on behalf of which the land is held in trust or restricted status.

Subtitle C—Additional Regulatory Provisions

PART I—STATE AUTHORITY OVER HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

SEC. 5031. FINDING.

Congress finds that given variations in geology, land use, and population, the States are best placed to regulate the process of hydraulic fracturing occurring on any land within the boundaries of the individual State.

SEC. 5032. STATE AUTHORITY.

(a) DEFINITION OF FEDERAL LAND.—In this section, the term ''Federal land'' means—

(1) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702));

(2) National Forest System land;

(3) land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation; and

(4) land under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers.

(b) STATE AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State shall have the sole authority to promulgate or enforce any regulation, guidance, or permit requirement regarding the treatment of a well by the application of fluids under pressure to which propping agents may be added for the expressly designed purpose of initiating or propagating fractures in a target geologic formation in order to enhance production of oil, natural gas, or geothermal production activities on or under any land within the boundaries of the State.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the treatment of a well by the application of fluids under pressure to which propping agents may be added for the expressly designed purpose of initiating or propagating fractures in a target geologic formation in order to enhance production of oil, natural gas, or geothermal production activities on Federal land shall be subject to the law of the State in which the land is located.

PART II—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 5041. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL FEES.

Section 504 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL FEES.—Notwithstanding section 1304 of title 31, no award may be made under this section and no amounts may be obligated or expended from the Claims and Judgment Fund of the

Treasury to pay any legal fees of a nongovernmental organization related to an action that (with respect to the United States)—

''(1) prevents, terminates, or reduces access to or the production of—

''(A) energy;

''(B) a mineral resource;

''(C) water by agricultural producers;

''(D) a resource by commercial or recreational fishermen; or

''(E) grazing or timber production on Federal land;

''(2) diminishes the private property value of a property owner; or

''(3) eliminates or prevents 1 or more jobs.''.

SEC. 5042. MASTER LEASING PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, shall not establish a master leasing plan as part of any guidance issued by the Secretary.

(b) EXISTING MASTER LEASING PLANS.—Instruction Memorandum No. 2010–117 and any other master leasing plan described in subsection (a) issued on or before the date of enactment of this Act shall have no force or effect.

TITLE VI—IMPROVING AMERICA'S DOMESTIC REFINING CAPACITY

Subtitle A—Refinery Permitting Reform

SEC. 6001. FINDING.

Congress finds that the domestic refining industry is an important source of jobs and economic growth and whose growth should not be limited by an excessively drawn out permitting and approval process.

SEC. 6002. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) EXPANSION.—The term ''expansion'' means a physical change that results in an increase in the capacity of a refinery.

(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(4) PERMIT.—The term ''permit'' means any permit, license, approval, variance, or other form of authorization that a refiner is required to obtain—

(A) under any Federal law; or

(B) from a State or tribal government agency delegated authority by the Federal Government, or authorized under Federal law, to issue permits.

(5) REFINER.—The term ''refiner'' means a person that—

(A) owns or operates a refinery; or

(B) seeks to become an owner or operator of a refinery.

(6) REFINERY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''refinery'' means—

(i) a facility at which crude oil is refined into transportation fuel or other petroleum products; and

(ii) a coal liquification or coal-to-liquid facility at which coal is processed into synthetic crude oil or any other fuel.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''refinery'' includes an expansion of a refinery.

(7) REFINERY PERMITTING AGREEMENT.—The term ''refinery permitting agreement'' means an agreement entered into between the Administrator and a State or Indian tribe under subsection (c).

(8) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) a State; and

(B) the District of Columbia.

SEC. 6003. STREAMLINING OF REFINERY PERMITTING PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the Governor of a State or the governing body of an Indian tribe, the Administrator shall enter into a refinery permitting agreement with the State or Indian tribe under which the process for obtaining all permits necessary for the construction and operation of a refinery shall be streamlined using a systematic, interdisciplinary multimedia approach, as provided in this section.

(b) AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATOR.—Under a refinery permitting agreement, the Administrator shall have the authority, as applicable and necessary—

(1) to accept from a refiner a consolidated application for all permits that the refiner is required to obtain to construct and operate a refinery;

(2) in consultation and cooperation with each Federal, State, or tribal government agency that is required to make any determination to authorize the issuance of a permit, to establish a schedule under which each agency shall—

(A) concurrently consider, to the maximum extent practicable, each determination to be made; and

(B) complete each step in the permitting process; and

(3) to issue a consolidated permit that combines all permits issued under the schedule established under paragraph (2).

(c) REFINERY PERMITTING AGREEMENTS.—Under a refinery permitting agreement, a State or governing body of an Indian tribe shall agree that—

(1) the Administrator shall have each of the authorities described in subsection (b); and

(2) the State or tribal government agency shall—

(A) in accordance with State law, make such structural and operational changes in the agencies as are necessary to enable the agencies to carry out consolidated, projectwide permit reviews concurrently and in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal agencies; and

(B) comply, to the maximum extent practicable, with the applicable schedule established under subsection (b)(2).

(d) DEADLINES.—

(1) NEW REFINERIES.—In the case of a consolidated permit for the construction of a new refinery, the Administrator and the State or governing body of an Indian tribe shall approve or disapprove the consolidated permit not later than—

(A) 365 days after the date of receipt of an administratively complete application for the consolidated permit; or

(B) on agreement of the applicant, the Administrator, and the State or governing body of the Indian tribe, 90 days after the expiration of the deadline described in subparagraph (A).

(2) EXPANSION OF EXISTING REFINERIES.—In the case of a consolidated permit for the expansion of an existing refinery, the Administrator and the State or governing body of an Indian tribe shall approve or disapprove the consolidated permit not later than—

(A) 120 days after the date of receipt of an administratively complete application for the consolidated permit; or

(B) on agreement of the applicant, the Administrator, and the State or governing body of the Indian tribe, 30 days after the expiration of the deadline described in subparagraph (A).

(e) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each Federal agency that is required to make any determination to authorize the issuance of a permit shall comply with the applicable schedule established under subsection (b)(2).

(f) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any civil action for review of a permit determination under a refinery permitting agreement shall be brought exclusively in the United States district court for the district in which the refinery is located or proposed to be located.

(g) EFFICIENT PERMIT REVIEW.—In order to reduce the duplication of procedures, the Administrator shall use State permitting and monitoring procedures to satisfy substantially equivalent Federal requirements under this subtitle.

(h) SEVERABILITY.—If 1 or more permits that are required for the construction or operation of a refinery are not approved on or before an applicable deadline under subsection (d), the Administrator may issue a consolidated permit that combines all other permits that the refiner is required to obtain, other than any permits that are not approved.

(i) CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—The Administrator, States, and tribal governments shall consult, to the maximum extent practicable, with local governments in carrying out this section.

(j) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) the operation or implementation of any otherwise applicable law regarding permits necessary for the construction and operation of a refinery;

(2) the authority of any unit of local government with respect to the issuance of permits; or

(3) any requirement or ordinance of a local government (such as a zoning regulation).

Subtitle B—Repeal of Renewable Fuel Standard

SEC. 6011. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that the mandates under the renewable fuel standard contained in section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o))—

(1) impose significant costs on American citizens and the American economy, without offering any benefit; and

(2) should be repealed.

SEC. 6012. PHASE OUT OF RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking clause (ii); and

(ii) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking clauses (ii) through (v) and inserting the following:

''(ii) CALENDAR YEARS 2014 THROUGH 2018.—Notwithstanding clause (i), for purposes of subparagraph (A), the applicable volumes of renewable fuel for each of calendar years 2014 through 2018 shall be determined as follows:

''(I) For calendar year 2014, in accordance with the table entitled 'I-2—Proposed 2014 Volume Requirements' of the proposed rule published at pages 71732 through 71784 of volume 78 of the Federal Register (November 29, 2013).

''(II) For calendar year 2015, the applicable volumes established under subclause (I), reduced by 20 percent.

''(III) For calendar year 2016, the applicable volumes established under subclause (I), reduced by 40 percent.

''(IV) For calendar year 2017, the applicable volumes established under subclause (I), reduced by 60 percent.

''(V) For calendar year 2018, the applicable volumes established under subclause (I), reduced by 80 percent.'';

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''2021'' and inserting ''2017'' each place it appears; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting '', subject to the condition that the renewable fuel obligation determined for a calendar year is not more than the applicable volumes established under paragraph (2)(B)(ii)'' before the period; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(13) SUNSET.—The program established under this subsection shall terminate on December 31, 2018.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Effective beginning on January 1, 2019, the regulations contained in subparts K and M of part 80 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on that date of enactment), shall have no force or effect.

TITLE VII—STOPPING EPA OVERREACH

SEC. 7001. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Environmental Protection Agency has exceeded its statutory authority by promulgating regulations that were not contemplated by Congress in the authorizing language of the statutes enacted by Congress;

(2) no Federal agency has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases under current law; and

(3) no attempt to regulate greenhouse gases should be undertaken without further Congressional action.

SEC. 7002. CLARIFICATION OF FEDERAL REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO EXCLUDE GREENHOUSE GASES FROM REGULATION UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT.

(a) REPEAL OF FEDERAL CLIMATE CHANGE REGULATION.—

(1) GREENHOUSE GAS REGULATION UNDER CLEAN AIR ACT.—Section 302(g) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7602(g)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''(g) The term'' and inserting the following:

''(g) AIR POLLUTANT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) EXCLUSION.—The term 'air pollutant' does not include carbon dioxide, water vapor, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, or sulfur hexafluoride.''.

(2) NO REGULATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, nothing in any of the following Acts or any other law authorizes or requires the regulation of climate change or global warming:

(A) The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

(B) The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

(C) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(D) The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(E) The Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

(b) EFFECT ON PROPOSED RULES OF THE EPA.—In accordance with this section, the following proposed or contemplated rules (or any similar or successor rules) of the Environmental Protection Agency shall be void and have no force or effect:

(1) The proposed rule entitled ''Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units'' (published at 79 Fed. Reg. 1430 (January 8, 2014)).

(2) The contemplated rules on carbon pollution for existing power plants.

(3) Any other contemplated or proposed rules proposed to be issued pursuant to the purported authority described in subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 7003. JOBS ANALYSIS FOR ALL EPA REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before proposing or finalizing any regulation, rule, or policy, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall provide an analysis of the regulation, rule, or policy and describe the direct and indirect net and gross impact of the regulation, rule, or policy on employment in the United States.

(b) LIMITATION.—No regulation, rule, or policy described in subsection (a) shall take effect if the regulation, rule, or policy has a negative impact on employment in the United States unless the regulation, rule, or policy is approved by Congress and signed by the President.

TITLE VIII—DEBT FREEDOM FUND

SEC. 8001. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the national debt being over $17,000,000,000,000 in 2014—

(A) threatens the current and future prosperity of the United States;

(B) undermines the national security interests of the United States; and

(C) imposes a burden on future generations of United States citizens; and

(2) revenue generated from the development of the natural resources in the United States should be used to reduce the national debt.

SEC. 8002. DEBT FREEDOM FUND.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in accordance with all revenue sharing arrangement with States in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, an amount equal to the additional amount of Federal funds generated by the programs and activities under this Act (and the amendments made by this Act)—

(1) shall be deposited in a special trust fund account in the Treasury, to be known as the ''Debt Freedom Fund''; and

(2) shall not be withdrawn for any purpose other than to pay down the national debt of the United States, for which purpose payments shall be made expeditiously.

SA 2973. Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2223, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Good Jobs, Good Wages, and Good Hours Act''''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (delegating to Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations), TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. is authorized to construct, connect, operate, and maintain pipeline facilities for the import of crude oil and other hydrocarbons at the United States-Canada Border at Phillips County, Montana, in accordance with the application filed with the Department of State on May 4, 2012.

(b) PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding Executive Order No. 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), Executive Order No. 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and any other Executive order or provision of law, no presidential permit shall be required for the facilities described in subsection (a).

(c) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The final environmental impact statement issued by the Secretary of State on August 26, 2011, the Final Evaluation Report issued by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality on January 3, 2013, and the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement issued on March 1, 2013, regarding the crude oil pipeline and appurtenant facilities associated with the facilities described in subsection (a), shall be considered to satisfy—

(1) all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) any other provision of law that requires Federal agency consultation or review with respect to the facilities described in subsection (a) and the related facilities in the United States.

(d) PERMITS.—Any Federal permit or authorization issued before the date of enactment of this Act for the facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States shall remain in effect.

(e) FEDERAL JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, that are approved by this section, and any permit, right-of-way, or other action taken to construct or complete the project pursuant to Federal law, shall only be subject to judicial review on direct appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

SEC. 112. EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS TO UKRAINE AND NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRIES AND JAPAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (delegating to Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations), Congress finds that exports of natural gas produced in the United States to Ukraine, member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Japan is—

(1) necessary for the protection of the essential security interests of the United States; and

(2) in the public interest pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b).

(b) EXPEDITED APPROVAL.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended by inserting '', to Ukraine, to a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or to Japan'' after ''trade in natural gas''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply to applications for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) that are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—Saving Coal Jobs

SEC. 120. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Saving Coal Jobs Act of 2014''.

PART I—PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX

SEC. 121. PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX.

(a) FINDINGS; PURPOSES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) on June 25, 2013, President Obama issued a Presidential memorandum directing the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue regulations relating to power sector carbon pollution standards for existing coal fired power plants;

(B) the issuance of that memorandum circumvents Congress and the will of the people of the United States;

(C) any action to control emissions of greenhouse gases from existing coal fired power plants in the United States by mandating a national energy tax would devastate major sectors of the economy, cost thousands of jobs, and increase energy costs for low-income households, small businesses, and seniors on fixed income;

(D) joblessness increases the likelihood of hospital visits, illnesses, and premature deaths;

(E) according to testimony on June 15, 2011, before the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate by Dr. Harvey Brenner of Johns Hopkins University, ''The unemployment rate is well established as a risk factor for elevated illness and mortality rates in epidemiological studies performed since the early 1980s. In addition to influences on mental disorder, suicide and alcohol abuse and alcoholism, unemployment is also an important risk factor in cardiovascular disease and overall decreases in life expectancy.'';

(F) according to the National Center for Health Statistics, ''children in poor families were four times as likely to be in fair or poor health as children that were not poor'';

(G) any major decision that would cost the economy of the United States millions of dollars and lead to serious negative health effects for the people of the United States should be debated and explicitly authorized by Congress, not approved by a Presidential memorandum or regulations; and

(H) any policy adopted by Congress should make United States energy as clean as practicable, as quickly as practicable, without increasing the cost of energy for struggling families, seniors, low-income households, and small businesses.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(A) to ensure that—

(i) a national energy tax is not imposed on the economy of the United States; and

(ii) struggling families, seniors, low-income households, and small businesses do not experience skyrocketing electricity bills and joblessness;

(B) to protect the people of the United States, particularly families, seniors, and children, from the serious negative health effects of joblessness;

(C) to allow sufficient time for Congress to develop and authorize an appropriate mechanism to address the energy needs of the United States and the potential challenges posed by severe weather; and

(D) to restore the legislative process and congressional authority over the energy policy of the United States.

(b) PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of a Federal agency shall not promulgate any regulation relating to power sector carbon pollution standards or any substantially similar regulation on or after June 25, 2013, unless that regulation is explicitly authorized by an Act of Congress.

PART II—PERMITS

SEC. 131. NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM.

(a) APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE.—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) GUIDANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'guidance' means draft, interim, or final guidance issued by the Administrator.

''(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'guidance' includes—

''(I) the comprehensive guidance issued by the Administrator and dated April 1, 2010;

''(II) the proposed guidance entitled 'Draft Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act' and dated April 28, 2011;

''(III) the final guidance proposed by the Administrator and dated July 21, 2011; and

''(IV) any other document or paper issued by the Administrator through any process other than the notice and comment rulemaking process.

''(B) NEW PERMIT.—The term 'new permit' means a permit covering discharges from a structure—

''(i) that is issued under this section by a permitting authority; and

''(ii) for which an application is—

''(I) pending as of the date of enactment of this subsection; or

''(II) filed on or after the date of enactment of this subsection.

''(C) PERMITTING AUTHORITY.—The term 'permitting authority' means—

''(i) the Administrator; or

''(ii) a State, acting pursuant to a State program that is equivalent to the program under this section and approved by the Administrator.

''(2) PERMITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in making a determination whether to approve a new permit or a renewed permit, the permitting authority—

''(i) shall base the determination only on compliance with regulations issued by the Administrator or the permitting authority; and

''(ii) shall not base the determination on the extent of adherence of the applicant for the new permit or renewed permit to guidance.

''(B) NEW PERMITS.—If the permitting authority does not approve or deny an application for a new permit by the date that is 270 days after the date of receipt of the application for the new permit, the applicant may operate as if the application were approved in accordance with Federal law for the period of time for which a permit from the same industry would be approved.

''(C) SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETENESS.—In determining whether an application for a new permit or a renewed permit received under this paragraph is substantially complete, the permitting authority shall use standards for determining substantial completeness of similar permits for similar facilities submitted in fiscal year 2007.''.

(b) STATE PERMIT PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) STATE PERMIT PROGRAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—At any time after the promulgation of the guidelines required by section 304(a)(2), the Governor of each State desiring to administer a permit program for discharges into navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the State may submit to the Administrator—

''(A) a full and complete description of the program the State proposes to establish and administer under State law or under an interstate compact; and

''(B) a statement from the attorney general (or the attorney for those State water pollution control agencies that have independent legal counsel), or from the chief legal officer in the case of an interstate agency, that the laws of the State, or the interstate compact, as applicable, provide adequate authority to carry out the described program.

''(2) APPROVAL.—The Administrator shall approve each program for which a description is submitted under paragraph (1) unless the Administrator determines that adequate authority does not exist—

''(A) to issue permits that—

''(i) apply, and ensure compliance with, any applicable requirements of sections 301, 302, 306, 307, and 403;

''(ii) are for fixed terms not exceeding 5 years;

''(iii) can be terminated or modified for cause, including—

''(I) a violation of any condition of the permit;

''(II) obtaining a permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts; and

''(III) a change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted discharge; and

''(iv) control the disposal of pollutants into wells;

''(B)(i) to issue permits that apply, and ensure compliance with, all applicable requirements of section 308; or

''(ii) to inspect, monitor, enter, and require reports to at least the same extent as required in section 308;

''(C) to ensure that the public, and any other State the waters of which may be affected, receives notice of each application for a permit and an opportunity for a public hearing before a ruling on each application;

''(D) to ensure that the Administrator receives notice and a copy of each application for a permit;

''(E) to ensure that any State (other than the permitting State), whose waters may be affected by the issuance of a permit may submit written recommendations to the permitting State and the Administrator with respect to any permit application and, if any part of the written recommendations are not accepted by the permitting State, that the permitting State will notify the affected State and the Administrator in writing of the failure of the State to accept the recommendations, including the reasons for not accepting the recommendations;

''(F) to ensure that no permit will be issued if, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Army (acting through the Chief of Engineers), after consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, anchorage and navigation of any of the navigable waters would be substantially impaired by the issuance of the permit;

''(G) to abate violations of the permit or the permit program, including civil and criminal penalties and other means of enforcement;

''(H) to ensure that any permit for a discharge from a publicly owned treatment works includes conditions to require the identification in terms of character and volume of pollutants of any significant source introducing pollutants subject to pretreatment standards under section 307(b) into the treatment works and a program to ensure compliance with those pretreatment standards by each source, in addition to adequate notice, which shall include information on the quality and quantity of effluent to be introduced into the treatment works and any anticipated impact of the change in the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the publicly owned treatment works, to the permitting agency of—

''(i) new introductions into the treatment works of pollutants from any source that would be a new source (as defined in section 306(a)) if the source were discharging pollutants;

''(ii) new introductions of pollutants into the treatment works from a source that would be subject to section 301 if the source were discharging those pollutants; or

''(iii) a substantial change in volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the treatment works by a source introducing pollutants into the treatment works at the time of issuance of the permit; and

''(I) to ensure that any industrial user of any publicly owned treatment works will comply with sections 204(b), 307, and 308.

''(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Administrator may not disapprove or withdraw approval of a program under this subsection on the basis of the following:

''(A) The failure of the program to incorporate or comply with guidance (as defined in subsection (s)(1)).

''(B) The implementation of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 309 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1319) is amended—

(i) in subsection (c)—

(I) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''402(b)(8)'' and inserting ''402(b)(2)(H)''; and

(II) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''402(b)(8)'' and inserting ''402(b)(2)(H)''; and

(ii) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by striking ''402(b)(8)'' and inserting ''402(b)(2)(H)''.

(B) Section 402(m) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(m)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''subsection (b)(8) of this section'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(2)(H)''.

(c) SUSPENSION OF FEDERAL PROGRAM.—Section 402(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(c)) is amended—

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

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

''(4) LIMITATION ON DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3), the Administrator may not disapprove or withdraw approval of a State program under subsection (b) on the basis of the failure of the following:

''(A) The failure of the program to incorporate or comply with guidance (as defined in subsection (s)(1)).

''(B) The implementation of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).''.

(d) NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 402(d)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(2)'' and all that follows through the end of the first sentence and inserting the following:

''(2) OBJECTION BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), no permit shall issue if—

''(i) not later than 90 days after the date on which the Administrator receives notification under subsection (b)(2)(E), the Administrator objects in writing to the issuance of the permit; or

''(ii) not later than 90 days after the date on which the proposed permit of the State is transmitted to the Administrator, the Administrator objects in writing to the issuance of the permit as being outside the guidelines and requirements of this Act.'';

(2) in the second sentence, by striking ''Whenever the Administrator'' and inserting the following:

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—If the Administrator''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) EXCEPTION.—The Administrator shall not object to or deny the issuance of a permit by a State under subsection (b) or (s) based on the following:

''(i) Guidance, as that term is defined in subsection (s)(1).

''(ii) The interpretation of the Administrator of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).''.

SEC. 132. PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and all that follows through ''SEC. 404. (a) The Secretary may issue'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 404. PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.

''(a) PERMITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(2) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL.—

''(A) PERMIT APPLICATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), if an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, as appropriate, is required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Secretary shall—

''(I) begin the process not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a permit application; and

''(II) approve or deny an application for a permit under this subsection not later than the latter of—

''(aa) if an agency carries out an environmental assessment that leads to a finding of no significant impact, the date on which the finding of no significant impact is issued; or

''(bb) if an agency carries out an environmental assessment that leads to a record of decision, 15 days after the date on which the record of decision on an environmental impact statement is issued.

''(ii) PROCESSES.—Notwithstanding clause (i), regardless of whether the Secretary has commenced an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement by the date described in clause (i)(I), the following deadlines shall apply:

''(I) An environmental assessment carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be completed not later than 1 year after the deadline for commencing the permit process under clause (i)(I).

''(II) An environmental impact statement carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be completed not later than 2 years after the deadline for commencing the permit process under clause (i)(I).

''(B) FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Secretary fails to act by the deadline specified in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A)—

''(i) the application, and the permit requested in the application, shall be considered to be approved;

''(ii) the Secretary shall issue a permit to the applicant; and

''(iii) the permit shall not be subject to judicial review.''.

(b) STATE PERMITTING PROGRAMS.—Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) through (4), until the Secretary has issued a permit under this section, the Administrator is authorized to prohibit the specification (including the withdrawal of specification) of any defined area as a disposal site, and deny or restrict the use of any defined area for specification (including the withdrawal of specification) as a disposal site, if the Administrator determines, after notice and opportunity for public hearings, that the discharge of the materials into the area will have an unacceptable adverse effect on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds or fishery areas (including spawning and breeding areas), wildlife, or recreational areas.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—Before making a determination under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consult with the Secretary.

''(3) FINDINGS.—The Administrator shall set forth in writing and make public the findings of the Administrator and the reasons of the Administrator for making any determination under this subsection.

''(4) AUTHORITY OF STATE PERMITTING PROGRAMS.—This subsection shall not apply to any permit if the State in which the discharge originates or will originate does not concur with the determination of the Administrator that the discharge will result in an unacceptable adverse effect as described in paragraph (1).''.

(c) STATE PROGRAMS.—Section 404(g)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(g)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''for the discharge'' and inserting ''for all or part of the discharges''.

SEC. 133. IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGULATORY ACTIVITY ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) COVERED ACTION.—The term ''covered action'' means any of the following actions taken by the Administrator under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.):

(A) Issuing a regulation, policy statement, guidance, response to a petition, or other requirement.

(B) Implementing a new or substantially altered program.

(3) MORE THAN A DE MINIMIS NEGATIVE IMPACT.—The term ''more than a de minimis negative impact'' means the following:

(A) With respect to employment levels, a loss of more than 100 jobs, except that any offsetting job gains that result from the hypothetical creation of new jobs through new technologies or government employment may not be used in the job loss calculation.

(B) With respect to economic activity, a decrease in economic activity of more than $1,000,000 over any calendar year, except that any offsetting economic activity that results from the hypothetical creation of new economic activity through new technologies or government employment may not be used in the economic activity calculation.

(b) ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS OF ACTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.—

(1) ANALYSIS.—Before taking a covered action, the Administrator shall analyze the impact, disaggregated by State, of the covered action on employment levels and economic activity, including estimated job losses and decreased economic activity.

(2) ECONOMIC MODELS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator shall use the best available economic models.

(B) ANNUAL GAO REPORT.—Not later than December 31st of each year, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the economic models used by the Administrator to carry out this subsection.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—With respect to any covered action, the Administrator shall—

(A) post the analysis under paragraph (1) as a link on the main page of the public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(B) request that the Governor of any State experiencing more than a de minimis negative impact post the analysis in the Capitol of the State.

(c) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator concludes under subsection (b)(1) that a covered

action will have more than a de minimis negative impact on employment levels or economic activity in a State, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing in each such State at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the covered action.

(2) TIME, LOCATION, AND SELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A public hearing required under paragraph (1) shall be held at a convenient time and location for impacted residents.

(B) PRIORITY.—In selecting a location for such a public hearing, the Administrator shall give priority to locations in the State that will experience the greatest number of job losses.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator concludes under subsection (b)(1) that a covered action will have more than a de minimis negative impact on employment levels or economic activity in any State, the Administrator shall give notice of such impact to the congressional delegation, Governor, and legislature of the State at least 45 days before the effective date of the covered action.

SEC. 134. IDENTIFICATION OF WATERS PROTECTED BY THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not—

(1) finalize, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed guidance described in the notice of availability and request for comments entitled ''EPA and Army Corps of Engineers Guidance Regarding Identification of Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act'' (EPA–HQ–OW–2011–0409) (76 Fed. Reg. 24479 (May 2, 2011)); and

(2) use the guidance described in paragraph (1), any successor document, or any substantially similar guidance made publicly available on or after December 3, 2008, as the basis for any decision regarding the scope of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or any rulemaking.

(b) RULES.—The use of the guidance described in subsection (a)(1), or any successor document or substantially similar guidance made publicly available on or after December 3, 2008, as the basis for any rule shall be grounds for vacating the rule.

SEC. 135. LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY TO MODIFY STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.

(a) STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—Section 303(c)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking ''(4) The'' and inserting the following:

''(4) PROMULGATION OF REVISED OR NEW STANDARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The'';

(3) by striking ''The Administrator shall promulgate'' and inserting the following:

''(B) DEADLINE.—The Administrator shall promulgate;'' and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, the Administrator may not promulgate a revised or new standard for a pollutant in any case in which the State has submitted to the Administrator and the Administrator has approved a water quality standard for that pollutant, unless the State concurs with the determination of the Administrator that the revised or new standard is necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.''.

(b) FEDERAL LICENSES AND PERMITS.—Section 401(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) STATE OR INTERSTATE AGENCY DETERMINATION.—With respect to any discharge, if a State or interstate agency having jurisdiction over the navigable waters at the point at which the discharge originates or will originate determines under paragraph (1) that the discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307, the Administrator may not take any action to supersede the determination.''.

SEC. 136. STATE AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY WATERS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE.

Section 303(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) STATE AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY WATERS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall submit to the Administrator from time to time, with the first such submission not later than 180 days after the date of publication of the first identification of pollutants under section 304(a)(2)(D), the waters identified and the loads established under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1).

''(B) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of submission, the Administrator shall approve the State identification and load or announce the disagreement of the Administrator with the State identification and load.

''(ii) APPROVAL.—If the Administrator approves the identification and load submitted by the State under this subsection, the State shall incorporate the identification and load into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

''(iii) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the identification and load submitted by the State under this subsection. the Administrator shall submit, not later than 30 days after the date that the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the submission of the State, to the State the written recommendation of the Administrator of those additional waters that the Administrator identifies and such loads for such waters as the Administrator believes are necessary to implement the water quality standards applicable to the waters.

''(C) ACTION BY STATE.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of the recommendation of the Administrator, the State shall—

''(i) disregard the recommendation of the Administrator in full and incorporate its own identification and load into the current plan of the State under subsection (e);

''(ii) accept the recommendation of the Administrator in full and incorporate its identification and load as amended by the recommendation of the Administrator into the current plan of the State under subsection (e); or

''(iii) accept the recommendation of the Administrator in part, identifying certain additional waters and certain additional loads proposed by the Administrator to be added to the State's identification and load and incorporate the State's identification and load as amended into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

''(D) NONCOMPLIANCE BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator fails to approve the State identification and load or announce the disagreement of the Administrator with the State identification and load within the time specified in this subsection—

''(I) the identification and load of the State shall be considered approved; and

''(II) the State shall incorporate the identification and load that the State submitted into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

''(ii) RECOMMENDATIONS NOT SUBMITTED.—If the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the identification and load of the State but fails to submit the written recommendation of the Administrator to the State within 30 days as required by subparagraph (B)(iii)—

''(I) the identification and load of the State shall be considered approved; and

''(II) the State shall incorporate the identification and load that the State submitted into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

''(E) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply to any decision made by the Administrator under this subsection issued on or after March 1, 2013.''.

Subtitle C—Point of Order Against Taxes on Carbon

SEC. 141. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CREATE A TAX OR FEE ON CARBON EMISSIONS.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, or conference report that includes a Federal tax or fee imposed on carbon emissions from any product or entity that is a direct or indirect source of the emissions.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(1) WAIVER.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

Subtitle D—Employment Analysis Requirements Under the Clean Air Act

SEC. 151. ANALYSIS OF EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not propose or finalize any major rule (as defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) until after the date on which the Administrator—

(1) completes an economy-wide analysis capturing the costs and cascading effects across industry sectors and markets in the United States of the implementation of major rules promulgated under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.); and

(2) establishes a process to update that analysis not less frequently than semiannually, so as to provide for the continuing evaluation of potential loss or shifts in employment, pursuant to section 321(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7621(a)), that may result from the implementation of major rules under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

TITLE II—HEALTH

SEC. 201. FORTY HOURS IS FULL TIME.

(a) DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking ''by 120'' and inserting ''by 174''; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking ''30 hours'' and inserting ''40 hours''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 202. REPEAL OF THE INDIVIDUAL MANDATE.

Section 1501 and subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 10106 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and the amendments made by such sections and subsections) are repealed and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SEC. 203. REPEAL OF MEDICAL DEVICE EXCISE TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subchapter E.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subsection (a) of section 4221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the last sentence.

(2) Paragraph (2) of section 6416(b) of such Code is amended by striking the last sentence.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of subchapter for chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the item related to subchapter E.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to sales after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 204. LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE MANDATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) EXCEPTION FOR LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'full-time employee' shall not include any individual who is a long-term unemployed individual with respect to such employer.

''(ii) LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'long-term unemployed individual' means, with respect to any employer, an individual who—

''(I) begins employment with such employer after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, and

''(II) has been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, immediately before the date such employment begins.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 205. EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM EMPLOYER MANDATE UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an employer may elect not to take into account for a month as an employee any individual who, for such month, has medical coverage under—

''(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

''(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 206. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TAXES, FEES, AND PENALTIES ENACTED UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

No tax, fee, or penalty imposed or enacted under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall be implemented, administered, or enforced unless there has been a certification by the Joint Committee on Taxation that such provision would not have a direct or indirect economic impact on individuals with an annual income of less than $200,000 or families with an annual income of less than $250,000.

SEC. 207. REPEAL OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective as of the enactment of Public Law 111–148, such Act (including any provision amended under sections 201 through 205 of this Act) is repealed, and the provisions of law amended or repealed by such Act (including any provision amended under such sections) are restored or revived as if such Act had not been enacted.

(b) HEALTH CARE-RELATED PROVISIONS IN THE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010.—Effective as of the enactment of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–152), title I and subtitle B of title II of such Act (including any provision amended under sections 201 through 205 of this Act) are repealed, and the provisions of law amended or repealed by such title or subtitle, respectively (including any provision amended under such sections), are restored or revived as if such title and subtitle had not been enacted.

TITLE III—INCREASING EMPLOYMENT AND DECREASING GOVERNMENT REGULATION

Subtitle A—Small Business Tax Provisions

SEC. 301. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF INCREASED EXPENSING LIMITATIONS AND TREATMENT OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AS SECTION 179 PROPERTY.

(a) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—Section 179(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''shall not exceed'' and all that follows and inserting ''shall not exceed $500,000.''.

(b) REDUCTION IN LIMITATION.—Section 179(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (C),

(2) by striking '', and'' at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a period,

(3) by striking the comma at the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting '', and'', and

(4) by inserting ''beginning before 2014'' after ''The limitation under paragraph (1) for any taxable year''.

(c) COMPUTER SOFTWARE.—Section 179(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''and before 2014''.

(d) ELECTION.—Section 179(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''and before 2014''.

(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED REAL PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 179(f)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''beginning in 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013'' and inserting ''beginning after 2009''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 179(f) of such Code is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 302. PERMANENT FULL EXCLUSION APPLICABLE TO QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS STOCK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 1202(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking ''and before January 1, 2014'', and

(2) by striking ''CERTAIN PERIODS IN 2010, 2011, 2012, AND 2013'' in the heading and inserting ''CERTAIN PERIODS AFTER 2009''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading for section 1202 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''**PARTIAL**''.

(2) The item relating to section 1202 in the table of sections for part I of subchapter P of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking ''Partial exclusion'' and inserting ''Exclusion''.

(3) Section 1223(13) of such Code is amended by striking ''1202(a)(2),''.

(c) ADJUSTMENT OF GROSS ASSET THRESHOLD FOR INFLATION.—Subsection (d) of section 1202 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2014, the $50,000,000 amount in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

''(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

''(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, by substituting 'calendar year 2013' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof. If any amount as increased under the preceding sentence is not a multiple of $1,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $1,000.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to stock acquired after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 303. PERMANENT INCREASE IN DEDUCTION FOR START-UP EXPENDITURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (ii) of section 195(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$10,000'', and

(2) by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$60,000''.

(b) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Paragraph (3) of section 195(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(3) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2014, the $10,000 and $60,000 amounts in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

''(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

''(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, by substituting 'calendar year 2013' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof. If any amount as increased under the preceding sentence is not a multiple of $1,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $1,000.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 304. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF REDUCTION IN S-CORPORATION RECOGNITION PERIOD FOR BUILT-IN GAINS TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (7) of section 1374(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking ''10-year'' in subparagraph (A) and inserting ''5-year'',

(2) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively, and

(3) by striking ''593(e)—'' and all that follows in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, and inserting ''593(e), subparagraph (A) shall be applied without regard to the phrase '5-year'.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 305. PERMANENT ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS IN COMPUTING SELF-EMPLOYMENT TAXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 162(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''beginning before January 1, 2010'' and all that follows and inserting ''beginning—

''(A) before January 1, 2010, or

''(B) after December 31, 2010, and before January 1, 2013.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012.

SEC. 306. CLARIFICATION OF INVENTORY AND ACCOUNTING RULES FOR SMALL BUSINESS.

(a) CASH ACCOUNTING PERMITTED.—Section 446 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS TAXPAYERS PERMITTED TO USE CASH ACCOUNTING METHOD WITHOUT LIMITATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to an eligible taxpayer who uses the cash receipts and disbursements method for any taxable year, such method shall be deemed to clearly reflect income and the taxpayer shall not be required to use an accrual method.

''(2) ELIGIBLE TAXPAYER.—For purposes of this subsection, a taxpayer is an eligible taxpayer with respect to any taxable year if—

''(A) for all prior taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013, the taxpayer (or any predecessor) met the gross receipts test of section 448(c) (determined by substituting '$10,000,000' for '$5,000,000' each place it appears), and

''(B) the taxpayer is not subject to section 447 or 448.''.

(b) INVENTORY RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 471 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

''(c) SMALL BUSINESS TAXPAYERS NOT REQUIRED TO USE INVENTORIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A qualified taxpayer shall not be required to use inventories under this section for a taxable year.

''(2) TREATMENT OF TAXPAYERS NOT USING INVENTORIES.—If a qualified taxpayer does not use inventories with respect to any property for any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2013, such property shall be treated as a material or supply which is not incidental.

''(3) QUALIFIED TAXPAYER.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'qualified taxpayer' means—

''(A) any eligible taxpayer (as defined in section 446(g)(2)), and

''(B) any taxpayer described in section 448(b)(3) (determined by substituting '$10,000,000' for '$5,000,000' each place it appears in subsections (b) and (c) of section 448).''.

(2) INCREASED ELIGIBILITY FOR SIMPLIFIED DOLLAR-VALUE LIFO METHOD.—Section 474(c) of such Code is amended by striking ''$5,000,000'' and inserting ''$10,000,000''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (c) of section 263A of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) EXCLUSION FROM INVENTORY RULES.—Nothing in this section shall require the use of inventories for any taxable year by a qualified taxpayer (within the meaning of section 471(c)) who is not required to use inventories under section 471 for such taxable year.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE AND SPECIAL RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

(2) CHANGE IN METHOD OF ACCOUNTING.—In the case of any taxpayer changing the taxpayer's method of accounting for any taxable year under the amendments made by this section—

(A) such change shall be treated as initiated by the taxpayer; and

(B) such change shall be treated as made with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Subtitle B—Regulatory Accountability Act

SEC. 311. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Regulatory Accountability Act of 2014''.

SEC. 312. DEFINITIONS.

Section 551 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(15) 'guidance' means an agency statement of general applicability and future effect, other than a regulatory action, that sets forth a policy on a statutory, regulatory or technical issue or an interpretation of a statutory or regulatory issue;

''(16) 'high-impact rule' means any rule that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determines is likely to impose an annual cost on the economy of $1,000,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

''(17) 'Information Quality Act' means section 515 of Public Law 106–554, the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001, and guidelines issued by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs or other agencies under that Act;

''(18) 'major guidance' means guidance that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs finds is likely to lead to—

''(A) an annual cost on the economy of $100,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

''(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, local or tribal government agencies, or geographic regions; or

''(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets;

''(19) 'major rule' means any rule that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determines is likely to impose—

''(A) an annual cost on the economy of $100,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

''(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, local, or tribal government agencies, or geographic regions; or

''(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; and

''(20) 'Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs' means the office established under section 3503 of chapter 35 of title 44 and any successor to that office.''.

SEC. 313. RULE MAKING.

Section 553 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''(a) This section applies'' and inserting ''(a) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies''; and

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

''(b) RULE MAKING CONSIDERATIONS.—In a rule making, an agency shall make all preliminary and final determinations based on evidence and consider, in addition to other applicable considerations, the following:

''(1) The legal authority under which a rule may be proposed, including whether a rule making is required by statute, and if so, whether by a specific date, or whether the agency has discretion to commence a rule making.

''(2) Other statutory considerations applicable to whether the agency can or should propose a rule or undertake other agency action.

''(3) The specific nature and significance of the problem the agency may address with a rule (including the degree and nature of risks the problem poses and the priority of addressing those risks compared to other matters or activities within the jurisdiction of the agency), whether the problem warrants new agency action, and the countervailing risks that may be posed by alternatives for new agency action.

''(4) Whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency may address with a rule and whether those rules could be amended or rescinded to address the problem in whole or part.

''(5) Any reasonable alternatives for a new rule or other response identified by the agency or interested persons, including not only responses that mandate particular conduct or manners of compliance, but also—

''(A) the alternative of no Federal response;

''(B) amending or rescinding existing rules;

''(C) potential regional, State, local, or tribal regulatory action or other responses that could be taken instead of agency action; and

''(D) potential responses that—

''(i) specify performance objectives rather than conduct or manners of compliance;

''(ii) establish economic incentives to encourage desired behavior;

''(iii) provide information upon which choices can be made by the public; or

''(iv) incorporate other innovative alternatives rather than agency actions that specify conduct or manners of compliance.

''(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

''(A) the potential costs and benefits associated with potential alternative rules and other responses considered under paragraph (5), including direct, indirect, and cumulative costs and benefits and estimated impacts on jobs, economic growth, innovation, and economic competitiveness;

''(B) the means to increase the cost-effectiveness of any Federal response; and

''(C) incentives for innovation, consistency, predictability, lower costs of enforcement and compliance (to government entities, regulated entities, and the public), and flexibility.

''(c) ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING FOR MAJOR RULES AND HIGH-IMPACT RULES.—

''(1) In the case of a rule making for a major rule or high-impact rule, not later than 90 days before a notice of proposed rule making is published in the Federal Register, an agency shall publish advance notice of proposed rule making in the Federal Register.

''(2) In publishing advance notice under paragraph (1), the agency shall—

''(A) include a written statement identifying, at a minimum—

''(i) the nature and significance of the problem the agency may address with a rule, including data and other evidence and information on which the agency expects to rely for the proposed rule;

''(ii) the legal authority under which a rule may be proposed, including whether a rule making is required by statute, and if so, whether by a specific date, or whether the agency has discretion to commence a rule making; and

''(iii) preliminary information available to the agency concerning the other considerations specified in subsection (b);

''(B) solicit written data, views or arguments from interested persons concerning the information and issues addressed in the advance notice; and

''(C) provide for a period of not fewer than 60 days for interested persons to submit such written data, views, or arguments to the agency.

''(d) NOTICES OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING; DETERMINATIONS OF OTHER AGENCY COURSE.—Following completion of procedures under subsection (c), if applicable, and consultation with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, the agency shall publish either a notice of proposed rule making or a determination of other agency course, in accordance with the following:

''(1) A notice of proposed rule making shall include—

''(A) a statement of the time, place, and nature of public rule making proceedings;

''(B) reference to the legal authority under which the rule is proposed;

''(C) the terms of the proposed rule;

''(D) a description of information known to the agency on the subject and issues of the proposed rule, including—

''(i) a summary of information known to the agency concerning the considerations specified in subsection (b);

''(ii) a summary of additional information the agency provided to and obtained from interested persons under subsection (c); and

''(iii) information specifically identifying all data, studies, models, and other evidence or information considered or used by the agency in connection with the determination by the agency to propose the rule;

''(E)(i) a reasoned preliminary determination of need for the rule based on the information described under subparagraph (D); and

''(ii) an additional statement of whether a rule is required by statute;

''(F) a reasoned preliminary determination that the benefits of the proposed rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the costs of the proposed rule, including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6), based on the information described under subparagraph (D);

''(G) a discussion of—

''(i) the alternatives to the proposed rule, and other alternative responses, considered by the agency under subsection (b);

''(ii) the costs and benefits of those alternatives, including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6);

''(iii) whether those alternatives meet relevant statutory objectives; and

''(iv) why the agency did not propose any of those alternatives; and

''(H)(i) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule; and

''(ii) if so, whether or not the agency proposes to amend or rescind any such rules, and why.

All information considered by the agency, and actions to obtain information by the agency, in connection with its determination to propose the rule, including all information described by the agency under subparagraph (D) and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the proposed rule and made accessible to the public for the public's use when the notice of proposed rule making is published.

''(2)(A) A notice of determination of other agency course shall include a description of the alternative response the agency determined to adopt.

''(B) If in its determination of other agency course the agency makes a determination to amend or rescind an existing rule, the agency need not undertake additional proceedings under subsection (c) before the agency publishes a notice of proposed rule making to amend or rescind the existing rule.

All information considered by the agency, and actions to obtain information by the agency, in connection with its determination of other agency course, including the information specified under paragraph (1)(D) and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the determination and made accessible to the public for the public's use when the notice of determination is published.

''(3) After notice of proposed rule making required by this section, the agency shall provide interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making through submission of written data, views, or arguments with or without opportunity for oral presentation, except that—

''(A) if a hearing is required under paragraph (4)(B) or subsection (e), reasonable opportunity for oral presentation shall be provided under that requirement; or

''(B) when other than under subsection (e) rules are required by statute or at the discretion of the agency to be made on the record after opportunity for an agency hearing, sections 556 and 557 shall apply, and paragraph (4), requirements of subsection (e) to receive comment outside of the procedures of sections 556 and 557, and the petition procedures of subsection (e)(6) shall not apply.

The agency shall provide not fewer than 90 days for interested persons to submit written data, views, or arguments (or 120 days in the case of a proposed major rule or high-impact rule).

''(4)(A) Within 30 days after publication of notice of proposed rule making, a member of the public may petition for a hearing in accordance with section 556 to determine whether any evidence or other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule fails to comply with of the Information Quality Act.

''(B)(i) The agency may, upon review of the petition, determine without further process to exclude from the rule making the evidence or other information that is the subject of the petition and, if appropriate, withdraw the proposed rule. The agency shall promptly publish any such determination.

''(ii) If the agency does not resolve the petition under the procedures of clause (i), it shall grant any such petition that presents a prima facie case that evidence or other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule fails to comply with the Information Quality Act, hold the requested hearing not later than 30 days after receipt of the petition, provide for a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination at the hearing, and decide the issues presented by the petition not later than 60 days after receipt of the petition. The agency may deny any petition that it determines does not present such a prima facie case.

''(C) There shall be no judicial review of the agency's disposition of issues considered and decided or determined under subparagraph (B)(ii) until judicial review of the agency's final action. There shall be no judicial review of an agency's determination to withdraw a proposed rule under subparagraph (B)(i).

''(D) Failure to petition for a hearing under this paragraph shall not preclude judicial review of any claim based on the Information Quality Act under chapter 7 of this title.

''(e) HEARINGS FOR HIGH-IMPACT RULES.—Following notice of a proposed rule making, receipt of comments on the proposed rule, and any hearing held under subsection (d)(4), and before adoption of any high-impact rule, the agency shall hold a hearing in accordance with sections 556 and 557, unless such hearing is waived by all participants in the rule making other than the agency. The agency shall provide a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination at such hearing. The hearing shall be limited to the following issues of fact, except that participants at the hearing other than the agency may waive determination of any such issue:

''(1) Whether the agency's asserted factual predicate for the rule is supported by the evidence.

''(2) Whether there is an alternative to the proposed rule that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at a lower cost (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) than the proposed rule.

''(3) If there is more than one alternative to the proposed rule that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at a lower cost than the proposed rule, which alternative would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at the lowest cost.

''(4) If the agency proposes to adopt a rule that is more costly than the least costly alternative that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)), whether the additional benefits of the more costly rule exceed the additional costs of the more costly rule.

''(5) Whether the evidence and other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule meets the requirements of the Information Quality Act.

''(6) Upon petition by an interested person who has participated in the rule making,

other issues relevant to the rule making, unless the agency determines that consideration of the issues at the hearing would not advance consideration of the rule or would, in light of the nature of the need for agency action, unreasonably delay completion of the rule making. An agency shall grant or deny a petition under this paragraph within 30 days after the receipt of the petition.

No later than 45 days before any hearing held under this subsection or sections 556 and 557, the agency shall publish in the Federal Register a notice specifying the proposed rule to be considered at such hearing, the issues to be considered at the hearing, and the time and place for such hearing, except that such notice may be issued not later than 15 days before a hearing held under subsection (d)(4)(B).

''(f) FINAL RULES.—(1) The agency shall adopt a rule only following consultation with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to facilitate compliance with applicable rule making requirements.

''(2) The agency shall adopt a rule only on the basis of the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, and other evidence and information concerning the need for and consequences of the rule.

''(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the agency shall adopt the least costly rule considered during the rule making (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) that meets relevant statutory objectives.

''(B) The agency may adopt a rule that is more costly than the least costly alternative that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives only if—

''(i) the additional benefits of the more costly rule justify its additional costs; and

''(ii) the agency explains its reason for doing so based on interests of public health, safety or welfare (including protection of the environment) that are clearly within the scope of the statutory provision authorizing the rule.

''(4)(A) When the agency adopts a final rule, the agency shall publish a notice of final rule making. The notice shall include—

''(i) a concise, general statement of the rule's basis and purpose;

''(ii) the agency's reasoned final determination of need for a rule to address the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule, including a statement of whether a rule is required by statute;

''(iii) the agency's reasoned final determination that the benefits of the rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the rule's costs (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6));

''(iv) the agency's reasoned final determination not to adopt any of the alternatives to the proposed rule considered by the agency during the rule making, including—

''(I) the agency's reasoned final determination that no alternative considered achieved the relevant statutory objectives with lower costs (including costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) than the rule; or

''(II) the agency's reasoned final determination that its adoption of a more costly rule complies with paragraph (3)(B);

''(v) the agency's reasoned final determination—

''(I) that existing rules have not created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule; or

''(II) that existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule, and, if so—

''(aa) why amendment or rescission of such existing rules is not alone sufficient to respond to the problem; and

''(bb) whether and how the agency intends to amend or rescind the existing rule separate from adoption of the rule;

''(vi) the agency's reasoned final determination that the evidence and other information upon which the agency bases the rule complies with of the Information Quality Act; and

''(vii) for any major rule or high-impact rule, the agency's plan for review of the rule no less frequently than every 10 years to determine whether, based upon evidence, there remains a need for the rule, whether the rule is in fact achieving statutory objectives, whether the rule's benefits continue to justify its costs, and whether the rule can be modified or rescinded to reduce costs while continuing to achieve statutory objectives.

''(B) Review of a rule under a plan required by paragraph (4)(G) shall take into account the factors and criteria set forth in subsections (b) through (e) and this subsection.

''(C) All information considered by the agency in connection with its adoption of the rule, and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the rule and made accessible to the public for the public's use not later than the date on which the rule is adopted.

''(g) EXCEPTIONS FROM NOTICE AND HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—(1) Except when notice or hearing is required by statute, subsections (c) through (e) of this section do not apply to interpretive rules, general statements of policy, or rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice.

''(2)(A) When the agency for good cause, based upon evidence, finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefor in the rules issued) that compliance with subsection (c), (d), or (e) or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of this section before the issuance of an interim rule is impracticable or contrary to the public interest, including interests of national security, such subsections or requirements to render final determinations shall not apply to the agency's adoption of an interim rule.

''(B) If, following compliance with subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the agency adopts an interim rule, it shall commence proceedings that comply fully with subsections (c) through (f) of this section immediately upon publication of the interim rule. No less than 270 days from publication of the interim rule (or 18 months in the case of a major rule or high-impact rule), the agency shall complete rule making under subsections (c) through (f) of this subsection and take final action to adopt a final rule or rescind the interim rule. If the agency fails to take timely final action, the interim rule shall cease to have the effect of law.

''(C) Other than in cases involving interests of national security, upon the agency's publication of an interim rule without compliance with subsections (c), (d), or (e) or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of this section, an interested party may seek immediate judicial review under chapter 7 of this title of the agency's determination to adopt such interim rule. The record on such review shall include all documents and information considered by the agency and any additional information presented by a party that the court determines necessary to consider to assure justice.

''(h) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HEARINGS.—When a hearing is required under subsection (e) or is otherwise required by statute or at the agency's discretion before adoption of a rule, the agency shall comply with the requirements of sections 556 and 557 in addition to the requirements of subsection (f) in adopting the rule and in providing notice of the rule's adoption.

''(i) DATE OF PUBLICATION OF RULE.—The required publication or service of a substantive final or interim rule shall be made not less than 30 days before the effective date of the rule, except—

''(1) a substantive rule which grants or recognizes an exemption or relieves a restriction;

''(2) interpretive rules and statements of policy; or

''(3) as otherwise provided by the agency for good cause found and published with the rule.

''(j) RIGHT TO PETITION.—Each agency shall give an interested person the right to petition for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule.

''(k) RULE MAKING GUIDELINES.—(1)(A) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall have authority to establish guidelines for the assessment, including quantitative and qualitative assessment, of the costs and benefits of potential, proposed, and final rules and other economic issues or issues related to risk that are relevant to rule making under this section and other sections of this title. The rigor of cost-benefit analysis required by such guidelines shall be commensurate, in the Administrator's determination, with the economic impact of the rule.

''(B) To ensure that agencies use the best available techniques to quantify and evaluate anticipated present and future benefits, costs, other economic issues, and risks as accurately as possible, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall regularly update guidelines established under subparagraph (A).

''(2) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall also have authority to issue guidelines to promote coordination, simplification and harmonization of agency rules during the rule making process and otherwise. Such guidelines shall assure that each agency avoids regulations that are inconsistent or incompatible with, or duplicative of, its other regulations and those of other Federal agencies and drafts its regulations to be simple and easy to understand, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.

''(3)(A) To ensure consistency in Federal rule making, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall—

''(i) issue guidelines and otherwise take action to ensure that rule makings conducted in whole or in part under procedures specified in provisions of law other than those under this subchapter conform to the fullest extent allowed by law with the procedures set forth in this section; and

''(ii) issue guidelines for the conduct of hearings under subsections (d)(4) and (e), including to assure a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination.

''(B) Each agency shall adopt regulations for the conduct of hearings consistent with the guidelines issued under this subparagraph.

''(4) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall issue guidelines under the Information Quality

Act to apply in rule making proceedings under this section and sections 556 and 557. In all cases, the guidelines, and the Administrator's specific determinations regarding agency compliance with the guidelines, shall be entitled to judicial deference.

''(l) RECORD.—The agency shall include in the record for a rule making all documents and information considered by the agency during the proceeding, including, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, documents and information communicated by that Office during consultation with the agency.

''(m) EXEMPTION FOR MONETARY POLICY.—Nothing in subsection (b)(6), subparagraph (F) through (G) of subsection (d)(1), subsection (e), subsection (f)(3), or clauses (iii) and (iv) of subsection (f)(4)(A) shall apply to rule makings that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.''.

SEC. 314. AGENCY GUIDANCE; PROCEDURES TO ISSUE MAJOR GUIDANCE; PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO ISSUE GUIDELINES FOR ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 553 the following:

''§ 553a. Agency guidance; procedures to issue major guidance; authority to issue guidelines for issuance of guidance

''(a) Before issuing any major guidance, an agency shall—

''(1) make and document a reasoned determination that—

''(A) assures that such guidance is understandable and complies with relevant statutory objectives and regulatory provisions;

''(B) identifies the costs and benefits (including all costs to be considered during the rule making under section 553(b) of this title) of conduct conforming to such guidance and assures that such benefits justify such costs; and

''(C) describes alternatives to such guidance and their costs and benefits (including all costs to be considered during rule making under section 553(b) of this title) and explains why the agency rejected those alternatives; and

''(2) confer with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs on the issuance of such guidance to assure that the guidance is reasonable, understandable, consistent with relevant statutory and regulatory provisions and requirements or practices of other agencies, does not produce costs that are unjustified by the guidance's benefits, and is otherwise appropriate.

''(b) AGENCY GUIDANCE.—

''(1) is not legally binding and may not be relied upon by an agency as legal grounds for agency action;

''(2) shall state in a plain, prominent and permanent manner that it is not legally binding; and

''(3) shall, at the time it is issued or upon request, be made available by the issuing agency to interested persons and the public.

''(c) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall have authority to issue guidelines for use by the agencies in the issuance of major guidance and other guidance. Such guidelines shall assure that each agency avoids issuing guidance documents that are inconsistent or incompatible with, or duplicative of, its other regulations and those of other Federal agencies and drafts its guidance documents to be simple and easy to understand, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 553 the following:

''553a. Agency guidance; procedures to issue major guidance; presidential authority to issue guidelines for issuance of guidance.''.

SEC. 315. HEARINGS; PRESIDING EMPLOYEES; POWERS AND DUTIES; BURDEN OF PROOF; EVIDENCE; RECORD AS BASIS OF DECISION.

Section 556 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e)(1) The transcript of testimony and exhibits, together with all papers and requests filed in the proceeding, constitutes the exclusive record for decision in accordance with section 557 and, on payment of lawfully prescribed costs, shall be made available to the parties. When an agency decision rests on official notice of a material fact not appearing in the evidence in the record, a party is entitled, on timely request, to an opportunity to show the contrary.

''(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, in a proceeding held under this section under section 553(d)(4) or 553(e), the record for decision shall include any information that is part of the record of proceedings under section 553.

''(f) When an agency conducts rule making under this section and section 557 directly after concluding proceedings upon an advance notice of proposed rule making under section 553(c), the matters to be considered and determinations to be made shall include, among other relevant matters and determinations, the matters and determinations described in subsections (b) and (f) of section 553.

''(g)(1) Upon receipt of a petition for a hearing under this section, the agency shall grant the petition in the case of any major rule, unless the agency reasonably determines that a hearing would not advance consideration of the rule or would, in light of the need for agency action, unreasonably delay completion of the rule making. The agency shall publish its decision to grant or deny the petition when it renders the decision, including an explanation of the grounds for decision. The information contained in the petition shall in all cases be included in the administrative record.

''(2) This subsection shall not apply to rule makings that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.''.

SEC. 316. ACTIONS REVIEWABLE.

Section 704 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''Agency action made'' and inserting ''(a) Agency action made''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b)(1) Except as provided under paragraph (2) and notwithstanding subsection (a), upon the agency's publication of an interim rule without compliance with subsection (c), (d), or (e) of section 553 or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of section 553, an interested party may seek immediate judicial review under this chapter of the agency's determination to adopt such rule on an interim basis. Review shall be limited to whether the agency abused its discretion to adopt the interim rule without compliance with subsection (c), (d), or (e) of section 553 or without rendering final determinations under subsection (f) of section 553.

''(2) This subsection shall not apply in cases involving interests of national security.

''(c) For rules other than major rules and high-impact rules, compliance with subsection (b)(6), subparagraphs (F) through (G) of subsection (d)(1), subsection (f)(3), and clauses (iii) and (iv) of subsection (f)(4)(A) of section 553 shall not be subject to judicial review. In all cases, the determination that a rule is not a major rule within the meaning of section 551(19)(A) or a high-impact rule shall be subject to judicial review under section 706(a)(2)(A).

''(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit judicial review of an agency's consideration of costs or benefits as a mandatory or discretionary factor under the statute authorizing the rule or any other applicable statute.''.

SEC. 317. SCOPE OF REVIEW.

Section 706 of title 5, United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking ''To the extent necessary'' and inserting ''(a) To the extent necessary'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(A) of subsection (a) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section), by inserting after ''in accordance with law'' the following: ''(including the Information Quality Act as defined under section 551(17))''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) The court shall not defer to the agency's—

''(1) interpretation of an agency rule if the agency did not comply with the procedures of section 553 or sections 556 and 557 to issue the interpretation;

''(2) determination of the costs and benefits or other economic or risk assessment of the regulatory action, if the agency failed to conform to guidelines on such determinations and assessments established by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs under section 553(k); or

''(3) determinations under interlocutory review under sections 553(g)(2)(C) and 704(2).

''(c) The court shall review agency denials of petitions under section 553(e)(6) or any other petition for a hearing under sections 556 and 557 for abuse of agency discretion.''.

SEC. 318. ADDED DEFINITION.

Section 701(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end, and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) 'substantial evidence' means such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion in light of the record considered as a whole, taking into account whatever in the record fairly detracts from the weight of the evidence relied upon by the agency to support its decision.''.

SEC. 319. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this title to—

(1) sections 553, 556, and 704 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) section 701(b) of title 5, United States Code;

(3) paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 706(b) of title 5, United States Code; and

(4) section 706(c) of title 5, United States Code,

shall not apply to any rule makings pending or completed on the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act'' or the ''SKILLS Act''.

SEC. 402. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the amendment or repeal shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

SEC. 403. APPLICATION TO FISCAL YEARS.

Except as otherwise provided, this title and the amendments made by this title shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2015 and succeeding fiscal years.

Subtitle A—Amendments to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998

CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEFINITIONS

SEC. 406. DEFINITIONS.

Section 101 (29 U.S.C. 2801) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.—The term 'adult education and family literacy education activities' has the meaning given the term in section 203.'';

(2) by striking paragraphs (13) and (24);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (12) as paragraphs (3) through (14), and paragraphs (14) through (23) as paragraphs (15) through (24), respectively;

(4) by striking paragraphs (52) and (53);

(5) by inserting after ''In this title:'' the following new paragraphs:

''(1) ACCRUED EXPENDITURES.—The term 'accrued expenditures' means—

''(A) charges incurred by recipients of funds under this title for a given period requiring the provision of funds for goods or other tangible property received;

''(B) charges incurred for services performed by employees, contractors, subgrantees, subcontractors, and other payees; and

''(C) other amounts becoming owed, under programs assisted under this title, for which no current services or performance is required, such as amounts for annuities, insurance claims, and other benefit payments.

''(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The term 'administrative costs' means expenditures incurred by State boards and local boards, direct recipients (including State grant recipients under subtitle B and recipients of awards under subtitles C and D), local grant recipients, local fiscal agents or local grant subrecipients, and one-stop operators in the performance of administrative functions and in carrying out activities under this title that are not related to the direct provision of workforce investment activities (including services to participants and employers). Such costs include both personnel and nonpersonnel expenditures and both direct and indirect expenditures.'';

(6) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking ''Except in sections 127 and 132, the'' and inserting ''The'';

(7) by amending paragraph (5) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

''(5) AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.—The term 'area career and technical education school' has the meaning given the term in section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3)).'';

(8) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by inserting ''(or such other level as the Governor may establish)'' after ''8th grade level'';

(9) in paragraph (10)(C) (as so redesignated), by striking ''not less than 50 percent of the cost of the training'' and inserting ''a significant portion of the cost of training, as determined by the local board involved (or, in the case of an employer in multiple local areas in the State, as determined by the Governor), taking into account the size of the employer and such other factors as the local board or Governor, respectively, determines to be appropriate'';

(10) in paragraph (11) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II), by striking ''section 134(c)'' and inserting ''section 121(e)'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

(i) by striking ''134(d)(4)'' and inserting ''134(c)(4)''; and

(ii) by striking ''intensive services described in section 134(d)(3)'' and inserting ''work ready services described in section 134(c)(2)'';

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(D) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(E)(i) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days (as defined in section 101(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code) who has experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of such member; or

''(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code) who meets the criteria described in paragraph (12)(B).'';

(11) in paragraph (12)(A) (as redesignated)—

(A) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon and inserting ''or'';

(B) by striking ''(A)'' and inserting ''(A)(i)''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days (as defined in section 101(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code) whose family income is significantly reduced because of a deployment (as defined in section 991(b) of title 10, United States Code, or pursuant to paragraph (4) of such section), a call or order to active duty pursuant to a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, a permanent change of station, or the service-connected (as defined in section 101(16) of title 38, United States Code) death or disability of the member; and'';

(12) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated), by inserting ''or regional'' after ''local'' each place it appears;

(13) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''section 122(e)(3)'' and inserting ''section 122'';

(B) by striking subparagraph (B), and inserting the following:

''(B) work ready services, means a provider who is identified or awarded a contract as described in section 117(d)(5)(C); or'';

(C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C);

(14) in paragraph (15) (as so redesignated), by striking ''adult or dislocated worker'' and inserting ''individual'';

(15) in paragraph (20), by striking ''The'' and inserting ''Subject to section 116(a)(1)(E), the'';

(16) in paragraph (25)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''higher of—'' and all that follows through clause (ii) and inserting ''poverty line for an equivalent period;'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (F) as subparagraphs (E) through (G), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);'';

(17) in paragraph (32), by striking ''the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia,'';

(18) by amending paragraph (33) to read as follows:

''(33) OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.—The term 'out-of-school youth' means—

''(A) an at-risk youth who is a school dropout; or

''(B) an at-risk youth who has received a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent but is basic skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed.'';

(19) in paragraph (38), by striking ''134(a)(1)(A)'' and inserting ''134(a)(1)(B)'';

(20) in paragraph (41), by striking '', and the term means such Secretary for purposes of section 503'';

(21) in paragraph (43), by striking ''clause (iii) or (v) of section 136(b)(3)(A)'' and inserting ''section 136(b)(3)(A)(iii)'';

(22) by amending paragraph (49) to read as follows:

''(49) VETERAN.—The term 'veteran' has the same meaning given the term in section 2108(1) of title 5, United States Code.'';

(23) by amending paragraph (50) to read as follows:

''(50) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The term 'career and technical education' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).'';

(24) in paragraph (51), by striking '', and a youth activity''; and

(25) by adding at the end the following:

''(52) AT-RISK YOUTH.—Except as provided in subtitle C, the term 'at-risk youth' means an individual who—

''(A) is not less than age 16 and not more than age 24;

''(B) is a low-income individual; and

''(C) is an individual who is one or more of the following:

''(i) A secondary school dropout.

''(ii) A youth in foster care (including youth aging out of foster care).

''(iii) A youth offender.

''(iv) A youth who is an individual with a disability.

''(v) A migrant youth.

''(53) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'industry or sector partnership' means a partnership of—

''(A) a State board or local board; and

''(B) one or more industry or sector organizations, and other entities, that have the capability to help the State board or local board determine the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries or sectors and other occupations important to the State or local economy, respectively.

''(54) INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL.—The term 'industry-recognized credential' means a credential that is sought or accepted by companies within the industry sector involved, across multiple States, as recognized, preferred, or required for recruitment, screening, or hiring and is awarded for completion of a program listed or identified

under subsection (d) or (i) of section 122, for the local area involved.

''(55) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY.—The term 'pay-for-performance contract strategy' means a strategy in which a pay-for-performance contract to provide a program of employment and training activities incorporates provisions regarding—

''(A) the core indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (IV) and (VI) of section 136(b)(2)(A)(i);

''(B) a fixed amount that will be paid to an eligible provider of such employment and training activities for each program participant who, within a defined timetable, achieves the agreed-to levels of performance based upon the core indicators of performance described in subparagraph (A), and may include a bonus payment to such provider, which may be used to expand the capacity of such provider;

''(C) the ability for an eligible provider to recoup the costs of providing the activities for a program participant who has not achieved those levels, but for whom the provider is able to demonstrate that such participant gained specific competencies required for education and career advancement that are, where feasible, tied to industry-recognized credentials and related standards, or State licensing requirements; and

''(D) the ability for an eligible provider that does not meet the requirements under section 122(a)(2) to participate in such pay-for-performance contract and to not be required to report on the performance and cost information required under section 122(d).

''(56) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.—The term 'recognized postsecondary credential' means a credential awarded by a provider of training services or postsecondary educational institution based on completion of all requirements for a program of study, including coursework or tests or other performance evaluations. The term means an industry-recognized credential, a certificate of completion of a registered apprenticeship program, or an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution described in section 122(a)(2)(A)(i).

''(57) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term 'registered apprenticeship program' means a program described in section 122(a)(2)(B).''.

CHAPTER 2—STATEWIDE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS

SEC. 411. PURPOSE.

Section 106 (29 U.S.C. 2811) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''It is also the purpose of this subtitle to provide workforce investment activities in a manner that enhances employer engagement, promotes customer choices in the selection of training services, and ensures accountability in the use of taxpayer funds.''.

SEC. 412. STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

Section 111 (29 U.S.C. 2821) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (B);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B); and

(iii) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by amending clause (i)(I), by striking ''section 117(b)(2)(A)(i)'' and inserting ''section 117(b)(2)(A)'';

(II) by amending clause (i)(II) to read as follows:

''(II) represent businesses, including large and small businesses, each of which has immediate and long-term employment opportunities in an in-demand industry or other occupation important to the State economy; and'';

(III) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

''(iii) a State agency official responsible for economic development; and'';

(IV) by striking clauses (iv) through (vi);

(V) by amending clause (vii) to read as follows:

''(vii) such other representatives and State agency officials as the Governor may designate, including—

''(I) members of the State legislature;

''(II) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience with respect to youth activities;

''(III) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience and expertise in the delivery of workforce investment activities, including chief executive officers of community colleges and community-based organizations within the State;

''(IV) representatives of the lead State agency officials with responsibility for the programs and activities that are described in section 121(b) and carried out by one-stop partners; or

''(V) representatives of veterans service organizations.''; and

(VI) by redesignating clause (vii) (as so amended) as clause (iv); and

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

''(3) MAJORITY.—A ⅔ majority of the members of the board shall be representatives described in paragraph (1)(B)(i).'';

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''(b)(1)(C)(i)'' and inserting ''(b)(1)(B)(i)'';

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

''(d) FUNCTIONS.—The State board shall assist the Governor of the State as follows:

''(1) STATE PLAN.—Consistent with section 112, the State board shall develop a State plan.

''(2) STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.—The State board shall review and develop statewide policies and programs in the State in a manner that supports a comprehensive statewide workforce development system that will result in meeting the workforce needs of the State and its local areas. Such review shall include determining whether the State should consolidate additional amounts for additional activities or programs into the Workforce Investment Fund in accordance with section 501(e).

''(3) WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The State board shall develop a statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49l–2(e)), which may include using information collected under Federal law other than this Act by the State economic development entity or a related entity in developing such system.

''(4) EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.—The State board shall develop strategies, across local areas, that meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the State by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers.

''(5) DESIGNATION OF LOCAL AREAS.—The State board shall designate local areas as required under section 116.

''(6) ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.—The State board shall identify and disseminate information on best practices for effective operation of one-stop centers, including use of innovative business outreach, partnerships, and service delivery strategies.

''(7) PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.—The State board shall conduct the following program oversight:

''(A) Reviewing and approving local plans under section 118.

''(B) Ensuring the appropriate use and management of the funds provided for State employment and training activities authorized under section 134.

''(C) Preparing an annual report to the Secretary described in section 136(d).

''(8) DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The State board shall develop and ensure continuous improvement of comprehensive State performance measures, including State adjusted levels of performance, as described under section 136(b).'';

(4) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e);

(5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by inserting ''or participate in any action taken'' after ''vote'';

(6) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so redesignated), the following:

''(f) STAFF.—The State board may employ staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in subsection (d).''; and

(7) in subsection (g), by inserting ''electronic means and'' after ''on a regular basis through''.

SEC. 413. STATE PLAN.

Section 112 (29 U.S.C. 2822)—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''127 or''; and

(B) by striking ''5-year strategy'' and inserting ''3-year strategy'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4) information describing—

''(A) the economic conditions in the State;

''(B) the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the State economy;

''(C) the knowledge and skills of the workforce in the State; and

''(D) workforce development activities (including education and training) in the State;'';

(B) by amending paragraph (7) to read as follows:

''(7) a description of the State criteria for determining the eligibility of training services providers in accordance with section 122, including how the State will take into account the performance of providers and whether the training services relate to in-demand industries and other occupations important to the State economy;'';

(C) by amending paragraph (8) to read as follows:

''(8)(A) a description of the procedures that will be taken by the State to assure coordination of, and avoid duplication among, the programs and activities identified under section 501(b)(2); and

''(B) a description of and an assurance regarding common data collection and reporting processes used for the programs and activities described in subparagraph (A), which are carried out by one-stop partners, including—

''(i) an assurance that such processes use quarterly wage records for performance measures described in section 136(b)(2)(A) that are applicable to such programs or activities; or

''(ii) if such wage records are not being used for the performance measures, an identification of the barriers to using such wage records and a description of how the State will address such barriers within 1 year of the approval of the plan;'';

(D) in paragraph (9), by striking '', including comment by representatives of businesses and representatives of labor organizations,'';

(E) in paragraph (11), by striking ''under sections 127 and 132'' and inserting ''under section 132'';

(F) by striking paragraph (12);

(G) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through (18) as paragraphs (12) through (17), respectively;

(H) in paragraph (12) (as so redesignated), by striking ''111(f)'' and inserting ''111(e)'';

(I) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated), by striking ''134(c)'' and inserting ''121(e)'';

(J) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated), by striking ''116(a)(5)'' and inserting ''116(a)(3)'';

(K) in paragraph (16) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking ''to dislocated workers''; and

(bb) by inserting ''and additional assistance'' after ''rapid response activities'';

(II) in clause (iii), by striking ''134(d)(4)'' and inserting ''134(c)(4)'';

(III) by striking ''and'' at the end of clause (iii);

(IV) by amending clause (iv) to read as follows:

''(iv) how the State will serve the employment and training needs of dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), low-income individuals (including recipients of public assistance such as supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), long-term unemployed individuals (including individuals who have exhausted entitlement to Federal and State unemployment compensation), English learners, homeless individuals, individuals training for nontraditional employment, youth (including out-of-school youth and at-risk youth), older workers, ex-offenders, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, refugees and entrants, veterans (including disabled and homeless veterans), and Native Americans; and''; and

(V) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(v) how the State will—

''(I) consistent with section 188 and Executive Order No. 13217 (42 U.S.C. 12131 note), serve the employment and training needs of individuals with disabilities; and

''(II) consistent with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794, 794d), include the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the development of performance measures, the training of staff, and other aspects of accessibility for individuals with disabilities to programs and services under this subtitle;''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''to the extent practicable'' and inserting ''in accordance with the requirements of the Jobs for Veterans Act (Public Law 107–288) and the amendments made by such Act''; and

(L) by striking paragraph (17) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

''(17) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the State—

''(A) to more fully engage employers, including small businesses and employers in in-demand industries and occupations important to the State economy;

''(B) to meet the needs of employers in the State; and

''(C) to better coordinate workforce development programs with economic development activities;

''(18) a description of how the State board will convene (or help to convene) industry or sector partnerships that lead to collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across a targeted cluster of multiple firms for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by the industry or sector—

''(A) to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in the industry or sector;

''(B) to address the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the State economy; and

''(C) to address critical skill gaps within and across industries and sectors;

''(19) a description of how the State will utilize technology, to facilitate access to services in remote areas, which may be used throughout the State;

''(20) a description of the State strategy and assistance to be provided by the State for encouraging regional cooperation within the State and across State borders, as appropriate;

''(21) a description of the actions that will be taken by the State to foster communication, coordination, and partnerships with nonprofit organizations (including public libraries, community, faith-based, and philanthropic organizations) that provide employment-related, training, and complementary services, to enhance the quality and comprehensiveness of services available to participants under this title;

''(22) a description of the process and methodology for determining—

''(A) one-stop partner program contributions for the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers under section 121(h)(1); and

''(B) the formula for allocating such infrastructure funds to local areas under section 121(h)(3);

''(23) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, credentials (including recognized postsecondary credentials, such as industry-recognized credentials), and employment experience to succeed in the labor market, including—

''(A) training and internships in in-demand industries or occupations important to the State and local economy;

''(B) dropout recovery activities that are designed to lead to the attainment of a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); and

''(C) activities combining remediation of academic skills, work readiness training, and work experience, and including linkages to postsecondary education and training and career-ladder employment; and

''(24) a description of—

''(A) how the State will furnish employment, training, including training in advanced manufacturing, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans;

''(B) the strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist in and expedite reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force; and

''(C) the veterans population to be served in the State.'';

(3) in subsection (c), by striking ''period, that—'' and all that follows through paragraph (2) and inserting ''period, that the plan is inconsistent with the provisions of this title.''; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking ''5-year'' and inserting ''3-year''.

SEC. 414. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS.

Section 116 (29 U.S.C. 2831) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

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

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) PROCESS.—In order to receive an allotment under section 132, a State, through the State board, shall establish a process to designate local workforce investment areas within the State. Such process shall—

''(i) support the statewide workforce development system developed under section 111(d)(2), enabling the system to meet the workforce needs of the State and its local areas;

''(ii) include consultation, prior to the designation, with chief elected officials;

''(iii) include consideration of comments received on the designation through the public comment process as described in section 112(b)(9); and

''(iv) require the submission of an application for approval under subparagraph (B).

''(B) APPLICATION.—To obtain designation of a local area under this paragraph, a local or regional board (or consortia of local or regional boards) seeking to take responsibility for the area under this Act shall submit an application to a State board at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State board may require, including—

''(i) a description of the local area, including the population that will be served by the local area, and the education and training needs of its employers and workers;

''(ii) a description of how the local area is consistent or aligned with—

''(I) service delivery areas (as determined by the State);

''(II) labor market areas; and

''(III) economic development regions;

''(iii) a description of the eligible providers of education and training, including postsecondary educational institutions such as community colleges, located in the local area and available to meet the needs of the local workforce;

''(iv) a description of the distance that individuals will need to travel to receive services provided in such local area; and

''(v) any other criteria that the State board may require.

''(C) PRIORITY.—In designating local areas under this paragraph, a State board shall give priority consideration to an area proposed by an applicant demonstrating that a designation as a local area under this paragraph will result in the reduction of overlapping service delivery areas, local market areas, or economic development regions.

''(D) ALIGNMENT WITH LOCAL PLAN.—A State may designate an area proposed by an applicant as a local area under this paragraph for a period not to exceed 3 years.

''(E) REFERENCES.—For purposes of this Act, a reference to a local area—

''(i) used with respect to a geographic area, refers to an area designated under this paragraph; and

''(ii) used with respect to an entity, refers to the applicant.'';

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall, if requested by the Governor of a State, provide the State with technical assistance in making the determinations required under paragraph (1). The Secretary shall not issue regulations governing determinations to be made under paragraph (1).'';

(C) by striking paragraph (3);

(D) by striking paragraph (4);

(E) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3); and

(F) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking ''(2) or (3)'' both places it appears and inserting ''(1)'';

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

''(b) SINGLE STATES.—Consistent with subsection (a), the State board of a State may designate the State as a single State local area for the purposes of this title.''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: ''The State may require the local boards for the designated region to prepare a single regional plan that incorporates the elements of the local plan under section 118 and that is submitted and approved in lieu of separate local plans under such section.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''employment statistics'' and inserting ''workforce and labor market information''.

SEC. 415. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

Section 117 (29 U.S.C. 2832) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''include—'' and all that follows through ''representatives'' and inserting ''include representatives'';

(II) by striking clauses (ii) through (vi);

(III) by redesignating subclauses (I) through (III) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively (and by moving the margins of such clauses 2 ems to the left);

(IV) by striking clause (ii) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

''(ii) represent businesses, including large and small businesses, each of which has immediate and long-term employment opportunities in an in-demand industry or other occupation important to the local economy; and''; and

(V) by striking the semicolon at the end of clause (iii) (as so redesignated) and inserting ''; and''; and

(ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) may include such other individuals or representatives of entities as the chief elected official in the local area may determine to be appropriate, including—

''(i) the superintendent or other employee of the local educational agency who has primary responsibility for secondary education, the presidents or chief executive officers of postsecondary educational institutions (including a community college, where such an entity exists), or administrators of local entities providing adult education and family literacy education activities;

''(ii) representatives of community-based organizations (including organizations representing individuals with disabilities and veterans, for a local area in which such organizations are present); or

''(iii) representatives of veterans service organizations.'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking ''A majority'' and inserting ''A ⅔ majority''; and

(ii) by striking ''(2)(A)(i)'' and inserting ''(2)(A)''; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking ''(2)(A)(i)'' and inserting ''(2)(A)'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (C); and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking ''paragraphs (1) through (7)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (1) through (8)'';

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

''(d) FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL BOARD.—The functions of the local board shall include the following:

''(1) LOCAL PLAN.—Consistent with section 118, each local board, in partnership with the chief elected official for the local area involved, shall develop and submit a local plan to the Governor.

''(2) WORKFORCE RESEARCH AND REGIONAL LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The local board shall—

''(i) conduct, and regularly update, an analysis of—

''(I) the economic conditions in the local area;

''(II) the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries and other occupations important to the local economy;

''(III) the knowledge and skills of the workforce in the local area; and

''(IV) workforce development activities (including education and training) in the local area; and

''(ii) assist the Governor in developing the statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491–2(e)).

''(B) EXISTING ANALYSIS.—In carrying out requirements of subparagraph (A)(i), a local board shall use an existing analysis, if any, by the local economic development entity or related entity.

''(3) EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.—The local board shall meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the local area by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers.

''(4) BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION.—

''(A) BUDGET.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The local board shall develop a budget for the activities of the local board in the local area, consistent with the requirements of this subsection.

''(ii) TRAINING RESERVATION.—In developing a budget under clause (i), the local board shall reserve a percentage of funds to carry out the activities specified in section 134(c)(4). The local board shall use the analysis conducted under paragraph (2)(A)(i) to determine the appropriate percentage of funds to reserve under this clause.

''(B) ADMINISTRATION.—

''(i) GRANT RECIPIENT.—The chief elected official in a local area shall serve as the local grant recipient for, and shall be liable for any misuse of, the grant funds allocated to the local area under section 133, unless the chief elected official reaches an agreement with the Governor for the Governor to act as the local grant recipient and bear such liability.

''(ii) DESIGNATION.—In order to assist in administration of the grant funds, the chief elected official or the Governor, where the Governor serves as the local grant recipient for a local area, may designate an entity to serve as a local grant subrecipient for such funds or as a local fiscal agent. Such designation shall not relieve the chief elected official or the Governor of the liability for any misuse of grant funds as described in clause (i).

''(iii) DISBURSAL.—The local grant recipient or an entity designated under clause (ii) shall disburse the grant funds for workforce investment activities at the direction of the local board, pursuant to the requirements of this title. The local grant recipient or entity designated under clause (ii) shall disburse the funds immediately on receiving such direction from the local board.

''(C) STAFF.—The local board may employ staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in this subsection.

''(D) GRANTS AND DONATIONS.—The local board may solicit and accept grants and donations from sources other than Federal funds made available under this Act.

''(5) SELECTION OF OPERATORS AND PROVIDERS.—

''(A) SELECTION OF ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—Consistent with section 121(d), the local board, with the agreement of the chief elected official—

''(i) shall designate or certify one-stop operators as described in section 121(d)(2)(A); and

''(ii) may terminate for cause the eligibility of such operators.

''(B) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE TRAINING SERVICE PROVIDERS.—Consistent with this subtitle, the local board shall identify eligible providers of training services described in section 134(c)(4) in the local area, annually review the outcomes of such eligible providers using the criteria under section 122(b)(2), and designate such eligible providers in the local area who have demonstrated the highest level of success with respect to such criteria as priority eligible providers for the program year following the review.

''(C) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF WORK READY SERVICES.—If the one-stop operator does not provide the services described in section 134(c)(2) in the local area, the local board shall identify eligible providers of such services in the local area by awarding contracts.

''(6) PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.—The local board, in partnership with the chief elected official, shall be responsible for—

''(A) ensuring the appropriate use and management of the funds provided for local employment and training activities authorized under section 134(b); and

''(B) conducting oversight of the one-stop delivery system, in the local area, authorized under section 121.

''(7) NEGOTIATION OF LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall negotiate and reach agreement on local performance measures as described in section 136(c).

''(8) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—The local board shall develop strategies for technology improvements to facilitate access to services authorized under this subtitle and carried out in the local area, including access in remote areas.'';

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by inserting ''electronic means and'' after ''regular basis through''; and

(B) by striking ''and the award of grants or contracts to eligible providers of youth activities,'';

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''section 134(d)(4)'' and inserting ''section 134(c)(4)''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) WORK READY SERVICES; DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION AS ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—A local board may provide work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) through a one-stop delivery system described in section 121 or be designated or certified as a one-stop operator only with the agreement of the chief elected official and the Governor.'';

(6) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting ''or participate in any action taken'' after ''vote''; and

(7) by striking subsections (h) and (i).

SEC. 416. LOCAL PLAN.

Section 118 (29 U.S.C. 2833) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''5-year'' and inserting ''3-year'';

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

''(b) CONTENTS.—The local plan shall include—

''(1) a description of the analysis of the local area's economic and workforce conditions conducted under subclauses (I) through (IV) of section 117(d)(2)(A)(i), and an assurance that the local board will use such analysis to carry out the activities under this subtitle;

''(2) a description of the one-stop delivery system in the local area, including—

''(A) a description of how the local board will ensure—

''(i) the continuous improvement of eligible providers of services through the system; and

''(ii) that such providers meet the employment needs of local businesses and participants; and

''(B) a description of how the local board will facilitate access to services described in section 117(d)(8) and provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with section 117(d)(8);

''(3) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area—

''(A) to more fully engage employers, including small businesses and employers in in-demand industries and occupations important to the local economy;

''(B) to meet the needs of employers in the local area;

''(C) to better coordinate workforce development programs with economic development activities; and

''(D) to better coordinate workforce development programs with employment, training, and literacy services carried out by nonprofit organizations, including public libraries, as appropriate;

''(4) a description of how the local board will convene (or help to convene) industry or sector partnerships that lead to collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across multiple firms for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by a targeted industry or sector—

''(A) to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in the targeted industry or sector;

''(B) to address the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the local economy; and

''(C) to address critical skill gaps within and across industries and sectors;

''(5) a description of how the funds reserved under section 117(d)(4)(A)(ii) will be used to carry out activities described in section 134(c)(4);

''(6) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with statewide workforce investment activities, as appropriate;

''(7) a description of how the local area will—

''(A) coordinate activities with the local area's disability community, and with transition services (as defined under section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401)) provided under that Act by local educational agencies serving such local area, to make available comprehensive, high-quality services to individuals with disabilities;

''(B) consistent with section 188 and Executive Order No. 13217 (42 U.S.C. 12131 note), serve the employment and training needs of individuals with disabilities, with a focus on employment that fosters independence and integration into the workplace; and

''(C) consistent with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794, 794d), include the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the development of performance measures, the training of staff, and other aspects of accessibility for individuals with disabilities to programs and services under this subtitle;

''(8) a description of the local levels of performance negotiated with the Governor and chief elected official pursuant to section 136(c), to be—

''(A) used to measure the performance of the local area; and

''(B) used by the local board for measuring performance of the local fiscal agent (where appropriate), eligible providers, and the one-stop delivery system, in the local area;

''(9) a description of the process used by the local board, consistent with subsection (c), to provide an opportunity for public comment prior to submission of the plan;

''(10) a description of how the local area will serve the employment and training needs of dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), low-income individuals (including recipients of public assistance such as supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), long-term unemployed individuals (including individuals who have exhausted entitlement to Federal and State unemployment compensation), English learners, homeless individuals, individuals training for nontraditional employment, youth (including out-of-school youth and at-risk youth), older workers, ex-offenders, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, refugees and entrants, veterans (including disabled veterans and homeless veterans), and Native Americans;

''(11) an identification of the entity responsible for the disbursal of grant funds described in section 117(d)(4)(B)(iii), as determined by the chief elected official or the Governor under such section;

''(12) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, credentials (including recognized postsecondary credentials, such as industry-recognized credentials), and employment experience to succeed in the labor market, including—

''(A) training and internships in in-demand industries or occupations important to the local economy;

''(B) dropout recovery activities that are designed to lead to the attainment of a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); and

''(C) activities combining remediation of academic skills, work readiness training, and work experience, and including linkages to postsecondary education and training and career-ladder employment;

''(13) a description of—

''(A) how the local area will furnish employment, training, including training in advanced manufacturing, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans;

''(B) the strategies and services that will be used in the local area to assist in and expedite reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force; and

''(C) the veteran population to be served in the local area;

''(14) a description of—

''(A) the duties assigned to the veteran employment specialist consistent with the requirements of section 134(f);

''(B) the manner in which the veteran employment specialist is integrated into the one-stop career system described in section 121;

''(C) the date on which the veteran employment specialist was assigned; and

''(D) whether the veteran employment specialist has satisfactorily completed related training by the National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute; and

''(15) such other information as the Governor may require.''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''such means'' and inserting ''electronic means and such means''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking '', including representatives of business and representatives of labor organizations,''.

SEC. 417. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.

Section 121 (29 U.S.C. 2841) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(A) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—Each entity that carries out a program or activities described in subparagraph (B) shall—

''(i) provide access through a one-stop delivery system to the program or activities carried out by the entity, including making the work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) that are applicable to the program or activities of the entity available at one-stop centers (in addition to any other appropriate locations);

''(ii) use a portion of the funds available to the program or activities of the entity to maintain the one-stop delivery system, including payment of the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

''(iii) enter into a local memorandum of understanding with the local board, relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system, that meets the requirements of subsection (c); and

''(iv) participate in the operation of the one-stop delivery system consistent with the terms of the memorandum of understanding, the requirements of this title, and the requirements of the Federal laws authorizing the program or activities carried out by the entity.'';

(B) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(i) by striking clauses (ii), (v), and (vi);

(ii) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(iii) by redesignating clauses (vii) through (xii) as clauses (iv) through (ix), respectively;

(iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by striking ''adult education and literacy activities'' and inserting ''adult education and family literacy education activities''

(v) in clause (viii), as so redesignated, by striking ''and'' at the end;

(vi) in clause (ix), as so redesignated, by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(vii) by adding at the end the following:

''(x) subject to subparagraph (C), programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).'';

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1)(B) the following:

''(C) DETERMINATION BY THE GOVERNOR.—Each entity carrying out a program described in subparagraph (B)(x) shall be considered to be a one-stop partner under this title and carry out the required partner activities described in subparagraph (A) unless the Governor of the State in which the local area is located provides the Secretary and Secretary of Health and Human Services written notice of a determination by the Governor that such an entity shall not be considered to be such a partner and shall not carry out such required partner activities.''; and

(D) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''section 134(d)(2)'' and inserting ''section 134(c)(2)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clauses (i), (ii), and (v);

(II) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(III) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) employment and training programs administered by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration;

''(iv) employment and training programs carried out by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

''(v) employment, training, and literacy services carried out by public libraries; and

''(vi) other appropriate Federal, State, or local programs, including programs in the private sector.'';

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) provisions describing—

''(i) the services to be provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with the requirements of this section, including the manner in which the services will be coordinated through such system;

''(ii) how the costs of such services and the operating costs of such system will be funded, through cash and in-kind contributions, to provide a stable and equitable funding stream for ongoing one-stop system operations, including the funding of the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

''(iii) methods of referral of individuals between the one-stop operator and the one-stop partners for appropriate services and activities, including referrals for training for nontraditional employment; and

''(iv) the duration of the memorandum of understanding and the procedures for amending the memorandum during the term of the memorandum, and assurances that such memorandum shall be reviewed not less than once every 3-year period to ensure appropriate funding and delivery of services under the memorandum; and'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the heading for paragraph (1), by striking ''DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION'' and inserting ''LOCAL DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''section 134(c)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)'';

(ii) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) shall be designated or certified as a one-stop operator through a competitive process; and''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii) through (vi) as clauses (ii) through (v), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''vocational'' and inserting ''career and technical'';

(4) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

''(e) ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established in a State that receives an allotment under section 132(b) a one-stop delivery system, which shall—

''(A) provide the work ready services described in section 134(c)(2);

''(B) provide access to training services as described in paragraph (4) of section 134(c), including serving as the point of access to career enhancement accounts for training services to participants in accordance with paragraph (4)(F) of such section;

''(C) provide access to the activities carried out under section 134(d), if any;

''(D) provide access to programs and activities carried out by one-stop partners that are described in subsection (b); and

''(E) provide access to the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 15(a)(1) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491–2(a)(1)).

''(2) ONE-STOP DELIVERY.—At a minimum, the one-stop delivery system—

''(A) shall make each of the programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) accessible at not less than one physical center in each local area of the State; and

''(B) may also make programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) available—

''(i) through a network of affiliated sites that can provide one or more of the programs, services, and activities to individuals; and

''(ii) through a network of eligible one-stop partners—

''(I) in which each partner provides one or more of the programs, services, and activities to such individuals and is accessible at an affiliated site that consists of a physical location or an electronically- or technologically-linked access point; and

''(II) that assures individuals that information on the availability of the work ready services will be available regardless of where the individuals initially enter the statewide workforce investment system, including information made available through an access point described in subclause (I).

''(3) SPECIALIZED CENTERS.—The centers and sites described in paragraph (2) may have a specialization in addressing special needs.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) CERTIFICATION OF ONE-STOP CENTERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The State board shall establish objective procedures and criteria for certifying, at least once every 3 years, one-stop centers for the purpose of awarding the one-stop infrastructure funding described in subsection (h).

''(B) CRITERIA.—The criteria for certification of a one-stop center under this subsection shall include—

''(i) meeting the expected levels of performance for each of the corresponding core indicators of performance as outlined in the State plan under section 112;

''(ii) meeting minimum standards relating to the scope and degree of service integration achieved by the center, involving the programs provided by the one-stop partners; and

''(iii) meeting minimum standards relating to how the center ensures that eligible providers meet the employment needs of local employers and participants.

''(C) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.—One-stop centers certified under this subsection shall be eligible to receive the infrastructure funding authorized under subsection (h).

''(2) LOCAL BOARDS.—Consistent with the criteria developed by the State, the local board may develop, for certification referred to in paragraph (1)(A), additional criteria or higher standards on the criteria referred to in paragraph (1)(B) to respond to local labor market and demographic conditions and trends.

''(h) ONE-STOP INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.—

''(1) PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS.—

''(A) PROVISION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as determined under subparagraph (B), a portion of the Federal funds provided to the State and areas within the State under the Federal laws authorizing the one-stop partner programs described in subsection (b)(1)(B) and participating additional partner programs described in subsection (b)(2)(B), for a fiscal year shall be provided to the Governor by such partners to carry out this subsection.

''(B) DETERMINATION OF GOVERNOR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Governor, in consultation with the State board, shall determine the portion of funds to be provided under subparagraph (A) by each one-stop partner and in making such determination shall consider the proportionate use of the one-stop centers in the State by each such partner, the costs of administration for purposes not related to one-stop centers for each such partner, and other relevant factors described in paragraph (3).

''(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—In those States where the State constitution places policy-making authority that is independent of the authority of the Governor in an entity or official with respect to the funds provided for adult education and family literacy education activities authorized under title II and for postsecondary career and technical education activities authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), the determination described in clause (i) with respect to the corresponding 2 programs shall be made by the Governor with the appropriate entity or official with such independent policy-making authority.

''(iii) APPEAL BY ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—The Governor shall establish a procedure for the one-stop partner administering a program described in subsection (b) and subparagraph (A) to appeal a determination regarding the portion of funds to be provided under this paragraph on the basis that such determination is inconsistent with the requirements described in the State plan for the program or with the requirements of this paragraph. Such procedure shall ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

''(C) LIMITATIONS.—

''(i) PROVISION FROM ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.—The funds provided under this paragraph by a one-stop partner shall be provided only from funds available for the costs of administration under the program administered by such partner, and shall be subject to the limitations with respect to the portion of funds under such program that may be used for administration.

''(ii) FEDERAL DIRECT SPENDING PROGRAMS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A program that provides Federal direct spending under section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)(8)) shall not, for purposes of this paragraph, be required to provide more than the maximum amount determined under subclause (II).

''(II) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount for the program is the amount that bears the same relationship to the costs referred to in paragraph (2) for the State as the use of the one-stop centers by such program bears to the use of such centers by all one-stop partner programs in the State.

''(2) ALLOCATION BY GOVERNOR.—From the funds provided under paragraph (1), the Governor shall allocate funds to local areas in accordance with the formula established under paragraph (3) for the purposes of assisting in paying the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers certified under subsection (g).

''(3) ALLOCATION FORMULA.—The State board shall develop a formula to be used by the Governor to allocate the funds provided under paragraph (1) to local areas. The formula shall include such factors as the State board determines are appropriate, which may include factors such as the number of centers in a local area that have been certified, the population served by such centers, and the performance of such centers.

''(4) COSTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'costs of infrastructure' means the nonpersonnel costs that are necessary for the general operation of a one-stop center, including the rental costs of the facilities involved, and the costs of utilities and maintenance, and equipment (including assistive technology for individuals with disabilities).

''(i) OTHER FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the funds provided under subsection (h), a portion of funds made available under Federal law authorizing the one-stop partner programs described in subsection (b)(1)(B) and participating additional partner programs described in subsection (b)(2)(B), or the noncash resources available under such 2 types of programs, shall be used to pay the costs relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system that are not paid for from the funds provided under subsection (h), to the extent not inconsistent with the Federal law involved. Such portion shall be used to pay for costs including—

''(A) costs of infrastructure (as defined in subsection (h)) that are in excess of the funds provided under subsection (h);

''(B) common costs that are in addition to the costs of infrastructure (as so defined); and

''(C) the costs of the provision of work ready services applicable to each program.

''(2) DETERMINATION AND STANDARDS.—The method for determining the appropriate portion of funds and noncash resources to be provided by each program under paragraph (1) shall be determined as part of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c). The State board shall provide standards to facilitate the determination of appropriate allocation of the funds and noncash resources to local areas.''.

SEC. 418. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

Section 122 (29 U.S.C. 2842) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 122. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

''(a) ELIGIBILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor, after consultation with the State board, shall establish criteria and procedures regarding the eligibility of providers of training services described in section 134(c)(4) to receive funds provided under section 133(b) for the provision of such training services and be included on the list of eligible providers of training services described in subsection (d).

''(2) PROVIDERS.—Subject to the provisions of this section, to be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list, the provider shall be—

''(A) a postsecondary educational institution that—

''(i) is eligible to receive Federal funds under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

''(ii) provides a program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential;

''(B) an entity that carries out programs under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the 'National Apprenticeship Act'; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); or

''(C) another public or private provider of a program of training services.

''(3) INCLUSION IN LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.—A provider described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of paragraph (2) shall comply with the criteria and procedures established under this subsection to be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list. A provider described in paragraph (2)(B) shall be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list with respect to programs described in paragraph (2)(B) for so long as the provider remains certified by the Secretary of Labor to carry out the programs.

''(b) CRITERIA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The criteria established by the Governor pursuant to subsection (a) shall take into account—

''(A) the performance of providers of training services with respect to the performance measures described in section 136, measures for other matters for which information is required under paragraph (2), and other appropriate measures of performance outcomes for those participants receiving training services under this subtitle;

''(B) whether the training programs of such providers relate to in-demand industries or occupations important to the local economy;

''(C) the need to ensure access to training services throughout the State, including in rural areas;

''(D) the ability of the providers to offer programs that lead to a recognized postsecondary credential, and the quality of such programs;

''(E) the performance of the providers as reflected in the information such providers are required to report to State agencies with respect to other Federal and State programs (other than the program carried out under this subtitle), including one-stop partner programs; and

''(F) such other factors as the Governor determines are appropriate.

''(2) INFORMATION.—The criteria established by the Governor shall require that a provider of training services submit appropriate, accurate, and timely information to the State for purposes of carrying out subsection (d), with respect to participants receiving training services under this subtitle in the applicable program, including—

''(A) information on recognized postsecondary credentials received by such participants;

''(B) information on costs of attendance for such participants;

''(C) information on the program completion rate for such participants; and

''(D) information on the performance of the provider with respect to the performance measures described in section 136 for such participants.

''(3) RENEWAL.—The criteria established by the Governor shall also provide for a review on the criteria every 3 years and renewal of eligibility under this section for providers of training services.

''(4) LOCAL CRITERIA.—A local board in the State may establish criteria in addition to the criteria established by the Governor, or may require higher levels of performance than required on the criteria established by the Governor, for purposes of determining the eligibility of providers of training services under this section in the local area involved.

''(5) LIMITATION.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, no entity may disclose personally identifiable information regarding a student, including a Social Security number, student identification number, or other identifier, without the prior written consent of the parent or student in compliance with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

''(c) PROCEDURES.—The procedures established under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) identify—

''(A) the application process for a provider of training services to become eligible under this section; and

''(B) the respective roles of the State and local areas in receiving and reviewing applications and in making determinations of eligibility based on the criteria established under this section; and

''(2) establish a process, for a provider of training services to appeal a denial or termination of eligibility under this section, that includes an opportunity for a hearing and prescribes appropriate time limits to ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

''(d) INFORMATION TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN CHOOSING PROVIDERS.—In order to facilitate and assist participants under chapter 5 in choosing providers of training services, the Governor shall ensure that an appropriate list of providers determined eligible under this section in the State, including information provided under subsection (b)(2) with respect to such providers, is provided to the local boards in the State and is made available to such participants and to members of the public through the one-stop delivery system in the State.

''(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The procedures established under this section shall provide the following:

''(A) INTENTIONALLY SUPPLYING INACCURATE INFORMATION.—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services, or individual providing information on behalf of the provider, intentionally supplied inaccurate information under this section, the eligibility of such provider under this section shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 2 years.

''(B) SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATIONS.—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services substantially violated any requirement under this title, the eligibility of such provider under this section shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 10 years.

''(C) REPAYMENT.—A provider of training services whose eligibility is terminated under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be liable for the repayment of funds received under chapter 5 during a period of noncompliance described in such subparagraph. For purposes of subparagraph (A), that period shall be considered to be the period beginning on the date on which the inaccurate information described in subparagraph (A) was supplied, and ending on the date of the termination described in subparagraph (A).

''(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) shall be construed to provide remedies and penalties

that supplement, but do not supplant, other civil and criminal remedies and penalties.

''(f) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES.—A State may enter into an agreement with another State, on a reciprocal basis, to permit eligible providers of training services to accept career enhancement accounts provided in the other State.

''(g) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In developing the criteria (including requirements for related information) and procedures required under this section, the Governor shall solicit and take into consideration the recommendations of local boards and providers of training services within the State.

''(h) OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS.—During the development of the criteria and procedures, and the list of eligible providers required under this section, the Governor shall provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to submit comments regarding such criteria, procedures, and list.

''(i) ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OR CUSTOMIZED TRAINING EXCEPTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Providers of on-the-job training or customized training shall not be subject to the requirements of subsections (a) through (d).

''(2) COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—A one-stop operator in a local area shall collect such performance information from on-the-job training and customized training providers as the Governor may require, determine whether the providers meet such performance criteria as the Governor may require, and disseminate information identifying providers that meet the criteria as eligible providers, and the performance information, through the one-stop delivery system. Providers determined to meet the criteria shall be considered to be identified as eligible under this section, to be providers of the training services involved.''.

SEC. 419. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.

Chapter 5 of subtitle B of title I is amended—

(1) by striking the heading for chapter 5 and inserting the following: ''**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES**''; and

(2) in section 131 (29 U.S.C. 2861)—

(A) by striking ''paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of''; and

(B) by striking ''adults, and dislocated workers,'' and inserting ''individuals''.

SEC. 420. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

Section 132 (29 U.S.C. 2862) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) reserve ½ of 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year, of which—

''(A) 50 percent shall be used to provide technical assistance under section 170; and

''(B) 50 percent shall be used for evaluations under section 172;

''(2) reserve 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to make grants to, and enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, Indian-controlled organizations serving Indians, or Native Hawaiian organizations to carry out employment and training activities;

''(3) reserve not more than 25 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to carry out the Jobs Corps program under subtitle C;

''(4) reserve not more than 3.5 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to—

''(A) make grants to State boards or local boards to provide employment and training assistance to workers affected by major economic dislocations, such as plant closures, mass layoffs, or closures and realignments of military installations; and

''(B) provide assistance to Governors of States with an area that has suffered an emergency or a major disaster (as such terms are defined in paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, of section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)) to provide disaster relief employment in the area; and

''(5) from the remaining amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year (after reserving funds under paragraphs (1) through (4)), make allotments in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.''; and

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

''(b) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND.—

''(1) RESERVATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made available under subsection (a)(5) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than ¼ of 1 percent to provide assistance to the outlying areas.

''(B) RESTRICTION.—The Republic of Palau shall cease to be eligible to receive funding under this paragraph upon entering into an agreement for extension of United States educational assistance under the Compact of Free Association (approved by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–188) after the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act.

''(2) STATES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—After determining the amount to be reserved under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allot the remainder of the amount referred to in subsection (a)(5) for a fiscal year to the States pursuant to subparagraph (B) for employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

''(B) FORMULA.—Subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D), of the remainder—

''(i) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in each State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in all States;

''(ii) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in the civilian labor force in each State, compared to the total number of such individuals in all States;

''(iii) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in each State who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more, compared to the total number of individuals in all States who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more; and

''(iv) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of disadvantaged youth in each State, compared to the total number of disadvantaged youth in all States.

''(C) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES.—

''(i) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for—

''(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is less than 100 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for fiscal year 2013; and

''(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is less than 90 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

''(ii) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to clause (i), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for—

''(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for fiscal year 2013; and

''(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

''(D) SMALL STATE MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for a fiscal year that is less than ⅕ of 1 percent of the remainder described in subparagraph (A) for the fiscal year.

''(E) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in this paragraph:

''(i) ALLOTMENT PERCENTAGE.—The term 'allotment percentage'—

''(I) used with respect to fiscal year 2013, means the percentage of the amounts allotted to States under title I of this Act, title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.), the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as such provisions were in effect for fiscal year 2013, that is received under such provisions by the State involved for fiscal year 2013; and

''(II) used with respect to fiscal year 2017 or a succeeding fiscal year, means the percentage of the amounts allotted to States under this paragraph for the fiscal year, that is received under this paragraph by the State involved for the fiscal year.

''(ii) AREA OF SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT.—The term 'area of substantial unemployment' means any area that is of sufficient size and scope to sustain a program of workforce investment activities carried out under this subtitle and that has an average rate of unemployment of at least 7 percent for the most recent 12 months, as determined by the Secretary. For purposes of this clause, determinations of areas of substantial unemployment shall be made once each fiscal year.

''(iii) DISADVANTAGED YOUTH.—The term 'disadvantaged youth' means an individual who is not less than age 16 and not more than age 24 who receives an income, or is a member of a family that receives a total family income, that in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of—

''(I) the poverty line; or

''(II) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level.

''(iv) INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'individual' means an individual who is age 16 or older.''.

SEC. 421. WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.

Section 133 (29 U.S.C. 2863) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) RESERVATIONS FOR STATEWIDE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The Governor of a State shall reserve not more than 15 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) for a fiscal year to carry out the statewide activities described in section 134(a).

''(2) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amount reserved under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Governor of the State shall reserve not more than 25 percent for statewide rapid response activities and additional assistance described in section 134(a)(4).

''(3) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—Of the

amount reserved under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Governor of the State shall reserve 15 percent to carry out statewide activities described in section 134(a)(5).

''(4) STATE ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—Not more than 5 percent of the funds reserved under paragraph (1) may be used by the Governor of the State for administrative costs of carrying out the statewide activities described in section 134(a).'';

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

''(b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATION.—

''(1) METHODS.—The Governor, acting in accordance with the State plan, and after consulting with chief elected officials in the local areas in the State, shall—

''(A) allocate the funds that are allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) and not reserved under subsection (a), in accordance with paragraph (2)(A); and

''(B) award the funds that are reserved by the State under subsection (a)(3) through competitive grants to eligible entities, in accordance with section 134(a)(1)(C).

''(2) FORMULA ALLOCATIONS FOR THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND.—

''(A) ALLOCATION.—In allocating the funds described in paragraph (1)(A) to local areas, a State shall allocate—

''(i) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(i);

''(ii) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(ii);

''(iii) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(iii); and

''(iv) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(iv),

except that a reference in a section specified in any of clauses (i) through (iv) to 'each State' shall be considered to refer to each local area, and to 'all States' shall be considered to refer to all local areas.

''(B) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES.—

''(i) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The State shall ensure that no local area shall receive an allocation under this paragraph for—

''(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is less than 100 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for fiscal year 2013; and

''(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is less than 90 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

''(ii) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to clause (i), the State shall ensure that no local area shall receive an allocation for a fiscal year under this paragraph for—

''(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is more than 130 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for fiscal year 2013; and

''(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is more than 130 percentage of the allocation percentage of the local area for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

''(C) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in this paragraph, the term 'allocation percentage'—

''(i) used with respect to fiscal year 2013, means the percentage of the amounts allocated to local areas under title I of this Act, title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.), the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as such provisions were in effect for fiscal year 2013, that is received under such provisions by the local area involved for fiscal year 2013; and

''(ii) used with respect to fiscal year 2017 or a succeeding fiscal year, means the percentage of the amounts allocated to local areas under this paragraph for the fiscal year, that is received under this paragraph by the local area involved for the fiscal year.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

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

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor may, in accordance with this subsection, reallocate to eligible local areas within the State amounts that are allocated under subsection (b) for employment and training activities and that are available for reallocation.'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b) for such activities'' and inserting ''subsection (b) for such activities'';

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

''(3) REALLOCATIONS.—In making reallocations to eligible local areas of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Governor shall allocate to each eligible local area within the State an amount based on the relative amount allocated to such local area under subsection (b)(2) for such activities for such prior program year, as compared to the total amount allocated to all eligible local areas in the State under subsection (b)(2) for such activities for such prior program year.''; and

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking ''paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—Of the amount allocated to a local area under this section for a fiscal year, not more than 10 percent of the amount may be used by the local board involved for the administrative costs of carrying out local workforce investment activities in the local area under this chapter.''.

SEC. 422. USE OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

Section 134 (29 U.S.C. 2864) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) DISTRIBUTION OF STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(1) and not reserved under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 133(a)—

''(i) shall be used to carry out the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (2); and

''(ii) may be used to carry out any of the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (3).

''(B) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(2) shall be used to provide the statewide rapid response activities and additional assistance described in paragraph (4).

''(C) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(3) shall be used to award statewide grants for individuals with barriers to employment on a competitive basis, and carry out other activities, as described in paragraph (5).

''(2) REQUIRED STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—A State shall use funds referred to in paragraph (1)(A) to carry out statewide employment and training activities, which shall include—

''(A) disseminating the State list of eligible providers of training services described in section 122(d), information identifying eligible providers of on-the-job training and customized training described in section 122(i), and performance information and program cost information described in section 122(b)(2);

''(B) supporting the provision of work ready services described in subsection (c)(2) in the one-stop delivery system;

''(C) implementing strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, recognized postsecondary credentials, and employment experience to succeed in the labor market;

''(D) conducting evaluations under section 136(e) of activities authorized under this chapter in coordination with evaluations carried out by the Secretary under section 172;

''(E) providing technical assistance to local areas that fail to meet local performance measures;

''(F) operating a fiscal and management accountability system under section 136(f); and

''(G) carrying out monitoring and oversight of activities carried out under this chapter.

''(3) ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—A State may use funds referred to in paragraph (1)(A) to carry out statewide employment and training activities which may include—

''(A) implementing innovative programs and strategies designed to meet the needs of all employers in the State, including small employers, which may include incumbent worker training programs, sectoral and industry cluster strategies and partnership initiatives, career ladder programs, micro-enterprise and entrepreneurial training and support programs, utilization of effective business intermediaries, activities to improve linkages between the one-stop delivery system in the State and all employers (including small employers) in the State, and other business services and strategies that better engage employers in workforce investment activities and make the workforce investment system more relevant to the needs of State and local businesses, consistent with the objectives of this title;

''(B) providing incentive grants to local areas—

''(i) for regional cooperation among local boards (including local boards in a designated region as described in section 116(c));

''(ii) for local coordination of activities carried out under this Act; and

''(iii) for exemplary performance by local areas on the local performance measures;

''(C) developing strategies for effectively integrating programs and services among one-stop partners;

''(D) carrying out activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology;

''(E) incorporating pay-for-performance contract strategies as an element in funding activities under this section and providing technical support to local areas and eligible providers in order to carry out such a strategy, which may involve providing assistance with data collection and data entry requirements;

''(F) carrying out the State option under subsection (f)(8); and

''(G) carrying out other activities authorized under this section that the State determines to be necessary to assist local areas in

carrying out activities described in subsection (c) or (d) through the statewide workforce investment system.

''(4) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—A State shall use funds reserved as described in section 133(a)(2)—

''(A) to carry out statewide rapid response activities, which shall include provision of rapid response activities, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials in the local areas; and

''(B) to provide additional assistance to local areas that experience disasters, mass layoffs, or plant closings, or other events that precipitate substantial increases in the number of unemployed individuals, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials in the local areas.

''(5) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds reserved as described in section 133(a)(3), the Governor of a State—

''(i) may reserve up to 5 percent to provide technical assistance for, and conduct evaluations as described in section 136(e) of, the programs carried out under this paragraph; and

''(ii) using the remainder, shall award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities (that meet specific performance outcomes and criteria established by the Governor) described in subparagraph (B) to carry out employment and training programs authorized under this paragraph for individuals with barriers to employment.

''(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'eligible entity' means an entity that—

''(i) is a—

''(I) local board or a consortium of local boards;

''(II) nonprofit entity, for-profit entity, or a consortium of nonprofit or for-profit entities; or

''(III) consortium of the entities described in subclauses (I) and (II);

''(ii) has a demonstrated record of placing individuals into unsubsidized employment and serving hard-to-serve individuals; and

''(iii) agrees to be reimbursed primarily on the basis of meeting specified performance outcomes and criteria established by the Governor.

''(C) GRANT PERIOD.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this paragraph shall be awarded for a period of 1 year.

''(ii) GRANT RENEWAL.—A Governor of a State may renew, for up to 4 additional 1-year periods, a grant awarded under this paragraph.

''(D) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—To be eligible to participate in activities under this paragraph, an individual shall be a low-income individual age 16 or older.

''(E) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this paragraph shall use the grant funds for programs of activities that are designed to assist eligible participants in obtaining employment and acquiring the education and skills necessary to succeed in the labor market. To be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph for an employment and training program, an eligible entity shall submit an application to a State at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State may require, including—

''(i) a description of how the strategies and activities of the program will be aligned with the State plan submitted under section 112 and the local plan submitted under section 118, with respect to the area of the State that will be the focus of the program under this paragraph;

''(ii) a description of the educational and skills training programs and activities the eligible entity will provide to eligible participants under this paragraph;

''(iii) how the eligible entity will collaborate with State and local workforce investment systems established under this title in the provision of such programs and activities;

''(iv) a description of the programs of demonstrated effectiveness on which the provision of such educational and skills training programs and activities are based, and a description of how such programs and activities will improve education and skills training for eligible participants;

''(v) a description of the populations to be served and the skill needs of those populations, and the manner in which eligible participants will be recruited and selected as participants;

''(vi) a description of the private, public, local, and State resources that will be leveraged, with the grant funds provided, for the program under this paragraph, and how the entity will ensure the sustainability of such program after grant funds are no longer available;

''(vii) a description of the extent of the involvement of employers in such program;

''(viii) a description of the levels of performance the eligible entity expects to achieve with respect to the indicators of performance for all individuals specified in section 136(b)(2);

''(ix) a detailed budget and a description of the system of fiscal controls, and auditing and accountability procedures, that will be used to ensure fiscal soundness for the program provided under this paragraph; and

''(x) any other criteria the Governor may require.'';

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

''(b) LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)—

''(1) shall be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (c); and

''(2) may be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (d).'';

(3) by striking subsection (c);

(4) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e), as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(5) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

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

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b) shall be used—

''(A) to establish a one-stop delivery system as described in section 121(e);

''(B) to provide the work ready services described in paragraph (2) through the one-stop delivery system in accordance with such paragraph; and

''(C) to provide training services described in paragraph (4) in accordance with such paragraph.'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''CORE SERVICES'' and inserting ''WORK READY SERVICES'';

(ii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''(1)(A)'' and inserting ''(1)'';

(II) by striking ''core services'' and inserting ''work ready services''; and

(III) by striking ''who are adults or dislocated workers'';

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (K) as subparagraph (V);

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (J) as subparagraphs (C) through (K), respectively;

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) assistance in obtaining eligibility determinations under the other one-stop partner programs through activities, where appropriate and consistent with the authorizing statute of the one-stop partner program involved, such as assisting in—

''(i) the submission of applications;

''(ii) the provision of information on the results of such applications; and

''(iii) the provision of intake services and information;'';

(vi) by amending subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(E) labor exchange services, including—

''(i) job search and placement assistance, and where appropriate, career counseling;

''(ii) appropriate recruitment services for employers, including small employers, in the local area, which may include services described in this subsection, including provision of information and referral to specialized business services not traditionally offered through the one-stop delivery system; and

''(iii) reemployment services provided to unemployment claimants, including claimants identified as in need of such services under the worker profiling system established under section 303(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(j));'';

(vii) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking ''employment statistics'' and inserting ''workforce and labor market'';

(viii) in subparagraph (G), as so redesignated, by striking ''and eligible providers of youth activities described in section 123,'';

(ix) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by inserting ''under section 136'' after ''local performance measures'';

(x) in subparagraph (J), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and information regarding the administration of the work test for the unemployment compensation system'' after ''compensation'';

(xi) by amending subparagraph (K), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(K) assistance in establishing eligibility for programs of financial aid assistance for education and training programs that are not funded under this Act and are available in the local area;''; and

(xii) by inserting the following new subparagraphs after subparagraph (K), as so redesignated:

''(L) the provision of information from official publications of the Internal Revenue Service regarding Federal tax credits, available to participants in employment and training activities, and relating to education, job training, and employment;

''(M) comprehensive and specialized assessments of the skill levels and service needs of workers, which may include—

''(i) diagnostic testing and use of other assessment tools; and

''(ii) in-depth interviewing and evaluation to identify employment barriers and appropriate employment goals;

''(N) development of an individual employment plan, to identify the employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives, and appropriate combination of services for the participant;

''(O) group counseling;

''(P) individual counseling and career planning;

''(Q) case management;

''(R) short-term pre-career services, including development of learning skills, communications skills, interviewing skills, punctuality, personal maintenance skills, and professional conduct, to prepare individuals for unsubsidized employment or training;

''(S) internships and work experience;

''(T) literacy activities relating to basic work readiness, information and communication technology literacy activities, and financial literacy activities, if the activities involved are not available to participants in the local area under programs administered under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.);

''(U) out-of-area job search assistance and relocation assistance; and'';

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

''(3) DELIVERY OF SERVICES.—The work ready services described in paragraph (2) shall be provided through the one-stop delivery system and may be provided through contracts with public, private for-profit, and private nonprofit service providers, approved by the local board.''; and

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds described in paragraph (1)(C) shall be used to provide training services to individuals who—

''(i) after an interview, evaluation, or assessment, and case management, have been determined by a one-stop operator or one-stop partner, as appropriate, to—

''(I) be in need of training services to obtain or retain employment; and

''(II) have the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services;

''(ii) select programs of training services that are directly linked to the employment opportunities in the local area involved or in another area in which the individual receiving such services are willing to commute or relocate; and

''(iii) who meet the requirements of subparagraph (B).'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''Except'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding section 479B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087uu) and except'';

(iii) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

''(D) TRAINING SERVICES.—Training services authorized under this paragraph may include—

''(i) occupational skills training;

''(ii) on-the-job training;

''(iii) skill upgrading and retraining;

''(iv) entrepreneurial training;

''(v) education activities leading to a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent in combination with, concurrently or subsequently, occupational skills training;

''(vi) adult education and family literacy education activities provided in conjunction with other training services authorized under this subparagraph;

''(vii) workplace training combined with related instruction;

''(viii) occupational skills training that incorporates English language acquisition;

''(ix) customized training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training; and

''(x) training programs operated by the private sector.'';

(iv) by striking subparagraph (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively;

(v) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated)—

(I) in clause (ii)—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''subsection (c)'' and inserting ''section 121'';

(bb) in subclause (I), by striking ''section 122(e)'' and inserting ''section 122(d)'' and by striking ''section 122(h)'' and inserting ''section 122(i)''; and

(cc) in subclause (II), by striking ''subsections (e) and (h)'' and inserting ''subsections (d) and (i)''; and

(II) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

''(iii) CAREER ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNTS.—An individual who seeks training services and who is eligible pursuant to subparagraph (A), may, in consultation with a case manager, select an eligible provider of training services from the list or identifying information for providers described in clause (ii)(I). Upon such selection, the one-stop operator involved shall, to the extent practicable, refer such individual to the eligible provider of training services, and arrange for payment for such services through a career enhancement account.

''(iv) COORDINATION.—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, coordinate career enhancement accounts with other Federal, State, local, or private job training programs or sources to assist the individual in obtaining training services from (notwithstanding any provision of this title) eligible providers for those programs and sources.

''(v) ASSISTANCE.—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, assist individuals receiving career enhancement accounts in obtaining funds (in addition to the funds provided under this section) from other programs and sources that will assist the individual in obtaining training services.''; and

(vi) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesignated)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS'' and inserting ''CAREER ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNTS'';

(II) in clause (i), by striking ''individual training accounts'' and inserting ''career enhancement accounts'';

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking ''an individual training account'' and inserting ''a career enhancement account'';

(bb) by striking ''subparagraph (F)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (E)'';

(cc) in subclause (II), by striking ''individual training accounts'' and inserting ''career enhancement accounts'';

(dd) in subclause (II), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(ee) in subclause (III), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(ff) by adding at the end the following:

''(IV) the local board determines that it would be most appropriate to award a contract to a postsecondary educational institution that has been identified as a priority eligible provider under section 117(d)(5)(B) in order to facilitate the training of multiple individuals in in-demand industries or occupations important to the State or local economy, that such contract may be used to enable the expansion of programs provided by a priority eligible provider, and that such contract does not limit customer choice.'';

(IV) in clause (iii), by striking ''adult or dislocated worker'' and inserting ''individual''; and

(V) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by redesignating subclause (IV) as subclause (V); and

(bb) by inserting after subclause (III) the following:

''(IV) Individuals with disabilities.'';

(6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

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

''(1) DISCRETIONARY ONE-STOP DELIVERY ACTIVITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)(2) may be used to provide, through the one-stop delivery system—

''(i) customized screening and referral of qualified participants in training services to employers;

''(ii) customized employment-related services to employers on a fee-for-service basis;

''(iii) customer supports, including transportation and child care, to navigate among multiple services and activities for special participant populations that face multiple barriers to employment, including individuals with disabilities;

''(iv) employment and training assistance provided in coordination with child support enforcement activities of the State agency carrying out subtitle D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

''(v) incorporation of pay-for-performance contract strategies as an element in funding activities under this section;

''(vi) activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology; and

''(vii) activities to carry out business services and strategies that meet the workforce investment needs of local area employers, as determined by the local board, consistent with the local plan under section 118.'';

(B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3); and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The local board may use funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)(2) to carry out incumbent worker training programs in accordance with this paragraph.

''(B) TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The training programs for incumbent workers under this paragraph shall be carried out by the local area in conjunction with the employers of such workers for the purpose of assisting such workers in obtaining the skills necessary to retain employment and avert layoffs.

''(C) EMPLOYER MATCH REQUIRED.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Employers participating in programs under this paragraph shall be required to pay a proportion of the costs of providing the training to the incumbent workers of the employers. The local board shall establish the required payment toward such costs, which may include in-kind contributions.

''(ii) CALCULATION OF MATCH.—The wages paid by an employer to a worker while they are attending training may be included as part of the required payment of the employer.''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) PRIORITY FOR PLACEMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS.—In providing employment and training activities authorized under this section, the State board and local board shall give priority to placing participants in jobs in the private sector.

''(f) VETERAN EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (8), a local board shall hire and employ one or more veteran employment specialists to carry out employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection in the local area served by the local board.

''(2) PRINCIPAL DUTIES.—A veteran employment specialist in a local area shall—

''(A) conduct outreach to employers in the local area to assist veterans, including disabled veterans, in gaining employment, including—

''(i) conducting seminars for employers; and

''(ii) in conjunction with employers, conducting job search workshops, and establishing job search groups; and

''(B) facilitate the furnishing of employment, training, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans, in the local area.

''(3) HIRING PREFERENCE FOR VETERANS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE IN SERVING VETERANS.—Subject to paragraph (8), a local board shall, to the maximum extent practicable, employ veterans or individuals with expertise in serving veterans to carry out the services described in paragraph (2) in the local area served by the local board. In hiring an individual to serve as a veteran employment specialist, a local board shall give preference to veterans and other individuals in the following order:

''(A) To service-connected disabled veterans.

''(B) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) is available, to veterans.

''(C) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) or (B) is available, to any member of the Armed Forces transitioning out of military service.

''(D) If no veteran or member described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) is available, to any spouse of a veteran or a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces transitioning out of military service.

''(E) If no veteran or member described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) is available and no spouse described in paragraph (D) is available, to any other individuals with expertise in serving veterans.

''(4) ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each veteran employment specialist shall be administratively responsible to the one-stop operator of the one-stop center in the local area and shall provide, at a minimum, quarterly reports to the one-stop operator of such center and to the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training for the State on the specialist's performance, and compliance by the specialist with Federal law (including regulations), with respect to the—

''(i) principal duties (including facilitating the furnishing of services) for veterans described in paragraph (2); and

''(ii) hiring preferences described in paragraph (3) for veterans and other individuals.

''(B) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Each State shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the qualifications used by each local board in the State in making hiring determinations for a veteran employment specialist and the salary structure under which such specialist is compensated.

''(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate an annual report summarizing the reports submitted under subparagraph (B), and including summaries of outcomes achieved by participating veterans, disaggregated by local areas.

''(5) PART-TIME EMPLOYEES.—A part-time veteran employment specialist shall perform the functions of a veteran employment specialist under this subsection on a halftime basis.

''(6) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—Each veteran employment specialist described in paragraph (2) shall satisfactorily complete training provided by the National Veterans' Employment and Training Institute during the 3-year period that begins on the date on which the employee is so assigned.

''(7) SPECIALIST'S DUTIES.—A full-time veteran employment specialist shall perform only duties related to employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection, and shall not perform other non-veteran-related duties if such duties detract from the specialist's ability to perform the specialist's duties related to employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection.

''(8) STATE OPTION.—At the request of a local board, a State may opt to assume the duties assigned to the local board under paragraphs (1) and (3), including the hiring and employment of one or more veteran employment specialists for placement in the local area served by the local board.''.

SEC. 423. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

Section 136 (29 U.S.C. 2871) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For each State, the State performance measures shall consist of—

''(A)(i) the core indicators of performance described in paragraph (2)(A); and

''(ii) additional indicators of performance (if any) identified by the State under paragraph (2)(B); and

''(B) a State adjusted level of performance for each indicator described in subparagraph (A).

''(2) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

''(A) CORE INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The core indicators of performance for the program of employment and training activities authorized under sections 132(a)(2) and 134, the program of adult education and family literacy education activities authorized under title II, and the program authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741), shall consist of the following indicators of performance (with performance determined in the aggregate and as disaggregated by the populations identified in the State and local plan in each case):

''(I) The percentage and number of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second full calendar quarter after exit from the program.

''(II) The percentage and number of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the fourth full calendar quarter after exit from the program.

''(III) The difference in the median earnings of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second full calendar quarter after exit from the program, compared to the median earnings of such participants prior to participation in such program.

''(IV) The percentage and number of program participants who obtain a recognized postsecondary credential (such as an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program), or a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (subject to clause (ii)), during participation in or within 1 year after exit from the program.

''(V) The percentage and number of program participants who, during a program year—

''(aa) are in an education or training program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential (such as an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program), a certificate from an on-the-job training program, a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or unsubsidized employment; and

''(bb) are achieving measurable basic skill gains toward such a credential, certificate, diploma, or employment.

''(VI) The percentage and number of program participants who obtain unsubsidized employment in the field relating to the training services described in section 134(c)(4) that such participants received.

''(ii) INDICATOR RELATING TO CREDENTIAL.—For purposes of clause (i)(IV), program participants who obtain a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent shall be included in the percentage counted as meeting the criterion under such clause only if such participants (in addition to obtaining such diploma or its recognized equivalent), within 1 year after exit from the program, have obtained or retained employment, have been removed from public assistance, or have begun an education or training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential.

''(B) ADDITIONAL INDICATORS.—A State may identify in the State plan additional indicators for workforce investment activities authorized under this subtitle.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the heading, by striking ''AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDICATOR'';

(II) in clause (i), by striking ''and the customer satisfaction indicator described in paragraph (2)(B)'';

(III) in clause (ii), by striking ''and the customer satisfaction indicator of performance, for the first 3'' and inserting '', for all 3'';

(IV) in clause (iii)—

(aa) in the heading, by striking ''FOR FIRST 3 YEARS''; and

(bb) by striking ''and the customer satisfaction indicator of performance, for the first 3 program years'' and inserting ''for all 3 program years'';

(V) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by striking ''or (v)'';

(bb) by striking subclause (I) and redesignating subclauses (II) and (III) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively; and

(cc) in subclause (I) (as so redesignated)—

(AA) by inserting '', such as unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries'' after ''economic conditions''; and

(BB) by inserting '', such as indicators of poor work experience, dislocation from high-wage employment, low levels of literacy or English proficiency, disability status (including disability status among veterans), and welfare dependency,'' after ''program'';

(VI) by striking clause (v) and redesignating clause (vi) as clause (v); and

(VII) in clause (v) (as so redesignated)—

(aa) by striking ''described in clause (iv)(II)'' and inserting ''described in clause (iv)(I)''; and

(bb) by striking ''or (v)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''paragraph (2)(C)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)(B)'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

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

''(i) the core indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for activities described in such subsection, other than

statewide workforce investment activities; and'';

(B) in clause (ii) of paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''(b)(2)(C)'' and inserting ''(b)(2)(B)''; and

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

''(3) DETERMINATIONS.—In determining such local levels of performance, the local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall ensure such levels are adjusted based on the specific economic conditions (such as unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries), or demographic characteristics or other characteristics of the population to be served, in the local area.'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''127 or'';

(ii) by striking ''and the customer satisfaction indicator'' each place it appears; and

(iii) in the last sentence, by inserting before the period the following: '', and on the amount and percentage of the State's annual allotment under section 132 the State spends on administrative costs and on the amount and percentage of its annual allocation under section 133 each local area in the State spends on administrative costs'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (A);

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (B);

(iv) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking ''(excluding participants who received only self-service and informational activities)''; and

(II) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(v) by striking subparagraph (F); and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) with respect to each local area in the State—

''(i) the number of individuals who received work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the number of individuals who received training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services, and the amount of funds spent on each of the 2 types of services during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 fiscal years;

''(ii) the number of individuals who successfully exited out of work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the number of individuals who exited out of training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services; and

''(iii) the average cost per participant of those individuals who received work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the average cost per participant of those individuals who received training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services; and

''(D) the amount of funds spent on training services and discretionary activities described in section 134(d), disaggregated by the populations identified under section 112(b)(16)(A)(iv) and section 118(b)(10).'';

(C) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''through publication'' and inserting ''through electronic means''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) DATA VALIDATION.—In preparing the reports described in this subsection, each State shall establish procedures, consistent with guidelines issued by the Secretary, to ensure the information contained in the reports is valid and reliable.

''(5) STATE AND LOCAL POLICIES.—

''(A) STATE POLICIES.—Each State that receives an allotment under section 132 shall maintain a central repository of policies related to access, eligibility, availability of services, and other matters, and plans approved by the State board and make such repository available to the public, including by electronic means.

''(B) LOCAL POLICIES.—Each local area that receives an allotment under section 133 shall maintain a central repository of policies related to access, eligibility, availability of services, and other matters, and plans approved by the local board and make such repository available to the public, including by electronic means.'';

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or (B)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''may reduce by not more than 5 percent,'' and inserting ''shall reduce''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) FUNDS RESULTING FROM REDUCED ALLOTMENTS.—The Secretary shall return to the Treasury the amount retained, as a result of a reduction in an allotment to a State made under paragraph (1)(B).'';

(5) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or (B)''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by amending the matter preceding clause (i) to read as follows:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If such failure continues for a second consecutive year, the Governor shall take corrective actions, including the development of a reorganization plan. Such plan shall—'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A), the following:

''(B) REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF GRANT.—If such failure continues for a third consecutive year, the Governor shall reduce the amount of the grant that would (in the absence of this subparagraph) be payable to the local area under such program for the program year after such third consecutive year. Such penalty shall be based on the degree of failure to meet local levels of performance.'';

(iv) in subparagraph (C)(i) (as so redesignated), by striking ''a reorganization plan under subparagraph (A) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the reorganization plan, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such plan'' and inserting ''corrective action under subparagraph (A) or (B) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the action, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such action''; and

(v) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated), by striking ''subparagraph (B)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subparagraph (C)'';

(6) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''subsection (b)(2)(C)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(2)(B)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''(b)(3)(A)(vi)'' and inserting ''(b)(3)(A)(v)'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''the activities described in section 502 concerning''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''described in paragraph (1) and in the activities described in section 502'' and inserting ''and activities described in this subsection''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(j) USE OF CORE INDICATORS FOR OTHER PROGRAMS.—Consistent with the requirements of the applicable authorizing laws, the Secretary shall use the core indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) to assess the effectiveness of the programs described in section 121(b)(1)(B) (in addition to the programs carried out under chapter 5) that are carried out by the Secretary.

''(k) ESTABLISHING PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Governor of a State, a State may establish an incentive system for local boards to implement pay-for-performance contract strategies for the delivery of employment and training activities in the local areas served by the local boards.

''(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—A State that establishes a pay-for-performance incentive system shall reserve not more than 10 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) for a fiscal year to provide funds to local areas in the State whose local boards have implemented a pay-for-performance contract strategy.

''(3) EVALUATIONS.—A State described in paragraph (2) shall use funds reserved by the State under section 133(a)(1) to evaluate the return on investment of pay-for-performance contract strategies implemented by local boards in the State.''.

SEC. 424. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 137 (29 U.S.C. 2872) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 137. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 132, $5,945,639,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.''.

CHAPTER 3—JOB CORPS

SEC. 426. JOB CORPS PURPOSES.

Paragraph (1) of section 141 (29 U.S.C. 2881(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) to maintain a national Job Corps program for at-risk youth, carried out in partnership with States and communities, to assist eligible youth to connect to the workforce by providing them with intensive academic, career and technical education, and service-learning opportunities, in residential and nonresidential centers, in order for such youth to obtain regular secondary school diplomas and recognized postsecondary credentials leading to successful careers in in-demand industries that will result in opportunities for advancement;''.

SEC. 427. JOB CORPS DEFINITIONS.

Section 142 (29 U.S.C. 2882) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''APPLICABLE ONE-STOP'' and inserting ''ONE-STOP'';

(B) by striking ''applicable'';

(C) by striking ''customer service''; and

(D) by striking ''intake'' and inserting ''assessment'';

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''before completing the requirements'' and all that follows and inserting ''prior to becoming a graduate.''; and

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking ''has completed the requirements'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''who, as a result of participation in the Job Corps program, has received a regular secondary school diploma, completed the requirements of a career and technical education and training program, or received, or is making satisfactory progress (as defined under section 484(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(c))) toward receiving, a recognized postsecondary credential (including an industry-recognized credential) that prepares individuals for employment leading to economic self-sufficiency.''.

SEC. 428. INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR THE JOB CORPS.

Section 144 (29 U.S.C. 2884) is amended—

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

''(1) not less than age 16 and not more than age 24 on the date of enrollment;'';

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting ''secondary'' before ''school''; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(E), by striking ''vocational'' and inserting ''career and technical education and''.

SEC. 429. RECRUITMENT, SCREENING, SELECTION, AND ASSIGNMENT OF ENROLLEES.

Section 145 (29 U.S.C. 2885) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(C)(i) by striking ''vocational'' and inserting ''career and technical education and training''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''To the extent practicable, the'' and inserting ''The'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''applicable''; and

(II) by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon;

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C); and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) organizations that have a demonstrated record of effectiveness in placing at-risk youth into employment.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''and agrees to such rules'' after ''failure to observe the rules''; and

(ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) the individual has passed a background check conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary, which shall include—

''(i) a search of the State criminal registry or repository in the State where the individual resides and each State where the individual previously resided;

''(ii) a search of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases in the State where the individual resides and each State where the individual previously resided;

''(iii) a search of the National Crime Information Center;

''(iv) a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System; and

''(v) a search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.).''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF A CRIME.—An individual shall be ineligible for enrollment if the individual—

''(A) makes a false statement in connection with the criminal background check described in paragraph (1)(C);

''(B) is registered or is required to be registered on a State sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.); or

''(C) has been convicted of a felony consisting of—

''(i) homicide;

''(ii) child abuse or neglect;

''(iii) a crime against children, including child pornography;

''(iv) a crime involving rape or sexual assault; or

''(v) physical assault, battery, or a drug-related offense, committed within the past 5 years.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''2 years'' and inserting ''year''; and

(ii) by striking ''an assignment'' and inserting ''a''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking '', every 2 years,'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting ''the education and training'' after ''including''; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) the performance of the Job Corps center relating to the indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) in section 159(c), and whether any actions have been taken with respect to such center pursuant to section 159(f).''; and

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''is closest to the home of the enrollee, except that the'' and inserting ''offers the type of career and technical education and training selected by the individual and, among the centers that offer such education and training, is closest to the home of the individual. The'';

(ii) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''that offers the career and technical education and training desired by'' after ''home of the enrollee''.

SEC. 430. JOB CORPS CENTERS.

Section 147 (29 U.S.C. 2887) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''vocational'' both places it appears and inserting ''career and technical''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''subsections (c) and (d) of section 303 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253)'' and inserting ''subsections (a) and (b) of section 3304 of title 41, United States Code''; and

(II) by striking ''industry council'' and inserting ''workforce council'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(I) by amending subclause (II) to read as follows:

''(II) the ability of the entity to offer career and technical education and training that the workforce council proposes under section 154(c);'';

(II) in subclause (III), by striking ''is familiar with the surrounding communities, applicable'' and inserting ''demonstrates relationships with the surrounding communities, employers, workforce boards,'' and by striking ''and'' at the end;

(III) by amending subclause (IV) to read as follows:

''(IV) the performance of the entity, if any, relating to operating or providing activities described in this subtitle to a Job Corps center, including the entity's demonstrated effectiveness in assisting individuals in achieving the primary and secondary indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c); and''; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

''(V) the ability of the entity to demonstrate a record of successfully assisting at-risk youth to connect to the workforce, including by providing them with intensive academic, and career and technical education and training.''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(I) by striking '', as appropriate''; and

(II) by striking ''through (IV)'' and inserting ''through (V)'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''In any year, no more than 20 percent of the individuals enrolled in the Job Corps may be nonresidential participants in the Job Corps.'';

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(c) CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Job Corps centers may include Civilian Conservation Centers, operated under an agreement between the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, that are located primarily in rural areas. Such centers shall adhere to all the provisions of this subtitle, and shall provide, in addition to education, career and technical education and training, and workforce preparation skills training described in section 148, programs of work experience to conserve, develop, or manage public natural resources or public recreational areas or to develop community projects in the public interest.

''(2) SELECTION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall select an entity that submits an application under subsection (d) to operate a Civilian Conservation Center on a competitive basis, as provided in subsection (a).''; and

(4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to operate a Job Corps center under this subtitle, an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

''(1) a description of the program activities that will be offered at the center, including how the career and technical education and training reflect State and local employment opportunities, including in in-demand industries;

''(2) a description of the counseling, placement, and support activities that will be offered at the center, including a description of the strategies and procedures the entity will use to place graduates into unsubsidized employment upon completion of the program;

''(3) a description of the demonstrated record of effectiveness that the entity has in placing at-risk youth into employment, including past performance of operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle;

''(4) a description of the relationships that the entity has developed with State and local workforce boards, employers, State and local educational agencies, and the surrounding communities in an effort to promote a comprehensive statewide workforce investment system;

''(5) a description of the strong fiscal controls the entity has in place to ensure proper accounting of Federal funds, and a description of how the entity will meet the requirements of section 159(a);

''(6) a description of the strategies and policies the entity will utilize to reduce participant costs;

''(7) a description of the steps taken to control costs in accordance with section 159(a)(3);

''(8) a detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds under this subtitle;

''(9) a detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds from non-Federal resources;

''(10) an assurance the entity will comply with the administrative cost limitation included in section 151(c);

''(11) an assurance the entity is licensed to operate in the State in which the center is located; and

''(12) an assurance the entity will comply with and meet basic health and safety codes, including those measures described in section 152(b).

''(e) LENGTH OF AGREEMENT.—The agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be for not longer than a 2-year period. The Secretary may renew the agreement for 3 1-year periods if the entity meets the requirements of subsection (f).

''(f) RENEWAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may renew the terms of an agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) for an entity to operate a Job Corps center if the center meets or exceeds each of the indicators of performance described in section 159(c)(1).

''(2) RECOMPETITION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not renew the terms of the agreement for an entity to operate a Job Corps center if such center is ranked in the bottom quintile of centers described in section 159(f)(2) for any program year. Such entity may submit a new application under subsection (d) only if such center has shown significant improvement on the indicators of performance described in section 159(c)(1) over the last program year.

''(B) VIOLATIONS.—The Secretary shall not select an entity to operate a Job Corps center if such entity or such center has been found to have a systemic or substantial material failure that involves—

''(i) a threat to the health, safety, or civil rights of program participants or staff;

''(ii) the misuse of funds received under this subtitle;

''(iii) loss of legal status or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds;

''(iv) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the entity has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period specified; or

''(v) an unresolved area of noncompliance.

''(g) CURRENT GRANTEES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act and notwithstanding any previous grant award or renewals of such award under this subtitle, the Secretary shall require all entities operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle to submit an application under subsection (d) to carry out the requirements of this section.''.

SEC. 431. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

Section 148 (29 U.S.C. 2888) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) ACTIVITIES PROVIDED THROUGH JOB CORPS CENTERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees with an intensive, well-organized, and supervised program of education, career and technical education and training, work experience, recreational activities, physical rehabilitation and development, and counseling. Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees assigned to the center with access to work ready services described in section 134(c)(2).

''(2) RELATIONSHIP TO OPPORTUNITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The activities provided under this subsection shall be targeted to helping enrollees, on completion of their enrollment—

''(i) secure and maintain meaningful unsubsidized employment;

''(ii) complete secondary education and obtain a regular secondary school diploma;

''(iii) enroll in and complete postsecondary education or training programs, including obtaining recognized postsecondary credentials (such as industry-recognized credentials and certificates from registered apprenticeship programs); or

''(iv) satisfy Armed Forces requirements.

''(B) LINK TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.—The career and technical education and training provided shall be linked to the employment opportunities in in-demand industries in the State in which the Job Corps center is located.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL'' and inserting ''ACADEMIC AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND'';

(B) by striking ''may'' after ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''shall''; and

(C) by striking ''vocational'' each place it appears and inserting ''career and technical''; and

(3) by amending paragraph (3) of subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(3) DEMONSTRATION.—Each year, any operator seeking to enroll additional enrollees in an advanced career training program shall demonstrate, before the operator may carry out such additional enrollment, that—

''(A) participants in such program have achieved a satisfactory rate of completion and placement in training-related jobs; and

''(B) such operator has met or exceeded the indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c) for the previous year.''.

SEC. 432. COUNSELING AND JOB PLACEMENT.

Section 149 (29 U.S.C. 2889) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''vocational'' and inserting ''career and technical education and'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''make every effort to arrange to''; and

(B) by striking ''to assist'' and inserting ''assist''; and

(3) by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 433. SUPPORT.

Subsection (b) of section 150 (29 U.S.C. 2890) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) TRANSITION ALLOWANCES AND SUPPORT FOR GRADUATES.—The Secretary shall arrange for a transition allowance to be paid to graduates. The transition allowance shall be incentive-based to reflect a graduate's completion of academic, career and technical education or training, and attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential.''.

SEC. 434. OPERATIONS.

Section 151 (29 U.S.C. 2891) is amended—

(1) in the header, by striking ''**OPERATING PLAN.**'' and inserting ''**OPERATIONS.**'';

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''IN GENERAL.—'' and inserting ''OPERATING PLAN.—'';

(3) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(4) by amending subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the heading by inserting ''OF OPERATING PLAN'' after ''AVAILABILITY''; and

(B) by striking ''subsections (a) and (b)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 10 percent of the funds allotted under section 147 to an entity selected to operate a Job Corps center may be used by the entity for administrative costs under this subtitle.''.

SEC. 435. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

Section 153 (29 U.S.C. 2893) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 153. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

''The director of each Job Corps center shall encourage and cooperate in activities to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between Job Corps centers in the State and nearby communities. Such activities may include the use of any local workforce development boards established under section 117 to provide a mechanism for joint discussion of common problems and for planning programs of mutual interest.''.

SEC. 436. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

Section 154 (29 U.S.C. 2894) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 154. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Each Job Corps center shall have a workforce council appointed by the Governor of the State in which the Job Corps center is located.

''(b) WORKFORCE COUNCIL COMPOSITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A workforce council shall be comprised of—

''(A) business members of the State board described in section 111(b)(1)(B)(i);

''(B) business members of the local boards described in section 117(b)(2)(A) located in the State;

''(C) a representative of the State board described in section 111(f); and

''(D) such other representatives and State agency officials as the Governor may designate.

''(2) MAJORITY.—A ⅔ majority of the members of the workforce council shall be representatives described in paragraph (1)(A).

''(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the workforce council shall be—

''(1) to review all the relevant labor market information, including related information in the State plan described in section 112, to—

''(A) determine the in-demand industries in the State in which enrollees intend to seek employment after graduation;

''(B) determine the skills and education that are necessary to obtain the employment opportunities described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) determine the type or types of career and technical education and training that

will be implemented at the center to enable the enrollees to obtain the employment opportunities; and

''(2) to meet at least once a year to reevaluate the labor market information, and other relevant information, to determine any necessary changes in the career and technical education and training provided at the center.''.

SEC. 437. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 156 (29 U.S.C. 2896) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 156. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CENTERS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—From the funds reserved under section 132(a)(3), the Secretary shall provide, directly or through grants, contracts, or other agreements or arrangements as the Secretary considers appropriate, technical assistance and training for the Job Corps program for the purposes of improving program quality.

''(b) ACTIVITIES.—In providing training and technical assistance and for allocating resources for such assistance, the Secretary shall—

''(1) assist entities, including those entities not currently operating a Job Corps center, in developing the application described in section 147(d);

''(2) assist Job Corps centers and programs in correcting deficiencies and violations under this subtitle;

''(3) assist Job Corps centers and programs in meeting or exceeding the indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c); and

''(4) assist Job Corps centers and programs in the development of sound management practices, including financial management procedures.''.

SEC. 438. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

Section 158(c)(1) (29 U.S.C. 2989(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''title II of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 481 et seq.)'' and inserting ''chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code,''.

SEC. 439. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MANAGEMENT.

Section 159 (29 U.S.C. 2899) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**MANAGEMENT INFORMATION**'' and inserting ''**PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANAGEMENT**'';

(2) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', or operating costs for such centers result in a budgetary shortfall'';

(3) by striking subsections (c) through (g); and

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

''(c) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

''(1) PRIMARY INDICATORS.—The annual primary indicators of performance for Job Corps centers shall include—

''(A) the percentage and number of enrollees who graduate from the Job Corps center;

''(B) the percentage and number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps center, except that such calculation shall not include enrollment in education, the military, or volunteer service;

''(C) the percentage and number of graduates who obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program; and

''(D) the cost per successful performance outcome, which is calculated by comparing the number of graduates who were placed in unsubsidized employment or obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential, to total program costs, including all operations, construction, and administration costs at each Job Corps center.

''(2) SECONDARY INDICATORS.—The annual secondary indicators of performance for Job Corps centers shall include—

''(A) the percentage and number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment not related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps center;

''(B) the percentage and number of graduates who entered into postsecondary education;

''(C) the percentage and number of graduates who entered into the military;

''(D) the average wage of graduates who are in unsubsidized employment—

''(i) on the first day of employment; and

''(ii) 6 months after the first day;

''(E) the number and percentage of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment and were retained in the unsubsidized employment—

''(i) 6 months after the first day of employment; and

''(ii) 12 months after the first day of employment;

''(F) the percentage and number of enrollees compared to the percentage and number of enrollees the Secretary has established as targets in section 145(c)(1);

''(G) the cost per training slot, which is calculated by comparing the program's maximum number of enrollees that can be enrolled in a Job Corps center at any given time during the program year to the number of enrollees in the same program year; and

''(H) the number and percentage of former enrollees, including the number dismissed under the zero tolerance policy described in section 152(b).

''(3) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE FOR RECRUITERS.—The annual indicators of performance for recruiters shall include the measurements described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) of paragraph (2).

''(4) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE OF CAREER TRANSITION SERVICE PROVIDERS.—The annual indicators of performance of career transition service providers shall include the measurements described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) and subparagraphs, (B), (C), (D), and (E) of paragraph (2).

''(d) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall collect, and submit in the report described in subsection (f), information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, regarding—

''(1) the number and percentage of former enrollees who obtained a regular secondary school diploma;

''(2) the number and percentage of former enrollees who entered unsubsidized employment;

''(3) the number and percentage of former enrollees who obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential;

''(4) the number and percentage of former enrollees who entered into military service; and

''(5) any additional information required by the Secretary.

''(e) METHODS.—The Secretary shall collect the information described in subsections (c) and (d), using methods described in section 136(f)(2) and consistent with State law, by entering into agreements with the States to access such data for Job Corps enrollees, former enrollees, and graduates.

''(f) TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

''(1) REPORT.—The Secretary shall collect and annually submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate, and make available to the public by electronic means, a report containing—

''(A) information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, on the performance indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

''(B) a comparison of each Job Corps center, by rank, on the performance indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

''(C) a comparison of each Job Corps center, by rank, on the average performance of all primary indicators described in paragraph (1) of subsection (c);

''(D) information on the performance of the service providers described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs; and

''(E) a comparison of each service provider, by rank, on the performance of all service providers described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs.

''(2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall conduct an annual assessment of the performance of each Job Corps center which shall include information on the Job Corps centers that—

''(A) are ranked in the bottom 10 percent on the performance indicator described in paragraph (1)(C); or

''(B) have failed a safety and health code review described in subsection (g).

''(3) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT.—With respect to a Job Corps center that is identified under paragraph (2) or reports less than 50 percent on the performance indicators described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall develop and implement a 1 year performance improvement plan. Such a plan shall require action including—

''(A) providing technical assistance to the center;

''(B) changing the management staff of the center;

''(C) replacing the operator of the center;

''(D) reducing the capacity of the center; or

''(E) closing the center.

''(4) CLOSURE OF JOB CORPS CENTERS.—Job Corps centers that have been identified under paragraph (2) for more than 4 consecutive years shall be closed. The Secretary shall ensure—

''(A) that the proposed decision to close the center is announced in advance to the general public through publication in the Federal Register and other appropriate means; and

''(B) the establishment of a reasonable comment period, not to exceed 30 days, for interested individuals to submit written comments to the Secretary.

''(g) PARTICIPANT HEALTH AND SAFETY.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the General Services Administration or the appropriate State agency responsible for inspecting public buildings and safeguarding the health of disadvantaged students, to conduct an in-person review of the physical condition and health-related activities of each Job Corps center annually. Such review shall include a passing rate of occupancy under Federal and State ordinances.''.

CHAPTER 4—NATIONAL PROGRAMS

SEC. 441. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 170 (29 U.S.C. 2915) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) by striking:

''(a) GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—'';

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subsections (a), (b), and (c) respectively, and moving such subsections 2 ems to the left, and conforming the casing style of the headings of such subsections to the casing style of the heading of subsection (d), as added by paragraph (7) of this section;

(4) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by inserting ''the training of staff providing rapid response services and additional assistance, the training of other staff of recipients of funds under this title, assistance regarding accounting and program operation practices (when such assistance would not be duplicative to assistance provided by the State), technical assistance to States that do not meet State performance measures described in section 136,'' after ''localities,''; and

(B) by striking ''from carrying out activities'' and all that follows up to the period and inserting ''to implement the amendments made by the SKILLS Act'';

(5) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)'';

(B) by striking '', or recipient of financial assistance under any of sections 166 through 169,''; and

(C) by striking ''or grant recipient'';

(6) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)''; and

(7) by inserting, after subsection (c) (as so redesignated), the following:

''(d) BEST PRACTICES COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) establish a system through which States may share information regarding best practices with regard to the operation of workforce investment activities under this Act; and

''(2) evaluate and disseminate information regarding best practices and identify knowledge gaps.''.

SEC. 442. EVALUATIONS.

Section 172 (29 U.S.C. 2917) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''the Secretary shall provide for the continuing evaluation of the programs and activities, including those programs and activities carried out under section 171'' and inserting ''the Secretary, through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, shall conduct, at least once every 5 years, an independent evaluation of the programs and activities funded under this Act'';

(2) by amending subsection (a)(4) to read as follows:

''(4) the impact of receiving services and not receiving services under such programs and activities on the community, businesses, and individuals;'';

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(c) TECHNIQUES.—Evaluations conducted under this section shall utilize appropriate and rigorous methodology and research designs, including the use of control groups chosen by scientific random assignment methodologies, quasi-experimental methods, impact analysis and the use of administrative data. The Secretary shall conduct an impact analysis, as described in subsection (a)(4), of the formula grant program under subtitle B not later than 2016, and thereafter shall conduct such an analysis not less than once every 4 years.'';

(4) in subsection (e), by striking ''the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate'' and inserting ''the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate'';

(5) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g) and inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) REDUCTION OF AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED FOR LATE REPORTING.—If a report required to be transmitted to Congress under this section is not transmitted on or before the time period specified for that report, amounts authorized to be appropriated under this title shall be reduced by 10 percent for the fiscal year that begins after the date on which the final report required under this section is required to be transmitted and reduced by an additional 10 percent each subsequent fiscal year until each such report is transmitted to Congress.''; and

(6) by adding at the end, the following:

''(h) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The results of the evaluations conducted under this section shall be made publicly available, including by posting such results on the Department's website.''.

CHAPTER 5—ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 446. REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS.

Section 181 (29 U.S.C. 2931) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(6), by striking '', including representatives of businesses and of labor organizations,'';

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''shall'' and inserting ''may'';

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking ''training for'' and inserting ''the entry into employment, retention in employment, or increases in earnings of''; and

(B) by striking ''subtitle B'' and inserting ''this Act'';

(4) in subsection (f)(4), by striking ''134(a)(3)(B)'' and inserting ''133(a)(4)''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) SALARY AND BONUS LIMITATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds provided under this title shall be used by a recipient or subrecipient of such funds to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or indirect costs, at a rate in excess of the rate prescribed in level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

''(2) VENDORS.—The limitation described in paragraph (1) shall not apply to vendors providing goods and services as defined in OMB Circular A–133.

''(3) LOWER LIMIT.—In a case in which a State is a recipient of such funds, the State may establish a lower limit than is provided in paragraph (1) for salaries and bonuses of those receiving salaries and bonuses from a subrecipient of such funds, taking into account factors including the relative cost of living in the State, the compensation levels for comparable State or local government employees, and the size of the organizations that administer the Federal programs involved.

''(h) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor (referred to in this Act as the 'Administration') shall administer all programs authorized under title I and the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.). The Administration shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Except for title II and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the Administration shall be the principal agency, and the Assistant Secretary shall be the principal officer, of such Department for carrying out this Act.

''(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Secretary shall be an individual with substantial experience in workforce development and in workforce development management. The Assistant Secretary shall also, to the maximum extent possible, possess knowledge and have worked in or with the State or local workforce investment system or have been a member of the business community.

''(3) FUNCTIONS.—In the performance of the functions of the office, the Assistant Secretary shall be directly responsible to the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary of Labor, as determined by the Secretary. The functions of the Assistant Secretary shall not be delegated to any officer not directly responsible, both with respect to program operation and administration, to the Assistant Secretary. Any reference in this Act to duties to be carried out by the Assistant Secretary shall be considered to be a reference to duties to be carried out by the Secretary acting through the Assistant Secretary.''.

SEC. 447. PROMPT ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

Section 182 (29 U.S.C. 2932) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''127 or''; and

(B) by striking '', except that'' and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking ''sections 128 and 133'' and inserting ''section 133''; and

(B) by striking ''127 or''.

SEC. 448. FISCAL CONTROLS; SANCTIONS.

Section 184(a)(2) (29 U.S.C. 2934(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(A)'' and all that follows through ''Each'' and inserting ''Each''; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B).

SEC. 449. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 185 (29 U.S.C. 2935) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) shall have the option to submit or disseminate electronically any reports, records, plans, or other data that are required to be collected or disseminated under this title.''; and

(2) in subsection (e)(2), by inserting ''and the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate,'' after ''Secretary,''.

SEC. 450. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Section 189 (29 U.S.C. 2939) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

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

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Appropriations for any fiscal year for programs and activities carried out under this title shall be available for obligation only on the basis of a program year. The program year shall begin on October 1 in the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking ''each State'' and inserting ''each recipient (except as otherwise provided in this paragraph)''; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking ''171 or'';

(2) in subsection (i)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (2);

(C) by amending paragraph (2)(A), as so redesignated—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period at the end;

(ii) by striking ''requirements of subparagraph (B)'' and all that follows through ''any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle B'' and inserting ''requirements of subparagraph (B) or (D), any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle B''; and

(iii) by striking clause (ii); and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) EXPEDITED PROCESS FOR EXTENDING APPROVED WAIVERS TO ADDITIONAL STATES.—The Secretary may establish an expedited procedure for the purpose of extending to additional States the waiver of statutory or regulatory requirements that have been approved for a State pursuant to a request under subparagraph (B), in lieu of requiring the additional States to meet the requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C). Such procedure shall ensure that the extension of such a waiver to additional States is accompanied by appropriate conditions relating to the implementation of such waiver.

''(E) EXTERNAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall not require or impose new or additional requirements, that are not specified under this Act, on a State in exchange for providing a waiver to the State or a local area in the State under this paragraph.''.

SEC. 451. STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

Section 191(a) (29 U.S.C. 2941(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''consistent with the provisions of this title'' and inserting ''consistent with State law and the provisions of this title''; and

(2) by striking ''consistent with the terms and conditions required under this title'' and inserting ''consistent with State law and the terms and conditions required under this title''.

SEC. 452. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Section 195 (29 U.S.C. 2945) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by inserting at the end the following:

''(D) Funds received under a program by a public or private nonprofit entity that are not described in subparagraph (B), such as funds privately raised from philanthropic foundations, businesses, or other private entities, shall not be considered to be income under this title and shall not be subject to the requirements of this paragraph.'';

(2) by striking paragraph (9);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (13) as paragraphs (9) through (12), respectively; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(13) Funds provided under this title shall not be used to establish or operate standalone fee-for-service enterprises that compete with private sector employment agencies within the meaning of section 701(c) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e(c)), except that for purposes of this paragraph, such an enterprise does not include a one-stop center.

''(14) Any report required to be submitted to Congress, or to a Committee of Congress, under this title shall be submitted to both the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.''.

SEC. 453. FEDERAL AGENCY STAFF AND RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL AND LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.

Subtitle E of title I (29 U.S.C. 2931 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

''SEC. 196. FEDERAL AGENCY STAFF.

''The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

''(1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the SKILLS Act—

''(A) identify the number of Federal government employees who, on the day before the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act, worked on or administered each of the programs and activities that were authorized under this Act or were authorized under a provision listed in section ___71 of the SKILLS Act; and

''(B) identify the number of full-time equivalent employees who on the day before that date of enactment, worked on or administered each of the programs and activities described in subparagraph (A), on functions for which the authorizing provision has been repealed, or for which an amount has been consolidated (if such employee is in a duplicate position), on or after such date of enactment;

''(2) not later than 90 after such date of enactment, publish the information described in paragraph (1) on the Office of Management and Budget website; and

''(3) not later than 1 year after such date of enactment—

''(A) reduce the workforce of the Federal Government by the number of full-time equivalent employees identified under paragraph (1)(B); and

''(B) submit to Congress a report on how the Director carried out the requirements of subparagraph (A).

''SEC. 197. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

''(a) LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS.—

''(1) PUBLICITY RESTRICTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), no funds provided under this Act shall be used or proposed for use, for—

''(i) publicity or propaganda purposes; or

''(ii) the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, electronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to—

''(i) normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships;

''(ii) the preparation, distribution, or use of the materials described in subparagraph (A)(ii) in presentation to the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body (except that this subparagraph does not apply with respect to such preparation, distribution, or use in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government); or

''(iii) such preparation, distribution, or use of such materials, that are designed to support or defeat any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government.

''(2) SALARY PAYMENT RESTRICTION.—No funds provided under this Act shall be used, or proposed for use, to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment or issuance of legislation, appropriations, regulations, administrative action, or an Executive order proposed or pending before the Congress or any State government, or a State or local legislature or legislative body, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships or participation by an agency or officer of a State, local, or tribal government in policymaking and administrative processes within the executive branch of that government.

''(b) POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds received by a participant of a program or activity under this Act shall be used for—

''(A) any partisan or nonpartisan political activity or any other political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election for public or party office; or

''(B) any activity to provide voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance in connection with any such election.

''(2) RESTRICTION ON VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—No funds under this Act shall be used to conduct voter registration activities.

''(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subsection, the term 'participant' includes any State, local area, or government, nonprofit, or for-profit entity receiving funds under this Act.''.

CHAPTER 6—STATE UNIFIED PLAN

SEC. 456. STATE UNIFIED PLAN.

Section 501 (20 U.S.C. 9271) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall receive and approve State unified plans developed and submitted in accordance with this section.'';

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

''(b) STATE UNIFIED PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may develop and submit to the Secretary a State unified plan for 2 or more of the activities or programs set forth in paragraph (2). The State unified plan shall cover one or more of the activities or programs set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and shall cover one or more of the activities or programs set forth in subparagraphs (C) through (N) of paragraph (2).

''(2) ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term 'activity or program' means any 1 of the following 14 activities or programs:

''(A) Activities and programs authorized under title I.

''(B) Activities and programs authorized under title II.

''(C) Programs authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 710 et seq.).

''(D) Secondary career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

''(E) Postsecondary career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

''(F) Activities and programs authorized under title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 et seq.).

''(G) Programs and activities authorized under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the 'National Apprenticeship Act'; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

''(H) Programs authorized under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.).

''(I) Programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

''(J) Programs authorized under State unemployment compensation laws (in accordance with applicable Federal law).

''(K) Work programs authorized under section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)).

''(L) Activities and programs authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

''(M) Activities and programs authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

''(N) Activities authorized under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.'';

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

''(d) APPROVAL.—

''(1) JURISDICTION.—In approving a State unified plan under this section, the Secretary shall—

''(A) submit the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) to the head of the Federal agency who exercises administrative authority over the activity or program for the approval of such portion by such Federal agency head; or

''(B) coordinate approval of the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) with the head of the Federal agency who exercises administrative authority over the activity or program.

''(2) TIMELINE.—A State unified plan shall be considered to be approved by the Secretary at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day the Secretary receives the plan, unless the Secretary makes a written determination, during the 90-day period, that details how the plan is not consistent with the requirements of the Federal statute authorizing an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) and covered under the plan or how the plan is not consistent with the requirements of subsection (c)(3).

''(3) SCOPE OF PORTION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program shall be considered to include the plan described in subsection (c)(3) and any proposal described in subsection (e)(2), as that part and proposal relate to the activity or program.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDS.—

''(1) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to reduce inefficiencies in the administration of federally funded State and local employment and training programs.

''(2) IN GENERAL.—In developing a State unified plan for the activities or programs described in subsection (b)(2), and subject to paragraph (4) and to the State plan approval process under subsection (d), a State may propose to consolidate the amount, in whole or part, provided for the activities or programs covered by the plan into the Workforce Investment Fund under section 132(b) to improve the administration of State and local employment and training programs.

''(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A State that has a State unified plan approved under subsection (d) with a proposal for consolidation under paragraph (2), and that is carrying out such consolidation, shall—

''(A) in providing an activity or program for which an amount is consolidated into the Workforce Investment Fund—

''(i) continue to meet the program requirements, limitations, and prohibitions of any Federal statute authorizing the activity or program; and

''(ii) meet the intent and purpose for the activity or program; and

''(B) continue to make reservations and allotments under subsections (a) and (b) of section 133.

''(4) EXCEPTIONS.—A State may not consolidate an amount under paragraph (2) that is allocated to the State under—

''(A) the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); or

''(B) title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 710 et seq.).''.

Subtitle B—Adult Education and Family Literacy Education

SEC. 461. AMENDMENT.

Title II (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

''TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION

''SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

''This title may be cited as the 'Adult Education and Family Literacy Education Act'.

''SEC. 202. PURPOSE.

''It is the purpose of this title to provide instructional opportunities for adults seeking to improve their literacy skills, including their basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, and support States and local communities in providing, on a voluntary basis, adult education and family literacy education programs, in order to—

''(1) increase the literacy of adults, including the basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, to a level of proficiency necessary for adults to obtain employment and self-sufficiency and to successfully advance in the workforce;

''(2) assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education (or its equivalent) and the transition to a postsecondary educational institution;

''(3) assist adults who are parents to enable them to support the educational development of their children and make informed choices regarding their children's education including, through instruction in basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills; and

''(4) assist adults who are not proficient in English in improving their reading, writing, speaking, listening, comprehension, and mathematics skills.

''SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

''In this title:

''(1) ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—The term 'adult education and family literacy education programs' means a sequence of academic instruction and educational services below the postsecondary level that increase an individual's ability to read, write, and speak English and perform mathematical computations leading to a level of proficiency equivalent to at least a secondary school completion that is provided for individuals—

''(A) who are at least 16 years of age;

''(B) who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under State law; and

''(C) who—

''(i) lack sufficient mastery of basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills to enable the individuals to function effectively in society;

''(ii) do not have a secondary school diploma or its equivalent and have not achieved an equivalent level of education; or

''(iii) are English learners.

''(2) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term 'eligible agency'—

''(A) means the primary entity or agency in a State or an outlying area responsible for administering or supervising policy for adult education and family literacy education programs in the State or outlying area, respectively, consistent with the law of the State or outlying area, respectively; and

''(B) may be the State educational agency, the State agency responsible for administering workforce investment activities, or the State agency responsible for administering community or technical colleges.

''(3) ELIGIBLE PROVIDER.—The term 'eligible provider' means an organization of demonstrated effectiveness that is—

''(A) a local educational agency;

''(B) a community-based or faith-based organization;

''(C) a volunteer literacy organization;

''(D) an institution of higher education;

''(E) a public or private educational agency;

''(F) a library;

''(G) a public housing authority;

''(H) an institution that is not described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G) and has the ability to provide adult education, basic skills, and family literacy education programs to adults and families; or

''(I) a consortium of the agencies, organizations, institutions, libraries, or authorities described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (H).

''(4) ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term 'English language acquisition program' means a program of instruction—

''(A) designed to help English learners achieve competence in reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension of the English language; and

''(B) that may lead to—

''(i) attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

''(ii) transition to success in postsecondary education and training; and

''(iii) employment or career advancement.

''(5) FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term 'family literacy education program' means an educational program that—

''(A) assists parents and students, on a voluntary basis, in achieving the purpose of this title as described in section 202; and

''(B) is of sufficient intensity in terms of hours and of sufficient quality to make sustainable changes in a family, is evidence-based, and, for the purpose of substantially increasing the ability of parents and children to read, write, and speak English, integrates—

''(i) interactive literacy activities between parents and their children;

''(ii) training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children;

''(iii) parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency; and

''(iv) an age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

''(6) GOVERNOR.—The term 'Governor' means the chief executive officer of a State or outlying area.

''(7) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'individual with a disability' means an individual with any disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990).

''(B) INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The term 'individuals with disabilities' means more than one individual with a disability.

''(8) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term 'English learner' means an adult or out-of-school youth who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or understanding the English language, and—

''(A) whose native language is a language other than English; or

''(B) who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.

''(9) INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The term 'integrated education and training' means services that provide adult education and literacy activities contextually and concurrently with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster. Such services may include offering adult education services concurrent with postsecondary education and training, including through co-instruction.

''(10) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

''(11) LITERACY.—The term 'literacy' means an individual's ability to read, write, and speak in English, compute, and solve problems at a level of proficiency necessary to obtain employment and to successfully make the transition to postsecondary education.

''(12) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term 'local educational agency' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

''(13) OUTLYING AREA.—The term 'outlying area' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of this Act.

''(14) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term 'postsecondary educational institution' means—

''(A) an institution of higher education that provides not less than a 2-year program of instruction that is acceptable for credit toward a bachelor's degree;

''(B) a tribally controlled community college; or

''(C) a nonprofit educational institution offering certificate or apprenticeship programs at the postsecondary level.

''(15) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Education.

''(16) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

''(17) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term 'State educational agency' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

''(18) WORKPLACE LITERACY PROGRAM.—The term 'workplace literacy program' means an educational program that is offered in collaboration between eligible providers and employers or employee organizations for the purpose of improving the productivity of the workforce through the improvement of reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills.

''SEC. 204. HOME SCHOOLS.

''Nothing in this title shall be construed to affect home schools, whether or not a home school is treated as a home school or a private school under State law, or to compel a parent engaged in home schooling to participate in adult education and family literacy education activities under this title.

''SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, $606,294,933 for fiscal year 2015 and for each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.

''Subtitle A—Federal Provisions

''SEC. 211. RESERVATION OF FUNDS; GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES; ALLOTMENTS.

''(a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 2.0 percent to carry out section 242.

''(b) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award a grant to each eligible agency having a State plan approved under section 224 in an amount equal to the sum of the initial allotment under subsection (c)(1) and the additional allotment under subsection (c)(2) for the eligible agency for the fiscal year, subject to subsections (f) and (g).

''(2) PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a grant under paragraph (1) only if the eligible agency involved agrees to expend the grant in accordance with the provisions of this title.

''(c) ALLOTMENTS.—

''(1) INITIAL ALLOTMENTS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency having a State plan approved under section 224—

''(A) $100,000, in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area; and

''(B) $250,000, in the case of any other eligible agency.

''(2) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205, not reserved under subsection (a), and not allotted under paragraph (1), for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency that receives an initial allotment under paragraph (1) an additional amount that bears the same relationship to such sums as the number of qualifying adults in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency bears to the number of such adults in all States and outlying areas.

''(d) QUALIFYING ADULT.—For the purpose of subsection (c)(2), the term 'qualifying adult' means an adult who—

''(1) is at least 16 years of age;

''(2) is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance under the law of the State or outlying area;

''(3) does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and

''(4) is not enrolled in secondary school.

''(e) SPECIAL RULE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available under subsection (c) for the Republic of Palau, the Secretary shall award grants to Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Republic of Palau to carry out activities described in this title in accordance with the provisions of this title as determined by the Secretary.

''(2) TERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Republic of Palau shall be eligible to receive a grant under this title until an agreement for the extension of United States education assistance under the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau becomes effective.

''(f) HOLD-HARMLESS PROVISIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (c) and subject to paragraph (2), for—

''(A) fiscal year 2015, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this title that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for fiscal year 2012 under this title; and

''(B) fiscal year 2016 and each succeeding fiscal year, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this title that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for the preceding fiscal year under this title.

''(2) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If, for any fiscal year the amount available for allotment under this title is insufficient to satisfy the provisions of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ratable reduce the payments to all eligible agencies, as necessary.

''(g) REALLOTMENT.—The portion of any eligible agency's allotment under this title for a fiscal year that the Secretary determines will not be required for the period such allotment is available for carrying out activities under this title, shall be available for reallotment from time to time, on such dates during such period as the Secretary shall fix, to other eligible agencies in proportion to the original allotments to such agencies under this title for such year.

''SEC. 212. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

''Programs and activities authorized under this title are subject to the performance accountability provisions described in paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 136(b) and may, at a State's discretion, include additional indicators identified in the State plan approved under section 224.

''Subtitle B—State Provisions

''SEC. 221. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

''Each eligible agency shall be responsible for the following activities under this title:

''(1) The development, submission, implementation, and monitoring of the State plan.

''(2) Consultation with other appropriate agencies, groups, and individuals that are involved in, or interested in, the development and implementation of activities assisted under this title.

''(3) Coordination and avoidance of duplication with other Federal and State education, training, corrections, public housing, and social service programs.

''SEC. 222. STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS; MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

''(a) STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Each eligible agency receiving a grant under this title for a fiscal year—

''(1) shall use not less than 82.5 percent of the grant funds to award grants and contracts under section 231 and to carry out section 225, of which not more than 10 percent of such amount shall be available to carry out section 225;

''(2) shall use not more than 12.5 percent of the grant funds to carry out State leadership activities under section 223; and

''(3) shall use not more than 5 percent of the grant funds, or $65,000, whichever is greater, for the administrative expenses of the eligible agency.

''(b) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a grant from the Secretary under section 211(b), each eligible agency shall provide, for the costs to be incurred by the eligible agency in carrying out the adult education and family literacy education programs for which the grant is awarded, a non-Federal contribution in an amount that is not less than—

''(A) in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area, 12 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs in the outlying area, except that the Secretary may decrease the amount of funds required under this subparagraph for an eligible agency; and

''(B) in the case of an eligible agency serving a State, 25 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs in the State.

''(2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—An eligible agency's non-Federal contribution required under paragraph (1) may be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, and shall include only non-Federal funds that are used

for adult education and family literacy education programs in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of this title.

"SEC. 223. STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible agency may use funds made available under section 222(a)(2) for any of the following adult education and family literacy education programs:

''(1) The establishment or operation of professional development programs to improve the quality of instruction provided pursuant to local activities required under section 231(b).

''(2) The provision of technical assistance to eligible providers of adult education and family literacy education programs, including for the development and dissemination of evidence based research instructional practices in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, and English language acquisition programs.

''(3) The provision of assistance to eligible providers in developing, implementing, and reporting measurable progress in achieving the objectives of this title.

''(4) The monitoring and evaluation of the quality of, and the improvement in, adult education and literacy activities.

''(5) The provision of technology assistance, including staff training, to eligible providers of adult education and family literacy education programs, including distance education activities, to enable the eligible providers to improve the quality of such activities.

''(6) The development and implementation of technology applications or distance education, including professional development to support the use of instructional technology.

''(7) Coordination with other public programs, including programs under title I of this Act, and other welfare-to-work, workforce development, and job training programs.

''(8) Coordination with existing support services, such as transportation, child care, and other assistance designed to increase rates of enrollment in, and successful completion of, adult education and family literacy education programs, for adults enrolled in such activities.

''(9) The development and implementation of a system to assist in the transition from adult basic education to postsecondary education.

''(10) Activities to promote workplace literacy programs.

''(11) Other activities of statewide significance, including assisting eligible providers in achieving progress in improving the skill levels of adults who participate in programs under this title.

''(12) Integration of literacy, instructional, and occupational skill training and promotion of linkages with employees.

''(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, eligible agencies shall coordinate where possible, and avoid duplicating efforts, in order to maximize the impact of the activities described in subsection (a).

''(c) STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS.—Whenever a State or outlying area implements any rule or policy relating to the administration or operation of a program authorized under this title that has the effect of imposing a requirement that is not imposed under Federal law (including any rule or policy based on a State or outlying area interpretation of a Federal statute, regulation, or guideline), the State or outlying area shall identify, to eligible providers, the rule or policy as being imposed by the State or outlying area.

"SEC. 224. STATE PLAN.

''(a) 3-YEAR PLANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible agency desiring a grant under this title for any fiscal year shall submit to, or have on file with, the Secretary a 3-year State plan.

''(2) STATE UNIFIED PLAN.—The eligible agency may submit the State plan as part of a State unified plan described in section 501.

''(b) PLAN CONTENTS.—The eligible agency shall include in the State plan or any revisions to the State plan—

''(1) an objective assessment of the needs of individuals in the State or outlying area for adult education and family literacy education programs, including individuals most in need or hardest to serve;

''(2) a description of the adult education and family literacy education programs that will be carried out with funds received under this title;

''(3) an assurance that the funds received under this title will not be expended for any purpose other than for activities under this title;

''(4) a description of how the eligible agency will annually evaluate and measure the effectiveness and improvement of the adult education and family literacy education programs funded under this title using the indicators of performance described in section 136, including how the eligible agency will conduct such annual evaluations and measures for each grant received under this title;

''(5) a description of how the eligible agency will fund local activities in accordance with the measurable goals described in section 231(d);

''(6) an assurance that the eligible agency will expend the funds under this title only in a manner consistent with fiscal requirements in section 241;

''(7) a description of the process that will be used for public participation and comment with respect to the State plan, which—

''(A) shall include consultation with the State workforce investment board, the State board responsible for administering community or technical colleges, the Governor, the State educational agency, the State board or agency responsible for administering block grants for temporary assistance to needy families under title IV of the Social Security Act, the State council on disabilities, the State vocational rehabilitation agency, and other State agencies that promote the improvement of adult education and family literacy education programs, and direct providers of such programs; and

''(B) may include consultation with the State agency on higher education, institutions responsible for professional development of adult education and family literacy education programs instructors, representatives of business and industry, refugee assistance programs, and faith-based organizations;

''(8) a description of the eligible agency's strategies for serving populations that include, at a minimum—

''(A) low-income individuals;

''(B) individuals with disabilities;

''(C) the unemployed;

''(D) the underemployed; and

''(E) individuals with multiple barriers to educational enhancement, including English learners;

''(9) a description of how the adult education and family literacy education programs that will be carried out with any funds received under this title will be integrated with other adult education, career development, and employment and training activities in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency;

''(10) a description of the steps the eligible agency will take to ensure direct and equitable access, as required in section 231(c)(1), including—

''(A) how the State will build the capacity of community-based and faith-based organizations to provide adult education and family literacy education programs; and

''(B) how the State will increase the participation of business and industry in adult education and family literacy education programs;

''(11) an assessment of the adequacy of the system of the State or outlying area to ensure teacher quality and a description of how the State or outlying area will use funds received under this subtitle to improve teacher quality, including evidence-based professional development to improve instruction; and

''(12) a description of how the eligible agency will consult with any State agency responsible for postsecondary education to develop adult education that prepares students to enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation upon completion of secondary school equivalency programs.

''(c) PLAN REVISIONS.—When changes in conditions or other factors require substantial revisions to an approved State plan, the eligible agency shall submit the revisions of the State plan to the Secretary.

''(d) CONSULTATION.—The eligible agency shall—

''(1) submit the State plan, and any revisions to the State plan, to the Governor, the chief State school officer, or the State officer responsible for administering community or technical colleges, or outlying area for review and comment; and

''(2) ensure that any comments regarding the State plan by the Governor, the chief State school officer, or the State officer responsible for administering community or technical colleges, and any revision to the State plan, are submitted to the Secretary.

''(e) PLAN APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) approve a State plan within 90 days after receiving the plan unless the Secretary makes a written determination within 30 days after receiving the plan that the plan does not meet the requirements of this section or is inconsistent with specific provisions of this subtitle; and

''(2) not finally disapprove of a State plan before offering the eligible agency the opportunity, prior to the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the eligible agency received the written determination described in paragraph (1), to review the plan and providing technical assistance in order to assist the eligible agency in meeting the requirements of this subtitle.

"SEC. 225. PROGRAMS FOR CORRECTIONS EDUCATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONALIZED INDIVIDUALS.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From funds made available under section 222(a)(1) for a fiscal year, each eligible agency shall carry out corrections education and education for other institutionalized individuals.

''(b) USES OF FUNDS.—The funds described in subsection (a) shall be used for the cost of educational programs for criminal offenders in correctional institutions and for other institutionalized individuals, including academic programs for—

''(1) basic skills education;

''(2) special education programs as determined by the eligible agency;

''(3) reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics programs;

''(4) secondary school credit or diploma programs or their recognized equivalent; and

''(5) integrated education and training.

''(c) PRIORITY.—Each eligible agency that is using assistance provided under this section to carry out a program for criminal offenders within a correctional institution shall give priority to serving individuals who are likely to leave the correctional institution within 5 years of participation in the program.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term 'correctional institution' means any—

''(A) prison;

''(B) jail;

''(C) reformatory;

''(D) work farm;

''(E) detention center; or

''(F) halfway house, community-based rehabilitation center, or any other similar institution designed for the confinement or rehabilitation of criminal offenders.

''(2) CRIMINAL OFFENDER.—The term 'criminal offender' means any individual who is charged with, or convicted of, any criminal offense.

''Subtitle C—Local Provisions

''SEC. 231. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.

''(a) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—From grant funds made available under section 222(a)(1), each eligible agency shall award multi-year grants or contracts, on a competitive basis, to eligible providers within the State or outlying area that meet the conditions and requirements of this title to enable the eligible providers to develop, implement, and improve adult education and family literacy education programs within the State.

''(b) LOCAL ACTIVITIES.—The eligible agency shall require eligible providers receiving a grant or contract under subsection (a) to establish or operate—

''(1) programs that provide adult education and literacy activities;

''(2) programs that provide integrated education and training activities; or

''(3) credit-bearing postsecondary coursework.

''(c) DIRECT AND EQUITABLE ACCESS; SAME PROCESS.—Each eligible agency receiving funds under this title shall ensure that—

''(1) all eligible providers have direct and equitable access to apply for grants or contracts under this section; and

''(2) the same grant or contract announcement process and application process is used for all eligible providers in the State or outlying area.

''(d) MEASURABLE GOALS.—The eligible agency shall require eligible providers receiving a grant or contract under subsection (a) to demonstrate—

''(1) the eligible provider's measurable goals for participant outcomes to be achieved annually on the core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A);

''(2) the past effectiveness of the eligible provider in improving the basic academic skills of adults and, for eligible providers receiving grants in the prior year, the success of the eligible provider receiving funding under this title in exceeding its performance goals in the prior year;

''(3) the commitment of the eligible provider to serve individuals in the community who are the most in need of basic academic skills instruction services, including individuals with disabilities and individuals who are low-income or have minimal reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, or are English learners;

''(4) the program is of sufficient intensity and quality for participants to achieve substantial learning gains;

''(5) educational practices are evidence-based;

''(6) the activities of the eligible provider effectively employ advances in technology, and delivery systems including distance education;

''(7) the activities provide instruction in real-life contexts, including integrated education and training when appropriate, to ensure that an individual has the skills needed to compete in the workplace and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;

''(8) the activities are staffed by well-trained instructors, counselors, and administrators who meet minimum qualifications established by the State;

''(9) the activities are coordinated with other available resources in the community, such as through strong links with elementary schools and secondary schools, postsecondary educational institutions, local workforce investment boards, one-stop centers, job training programs, community-based and faith-based organizations, and social service agencies;

''(10) the activities offer flexible schedules and support services (such as child care and transportation) that are necessary to enable individuals, including individuals with disabilities or other special needs, to attend and complete programs;

''(11) the activities include a high-quality information management system that has the capacity to report measurable participant outcomes (consistent with section 136) and to monitor program performance;

''(12) the local communities have a demonstrated need for additional English language acquisition programs, and integrated education and training programs;

''(13) the capacity of the eligible provider to produce valid information on performance results, including enrollments and measurable participant outcomes;

''(14) adult education and family literacy education programs offer rigorous reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics content that are evidence based; and

''(15) applications of technology, and services to be provided by the eligible providers, are of sufficient intensity and duration to increase the amount and quality of learning and lead to measurable learning gains within specified time periods.

''(e) SPECIAL RULE.—Eligible providers may use grant funds under this title to serve children participating in family literacy programs assisted under this part, provided that other sources of funds available to provide similar services for such children are used first.

''SEC. 232. LOCAL APPLICATION.

''Each eligible provider desiring a grant or contract under this title shall submit an application to the eligible agency containing such information and assurances as the eligible agency may require, including—

''(1) a description of how funds awarded under this title will be spent consistent with the requirements of this title;

''(2) a description of any cooperative arrangements the eligible provider has with other agencies, institutions, or organizations for the delivery of adult education and family literacy education programs; and

''(3) each of the demonstrations required by section 231(d).

''SEC. 233. LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMITS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), of the amount that is made available under this title to an eligible provider—

''(1) at least 95 percent shall be expended for carrying out adult education and family literacy education programs; and

''(2) the remaining amount shall be used for planning, administration, personnel and professional development, development of measurable goals in reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics, and interagency coordination.

''(b) SPECIAL RULE.—In cases where the cost limits described in subsection (a) are too restrictive to allow for adequate planning, administration, personnel development, and interagency coordination, the eligible provider may negotiate with the eligible agency in order to determine an adequate level of funds to be used for noninstructional purposes.

''Subtitle D—General Provisions

''SEC. 241. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

''Funds made available for adult education and family literacy education programs under this title shall supplement and not supplant other State or local public funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs.

''SEC. 242. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

''The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program of national activities that may include the following:

''(1) Providing technical assistance to eligible entities, on request, to—

''(A) improve their fiscal management, research-based instruction, and reporting requirements to carry out the requirements of this title;

''(B) improve its performance on the core indicators of performance described in section 136;

''(C) provide adult education professional development; and

''(D) use distance education and improve the application of technology in the classroom, including instruction in English language acquisition for English learners.

''(2) Providing for the conduct of research on national literacy basic skill acquisition levels among adults, including the number of adult English learners functioning at different levels of reading proficiency.

''(3) Improving the coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of adult education and workforce development services at the national, State, and local levels.

''(4) Determining how participation in adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs prepares individuals for entry into and success in postsecondary education and employment, and in the case of prison-based services, the effect on recidivism.

''(5) Evaluating how different types of providers, including community and faith-based organizations or private for-profit agencies measurably improve the skills of participants in adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs.

''(6) Identifying model integrated basic and workplace skills education programs, including programs for English learners coordinated literacy and employment services, and effective strategies for serving adults with disabilities.

''(7) Initiating other activities designed to improve the measurable quality and effectiveness of adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs nationwide.''.

Subtitle C—Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act

SEC. 466. AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT.

Section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491–2) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 15. WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.

''(a) SYSTEM CONTENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary'), in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall oversee the development, maintenance, and continuous improvement of a nationwide workforce and labor market information system that includes—

''(A) statistical data from cooperative statistical survey and projection programs and data from administrative reporting systems that, taken together, enumerate, estimate, and project employment opportunities and conditions at national, State, and local levels in a timely manner, including statistics on—

''(i) employment and unemployment status of national, State, and local populations, including self-employed, part-time, and seasonal workers;

''(ii) industrial distribution of occupations, as well as current and projected employment opportunities, wages, benefits (where data is available), and skill trends by occupation and industry, with particular attention paid to State and local conditions;

''(iii) the incidence of, industrial and geographical location of, and number of workers displaced by, permanent layoffs and plant closings; and

''(iv) employment and earnings information maintained in a longitudinal manner to be used for research and program evaluation;

''(B) information on State and local employment opportunities, and other appropriate statistical data related to labor market dynamics, which—

''(i) shall be current and comprehensive;

''(ii) shall meet the needs identified through the consultations described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (e)(1); and

''(iii) shall meet the needs for the information identified in section 121(e)(1)(E) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841(e)(1)(E));

''(C) technical standards (which the Secretary shall publish annually) for data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) that, at a minimum, meet the criteria of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code;

''(D) procedures to ensure compatibility and additivity of the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) from national, State, and local levels;

''(E) procedures to support standardization and aggregation of data from administrative reporting systems described in subparagraph (A) of employment-related programs;

''(F) analysis of data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) for uses such as—

''(i) national, State, and local policymaking;

''(ii) implementation of Federal policies (including allocation formulas);

''(iii) program planning and evaluation; and

''(iv) researching labor market dynamics;

''(G) wide dissemination of such data, information, and analysis in a user-friendly manner and voluntary technical standards for dissemination mechanisms; and

''(H) programs of—

''(i) training for effective data dissemination;

''(ii) research and demonstration; and

''(iii) programs and technical assistance.

''(2) INFORMATION TO BE CONFIDENTIAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—No officer or employee of the Federal Government or agent of the Federal Government may—

''(i) use any submission that is furnished for exclusively statistical purposes under the provisions of this section for any purpose other than the statistical purposes for which the submission is furnished;

''(ii) disclose to the public any publication or media transmittal of the data contained in the submission described in clause (i) that permits information concerning an individual subject to be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means; or

''(iii) permit anyone other than a sworn officer, employee, or agent of any Federal department or agency, or a contractor (including an employee of a contractor) of such department or agency, to examine an individual submission described in clause (i),

without the consent of the individual, agency, or other person who is the subject of the submission or provides that submission.

''(B) IMMUNITY FROM LEGAL PROCESS.—Any submission (including any data derived from the submission) that is collected and retained by a Federal department or agency, or an officer, employee, agent, or contractor of such a department or agency, for exclusively statistical purposes under this section shall be immune from the legal process and shall not, without the consent of the individual, agency, or other person who is the subject of the submission or provides that submission, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide immunity from the legal process for such submission (including any data derived from the submission) if the submission is in the possession of any person, agency, or entity other than the Federal Government or an officer, employee, agent, or contractor of the Federal Government, or if the submission is independently collected, retained, or produced for purposes other than the purposes of this Act.

''(b) SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) shall be planned, administered, overseen, and evaluated through a cooperative governance structure involving the Federal Government and States.

''(2) DUTIES.—The Secretary, with respect to data collection, analysis, and dissemination of workforce and labor market information for the system, shall carry out the following duties:

''(A) Assign responsibilities within the Department of Labor for elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) to ensure that all statistical and administrative data collected is consistent with appropriate Bureau of Labor Statistics standards and definitions.

''(B) Actively seek the cooperation of other Federal agencies to establish and maintain mechanisms for ensuring complementarity and nonduplication in the development and operation of statistical and administrative data collection activities.

''(C) Eliminate gaps and duplication in statistical undertakings, with the systemization of wage surveys as an early priority.

''(D) In collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and States, develop and maintain the elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a), including the development of consistent procedures and definitions for use by the States in collecting the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1).

''(E) Establish procedures for the system to ensure that—

''(i) such data and information are timely;

''(ii) paperwork and reporting for the system are reduced to a minimum; and

''(iii) States and localities are fully involved in the development and continuous improvement of the system at all levels.

''(c) NATIONAL ELECTRONIC TOOLS TO PROVIDE SERVICES.—The Secretary is authorized to assist in the development of national electronic tools that may be used to facilitate the delivery of work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c)(2)) and to provide workforce and labor market information to individuals through the one-stop delivery systems described in section 121 and through other appropriate delivery systems.

''(d) COORDINATION WITH THE STATES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, working through the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration, shall regularly consult with representatives of State agencies carrying out workforce information activities regarding strategies for improving the workforce and labor market information system.

''(2) FORMAL CONSULTATIONS.—At least twice each year, the Secretary, working through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall conduct formal consultations regarding programs carried out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics with representatives of each of the Federal regions of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, elected (pursuant to a process established by the Secretary) from the State directors affiliated with State agencies that perform the duties described in subsection (e)(1).

''(e) STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive Federal financial assistance under this section, the Governor of a State shall—

''(A) be responsible for the management of the portions of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) that comprise a statewide workforce and labor market information system;

''(B) establish a process for the oversight of such system;

''(C) consult with State and local employers, participants, and local workforce investment boards about the labor market relevance of the data to be collected and disseminated through the statewide workforce and labor market information system;

''(D) consult with State educational agencies and local educational agencies concerning the provision of workforce and labor market information in order to meet the needs of secondary school and postsecondary school students who seek such information;

''(E) collect and disseminate for the system, on behalf of the State and localities in the State, the information and data described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1);

''(F) maintain and continuously improve the statewide workforce and labor market information system in accordance with this section;

''(G) perform contract and grant responsibilities for data collection, analysis, and dissemination for such system;

''(H) conduct such other data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities as will ensure an effective statewide workforce and labor market information system;

''(I) actively seek the participation of other State and local agencies in data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities in order to ensure complementarity, compatibility, and usefulness of data;

''(J) participate in the development of, and submit to the Secretary, an annual plan to carry out the requirements and authorities of this subsection; and

''(K) utilize the quarterly records described in section 136(f)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(f)(2)) to assist the State and other States in measuring State progress on State performance measures.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the ability of a Governor to conduct additional data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities with State funds or with Federal funds from sources other than this section.

''(f) NONDUPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—None of the functions and activities carried out pursuant to this section shall duplicate the functions and activities carried out under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $60,153,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.''.

Subtitle D—Repeals and Conforming Amendments

SEC. 471. REPEALS.

The following provisions are repealed:

(1) Chapter 4 of subtitle B of title I, and sections 123, 155, 166, 167, 168, 169, 171, 173, 173A, 174, 192, 194, 502, 503, and 506 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act.

(2) Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.).

(3) Sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.).

(4) The Twenty-First Century Workforce Commission Act (29 U.S.C. 2701 note).

(5) Public Law 91–378, 16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq. (popularly known as the ''Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970'').

(6) Section 821 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 1151).

(7) The Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.).

(8) Sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 472. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.—

(1) DEFINITION.—Section 3(t) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(t)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''means (1) the agency'' and inserting the following: ''means—

''(A) the agency'';

(B) by striking ''programs, and (2) the tribal'' and inserting the following: ''programs;

''(B) the tribal''; and

(C) by striking ''this Act.'' and inserting the following: ''this Act; and

''(C) in the context of employment and training activities under section 6(d)(4), a State board as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).''.

(2) ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.—Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(14) by striking ''section 6(d)(4)(I)'' and inserting ''section 6(d)(4)(C)'', and

(B) in subsection (g)(3), in the first sentence, by striking ''constitutes adequate participation in an employment and training program under section 6(d)'' and inserting ''allows the individual to participate in employment and training activities under section 6(d)(4)''.

(3) ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATIONS.—Section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

''(D) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—

''(i) IMPLEMENTATION.—Each State agency shall provide employment and training services authorized under section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864) to eligible members of households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program in gaining skills, training, work, or experience that will increase their ability to obtain regular employment.

''(ii) STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.—Consistent with subparagraph (A), employment and training services shall be provided through the statewide workforce development system, including the one-stop delivery system authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

''(iii) REIMBURSEMENTS.—

''(I) ACTUAL COSTS.—The State agency shall provide payments or reimbursement to participants served under this paragraph for—

''(aa) the actual costs of transportation and other actual costs (other than dependent care costs) that are reasonably necessary and directly related to the individual participating in employment and training activities; and

''(bb) the actual costs of such dependent care expenses as are determined by the State agency to be necessary for the individual to participate in employment and training activities (other than an individual who is the caretaker relative of a dependent in a family receiving benefits under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) in a local area where an employment, training, or education program under title IV of that Act is in operation), except that no such payment or reimbursement shall exceed the applicable local market rate.

''(II) SERVICE CONTRACTS AND VOUCHERS.—In lieu of providing reimbursements or payments for dependent care expenses under clause (i), a State agency may, at the option of the State agency, arrange for dependent care through providers by the use of purchase of service contracts or vouchers or by providing vouchers to the household.

''(III) VALUE OF REIMBURSEMENTS.—The value of any dependent care services provided for or arranged under clause (ii), or any amount received as a payment or reimbursement under clause (i), shall—

''(aa) not be treated as income for the purposes of any other Federal or federally assisted program that bases eligibility for, or the amount of benefits on, need; and

''(bb) not be claimed as an employment-related expense for the purposes of the credit provided under section 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 21).''.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 11(e)(19) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(11) is amended to read as follows:

''(S) the plans of the State agency for providing employment and training services under section 6(d)(4);''.

(5) ADMINISTRATIVE COST-SHARING AND QUALITY CONTROL.—Section 16(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''carry out employment and training programs'' and inserting ''provide employment and training services to eligible households under section 6(d)(4)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''operating an employment and training program'' and inserting ''providing employment and training services consistent with section 6(d)(4)'';

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''participation in an employment and training program'' and inserting ''the individual participating in employment and training activities''; and

(ii) by striking ''section 6(d)(4)(I)(i)(II)'' and inserting ''section 6(d)(4)(C)(i)(II)'';

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking ''for operating an employment and training program'' and inserting ''to provide employment and training services''; and

(D) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(E) MONITORING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor, shall monitor each State agency responsible for administering employment and training services under section 6(d)(4) to ensure funds are being spent effectively and efficiently.

''(ii) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Each program of employment and training receiving funds under section 6(d)(4) shall be subject to the requirements of the performance accountability system, including having to meet the State performance measures described in section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act (29 U.S.C. 2871).''.

(6) RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATION, AND EVALUATIONS.—Section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(B)(iv)(III)(dd), by striking '', (4)(F)(i), or (4)(K)'' and inserting ''or (4)''; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) in subsection (g), in the first sentence in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''programs established'' and inserting ''activities provided to eligible households''; and

(ii) by inserting '', in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor,'' after ''Secretary''.

(7) MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PROJECT.—Section 22(b)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2031(b)(4)) is amended by striking ''equivalent to those offered under the employment and training program''.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 412 OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—

(1) CONDITIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS.—Section 412(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''make available sufficient resources for employment training and placement'' and inserting ''provide refugees with the opportunity to access employment and training services, including job placement,''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking ''services;'' and inserting ''services provided through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.);'';

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)(iii)(II), by inserting ''and training'' after ''employment'';

(C) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii)—

(i) by striking ''insure'' and inserting ''ensure'';

(ii) by inserting ''and training'' after ''employment''; and

(iii) by inserting after ''available'' the following: ''through the one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841)''; and

(D) in paragraph (9), by inserting ''the Secretary of Labor,'' after ''Education,''.

(2) PROGRAM OF INITIAL RESETTLEMENT.—Section 412(b)(2) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''orientation, instruction'' and inserting ''orientation and instruction''; and

(B) by striking '', and job training for refugees, and such other education and training of refugees, as facilitates'' and inserting ''for refugees to facilitate''.

(3) PROJECT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES FOR REFUGEES.—Section 412(c) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting ''and training'' after ''employment''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C);

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''paragraph—'' and all that follows through ''in a manner'' and inserting ''paragraph in a manner''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) In carrying out this section, the Director shall ensure that employment and training services are provided through the statewide workforce development system, as appropriate, authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.). Such action may include—

''(i) making employment and training activities described in section 134 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864) available to refugees; and

''(ii) providing refugees with access to a one-stop delivery system established under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841).''.

(4) CASH ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES.—Section 412(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(i), by inserting ''and training'' after ''providing employment''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''The'' and inserting ''Consistent with subsection (c)(3), the''.

(c) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007.—

(1) FEDERAL PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE.—Section 231 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17541) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(E)—

(i) by inserting ''the Department of Labor and'' before ''other Federal agencies''; and

(ii) by inserting ''State and local workforce investment boards,'' after ''community-based organizations,'';

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking at the end ''and'';

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking at the end the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(D) to coordinate reentry programs with the employment and training services provided through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.).''; and

(C) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(F) INTERACTION WITH THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall ensure that employment and training services, including such employment and services offered through reentry programs, are provided, as appropriate, through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), which may include—

''(I) making employment and training services available to prisoners prior to and immediately following the release of such prisoners; or

''(II) providing prisoners with access by remote means to a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841) in the State in which the prison involved is located.

''(ii) SERVICE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'employment and training services' means those services described in section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864) offered by the Bureau of Prisons, including—

''(I) the skills assessment described in subsection (a)(1)(A);

''(II) the skills development plan described in subsection (a)(1)(B); and

''(III) the enhancement, development, and implementation of reentry and skills development programs.''.

(2) DUTIES OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.—Section 4042(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E), as added by section 231(d)(1)(C) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199; 122 Stat. 685), as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(B) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(C) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking ''Employment'' and inserting ''Employment and training services (as defined in paragraph (6) of section 231(d) of the Second Chance Act of 2007), including basic skills attainment, consistent with such paragraph''; and

(ii) by striking clause (iii); and

(D) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), (iv), (v), (vi), and (vii) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly.

(d) AMENDMENTS TO THE OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT OF 1968.—Section 2976 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797w) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''vocational'' and inserting ''career and technical education (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) and training'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

''(D) coordinating employment and training services provided through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), including a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841), for offenders upon release from prison, jail, or a juvenile facility, as appropriate;'';

(2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting '', including local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2832),'' after ''nonprofit organizations'';

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''victims services, and employment services'' and inserting ''and victim services'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

''(D) provides employment and training services through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), including a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841);''; and

(4) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting '', in accordance with paragraph (2)'' after ''under this section'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(B) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—The Attorney General shall require each grantee under this section to measure the core indicators of performance as described in section 136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)) with respect to the program of such grantee funded with a grant under this section.''.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3672(d)(1), by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialists under section 4103A'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998'';

(2) in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 41, by striking the items relating to sections 4103A and 4104;

(3) in section 4102A—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), and (7); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (5);

(B) by striking subsections (c) and (h);

(C) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f); and

(D) in subsection (e)(1) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking '', including disabled veterans' outreach program specialists and local veterans' employment representatives providing employment, training, and placement services under this chapter in a State''; and

(ii) by striking ''for purposes of subsection (c)'';

(4) in section 4104A—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(i) the appropriate veteran employment specialist (in carrying out the functions described in section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998);''; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(i) collaborate with the appropriate veteran employment specialist (as described in section 134(f)) and the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801));'';

(5) in section 4109—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialists and local veterans' employment representative'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998''; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialists and local veterans' employment representatives'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998''; and

(6) in section 4112(d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''disabled veterans' outreach program specialist'' and inserting ''veteran employment specialist appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(f) COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF 1980.—Section 104(k)(6)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(6)(A)) is amended by striking ''training, research, and'' and inserting ''research and''.

SEC. 473. CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents in section 1(b) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Subtitle E—Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

SEC. 476. FINDINGS.

Section 2(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) there is a substantial need to improve and expand services for students with disabilities under this Act.''.

SEC. 477. REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3(a) (29 U.S.C. 702(a))—

(A) by striking ''Office of the Secretary'' and inserting ''Department of Education'';

(B) by striking ''President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate'' and inserting ''Secretary''; and

(C) by striking '', and the Commissioner shall be the principal officer,'';

(2) by striking ''Commissioner'' each place it appears (except in section 21) and inserting ''Director'';

(3) in section 12(c) (29 U.S.C. 709(c)), by striking ''Commissioner's'' and inserting ''Director's'';

(4) in section 21 (29 U.S.C. 718)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) by striking ''Commissioner'' the first place it appears and inserting ''Director of the Rehabilitation Services Administration'';

(ii) by striking ''(referred to in this subsection as the 'Director')''; and

(iii) by striking ''The Commissioner and the Director'' and inserting ''Both such Directors''; and

(B) by striking ''the Commissioner and the Director'' each place it appears and inserting ''both such Directors'';

(5) in the heading for subparagraph (B) of section 100(d)(2) (29 U.S.C. 720(d)(2)), by striking ''COMMISSIONER'' and inserting ''DIRECTOR'';

(6) in section 401(a)(1) (29 U.S.C. 781(a)(1)), by inserting ''of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research'' after ''Director'';

(7) in the heading for section 706 (29 U.S.C. 796d–1), by striking ''**COMMISSIONER**'' and inserting ''**DIRECTOR**''; and

(8) in the heading for paragraph (3) of section 723(a) (29 U.S.C. 796f–2(a)), by striking ''COMMISSIONER'' and inserting ''DIRECTOR''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall—

(1) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply with respect to the appointments of Directors of the Rehabilitation Services Administration made on or after the date of enactment of this Act, and the Directors so appointed.

SEC. 478. DEFINITIONS.

Section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (35) through (39) as paragraphs (36) through (40), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (A)(ii) of paragraph (36) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking ''paragraph (36)(C)'' and inserting ''paragraph (37)(C)''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (34) the following:

''(35)(A) The term 'student with a disability' means an individual with a disability who—

''(i) is not younger than 16 and not older than 21;

''(ii) has been determined to be eligible under section 102(a) for assistance under this title; and

''(iii)(I) is eligible for, and is receiving, special education under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.); or

''(II) is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504.

''(B) The term 'students with disabilities' means more than 1 student with a disability.''.

SEC. 479. CARRYOVER.

Section 19(a)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 716(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''part B of title VI,''.

SEC. 480. TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

Section 21 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 718) is amended, in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A) of subsection (b), and in subsection (c), by striking ''VI,''.

SEC. 481. STATE PLAN.

Section 101(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 721(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''on the eligible individuals'' and all that follows and inserting ''of information necessary to assess the State's performance on the core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)).''; and

(B) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking '', to the extent the measures are applicable to individuals with disabilities'';

(2) in paragraph (11)—

(A) in subparagraph (D)(i), by inserting before the semicolon the following: '', which may be provided using alternative means of meeting participation (such as participation through video conferences and conference calls)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) COORDINATION WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit and the lead agency or implementing entity responsible for carrying out duties under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) have developed working relationships and coordinate their activities.'';

(3) in paragraph (15)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(II) in subclause (III), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(IV) students with disabilities, including their need for transition services;'';

(ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) include an assessment of the transition services provided under this Act, and coordinated with transition services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), about the extent to which those 2 types of services meet the needs of individuals with disabilities;'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking ''and under part B of title VI''; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iii), (iv), and (v) as clauses (iv), (v), and (vi), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) the methods to be used to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities, including the coordination of services designed to facilitate the transition of such students from the receipt of educational services in school to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title or to postsecondary education or employment;''; and

(iii) in clause (v), as redesignated by clause (i) of this subparagraph, by striking ''evaluation standards'' and inserting ''performance standards'';

(4) in paragraph (22)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''STATE PLAN SUPPLEMENT'';

(B) by striking ''carrying out part B of title VI, including''; and

(C) by striking ''that part to supplement funds made available under part B of'';

(5) in paragraph (24)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''CONTRACTS'' and inserting ''GRANTS''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''CONTRACTS'' and inserting ''GRANTS''; and

(ii) by striking ''part A of title VI'' and inserting ''section 109A''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(25) COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.—The State plan shall describe how the designated State agency will carry out the provisions of section 109A, including—

''(A) the criteria such agency will use to award grants under such section; and

''(B) how the activities carried out under such grants will be coordinated with other services provided under this title.

''(26) SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—The State plan shall provide an assurance satisfactory to the Secretary that the State—

''(A) has developed and implemented strategies to address the needs identified in the assessments described in paragraph (15), and achieve the goals and priorities identified by the State in that paragraph, to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities on a statewide basis in accordance with paragraph (15); and

''(B) from funds reserved under section 110A, shall carry out programs or activities designed to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities that—

''(i) facilitate the transition of students with disabilities from the receipt of educational services in school, to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title, including, at a minimum, those services specified in the interagency agreement required in paragraph (11)(D);

''(ii) improve the achievement of post-school goals of students with disabilities, including improving the achievement through participation (as appropriate when career goals are discussed) in meetings regarding individualized education programs developed under section 614 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414);

''(iii) provide career guidance, career exploration services, job search skills and strategies, and technical assistance to students with disabilities;

''(iv) support the provision of training and technical assistance to State and local educational agencies and designated State agency personnel responsible for the planning and provision of services to students with disabilities; and

''(v) support outreach activities to students with disabilities who are eligible for, and need, services under this title.''.

SEC. 482. SCOPE OF SERVICES.

Section 103 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 723) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (15) and inserting the following:

''(15) transition services for students with disabilities, that facilitate the achievement of the employment outcome identified in the individualized plan for employment involved, including services described in clauses (i) through (iii) of section 101(a)(26)(B);'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6)(A)(i) Consultation and technical assistance services to assist State and local educational agencies in planning for the transition of students with disabilities from school to post-school activities, including employment.

''(ii) Training and technical assistance described in section 101(a)(26)(B)(iv).

''(B) Services for groups of individuals with disabilities who meet the requirements of clauses (i) and (iii) of section 7(35)(A), including services described in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (v) of section 101(a)(26)(B), to assist in the transition from school to post-school activities.''; and

(3) in subsection (b), by inserting at the end the following:

''(7) The establishment, development, or improvement of assistive technology demonstration, loan, reutilization, or financing programs in coordination with activities authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to promote access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and employers.''.

SEC. 483. STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 726) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**EVALUATION STANDARDS**'' and inserting ''**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**'';

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.—The performance standards and indicators for the vocational rehabilitation program carried out under this title—

''(1) shall be subject to paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 136(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)); and

''(2) may, at a State's discretion, include additional indicators identified in the State plan submitted under section 101.''; and

(3) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) on a biannual basis, review the program improvement efforts of the State and,

if the State has not improved its performance to acceptable levels, as determined by the Director, direct the State to make revisions to the plan to improve performance; and''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 107 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 727) is amended—

(1) in subsections (a)(1)(B) and (b)(2), by striking ''evaluation standards'' and inserting ''performance standards''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking ''an evaluation standard'' and inserting ''a performance standard''.

SEC. 484. EXPENDITURE OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.

Section 108(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 728(a)) is amended by striking ''under part B of title VI, or''.

SEC. 485. COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended by inserting after section 109 (29 U.S.C. 728a) the following:

''SEC. 109A. COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.

''(a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'eligible entity' means a for-profit business, alone or in partnership with one or more of the following:

''(1) Community rehabilitation program providers.

''(2) Indian tribes.

''(3) Tribal organizations.

''(b) AUTHORITY.—A State shall use not less than one-half of one percent of the payment the State receives under section 111 for a fiscal year to award grants to eligible entities to pay for the Federal share of the cost of carrying out collaborative programs, to create practical job and career readiness and training programs, and to provide job placements and career advancement.

''(c) AWARDS.—Grants under this section shall—

''(1) be awarded for a period not to exceed 5 years; and

''(2) be awarded competitively.

''(d) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to a designated State agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as such agency shall require. Such application shall include, at a minimum—

''(1) a plan for evaluating the effectiveness of the collaborative program;

''(2) a plan for collecting and reporting the data and information described under subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(a)(10), as determined appropriate by the designated State agency; and

''(3) a plan for providing for the non-Federal share of the costs of the program.

''(e) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out a program that provides one or more of the following:

''(1) Job development, job placement, and career advancement services for individuals with disabilities.

''(2) Training in realistic work settings in order to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment and career advancement in the competitive market.

''(3) Providing individuals with disabilities with such support services as may be required in order to maintain the employment and career advancement for which the individuals have received training.

''(f) ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—An individual shall be eligible for services provided under a program under this section if the individual is determined under section 102(a)(1) to be eligible for assistance under this title.

''(g) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share for a program under this section shall not exceed 80 percent of the costs of the program.''.

SEC. 486. RESERVATION FOR EXPANDED TRANSITION SERVICES.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended by inserting after section 110 (29 U.S.C. 730) the following:

''SEC. 110A. RESERVATION FOR EXPANDED TRANSITION SERVICES.

''Each State shall reserve not less than 10 percent of the funds allotted to the State under section 110(a) to carry out programs or activities under sections 101(a)(26)(B) and 103(b)(6).''.

SEC. 487. CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 112(e)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 732(e)(1)) is amended by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E) and inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) The Secretary shall make grants to the protection and advocacy system serving the American Indian Consortium under the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.) to provide services in accordance with this section, as determined by the Secretary. The amount of such grants shall be the same as the amount provided to territories under this subsection.''.

SEC. 488. RESEARCH.

Section 204(a)(2)(A) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 764(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking ''VI,''.

SEC. 489. TITLE III AMENDMENTS.

Title III of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 771 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 301(a) (21 U.S.C. 771(a))—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''and'' at the end;

(B) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3);

(2) in section 302 (29 U.S.C. 772)—

(A) in subsection (g)—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING''; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) in subsection (h), by striking ''section 306'' and inserting ''section 304'';

(3) in section 303 (29 U.S.C. 773)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''section 306'' and inserting ''section 304''; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (4)—

(I) by amending subparagraph (A)(ii) to read as follows:

''(ii) to coordinate activities and work closely with the parent training and information centers established pursuant to section 671 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1471), the community parent resource centers established pursuant to section 672 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1472), and the eligible entities receiving awards under section 673 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1473); and''; and

(II) in subparagraph (C), by inserting '', and demonstrate the capacity for serving,'' after ''serve''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) RESERVATION.—From the amount appropriated to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year, 20 percent of such amount or $500,000, whichever is less, shall be reserved to carry out paragraph (6).'';

(4) by striking sections 304 and 305 (29 U.S.C. 774, 775); and

(5) by redesignating section 306 (29 U.S.C. 776) as section 304.

SEC. 490. REPEAL OF TITLE VI.

Title VI of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 795 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 491. TITLE VII GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) PURPOSE.—Section 701(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796(3)) is amended by striking ''State programs of supported employment services receiving assistance under part B of title VI,''.

(b) CHAIRPERSON.—Section 705(b)(5) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796d(b)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

''(5) CHAIRPERSON.—The Council shall select a chairperson from among the voting membership of the Council.''.

SEC. 492. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is further amended—

(1) in section 100 (29 U.S.C. 720)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003'' and inserting ''$3,066,192,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years''; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking ''2003'' and inserting ''2021'';

(2) in section 110(c) (29 U.S.C. 730(c)), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) The sum referred to in paragraph (1) shall be, as determined by the Secretary, not less than 1 percent and not more than 1.5 percent of the amount referred to in paragraph (1) for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020.'';

(3) in section 112(h) (29 U.S.C. 732(h)), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003'' and inserting ''$11,600,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years'';

(4) by amending subsection (a) of section 201 (29 U.S.C. 761(a)) to read as follows: ''(a) There are authorized to be appropriated $103,125,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years to carry out this title.'';

(5) in section 302(i) (29 U.S.C. 772(i)), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003'' and inserting ''$33,657,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years'';

(6) in section 303(e) (29 U.S.C. 773(e)), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003'' and inserting ''$5,046,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years'';

(7) in section 405 (29 U.S.C. 785), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003'' and inserting ''$3,081,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years'';

(8) in section 502(j) (29 U.S.C. 792(j)), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003'' and inserting ''$7,013,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years'';

(9) in section 509(l) (29 U.S.C. 794e(l)), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003'' and inserting ''$17,088,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years'';

(10) in section 714 (29 U.S.C. 796e–3), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003'' and inserting ''$22,137,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years'';

(11) in section 727 (29 U.S.C. 796f–6), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003'' and inserting ''$75,772,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years''; and

(12) in section 753 (29 U.S.C. 796l), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003'' and inserting ''$32,239,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years''.

SEC. 493. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 1(b) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended—

(1) by inserting after the item relating to section 109 the following:

''Sec. 109A. Collaboration with industry.'';

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 110 the following:

''Sec. 110A. Reservation for expanded transition services.'';

(3) by striking the item related to section 304 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 304. Measuring of project outcomes and performance.'';

(4) by striking the items related to sections 305 and 306;

(5) by striking the items related to title VI; and

(6) by striking the item related to section 706 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 706. Responsibilities of the Director.''.

Subtitle F—Studies by the Comptroller General

SEC. 496. STUDY BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON EXHAUSTING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS BEFORE ACCESSING WIA FUNDS.

Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that—

(1) evaluates the effectiveness of subparagraph (B) of section 134(d)(4) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)(B)) (as such subparagraph was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), including—

(A) a review of the regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Labor to State and local areas on how to comply with such subparagraph;

(B) a review of State policies to determine how local areas are required to comply with such subparagraph;

(C) a review of local area policies to determine how one-stop operators are required to comply with such subparagraph; and

(D) a review of a sampling of individuals receiving training services under section 134(d)(4) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)) to determine if, before receiving such training services, such individuals have exhausted funds received through the Federal Pell Grant program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

(2) makes appropriate recommendations with respect to the matters evaluated under paragraph (1).

SEC. 497. STUDY BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON ADMINISTRATIVE COST SAVINGS.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that—

(1) determines the amount of administrative costs at the Federal and State levels for the most recent fiscal year for which satisfactory data are available for—

(A) each of the programs authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) or repealed under section __71, as such programs were in effect for such fiscal year; and

(B) each of the programs described in subparagraph (A) that have been repealed or consolidated on or after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) determines the amount of administrative cost savings at the Federal and State levels as a result of repealing and consolidating programs by calculating the differences in the amount of administrative costs between subparagraph (A) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1); and

(3) estimates the administrative cost savings at the Federal and State levels for a fiscal year as a result of States consolidating amounts under section 501(e) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 9271(e)) to reduce inefficiencies in the administration of federally-funded State and local employment and training programs.

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''administrative costs'' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

Subtitle G—Entrepreneurial Training

SEC. 499. ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Entrepreneurial Training Improvement Act of 2014''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall establish alternate standards for measuring the progress of State and local performance for entrepreneurial training services, as authorized in section 134(d)(4)(D)(vi) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)(D)(vi)), and provide the State and local workforce investment boards with specific guidance on successful approaches to collecting performance information on entrepreneurial training services.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the alternate standards, the Secretary shall consider using standards based, for participants in such services, on—

(A) obtaining a State license, or a Federal or State tax identification number, for a corresponding business;

(B) documenting income from a corresponding business; or

(C) filing a Federal or State tax return for a corresponding business.

(3) AUTHORITIES.—In determining the alternate standards, the Secretary shall consider utilizing authorities granted under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), including a State's waiver authority, as authorized in section 189(i)(4) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2939(i)(4)).

(4) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare a report on the progress of State and local workforce investment boards in implementing new programs of entrepreneurial training services and any ongoing challenges to offering such programs, with recommendations on how best to address those challenges. Not later than 12 months after publication of the final regulations establishing the alternate standards, the Secretary shall submit the report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 29, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Workers' Memorial Day: Are Existing Private Sector Whistleblower Protections Adequate To Ensure Safe Workplace?''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Committee on the Judiciary, the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 29, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SH–216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct

a hearing entitled ''Law Enforcement Responses to Disabled Americans: Promising Approaches for Protecting Public Safety.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 427; S. Res. 428; and S. Res. 429.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, with no interviewing action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 30, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; that following morning business, the time until noon be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees prior to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2223, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act; further, that at 4 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, and 590, as provided for under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the first rollcall vote will be at noon tomorrow. There will be additional votes at about 4 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn following the remarks by Senator MERKLEY and Senator HIRONO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

The MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. MERKLEY. I rise in this Chamber to address an issue that is critical to working families across our Nation; that is, the Federal minimum wage.

First, I thank Senator TOM HARKIN for his leadership on this issue. He has advocated year after year, decade after decade that we need to ensure that we have an economy where workers fully participate in the fruits of their labor.

We should not have a society in which all of those fruits go simply to the very few at the expense of a fair wage for those who create that success. I thank Senator HARKIN for leading this fight over this extended period of time on behalf of working families.

He believes, as I believe, that we should measure the success of our Nation not by the growth of the GDP, not by having one eye on the Dow Jones and one eye on the S&P 500, we should measure the success by the success of our families. That is what this debate on the minimum wage is all about.

This issue matters a great deal to me because I come from a blue-collar family. My father was a mechanic. He employed those skills in a sawmill. He was the millwright, the person who keeps the machinery going so the plant can keep operating. When it is operating, there is work for the workers, and there is certainly success for the company. He went on to work as a mechanic in many other ways.

On that mechanic's wage, he was able to raise a family and participate fully in the American dream. He and my mother were able to buy a home. They could afford to take us camping. They could afford to save a little bit to help us be able to go to college. That is what happens when workers get to participate in the success of our economy.

A minimum wage is part of this story because it is the foundation and the benchmark that helps set wages throughout the economy.

In the time period after World War II, our economy grew quickly, our wages grew quickly, and workers took those wages and they bought products, and that demand fueled further production, which put more people to work. It was an upward cycle.

But more recently we have had a philosophy imposed, advocated, and put forward by the top 1 percent that if all the growth in revenue comes to them, they will be the job makers. They will be the job creators and everyone else will thrive.

If there was ever a moment in U.S. history when the complete falseness of this philosophy was evident, it is right now, because from 2008 until now, 95 percent of the newly created wages have gone to the 1 percent, to the very top. So we should have more jobs than we know what to do with on the philosophy that has been advocated so recently on the floor of this Senate, that we should minimize the wages at the bottom to maximize the profits at the top.

That is a downward spiral for a very clear reason, and it is this: People don't make things in society if the middle class doesn't have the money in their pockets to buy them. If they don't have the money, they don't go to the restaurant, the restaurant doesn't hire the waiter, and the restaurant doesn't hire the dishwasher. It doesn't open a new outlet and employ more people.

There are certainly many factors that have contributed to shrinking paychecks for working Americans, but the declining purchasing power of the Federal minimum wage is a major factor.

The Federal minimum wage sets an important standard for how the contributions of working families are valued. The minimum wage sets a floor on wages. It is a benchmark not only for minimum wage workers but for our entire wage scale. When the minimum wage goes up, the value placed on working Americans all across the economy goes up.

In 1968, when I was 12 years old, the Federal minimum wage was equivalent in today's dollars to about $10.50, unlike the wage we have now which is $7.25. So the purchasing power has roughly dropped by one-third, and that is not to the benefit of the workers, that is not to the benefit of all of the small businesses that provide retail services that benefit when a worker can afford to buy those services.

Putting money into the pockets of minimum wage workers lifts millions of working families directly. It lifts millions more because of the indirect effect of providing more demand for products in the economy.

Today a worker who works 40 hours per week at the Federal minimum wage makes barely $15,000 per year. That puts a family of two below the poverty line. That is poverty despite the fact the mother is working full time 52 weeks a year. A family of three puts them further below the poverty line because of the additional expenses of taking care of a second child. That is wrong.

The more we look at the numbers, the more it becomes clear that the current minimum wage is insufficient to

provide a foundation for a family. We need to raise the minimum wage because there is no way to support a family on $7.25 per hour, less than $15,000 per year.

A recent study estimated that a worker paid the Federal minimum wage in States as diverse as Minnesota, Texas, and Pennsylvania would have to work more than 90 hours per week to afford rent on a market-rate two-bedroom apartment—90 hours per week, more than two full-time jobs, 13 hours of work per day, Monday through Sunday. Imagine working from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on your feet, getting up, doing it day after day, week after week, and still you can't afford rent on a two-bedroom apartment—no breaks, no vacations, no sick days, no benefits, and you can't afford rent on a two-bedroom apartment.

Without a minimum wage that comes closer to families' real costs of living, our economy will continue to leave behind too many hard-working Americans. The legislation we are debating this week would raise the Federal minimum wage to $10.10 per hour and index it to inflation to sustain the purchasing power. That doesn't get us back to the purchasing power of 1968, but at least it comes a lot closer.

Let us understand what we are talking about. We are not talking about an entry wage for teenagers. The vast majority of folks who earn the minimum wage are adults—far more than 80 percent. More than four out of five are adults, more than half of whom are women. The earnings of these families contribute to the support of nearly one in four American children.

Contrary to the arguments made for the superwealthy and couched in sympathy for the poor we heard a few minutes ago on this floor, this minimum wage would lift 4.6 million Americans out of poverty. It would give America's low-wage workers paychecks that better reflect their contribution, their work, and their value in our economy.

Some in this Chamber, as we heard not so many minutes ago, would try to convince us that this is bad for business. Nothing could be farther from the truth. For proof, just look to the Northwest. In Oregon, we know this model works because Oregon has road-tested the model. We don't need to have theoretical debates about it; we have a real-life example in the State of Oregon. Our minimum wage has been indexed since 2002. It sits at $9.10 per hour. Indexing enables businesses to plan for small and steady increases rather than to speculate about potential dramatic leaps.

Oregon's restaurant industry, one of the largest employers of workers at Oregon's higher minimum wage, is projected to grow faster than the national average—faster. In fact, a higher minimum wage may well create jobs. The reason is simple: When workers have more in wages in their pockets, they spend more in our retail stores, which then hire more workers to meet the demand. When the retail stores sell more to the workers who have more money in their pocket, they order more from the factory and the factory employs more workers. A study by the Economic Policy Institute found the higher minimum wage we are debating would create 85,000 jobs.

Strengthening our Federal minimum wage is, at its core, about basic respect and basic fairness. It is about recognizing there is dignity in work and that when we allow working families to fall farther and farther down the wage chain we all pay the price. Consider the many aspects that take away from our society. A mother who has to pursue four minimum wage jobs to try to fill in when the earnings from one or more jobs are too low to support a family means she is not at home helping to guide her child. That is not helping to build a strong and productive future for that child or for our society in general.

It doesn't matter whether you are a CEO or a janitor, if you work full time in America, you should not be living in poverty. If we pay the janitor a little more, it helps a lot more people than just that one worker. Those wages go straight back into the broader economy that the CEO and his or her company depend upon.

So let's do what is right for our workers. Let's do what is right for our economy. Let's pass this bill and restore the power of the minimum wage for America's working families.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Minimum Wage Fairness Act because it is time to give everyone a fair shot. More and more States are voting to raise the minimum wage. Last week, the Hawaii State legislature passed a bill to raise the minimum wage in my home State. Hawaii's bill would increase the wage from $7.25 to $10.10, and increase the tip wage to at least $9.35.

Hawaii will become the tenth State enacting a wage increase since President Obama's 2013 State of the Union Address. In 2014 alone, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Minnesota, West Virginia, and Washington, DC have enacted wage increases. Hawaii will become the 26th State with the higher minimum wage than the current Federal minimum wage. It is time for Congress to join with the States that are leading the charge to give hard-working families a raise.

I am going to share a few reasons why the Senate should vote to raise the minimum wage. First, today's Federal minimum wage is a poverty wage. If the minimum wage had kept up with inflation since 1968, the minimum wage today would be about $10.68. This means that minimum-wage workers today earn less than $15,000 per year working full time. If someone is supporting a child or an elderly parent, that would put their family income below the Federal poverty line.

The bill we are considering today would raise the Federal minimum wage from $7.25 to $10.10 by 2016 and index it to inflation afterward. Increasing the minimum wage to $10.10 would help lift nearly a million workers and their families out of poverty.

In Hawaii, raising the minimum wage will bring more than 12,000 people above the Federal poverty level.

Second, the minimum wage is a woman's issue. Growing up, my mother was a single parent. We were an immigrant family. She raised three children by herself on very low wages. I know what it is like to run out of money at the end of the month and what it is like for every dime to matter. Nationwide, nearly two-thirds of minimum-wage workers are women. In Hawaii, increasing the minimum wage will give 54,000 women a raise. One out of five Hawaii women workers will get that raise. That is important to the women in my State, where the cost of living is high.

During the legislative debate on this issue in Hawaii, numerous advocacy groups came forward to provide testimony on why the minimum wage should be increased in Hawaii. These included representatives from churches, unions, individual parents, students, and others. For example, Dr. Lori Kamemoto is an ob-gyn who came forward to testify. She told of her work in health clinics where many of her patients are minimum-wage workers. She testified:

> The majority of patients I saw at the free clinic worked multiple minimum wage jobs, and each job made sure that they did not give my patient enough work hours to qualify for health insurance or benefits. Oftentimes, a patient would not be able to afford the medication needed for her health condition. She had a choice to either pay for her children's food or the recommended medication.

Another testifier, Laura Finlayson, is a student at Hawaii Pacific University. She testified:

> As someone who has worked several minimum wage jobs, I have experienced firsthand how the low wages perpetuate the cycle of poverty. . . . Many must also rely on government aid in order to make ends meet.

These stories and countless others show why we must raise the minimum wage.

Many workers in Hawaii are tipped workers. The tipped minimum wage is especially far behind. I have met restaurant workers who can't afford to eat in the very restaurants in which they work. Take the example of Nyah Potts, whom I met recently. She is a tipped worker. She works in a restaurant in the Reagan Building in Washington, DC. Due to her low wages,

she has had to choose between buying diapers for her child or eating lunch that day. She decided to do something about her situation. Joining with her fellow workers and advocacy groups, she pushed the administration to raise the minimum wage for Federal contract workers. Nyah and her coworkers will now get a raise. It is time to give everyone in America a raise.

There is a common myth that tipped workers are teenagers just starting out. That is false. Eighty-eight percent of workers in tipped occupations are age 20 and over, and 45 percent are 30 or older.

Back in 2007, the last time Congress raised the minimum wage, the restaurant industry with its many tipped workers said it would cost their industry jobs. This did not happen. In fact, in 2013 the restaurant industry forecast said ''restaurants remain among the leaders in job creation.'' The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that between 2007 and 2013, restaurants added 724,000 jobs.

There is a misconception that all tipped workers are servers at fancy restaurants. This is also not true. Many people who work at the airport, who help you get your bags, who help you make it to your gate on time, are also tipped workers. Tipped workers include bar-backs, bellhops, parking attendants, car washers, airport wheelchair workers, and many people don't even realize that these workers need tips to survive.

On average, hourly wages for tipped workers are almost 40 percent lower than overall hourly wages. The fact is, raising the minimum wage is not just good for workers, it is also good for the economy. That is why a survey of small business owners found that three out of five small business owners supported raising the minimum wage. They understand a higher minimum wage would increase consumer spending on their goods and services. That is because minimum-wage workers spend new money from higher wages right away at local businesses in their communities.

In addition to the restaurant industry I referred to earlier, there are other persistent critics who claim raising the minimum wage will cost jobs. Some cite a Congressional Budget Office report that only looked at old studies and not the latest research. The fact is, the latest academic studies say a higher minimum wage increases consumer spending and does not cost jobs.

A March Goldman Sachs report said that States which raised their minimum wage in 2014 actually created more jobs than other States that didn't raise the minimum wage. Six hundred economists, including 7 Nobel prize winners, have endorsed a minimum wage of $10.10.

Raising the minimum wage also saves taxpayers money on social services, as many of my colleagues have already noted. The current minimum wage leaves many below the poverty line and eligible for assistance such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, or food stamps. If we raise the minimum wage from $7.25 to $10.10, we reduce taxpayer costs for SNAP benefits by $4.6 billion a year. In Hawaii, over 15,000 workers would no longer need SNAP benefits. This would save nearly $40 million in Hawaii alone.

In America, we believe that if you work hard and play by the rules, you can get ahead. It is time for Congress to follow the example of Hawaii and other States that have raised their minimum wages. They are doing the right thing. It is time for Congress to do what is right. Let's give America a raise so all Americans can have a fair shot.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, April 30, 2014, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:15 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 30, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MS. MARY BAKER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Ms. Mary E. Baker of Eureka, California, on the occasion of her retirement as Team Leader of the Redwood Vet Center.

Ms. Baker began her career with the Readjustment Counseling Service in 1999 as a Readjustment Counselor for Veterans in Kansas City, Missouri. With a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Kansas, she has an extensive background in the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and is a Military Sexual Trauma Therapist and Bereavement Specialist. Since 2005, she has ably led the Redwood Vet Center in providing counseling services to combat Veterans and their families, helping them adjust to life after deployment.

A 20-year Army Veteran, Ms. Baker's awards include the Korean Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Award, amongst other awards and decorations. She is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, for whom she also served as the Women Veterans Committee National Chairwoman, District 21 Commander, Department of California Surgeon, and Department of California Woman Veterans Chair. She is a life member and Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, member of both the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association and Vietnam Veterans of America, and has served as President and Treasurer of the Korean War Veterans Association. Ms. Baker also belongs to the National Association of Social Workers and University of Kansas Alumni Association.

Ms. Baker's contributions to her community and fellow Veterans extend well beyond her military and public service. She formerly served on the North Coast Stand Down Board of Directors and North Coast Veterans Resource Center Advisory Board. One of her most significant qualities is her demonstrated passion for helping women Veterans embrace their role in American history, including her work to start the annual ''Honoring Women Veterans'' Program in 2009, serving as Women Veterans Lead Social Worker of the Women's Odyssey Project, and Committee Member of Women Veterans Retreat Region 4A–4B. The Soroptomist International of Eureka recently acknowledged Ms. Baker's efforts with their Ruby Award, which honors a woman who makes extraordinary differences in the lives of other women.

Ms. Baker is known for being a vocal and tireless advocate for her fellow Veterans with a talent for helping them to take pride in their service, heal from their wounds, and access available resources. Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to Ms. Mary E. Baker for her long and impressive career, and her exceptional record of service to our great Nation.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY (YOM HASHOAH)

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on April 28th, communities in the U.S., Israel, and around the world will gather to observe Holocaust Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoah. We remember the six million Jews who were deemed ''undesirable'' and thereby systematically murdered by Nazi Germany. On this day—and every day for that matter—we remember the power racism and bigotry can wield, as well as the enduring spirit and lessons of humanity.

I am reminded of the Jewish concept of tikkun olam which embraces our shared humanity and duty to heal the world. Having experienced injustice and intolerance in some of its most brutal forms, I have dedicated my life to protecting and expanding the civil rights of all people around the world. I believe it is up to each and every one of us to stand against hatred and intolerance. We must create the more peaceful world we want our children to inherit. As human beings, we have a responsibility to keep the Holocaust at the forefront of our collective historical memory.

This week, we dedicate a memorial tree in honor of Anne Frank on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. The Anne Frank Memorial Tree is an offspring of the original chestnut tree that grew outside of the Amsterdam building where she and her family hid from the Nazis during World War II. This tree was featured in Anne's diary writings. Anne's experience has been immortalized beyond cultures and languages. She has become a symbol of the human cost of the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, as we plant the new sapling on the Capitol Grounds, may we always live by the words, ''never again.'' Like the new sapling, may Anne's words of hope for a better humanity take root within each of us, wherein ''nobody need wait a single moment before beginning to improve the world.''

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF PHIL YOST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of an extraordinary man, Phil Yost, who died at the age of 63 after a three-year battle with cancer.

The venerable San Jose Mercury News, Mr. Yost's employer for more than a quarter century, captured the essence of this special man in its obituary.

> Phil Yost was a gentle and decent man, a writer with an ethical compass that belied the stereotype of the cynical journalist. He was known for an unerring sense of fairness, a willingness to consider an argument from another side. Mr. Yost possessed a wry and wicked sense of humor, a light touch that emerged in his writing and life.

Phil Yost was born in Chicago on February 6, 1951. He attended Earlham College, and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. The child of a Mennonite family, he was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, and a tutor of underprivileged children in Cincinnati. He worked at the Middletown Journal in Ohio and the Cincinnati Post, and joined the Mercury News in 1981. In 2006 he left the Mercury to work at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and in 2010 became the policy and press aide to former California State Senator Joe Simitian. Simitian fondly noted that ''unflinching fairness'' was Yost's most aggravating trait.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and work of Phil Yost, and in extending condolences to his wife Susan, his parents Elnore and Burton Yost, his brother and sisters, and his entire family. He will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know him and be the beneficiaries of his extraordinary work. Phil Yost strengthened our democracy with his instructive journalism, and I'm proud to have known him and was privileged to call him my friend.

CONGRATULATING THE HONOREES OF THE MID-MAINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 51ST ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's 51st Annual Awards Dinner. The Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business communities of the region, working hard to

strengthen economic opportunity throughout the area and the state.

Each year, the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and a healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity, prosperity, and community service in Maine.

The 2013 award winners are: John and Jackie Dalton, Distinguished Community Service Award; Bart Stevens of Century 21 Nason Realty, Elias A. Joseph Award; Shane Savage of Fairfield, Oakland, Unity, and Winslow Pharmacies, Business Person of the Year; Kennebec Behavioral Health, Business of the Year; Darlene Ratte of the Best Western Plus, Outstanding Professional; Maine Film Center, Community Service Project of the Year; Joshua Reny of the Town of Fairfield, Rising Star Award; and Doreen Brown of the Hampton Inn Waterville, Customer Service Stardom Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and their incredible commitment to their communities and to the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce and the award recipients on their outstanding service and achievements.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM GRAHAME WILKIN III, ARTIST

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Grahame Wilkin III of Aurora, Illinois for his contributions to our nation's Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. Mr. Wilkin is currently an art teacher at Aurora Christian High School, helping young men and women learn how to express themselves through art. However, in 1983 when he was a young art student at Glenbard South High School, Mr. Wilkin participated in an art contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

While his entry did not win the competition that day, it would go on to become an image we all recognize. His artwork reminds us of soldiers who were held captive and those whose deaths were never confirmed. His entry was a circle with the black silhouette of a man's face, a guard tower to the left with three supporting crosses, and barbed wire on the right.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Wilkin for his contribution to all of our veterans and their families.

PASSING OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR LEO BRETHOLZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of Leo Bretholz, a Holocaust survivor who passed away in his home on March 8, 2014, at the age of 93. Leo is survived by three children, Myron Bretholz of Phoenix, Md., Denise Harris of Ellicott City, Md., and Edie Norton of Herndon, Va.; a half-sister; and four grandchildren. He was married for 57 years to Florine Cohen, who passed away in 2009.

He was beloved by the Baltimore community who recognized him as a courageous and inspiring individual. He worked for many years as a salesman and later managed bookstores. When Leo retired, he spent his life visiting schools and speaking with people from many diverse backgrounds.

His work with schoolchildren and the positive impact he had on them was depicted in the documentary, ''See You Soon Again,'' which preceded his memoir ''Leap into Darkness: Seven Years on the Run in Wartime Europe'' that he produced with journalist Michael Oleskor. Students described him as a ''true inspiration'' who ''never stopped teaching or trying to make a difference in the lives of his students and friends.''

Leo dedicated his life to fighting for justice for all victims of the Holocaust. One of Leo's great causes was the pursuit of reparations for U.S. Holocaust survivors from the Societe Nationale des Chemins de fer Francais (SNCF), the state-owned French railway.

Between March 1942 and August 1944, SNCF carried 76,000 people to Nazi camps, including Leo. But, out of the 1,000 people on the SNCF train car, Leo managed to be one of only five people who successfully escaped.

Leo frequently recounted the incredible story of his journey from Austria to France in this train car, when he and a friend forced open the bars of a cattle car to escape the Auschwitz-bound train. Ever since, Leo has been active in telling his story and fighting for justice through educating schoolchildren, lawmakers, and the general public.

Leo often gave the account of an elderly woman also on the train who told him, ''If you get out, maybe you can tell the story. Who else will tell the story?'' This encounter and his successful escape led him to speak out against unjust laws in his memoir that recounts his experience and successful escape.

In 2011, I testified with Leo in front of the United States House Foreign Relations Committee, about the need for long-overdue reparations for Holocaust survivors from SNCF.

I am proud and honored to have worked with Leo. He truly was a hero. It was his strong energetic force that has truly helped move forward the Holocaust Rail Justice Act, legislation that would provide reparations for hundreds of known survivors, veterans, and their family members living in the United States today who for the past 10 years sought legal action to hold SNCF accountable.

As we remember Leo's life and legacy, it is important to continue his fight for justice. I will continue to work on this issue with the same vigor Leo had, to give Holocaust survivors a deserved day in court and finally hold SNCF accountable for its wartime injustices. Leo's passing is an unfortunate reminder that the number of Holocaust survivors left in the world continues to dwindle. His incredible story is an inspiration to me and anyone who hears it, and I know that his life and legacy will never be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF LOTTIE LAUTMAN SOLOMON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary woman, Lottie Solomon, a talented, loving and brilliant woman who died at her home in Los Altos Hills, California, on April 6, 2014, at the age of eighty-eight.

Lottie was born in New York City on October 26, 1925, the only child of Sadie and Hyman Lautman. She attended public schools in New York City, graduated from James Monroe High School at sixteen, and from Brooklyn College at the age of twenty. She was an accomplished and highly regarded violinist who considered a career as a professional but instead earned a graduate degree and a teaching credential from Columbia University. She began her career as an elementary school and music teacher in New York City. In later years she earned a Masters degree in Healthcare Administration from The George Washington University.

In 1947, Lottie married Herbert Solomon, a statistician she met while both were studying at Columbia. They were married for fifty-seven years, until his death in 2004. Lottie and Herbert moved to California when Herbert became a Professor of Statistics at Stanford University. Before moving to Los Altos Hills, the couple and their three children, Naomi, Mark and Jed, lived on the Stanford campus for fifteen years.

Lottie was passionate about music and teaching, and played violin with the Peninsula Symphony and many quartets. She had a long career leading choral music, including founding and leading the Yiddish Choristers.

Lottie gave generously of her time and considerable talents as a member of the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission. She also was a valued participant and contributor to many Jewish organizations including Congregations Beth Am and Kol Emeth, the Jewish Community Federation, B'nai B'rith, Hadassah, ORT, the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, and Hillel at Stanford.

Lottie Solomon was a loving daughter, wife, mother and grandmother. She leaves her sons Mark and Jeb, their wives Carolyn and Leslie Colvin; and her four grandchildren, Jacob Solomon, Sara Solomon, Nathaniel Solomon and Daniel Solomon. She was preceded in death by her daughter Naomi Solomon, who perished on September 11, 2001 in the World Trade Center attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary citizen and extending our most sincere condolences to her family. She will be missed greatly by those who had the privilege of knowing her and calling her their friend. Lottie was one of the blessings in my life, as was her husband and their son Mark.

Lottie strengthened our community in countless ways, bettering our country through her service to others and raising a family that carries on the great values she embodied.

MARGARET M. LADONIS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Margaret M. Ladonis of Drums, Pennsylvania who is turning 100 years old on April 15, 2014.

Mrs. Ladonis was born on a farm in Dorchester County, Wisconsin on April 15, 1914. During World War II, she supported the war effort by manufacturing torpedoes in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She eventually moved to Berwick, Pennsylvania and opened Ladonis Appliance Store with her husband, Alex Ladonis, in 1946. Mrs. Ladonis assisted in the operation of this store for many years until retiring in 1978. Throughout her time in Pennsylvania, Margaret has been an active member of the local community, volunteering with Girl Scout and Cub Scout troops, St. Mary's Church, Berwick Hospital, and the Red Cross. She was also a member of the former Daughters of Isabella and the National Council of Catholic Women at St. Mary's. Today, she enjoys visiting with her four children and six grandchildren, reading, and solving jigsaw puzzles.

Mr. Speaker, as she turns 100, I wish Margaret Ladonis a happy and healthy birthday.

THE SAD CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SUPREME COURT DECISION, THE REMARKS OF NEVADA RANCHER CLIVEN BUNDY, AND LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS OWNER DONALD STERLING

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my disagreement with last week's Supreme Court decision and at the same time I wish to condemn in the strongest terms, the inappropriate comments by NBA owner Donald Sterling and Cliven Bundy, the Nevada rancher who owes the federal government more than $1 million in grazing fees that he has not paid in 20 years.

America is a nation moving into a future and our diversity makes us better and stronger; and comments and attitudes like those expressed by Donald Sterling and Cliven Bundy have no place in our civic life and are a tragic illustration of why the Supreme Court reached the wrong decision at a most inopportune time in upholding Michigan's anti-affirmative action initiative.

With its decision in Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, the Court has weakened the precedents that protected minorities from ballot initiatives that suppress minority civic participation.

This decision flies in the face of prior rulings of the Supreme Court that struck down laws and ballot initiatives that place extra burdens on the ability of minorities to participate on equal footing in the political process.

Also Mr. Speaker, let me add my voice to that of the President and so many other persons of goodwill in denouncing the racist and offensive comments of Clippers owner Donald Sterling. His remarks have no place in our society and are beneath contempt.

It is particularly unfortunate that these despicable remarks were made by an owner of an NBA franchise because the NBA has been leading the way in showing the world that America's diversity is its greatest strength and asset.

NBA teams are comprised of athletes from every race and background who work hard and in common purpose to achieve the shared goal of winning championship and thrilling their fans, who can be found on every continent of the globe. As an economic engine, the NBA generates billions of dollars to the national and local economy.

Americans do not disrespect or disparage African, Asian, South American, or European basketball stars because of their ethnicity or country of origin. They welcome them.

Nigeria's Akeem Olajuwon, China's Yao Ming, Dkembe Mutombo from the Democratic Republic of the Congo are still revered in my home city of Houston.

I am encouraged by the announcement of NBA Commissioner Silver that the league and its owners take this matter very seriously and I am confident will take appropriate action to make it clear that when it comes to racism, the NBA has a zero-tolerance policy.

But last week we are unfortunately reminded that 50 years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 there is still much work to be done in perfecting our union.

It is perhaps not a coincidence that the offensive comments of Donald Sterling and Cliven Bundy were made by persons who came of age during the pre-Civil Rights era and that their views are not shared by the vast majority of their children's and grandchildren's generation. Diversity in education has been indispensable in this transformation.

That is why the decision in Schuette by the Supreme Court upholding Michigan's anti-affirmative action initiative is so unfortunate.

The Court's decision perpetuates the direct harm to African-American, Hispanic, and Native American students and inflicts indirect harm to all other students, including those admitted as alumni legatees, which is just a disguised affirmative action program for the affluent.

They are all harmed is because as Justice Sotomayor pointed out in her powerful dissent, the Court's ruling handicaps Michigan's public colleges and universities in providing the campus diversity that ''ensures the next generation moves beyond the stereotypes, the assumptions, and the superficial perceptions that students coming from less-heterogeneous communities may harbor, consciously or not, about people who do not look like them.''

Mr. Speaker, America is a nation moving into the future. Our diversity gives us the unique opportunity to compete and win in a globalized economy.

But to realize that future, we must leave behind the long discredited beliefs and attitudes of the Donald Sterlings and Cliven Bundys of this world.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF WILLIAM ''BILL'' BLAIR, JR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of William ''Bill'' Blair, Jr., a talented Negro Leagues pitcher who became a voice for Dallas' African-American community. His passing on April 20, 2014 leaves a void in the city Dallas, and I join with the Texas community in giving our condolences to the Blair family.

Mr. Blair attended Booker T. Washington High School, where he played football and met his wife of 70 years, Mozelle Jordan. He went on to continue his studies at Prairie View A&M University and later enlisted to fight in World War II. In 1945, Mr. Blair became the youngest black sergeant to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Mr. Blair, a Negro Leagues Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, pitched from 1946 to 1951, for teams including the Indianapolis Clowns and Cincinnati Crescents, and was a player-manager for the Dallas Black Giants. He was instrumental in the development of the African American Museum's Texas Sports Hall of Fame and served on its advisory board. He was also inducted in 1996 as a member of its inaugural class.

After his baseball career, Mr. Blair founded the Highlight News which ran from 1947–1957. He also later founded the Southwest Sports News, a newspaper that specialized in publishing scores from Black college games throughout the United States. The paper was renamed The Elite News in 1960, and is still in publication today, serving as the official voice of the church and the community.

As a civil rights activist for more than 50 years, Blair was instrumental in establishing the Elite News Awards, the first local African-American awards ceremony, in 1975. In 1986, he established the first Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade in Dallas, which is now an institution in the community.

In honor of William ''Bill'' Blair, a pillar of the Dallas community, this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. He will be remembered as a civil rights activist, a leader of the community, and an irreplaceable figure in the history of the city of Dallas.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE RWANDA GENOCIDE

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the victims of the Rwanda Genocide and to ask my colleagues to join me in

commemorating the twenty-year anniversary of this horrific period in our human history.

Over the course of just ninety days in 1994, extremists in the Rwandan government executed a highly organized plan to exterminate the country's entire Tutsi minority population.

Sadly, they very nearly succeeded.

Nearly one million Rwandans were killed in this horrendous conflict, and it is estimated that over three-fourths of all Tutsis living in Rwanda in 1994 were killed before the end of the summer.

In 2010 and 2011, I traveled to Rwanda while researching my doctoral dissertation on the Rwandan Genocide.

I met the prosecutors in Arusha, Tanzania, where the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was headquartered, as well as the archivists and researchers engaged in preserving its history.

Their stories remind us all why we must recommit to ending genocide.

Today, on the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide, I ask that my colleagues join me and the people of Rwanda in honoring the victims.

May we learn from the Rwandan Genocide, and may we ensure that such atrocities are never again permitted to take place.

HONORING THE SEXUALITY INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES (SIECUS)

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) as it celebrates 50 years of advancing policies and education on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health. Founded in 1964, SIECUS is dedicated to ensuring the sexual health and well-being of our nation's youth and people of all ages.

With the month of April dedicated to STD Awareness, April 10th recognized as National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, and the month of May dedicated to Teen Pregnancy Prevention, we acknowledge the continued need for health and sexual education for our nation's young people. I commend SIECUS for its tireless work and commitment to ensuring social justice and sexual rights for all people over the course of the past five decades.

While teen pregnancy and birth rates in the United States have declined to historic lows, the United States continues to have one of the highest teen pregnancy rates among comparable countries and pregnancy rate disparities—whether by race or geography—among young people persist. Additionally, young people are bearing the burden of new HIV incidence and other sexuality transmitted infections.

Through teacher training, policymaker education, parent and health care provider resources, and national and state partnerships, SIECUS has strived to advance comprehensive sexual education across the country to help address these alarming facts and equip young people with the information and resources they need to lead healthy lives.

Through the vision and leadership put forward by SIECUS, there have been renewed efforts to invest in effective evidence-informed, medically accurate, age-appropriate, and inclusive sexual health education over the past four years.

In my congressional district alone, efforts to support the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) has allowed the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to effectively collect and report vital student health data and deliver exemplary sexual health education with an emphasis on HIV and STD prevention. Furthermore, adolescent access to key sexual health services has increased along with the establishment of a safe and supportive environment for both students and staff.

Moreover, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative, an initiative that SIECUS also seeks to strengthen and support, has greatly impacted the Alameda County Public Health Department. Currently, Alameda County provides evidence-based HIV, STD, and teen pregnancy prevention to more than 1,500 young people in eighteen OUSD Middle Schools.

Therefore, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I want to extend my congratulations to SIECUS on this important milestone. I wish them continued success in advancing comprehensive sexual education and the health of all people.

IN CELEBRATION OF AMOS CHARLES HASTON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the 100th birthday of a respected educator and community leader, Amos Charles Haston. Born in Denison, Texas on this day in 1914 to Tilmon and Mary Haston, Mr. Haston rose from humble beginnings to become a respected leader.

Tragedy struck early in Mr. Haston's life when his father was murdered in his presence in 1919. He and his mother subsequently moved to Wewoka, Oklahoma. He excelled in school, graduating as the salutatorian of his high school and achieving the status of all-state half-back for his football team. Mr. Haston worked, played varsity football, and sang on the college's travelling a capella choir while putting himself through college at Langston University. In 1934, he became a member of his beloved Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at Langston. In 1937, Mr. Haston graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Science and Mathematics. He later attended the University of Colorado for post-graduate work; Texas Southern University, where he received his Masters of Education in Secondary Administration degree; and the University of Oklahoma, where he did course work toward a doctorate.

In 1937, Mr. Haston took his first job out of college as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, simultaneously teaching grades 1–8. He eventually resigned and moved to Hugo, Oklahoma to accept a position as a math teacher, as well as the head football and basketball coach. During the summers, Mr. Haston worked as a porter for the railroad, traveling from Portland, Oregon to Seattle, Washington to earn extra income. He met his wife of 73 years, the former Doris E. Sampson in Hugo. They married Christmas day in 1941 and remain married to this day.

In August 1942, Mr. Haston was called to the service of his country for a period of 46 months, 27 months of which were served in combat in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Though his service began as a Buck Private in the Army, he was separated from the service as a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Haston's wife looked after his mother who became ill during his absence in the war.

In September 1946, Mr. Haston was hired as a teacher in Ardmore, Oklahoma, where he also served as the assistant coach of the football and basketball teams. In February 1952, Mr. Haston and his wife had their son William, who presently serves as Counsel in the Legal Division of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Washington, D.C.

In 1954, Mr. Haston accepted a job as Principal of Lincoln High School in Nowata, Oklahoma. He resigned in 1958 to establish a home in Houston, Texas in an effort to provide better opportunities for his son. In Houston, he worked for the Houston Independent School District as a math teacher at Kashmere Gardens Jr./Sr. High School. Mr. Haston would go on to teach biology, chemistry, and physics. He also obtained the distinction of F.O.A. Science Specialist and was later promoted to Assistant Principal.

In 1961, Mr. Haston and his family joined St. James Episcopal Church, where he served as a member of the Vestry, Sunday School Superintendent, Junior Warden, Senior Warden, and member of the Brothers of St. Andrew.

Mr. Haston is a proud member of Kiwanis International and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He was the inspiration for Dr. Ronald Peters to work to establish Alpha's Brother's Keeper Program. On July 23, 2010, at Alpha's 90th General Convention, the Brother's Keeper Program became international and was renamed the ''A. Charles Haston Brother's Keeper Program.'' Mr. Haston is also the only member of Alpha Phi Alpha to maintain a membership for 80 years.

When recently asked what the most significant event that had occurred in his life, he unhesitatingly said, ''The election of a Black man, Barack Hussein Obama, II, as the President of the United States.''

Mr. Speaker, in closing, Amos Charles Haston, is a dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, educator, veteran, and servant of all mankind. He is an exemplar for all those who aspire to selflessly serve others.

HARRISBURG REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary on April 16, 2014.

Founded in the late 1800s, the Chamber was originally known as the Harrisburg Board of Trade. In 1913, it was agreed that the organization should be incorporated as a Chamber of Commerce, and in 1914, it was officially given this designation. Although the name has changed, Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce has stayed true to its mission, acting as a catalyst for policy change, job creation, and business growth throughout Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry counties. The Chamber continues to serve as an important asset in Southeastern Pennsylvania, spurring economic development throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, for 100 years the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce has served as a catalyst for economic growth in Harrisburg, PA. Therefore, I commend all those who have served to improve their community as part of this important organization.

COMMENDING CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER OF DALLAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Children's Medical Center of Dallas, the recipient of the prestigious HIMSS Davies Enterprise Award of Excellence. Children's leadership in the use of health information technology provides superior patient care.

As the first nurse elected to Congress, I recognize that the implementation of an electronic health record (EHR) and the use of EHR technology is crucial in our medical community. Since 1994, the Nicholas E. Davies award of Excellence has recognized superior implementation and use of health information technology for healthcare organizations, private practices, public health entities, and community health organizations.

This is the second year in a row that Children's has been the recipient of the HIMSS Davies Enterprise Award and Children's was the first hospital to achieve HIMSS Electronic Medical Record Adoption Stage 7. Children's has also received two HITRUST certifications and was named Most Wired by Hospitals and Health Networks eight times.

Children's is able to use EHR technology to support quality focused care delivery where staff works in a team-based setting to bring high quality, measurably better care for their young patients. Children's has seen reductions in median length of stay decline from 2.4 days to 1.95 days. Chest x-rays have decreased from 59 percent to 39 percent.

Children's uniquely uses the capabilities of its EHR to help patients and families play a larger role in their own care. This increases patient and family satisfaction. Children's leadership in the health information technology space not only moves us forward but it also improves patient care and quality of life for these young patients.

I am proud to have Children's Medical Center in my district and I will continue to advocate advancing health information technology nationwide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 178 & 179—I missed votes due to weather delay at airport. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

CORAM FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members and leaders of the Coram Fire Department on the department's 85th anniversary.

The Coram Fire Department exemplifies bravery, selflessness, and a strong sense of community. For 85 years, its members have been willing to leave their homes and their families at any hour of the day or night, running toward danger to save their neighbors.

The department has grown with the community, expanding its services and its facilities to ensure the safety of Coram residents. It has opened its fire house to more than just fire-or department-related activities. Two civic groups meet regularly at the auxiliary fire house. And any time my office is in need of a meeting space, whether to honor our nation's veterans, to bring in banks to help homeowners with mortgage issues, or to celebrate our military academy nominees, the Coram Fire Department has welcomed us and provided the space with support for our events.

The Coram Fire Department is also proactive in its advocacy for the fire and emergency services. Whenever there is something that can be done to make the jobs of volunteer emergency service personnel easier, or the need to call our attention to something they feel makes it harder, the membership works hard to find ways to resolve the issue.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the residents of the First Congressional District, and in particular the residents of Coram, I offer my thanks and best wishes to the Coram Fire Department. Here's to 85 more years of dedicated service to the community.

COMMENDING SUMMER BROWN ON EARNING THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Summer Brown on earning the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest achievement a Cadette can earn. Summer, a student at First Colony Middle School in Sugar Land, achieved this honor through her accomplishments in leadership, advocacy, and dedication to improving her community.

Summer completed her Girl Scout Silver Award project by coordinating and leading a ''Healthy Eating and Energy'' workshop for elementary students. She led a team of volunteers to teach students how to lead a healthy lifestyle. This included helping students learn how to read and understand nutrition labels on food packages. Summer also conducted a fruits and vegetable taste test to help the students discover and experience healthy foods. Every parent knows that in itself is an accomplishment.

On behalf of all of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I'm pleased to recognize Summer's Girl Scout accomplishment and her contributions to help make her community a healthier place. We are all proud of Summer Brown.

WELCOMING PASTOR BENNY TATE

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Pastor Benny Tate, the Senior Pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia, for over 25 years.

When Dr. Benny Tate first arrived in Milner, Georgia, Rock Springs Church had just 60 members in its congregation. Today, that number has grown to more than 6,000.

Under the leadership of Pastor Tate, several ministries were formed at Rock Springs Church in order to meet the needs of the community, including:

The Rock Springs Medical Clinic to care for those who cannot afford medical insurance, the Potter's House, which ministers to women battling drug and alcohol abuse, Rock Springs Christian Academy, offering quality education to children K through 12, and the Impact Street Ministries, which helps the homeless by serving meals and providing clothing to those in need.

Psalm 68:5 says, ''A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.'' Or James 1:27 says, ''Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.''

Dr. Tate's work is a shining example of what scripture tells us the role of the church should be—to care for the poor, the fatherless, and widows.

Today, Pastor Tate and his wife of more than thirty years, Barbara, reside in Griffin Georgia, and are parents to their daughter, Savannah Abigail.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pastor Benny Tate for his 25 years of outstanding leadership and service to his community at Rock Springs Church. I wish him many blessed years ahead as he continues to lead, serve, and further the gospel at his full service church.

DONNA PALERMO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Donna E. Palermo on her retirement from the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce after 26 years of exceptional service.

Ms. Palermo began working for the Chamber as an executive secretary in 1988 and continued to move through the ranks of the organization, serving as an administrative assistant, vice president, and interim president. In May 2001, she became the first woman in the Chamber's 120-year history to serve as president, a position she held for 13 years.

Beyond her work with the Chamber, Ms. Palermo is an active member of the Hazleton community, serving in numerous leadership roles including President of the Northeastern Chamber of Commerce Services Organization, Chair of the Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Chair of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership. She is also a member of the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance (now Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton), Leadership Hazleton, Lackawanna/Luzerne County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and CAN BE.

In addition to her involvement with many of the areas organizations and charities, she has undertaken several special projects, including an effort to bring back a health insurance program for the Chamber. As a result of her collaborative efforts, this health insurance program has grown beyond the Greater Hazleton Chamber to 17 additional Northeast Pennsylvania Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, having had the pleasure to work with Ms. Palermo on many projects centered on community service and economic development, I can attest to her integrity and strong sense of community pride. Therefore, I commend Donna E. Palermo for her years of committed service to her community and the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, and I wish her continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING MR. NATHAN GIBBS-BOWLING ON HIS MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. Nathan Gibbs-Bowling, a teacher from my district who has achieved recognition for being one of the nation's top educators. Mr. Gibbs-Bowling of Lincoln High School in Tacoma recently received the highly prestigious Milken Educator Award, which is given by the Milken Family Foundation to recognize excellence in teaching. Mr. Gibbs-Bowling, winner of the $25,000 prize, was the only recipient this year from Washington State and one of only 35 educators honored nationwide.

Mr. Gibbs-Bowling teaches Advanced Placement Government and Advanced Placement Human Geography, as well as a senior seminar on applying for college and obtaining scholarships. He is an engaging teacher who sets high standards for his students while inspiring them with a creative classroom experience. He is known to have his classrooms debate Supreme Court cases and hold mock Congresses. As his students and colleagues will tell you, Mr. Gibbs-Bowling aims to instill intellectual curiosity and a mindset of life-long learning in all of his students.

Mr. Gibbs-Bowling grew up in Tacoma. After graduating from Foss High School in 1997, he earned an associate's degree from Pierce College, as well as a bachelor's and master's degree from Evergreen State College. Now, as a dedicated teacher, he is giving back to his community.

In addition to helping co-develop the curriculum on Tacoma history and the Washington State history curriculum he wrote from primary source materials, Mr. Gibbs-Bowling is the first teacher at his school to teach Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), a program to improve study skills and college-readiness. He is also a founder of Teachers United, a network of teachers working with local unions to advance education policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Gibbs-Bowling for winning the esteemed Milken Educator Award, and I would like to express how grateful I am to have him as a teacher in Washington State. It is an honor to recognize him for the passion and excellence he brings to the classroom.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. AGSHIN MEHDIYEV, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Agshin Mehdiyev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations since November 30, 2006, who also served with distinction on the United Nations Security Council from 2012 to 2013. While at the United Nations, he also was Azerbaijan's non-resident Ambassador to Cuba (since February 2007), Nicaragua (since June 2008), Jamaica (since September 2008), and Venezuela (since October 2008).

Ambassador Mehdiyev will shortly conclude his term at the United Nations and return to Azerbaijan. His dedication to his diplomatic craft and his contributions to the United Nations and to U.S.-Azerbaijan relations richly deserve to be recognized. In particular, he brought leadership and wisdom to his position in the United Nations and to the United Nations Security Council during a period of considerable turmoil and significant challenges.

Furthermore, Ambassador Mehdiyev has a long and distinguished record of serving his country. He first worked overseas at the USSR Embassies in Egypt (from 1971 to 1975) and in Yemen (from 1977 to 1982), and also in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan SSR in several capacities, including as chief of the Ministry's Information and Media Office (from 1975 to 1977). He returned to Yemen from 1987 until 1991, and from 1991 to 1992 was Azerbaijan's official Representative to the Republic of Yemen. Between 1993 and 2001, he was the Director of Europe, USA and Canada Department of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. And prior to his current position at the United Nations, he was Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe from 2001 to 2006.

Ambassador Mehdiyev graduated from Azerbaijan State University in 1971 (from the faculty on oriental studies). Between 1969 and 1970, he studied at the Cairo University, and from 1985 to 1987, he studied at the Diplomatic Academy of the Foreign Ministry of the former USSR. Ambassador Medhiyev holds a PhD degree in the history of international relations (1987) and is Honorary Professor of the Baku Eurasian University Academic Council since 2007. He also is the author of the book, ''Azerbaijan in the Council of Europe,'' published in 2011, as well as of many articles and other publications focusing on international affairs and political studies.

For his distinguished career and contributions to Azerbaijan, Ambassador Mehdiyev was awarded a medal on the occasion of the ''90th anniversary of Azerbaijan's diplomatic service,'' at which time he also received the Foreign Ministry's ''Honor Award'' and an order for ''Service to the Fatherland.'' Ambassador Mehdiyev was born in 1949. He and his wife Sevda have three children.

Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 2014, I attended a farewell reception and dinner in New York in honor of Ambassador Mehdiyev and Sevda. The event was hosted by my friends Ranju Batra, Chair of the Diwali Stamp Project and former president of the Association of Indians in America NY, and Ravi Batra, an accomplished attorney who is the Chairman and CEO of Greenstar Global Energy Corporation and Chair of the National Advisory Council on South Asian Affairs. Their son Neal Batra also was there. The gathering also was attended by numerous UN Ambassadors with spouses, including by U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative Rosemary DiCarlo and the Permanent Representatives from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Honduras, South Korea, Finland, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, and inter alia, Somalia. Also attending were senior members of the UN Secretariat, including Won-soo Kim and Ion Botnaru, and members of the judiciary, local elected officials, Rabbi Yitzchok

Waldman, who is the Director of the Laniado Hospital in Israel, Martin and Grace Riskin, and my dear friend and colleague Representative CAROLYN B. MALONEY, in whose district the event was held. Numerous other officials and prominent individuals sent their greetings and good wishes.

I mention this not only to thank the Batras for their incredible warmth and hospitality, but also to demonstrate the great respect and affection with which Ambassador Mehdiyev is held by his colleagues and acquaintances. Diplomacy at its most basic level is about building connections between people, and the attendance of so many prominent individuals, from all walks of life, is a testament to Ambassador Mehdiyev's character and skills. He is a true professional in every sense of the word and I am pleased to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING THE MISSOURI ARBORETUM AT NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Missouri Arboretum at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, on their 20th anniversary of being recognized as the official Missouri Arboretum by the Missouri State Legislature.

Northwest Missouri State University's tradition of tree management extends back towards the earliest days of the school. Groundskeepers brought a mixture of beauty and shade to the campus by mixing tree species, which continues to this day with over 125 different species and more than 1,300 trees on campus. This commitment to biodiversity and care for the trees earned the Arboretum the 2000 Communitree Award from the Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The City of Maryville has also maintained an active Community Forestry program and earned the designation as a Tree City USA in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, along with the great State of Missouri, in recognizing the Missouri Arboretum at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, on their 20th anniversary.

BOB'S ATOMIC BURGERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bob's Atomic Burgers (BABS), for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and non-profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and demonstrate high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community, and the environment.

Bob's Atomic Burgers' treatment of their employees, customers, the environment, and the greater community is exemplary. BABS believes paying employees a livable wage helps them lead healthy and stable lives, which results in no turnover and their ability to deliver a consistent product and service to their customers.

Environmental sensitivity is a core value at Bob's Atomic Burgers. Recycling, composting, and creating as little waste as possible is a constant effort. You can even see the upcycling in the décor of the shop where local relics are on display from the Colorado School of Mines Science department. Bob's Atomic Burgers is very active in the community, fundraising for several schools, the Golden and West Metro Fire Departments, the Golden VFW, the Golden rescue fund, and the Golden backpacks program. Additionally, Bob's participates in numerous community events.

Bob's Atomic Burgers is a model for outstanding ethics in business. It is an example for all businesses in America to emulate. Congratulations on receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award, and thank you to all the individuals who make Bob's Atomic Burgers the success it is today.

HONORING MR. RICHARD G. HADLEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rich Hadley, who is retiring after over twenty years of service in Washington State. As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI), the Inland Northwest's largest chamber of commerce, Rich has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to growing jobs and business opportunities not only in Spokane but all across Eastern Washington and the Inland Northwest region.

When Rich arrived at the Spokane Chamber of Commerce in 1993, the organization looked and functioned very differently than the GSI the community knows today. Under Rich's leadership, GSI has been intentional in consolidating business promotion efforts, thereby presenting a strong, unified voice for the Inland Northwest. Specifically in 2007, Rich brought together the Chamber and the Spokane Area Economic Development Council, thereby creating Greater Spokane Incorporated. More recently, three groups, the International Trade Alliance, the Spokane STEM Network, and Connect Northwest, have integrated with GSI: These recent integrations serve as a testament to GSI's credibility as the groups know that GSI will be able to fulfill each of their missions.

From tirelessly advocating for Fairchild Air Force Base, an integral part of Spokane's community since 1942 when the City of Spokane and local residents purchased the land and donated it to the War Department, to supporting the start of the North Spokane Corridor, Eastern Washington's top transportation priority, Rich's legacies are numerous. However, his greatest legacy is his tireless commitment to bringing a medical school to Spokane.

Several years ago, Rich saw a need in Eastern Washington for a medical school as it would bring additional doctors to the region and open up new economic opportunities. Working with the University of Washington (UW) and Washington State University (WSU), in 2008, WSU accepted it first group of first-year medical students at its Spokane campus. Last fall, it added 19 second-year students as part of the UW School of Medicine's second-year curriculum. Now, the University District is the center of a new bioscience complex that will be a major contributor to Spokane's future economic vitality.

A man of integrity and high principle, his humility and his impact on Eastern Washington and on his country will long be remembered. So, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Hadley for a lifetime of dedicated service.

HONORING DAVID J. CRAWFORD

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary constituent of mine, David J. Crawford, who throughout his lifetime in Columbia County, NY has contributed significantly to economic growth and our sense of community in my home county.

David was born and raised in Germantown, where he played soccer, basketball, and the trumpet while working as a construction laborer in high school. After high school, he first began studying engineering at Columbia-Greene Community College, where he also was the 1st Trumpet in the College's first musical, ''The Music Man.'' He then continued his undergraduate studies at Clarkson University and began his Master of Business Administration at Pace University, before setting off to work as a land surveyor and engineer for firms in Missouri, Michigan, and Indiana.

David returned to New York permanently in 1978 and founded Crawford & Associates Engineering & Land Surveying, P.C. in 1992. He is the current board President of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation, past president and treasurer of Friends of Clermont, board member of the Columbia County Historical Society and Columbia County Board of Supervisors' Airport Committee, and past president of the Columbia County Association in the City of New York. Beyond his significant business and charitable contributions to Columbia County and surrounding areas, David has made an indelible mark on our region through his character and personal relationships.

I would like to again thank David for his life of service and business acumen that have immeasurably helped Upstate New York and beyond. It is no surprise to me, nor anyone else who knows him, that he continues to be recognized in a variety of ways, including winning

the Columbia County Association in the City of New York 2013 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award. Thank you David, and keep up the incredible work.

APRIL IS IBS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as IBS Awareness Month. Irritable bowel syndrome, or IBS, is a functional gastrointestinal disorder. It is characterized by recurring abdominal pain or discomfort related to changes in intestinal function. Other GI symptoms, such as nausea or bloating, and non-GI symptoms, such as sleep disturbances or headache, may often occur. IBS affects up to 15 percent of the U.S. population and accounts for roughly 40 percent of all referrals to gastroenterologists.

There is no cure and there are few treatments options for IBS, many of which are only marginally effective. Individuals with moderate to severe IBS struggle with symptoms that significantly limit their physical, emotional, economic, and social well-being. For example, a recent study found that employees with IBS had higher average total healthcare costs, and significantly higher medically related work absenteeism.

People of all ages are affected by IBS. One study found that 14 percent of high school students and six percent of middle school students have IBS. Children with IBS are also more likely to experience anxiety and depression and a disruption of normal activities and social interactions. In addition, veterans and active military personnel are disproportionately represented by those suffering from IBS and other functional gastrointestinal disorders due to their exposure to increased risk factors.

I am encouraged by efforts by non-profits to provide education, support, and advancing research. Recently, the International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD) developed a smart-phone app that allows patients to access information on IBS, including treatment options. These are the kind of new initiatives that need advancing so that the millions of Americans with IBS can be treated more effectively.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to support research efforts and to raise awareness for IBS. As an institution, let's agree to lessen the stigma for IBS patients and urge those who may be affected by IBS to find out more and get the help they need.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,436,444,226,130.22. We've added $6,809,567,177,217.14 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CELEBRATION OF MAY 3RD POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important national holiday that will be celebrated this week by our friends in Poland, May 3rd, Polish Constitution Day. On May 3, 1791, Poland adopted the first constitution of its kind in Europe and second in the world following what had occurred here in America only a few years before.

This new constitution in Poland sought to supplant the prevailing anarchy fostered by some of the country's magnates with a more democratic constitutional monarchy. It introduced elements of political equality between townspeople and nobility and placed people of all classes under the protection of the government, thus mitigating the worst abuses of serfdom. It banned pernicious parliamentary institutions such as the liberum veto, which had put the Sejm (Polish Assembly) at the mercy of any deputy who could revoke all the legislation that had been passed by that Sejm.

The citizens of Poland knew this constitution was special and May 3rd was declared an official Polish holiday, Constitution Day, two days later on May 5, 1791. As with all new efforts toward freedom and greater democracy, the Polish Constitution met resistance and was banned during the partitions of Poland but eventually reinstated in April 1919 under the Second Polish Republic—the first holiday officially introduced in the newly independent country. The holiday was again outlawed during World War II by both Nazi and Soviet occupiers, only to be celebrated in Polish cities in May 1945 in a mostly spontaneous manner. The 1946 pro-freedom demonstrators competed for attention with the communist-endorsed May 1 Labor Day celebrations in the Polish People's Republic. Until 1989, May 3 was a frequent occasion for anti-government and anti-communist protests and Polish Constitution Day was restored as an official Polish holiday in April 1990 after the fall of communism. In 2007, May 3 was declared a Lithuanian national holiday and Polish-American pride has been celebrated on the same date here in the United States as well. For instance since 1982 in Chicago, the Polish-American community have marked May 3rd with festivities and the annual Polish Constitution Day Parade, and in my own district, Polonia United, San Diego led by its President Zdzislaw (George) Juchum and its Vice President Miroslaw Gomy work tirelessly to inform and involve the San Diego community of this important event.

The Constitution of May 3, 1791, is evidence of successful internal reform and serves as a symbol of the eventual restoration of Poland's sovereignty. Congratulations to our friends and allies in Poland. As you celebrate Polish Constitution Day on May 3, please be assured that the United States stands beside you as a fellow defender of freedom and democracy.

SENATOR DAVE WATTENBERG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my colleague, neighbor, and above all else my friend . . . Dave Wattenberg. Dave passed away on Monday, January 20, 2014 with his wife Mary Sharon by his side.

Dave and I served together for 6 years in Colorado's State Senate.

He was a cowboy whose wit was unmatched but he was a serious legislator and public servant. During the years of Dave's service he passed over 250 bills. These laws encompassed mining, banking, air quality standards for public lands, and even bringing horse racing back to the State of Colorado.

He cared deeply about rural Colorado and his home and the people of northwest Colorado in Jackson County.

He understood better than most the issues that effected ranchers and farmers and he brought those issues to light at the Statehouse. The Colorado Brand Association legislation sponsored by Dave was most important to his love of western heritage.

Dave knew what it took to bring people together, to compromise and strike a deal to make good public policy for the people of Colorado.

I was honored to be the beneficiary of Dave and Mary Sharon's help and support over the years.

Whenever I talked to Dave he wanted to know how he could help me.

I will always remember the events in his backyard and treasure the times we just sat and talked and joked about our time at the Statehouse as well as about family and politics.

I know how much his wife, Mary Sharon will miss him. I and so many others will miss him too.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN MEDICAL GROUP FOUNDATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Medical Group Foundation, based in Alexandria, Virginia, for hosting the first ever Measure Up/Pressure Down™ National Day of Action: Roll Up Your Sleeves! on May 15, 2014. On this day, medical groups, health systems, partners, and sponsors across the nation will take one ''action'' to improve blood pressure control in their

communities. The services will range from free blood pressure screenings and patient education, to employee brown bag lunches and media outreach.

The Measure Up/Pressure Down™ initiative is a national campaign that raises awareness and control of blood pressure by working with more than 150 medical groups and health systems, partner organizations, and sponsors. High blood pressure (hypertension) is one of the biggest risk factors for heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, and diabetes complications. Nearly one out of three American adults has high blood pressure. Yet out of these 68 million people, only half have the condition under control.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the American Medical Group Foundation's contributions to healthier communities, applaud their national day of action, and ask that my colleagues and their staffs consider taking part in this important event.

WATCHMAN NEE AND WITNESS LEE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, a little over four years ago my esteemed colleague from New Jersey, the honorable CHRIS SMITH, rose in this chamber to bring due attention to one of the great Christians of the twentieth century—the noted Chinese teacher and church-planter, Watchman Nee. Today, I rise to complete the circle on this compelling story by honoring Watchman Nee's closest co-worker, Witness Lee. Together they labored tirelessly in China from 1932 until the conquest of mainland China by the Communist Red Army under Mao Tse Tung in 1949. Today, the story of Watchman Nee is somewhat well known, given his numerous writings that have become Christian classics, such as The Normal Christian Life and Sit, Walk, Stand. Capping his inspirational biography was his martyrdom in a Chinese labor farm in 1972.

Witness Lee's story is less known in the West but is in no way less significant. Although Nee was the clear leader when they labored together in China, it was left to Witness Lee, to preserve and continue their work outside of China and to spread it far beyond the Chinese-speaking world. When it became apparent in 1949 that the Communists would prevail in China, Watchman Nee insisted that Witness Lee emigrate to carry on their work in Taiwan and throughout the Far East. Lee agreed. Subsequent developments not only validated Nee's insight (he was imprisoned shortly thereafter, and the churches raised up under his and Lee's ministry were forced underground), but also confirmed that their message and ministry had the potential to reach far beyond China.

Almost immediately Lee's ministry began to have a profound impact in Taiwan. Tens of thousands turned to Jesus Christ for their salvation and began congregating in simple, New Testament churches, as their Chinese brethren had done in China during the previous two decades. Today, there are more than 200 such local churches in Taiwan with more than 200,000 believers. It is a similar story in the Far East and Australasia, with churches established in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Australia.

Witness Lee did not confine his work to Asia. In 1962 he came to North America and began to minister from Los Angeles, where he established Living Stream Ministry, the publisher of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee in English and over fifty other languages. Witness Lee's speaking and writing continued to emphasize ''Christ as life'' and God's desire to ''build His church'' on the basis of the oneness of God's people, rather than on any ethnic or cultural differences. This was the same message that he had learned from his spiritual mentor, Watchman Nee. Since the early 1960s the spread of the local churches under Lee's ministry throughout the North and South America, Europe, and Africa has been remarkable. There are more than 4,000 churches and 400,000 believers meeting on every inhabited continent, including 200 churches and several thousand believers in Russia and the Russian-speaking world.

Inside mainland China the number of ''hidden'' believers following the ministry of Nee and Lee has continued to grow despite the Chinese government's often extreme measures to suppress and openly persecute them. Historically, members of the churches in China who appreciate the ministry of Nee and Lee have been among the most harshly persecuted. Thousands have been imprisoned, countless beaten, and many even martyred. It is estimated today that there may be two million believers and thousands of local churches in China that draw their spiritual nourishment and supply from the ministry of Nee and Lee.

Recently, reports have reached the West that Christian believers in two provinces have been imprisoned merely for possessing copies of the Recovery Version, a study Bible published by Living Stream Ministry and Taiwan Gospel Book Room, the publishing entity Lee established in Taiwan. Today Watchman Nee is still labeled as a ''dangerous counterrevolutionary,'' and Witness Lee is officially branded as a ''cult leader.'' The writings of both men are banned in China. It is tragic that Watchman Nee died in a Chinese prison farm, totally unaware of how profoundly his life and ministry would impact the entire world. It is a similar tragedy that Witness Lee died in 1997 with such a blatant, gross distortion hanging over his name and his ministry in his homeland.

It is ironic that at a time when China is taking such a prominent role on the world stage in so many areas of society, it is missing an obvious opportunity to further improve its reputation with in the international community. Rather than slander the names of two faithful men of God, China should take national pride that two of its own, neither of whom were political in either their message or their leadership of the flock, have had extraordinary impact far beyond the Chinese-speaking world.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Chinese government today to release all those being held simply because of their faith in Christ and to abandon this national campaign to discredit and distort the record of two brave followers of the One who came with the message of salvation, forgiveness and peace, and instead, to celebrate with us the contributions of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee to believers the world over.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT LANCE NELSON

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise to congratulate MSgt. Lance Nelson on being named the Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year. This award, given annually by the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber Military Affairs Committee and the Kiwanis Club of Tacoma, recognizes an individual who upholds his or her commitment to civic responsibility in an exemplary way. MSgt. Nelson has served his community and country in great measure and is truly deserving of this award.

During his time in the 728th Airlift Squadron, 446th Airlift Wing, MSgt. Nelson has personified what it means to be an airman. He not only serves as a flight leader in his squadron but also as the squadron's Self Aid and Buddy Care Instructor, a position that puts him in charge of conducting classes on battlefield first aid. Furthermore, MSgt. Nelson's commitment to service continues when he is off duty, where he is employed as a firefighter and EMT with West Pierce Fire and Rescue.

MSgt. Nelson has also shown enthusiasm for the potential of young people in our community. From starring in Fire Prevention Week assemblies and volunteering in classrooms, to leading Boy Scouts and coaching sports, MSgt. Nelson has consistently invested in the lives of children. As President of the Evergreen Elementary PTA and member of the Bethel School District Long Range Facilities Planning Team, he has been a dedicated advocate and resource for the Bethel School District.

Howard O. Scott, for whom this award is named, served America when called upon during World War II, and continued to serve the Tacoma community throughout the rest of his life, leaving behind an impressive legacy. MSgt. Nelson carries on the legacy of Howard O. Scott, setting an incredible example of what it means to give back to your country and community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I congratulate MSgt. Lance Nelson. I wish him well in his future endeavors, and thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING PHILIP P. SMITH ON RECEIVING THE SUN SENTINEL'S 2013 EXCALIBUR AWARD FOR BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR IN BROWARD COUNTY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Philip P. Smith, the president and chief executive officer of Phil Smith Management, Inc., on receiving the Sun Sentinel's 2013 Excalibur Award for Business Leader of the Year in Broward County. Each year, the Sun Sentinel recognizes outstanding business executives who exemplify both business leadership and community involvement, and I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Phil.

Well known as the founder of Phil Smith Chevrolet, a successful General Motors (GM) dealership in my Congressional district that serves the greater South Florida area from Palm Beach to Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, Phil bought into his first auto dealership 35 years ago. While finishing college at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), he started working at a Ford dealership in Pompano Beach. Owner Pete Menten saw Phil's potential, and not only kept him on the job after his graduation but later gave him the chance to buy into a small Toyota store in Homestead. With help and support from Menten, Southeast Toyota Distributors Chief Jim Moran, and others, Phil grew his business and now leads an auto-dominated group with 780 employees and about $500 million in annual revenue.

With a direct hands-on sales and management approach, Phil has built his company from the ground up and now operates 17 auto dealerships throughout Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina, as well as the Coral Ridge Country Club in Fort Lauderdale. Just as in the very beginning, he remains true to the principles that have put him at the forefront of his business model: paying it forward and strong relationships with customers. Phil offers promising employees the same chance that he was given, to become a part owner in each of his auto franchises and pursue the American Dream through hard work and dedication.

Even with his great success, he remains grounded to the things that matter most. Phil is civically engaged and active in his community. In addition to his charitable giving, he serves on the boards for his alma mater FAU, the Orange Bowl Committee, and various nonprofits that focus on issues such as health and education. Phil also welcomes several high school teams to practice on the golf course at Coral Ridge Country Club without charge.

Mr. Speaker, Phil Smith is not only an exceptional entrepreneur, but a community leader and dear friend. It is truly a pleasure to recognize him on receiving the Excalibur Award for Business Leader of the Year.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the theme of this year's National Day of Prayer, ''One voice united in prayer.'' Echoing that sentiment of unity, those of us who grew up reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at school every morning recall its stirring words with absolute clarity to this very day: ''One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.''

Yet today in some schools, the Pledge has taken a back seat to busy class schedules and that crucial phrase, ''under God,'' seems under constant fire by an unrestrained judiciary. National Prayer Day serves to remind us we need to regain our footing in this country again if we are to stand tall in His eyes among the brotherhood of nations.

My efforts in the Congress have long been to preserve our Constitutional guarantees of freely exercising our religion, and not vanquishing that right from the public square. Since the earliest days of our founding, and in the hearts and minds of those landing on our shores to settle a new world, hope endured through prayer.

I have again introduced a Constitutional Amendment to ensure voluntary prayer in public schools. H.J. Res. 42 reads: ''Nothing in this Constitution, including any amendment to the Constitution, shall be construed to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer in school, or to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer at a public school extracurricular activity.'' In the past, I had jointly introduced this amendment with our late senator, Robert C. Byrd. And, I have co-sponsored H. Res. 547, supporting the 63rd annual observance of the National Day of Prayer on May 1, 2014, and urge all West Virginians to come together to pray and reaffirm the importance prayer has played in our nation's heritage.

As wise old Ben Franklin told his fellow delegates in calling for daily prayer at our Constitutional Convention, ''the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?''

Being a firm believer in the power of prayer, I remain convinced that collectively, through the power of prayer, we can begin to heal our land. Because when we weigh what little our Lord asks of us—the faith of a mustard seed, the mere touch of a garment's hem—the return is nothing short of amazing grace.

The leadership of our pastors helps guide us to greater understanding and appreciation of that sound investment. I thank them for their compassion and for their continuing commitment to the power of prayer, and the strength and guidance it grants us to make the Lord's work here on Earth our own.

RECOGNIZING MRS. JENNIFER AINSWORTH

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our nation's finest teachers, Mrs. Jennifer Ainsworth of Horry County, South Carolina.

Mrs. Ainsworth was recently named South Carolina's 2014–2015 Teacher of the Year for her exemplary work at Socastee High School, where she teaches and mentors mild to moderate special needs students. Drawing from the inspiration of her late-mother, grandmother, and late-class assistant, Mrs. Ainsworth prepares her students for their future by teaching them life and work skills so they can be productive citizens.

Mrs. Ainsworth attributes her success to unconditional love, hard work, and her dedication to making a difference in her students' lives.

Too often, people focus on the broken portions of our education system. We must recognize and celebrate our educators that go above-and-beyond their job duties, like Mrs. Ainsworth.

Our nation's teachers, especially our special education teachers, dedicate their lives to enriching the lives of our children. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mrs. Ainsworth, and all of our country's educators, for their selfless commitment to our country's future.

THE ARC THRIFT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Arc Thrift Stores for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business Award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and not for profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and demonstrate high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community and the environment.

The Arc Thrift is a 45 year old non-profit, with 21 stores across Colorado employing over 1,200 people. They are one of the largest integrated employers of people with disabilities in Colorado. The Arc Thrift Chapters provide the disabled community with help finding jobs, housing, medical assistance and services in schools. Also proving they are good stewards of the environment, last year the Arc Thrift organization diverted 20 million pounds of merchandise from Colorado landfills.

I congratulate the Arc Thrift stores for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by the Golden Rotary. I thank all the employees of the Arc Thrift for their continued commitment to the people they serve.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GENERAL JOHN SHALIKASHVILI OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life and achievements of General John Shalikashvili of Peoria, Illinois, who served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1993 to 1997, and is being honored in a park dedication on May 17th.

General Shalikashvili was born in 1936 in Warsaw to Georgian exiles. His family survived the German occupation of Poland and the destruction of Warsaw during WWII and in 1952, when he was 16, he moved with his family to Peoria. When he arrived, speaking little English, he would leave Peoria High School at the end of the day and visit the local movie theater to help himself learn the language. In 1958, after Shalikashvili graduated from Bradley University in Peoria with a degree in mechanical engineering, he received his draft notice. He entered the Army as a private before attending Officer Candidate School (OCS) and embarking on a distinguished career that would span almost 40 years.

Under President George H.W. Bush, Shalikashvili served as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander. After the first Gulf War, he served as Commander of Operation Provide Comfort, the peacekeeping and humanitarian action in northern Iraq. In 1993, General Shalikashvili was appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Clinton, where he served until his retirement in 1997. He was the first foreign-born man to hold the position, as well as the first draftee to ever rise to become Chairman.

General Shalikashvili passed away in July, 2011, and was honored by the Presidents he served under and his fellow military leaders. President Clinton remembered that ''he never minced words, he never postured or pulled punches, he never shied away from tough issues or tough calls, and most important, he never shied away from doing what he believed was the right thing.''

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend Peoria for recognizing Shalikashvili's patriotism and dedicated service, and I hope those who visit General Shalikashvili Park continue to be inspired by his incredible story.

HONORING THE WORK OF CLAIRE THOMAS

HON. SUZAN K. DelBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Claire Thomas. Claire Thomas established The Root Connection in 1987 as the first Community Supported Agriculture farm in Washington State.

She started with a quarter acre of rented land in the Sammamish Valley between Woodinville and Redmond, just 18 miles from downtown Seattle. She improved soil, purchased land, and increased acreage until she now farms 20 acres.

Claire's farm is organic, and applies the same intensive growing techniques used by many home gardeners. The result is enough for about 600 families, a production rate six times that of farms using normal commercial agricultural practices.

The Root Connection provides its members a close connection to the land that grows their produce. Families pick up their produce at the farm, and can go out into the fields to harvest herbs and flowers.

In 2012, King County Executive Dow Constantine and Councilmember Kathy Lambert awarded Claire the King County Rural Small Business of the Year Award.

In addition to The Root Connection, Claire manages 47 acres of farmland and water rights, advocates for farmland preservation, and helps run a non-profit that obtains fresh produce weekly from four local farms and distributes it through local food banks.

I want to honor Claire's commitment and drive to overcoming food insecurity by creating a means to get healthful food directly from farms to the homes that need it most.

HONORING ISABEL MARIE ZUREK

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, we honor Isabel Marie Zurek, one of the many women who rose up to help the wartime effort during WWII. Ms. Zurek is proudly recognized as a ''Rosie the Riveter'' who worked in one of the many factories in Detroit during the war. Now celebrating her 90th birthday, we honor the life and accomplishments of Isabel Marie Zurek.

HONORING MR. ED VAN BUREN

HON. TED S. YOHO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Ed Van Buren, an American hero and Army veteran from back in my home district in Florida who recently passed away. Mr. Van Buren was a patriot and family man who constantly strove to help his fellow veterans. I have had the privilege and distinct honor of speaking with his wife and son, Vickie and Ben, and learned just how great of an American he was. I would like to share his story.

Ed was proud not only to have served his country, but he was honored to have been both the son and father of a veteran. After Mr. Van Buren left the military, he continued to serve his nation in the General Services Administration as a computer specialist. These principles of service and education are ones that we must pass on to the next generation of Americans.

After retirement, Mr. Van Buren never faltered from his sacred mission of assisting veterans any way he could. He commanded American Legion Post 16 and was a member of the American Legion honor society. As the Chairman of the Veteran's Advisory Board, Alachua County is indebted to the service of Mr. Van Buren. In all of his roles, he championed assisting and advocating for his fellow veterans and their families.

About a year ago, Mr. Van Buren was diagnosed with lung cancer, but his commitment to improving the lives of others never wavered. Though Ed lost his battle with cancer, the impact he has made in the life of each and every veteran he helped will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize the life of a distinguished citizen patriot, Ed Van Buren.

CONGRATULATING MRS. JILL ROTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Jill Roth for winning The Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers Association of America's ''Young Agent of the Year'' award. Mrs. Roth and her family reside in McLean Virginia, within Virginia's 8th Congressional District. Jill serves as the Executive Vice President in the Ahart Frinzi & Smith Alexandria, Virginia office. In that role, Jill has worked tirelessly to serve our areas insurance needs.

In granting the award, the Association recognized Mrs. Roth's hard work, her passion, and her dedication to civic involvement. The annual award is given to only one outstanding agent per year.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my hearty congratulations to Jill Roth and her coworkers at Ahart, Frinzi & Smith for this achievement. I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors, and I'm proud to serve as her representative.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT SOSA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring, Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relation at University of the Incarnate Word, Robert Sosa. He has been Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relations at OIW since 1992 and is ending his tenure after twenty two years. His tireless efforts have improved the community and served to better the development and progress for UIW.

Robert Sosa was born in San Antonio, Texas. Sosa became the first person in his family to graduate from college, earning a Bachelor's and Master's degree in English

from St. Mary's University. Prior to becoming the Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relations he taught high school English for 7 years. Following his career as a teacher he worked at various marketing and advertising agencies before launching his own marketing and advertising company in the 1970s. In 1992 Sosa sold his business and returned to education when the president of the University of the Incarnate Word asked him to launch the university's grants operation. During his tenure at UIW Sosa has been responsible for attracting and managing the philanthropic interests of corporations, foundations, and the government. As Director, Sosa has dedicated his life to helping the university and community develop projects that serve low income residents and first-generation college students. Under his direction the Department of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relations at UIW has raised $100 million dollars for scholarships, research, academic programs, construction, and healthcare services.

Outside of his work as director Sosa has focused much of his time to teaching and community service. He taught English, Sociology, and Marketing at San Antonio College, UIW, and St. Phillips College. He has been a member of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Las Casas Foundation and Workforce Solutions Alamo. In addition, he has served as chairman of the board of the Guadalupe Cultural Arts center and has been a committee member of Leadership in San Antonio.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Robert Sosa, retiring Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relation at University of the Incarnate Word. His years of dedication and commitment to our community have truly impacted the quality of lives for the people of the city.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ''JOSIE'' CUDA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary ''Josie'' Cuda for her three decades of service in community and housing development, from Bolivia to Elkins, West Virginia.

Josie started her career serving others thirty years ago as a community organizer in Bolivia, followed by jobs as a flood relief worker and a position in human services. She spent seventeen years with the Randolph County Housing Authority and her final fourteen years as the agency's Executive Director. During Josie's time with the Randolph County Housing Authority, she developed a reputation as an innovative leader, using creativity and imagination to maximize her agency's footprint, serving moderate to low income hardworking West Virginians. She used funds from the West Virginia Housing Development Fund, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and money from the Federal Home Loan Bank to develop over one hundred homes and thirty apartment units during her tenure as Executive Director of the Randolph County Housing Authority. In addition, independent non-profit partners Woodlands Development Group and the Home Ownership Center were both started during Josie's tenure, in order to make safe, decent, affordable housing more accessible.

Since leaving the Randolph County Housing Authority, Josie's attention has remained focused on community and housing development. She has worked with CommunityWorks and the West Virginia Community Development Hub to bring Achieving Excellence in Community Development to West Virginia, a program which helps provide training to nonprofit organizations working to improve their communities. So far, ten housing organizations and sixteen community groups have utilized this program in West Virginia.

On May 1, 2014, Mary ''Josie'' Cuda will be inducted into the Affordable Housing Hall of Fame by Habitat for Humanity of West Virginia. Mrs. Cuda is truly deserving of such an honor, as countless West Virginians have her to thank for a better quality of life, better housing, and better communities.

Josie is married to Frank Cuda, a family nurse practitioner. Together they have twin sons and three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way!

Mr. Speaker, Randolph County, as well as the State of West Virginia, owe Mary ''Josie'' Cuda a debt of gratitude for her many years of devoted community service. I am proud to call her a friend and fellow West Virginian.

IN RECOGNITION OF LI MOON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Li Moon, an outstanding educator with the Hillsborough City School District for 22 years, who has changed the lives of hundreds of children, including my own daughter. Mrs. Moon is being honored with the Community Care Award from the Associated Parents Group.

Mrs. Moon is a Resource Specialist and the Data Advisor at North Elementary School. She served as Teacher-in-Charge for twelve years. I can say without fear of contradiction that she is one of the most effective, empathetic and innovative educators I have known. She believes that all children can succeed and will not stop until she finds what will make a student succeed. Her patience and compassion are inexhaustible.

Li Moon, a native of New York City, was a University Scholar at New York University. She received her BA in English in 1971, graduating cum laude and earning a membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society. While teaching at Rivendell School, a small alternative school in San Francisco, she attended San Francisco State University, graduating in 1991 with her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, MA in Special Education and Educational Therapist Certificate. The following year she started her teaching career at North School as a Resource Specialist, simultaneously continuing her private practice as an Educational Therapist for several years. She has also taught several courses and led numerous workshops in the Special Education Department at San Francisco State University and has been a Guest Lecturer at UC Berkeley Extension.

Mrs. Moon has a long and impressive list of training and credentials, including a Behavior Intervention Case Manager Certificate (BICM), Autism Authorization Training and English Language Development (ELD) and Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) Certification. Her professional development includes training through Intel Math, the Columbia Math Camp, summer institutes at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (including Data Wise), IEP Skills Facilitation, TEACCH, Schools Attuned Profile Advisor training, Lindamood-Bell Phonological Sequencing Training, Project Read Phonology and Junior Great Books Discussion Leader Training. She received her Board Certification in Educational Therapy in 2001, is a former editor of The Educational Therapist and is currently the Chair of the San Francisco Association of Educational Therapists Study Group.

As you can surmise from this list, Mrs. Moon is always working on improving and expanding her skills so that she can use them to make her students thrive and succeed.

Her talents have not gone unnoticed in our community. Mrs. Moon deservedly received the school district's TONY and Teacher Leadership awards in 2001.

Mrs. Moon and her husband of 40 years, Jason Stillwater, live in San Francisco. They have four children—Zachary Howard, Randall Conner, Moonwater and Tai Stillwater—and six grandchildren. In her spare time, Mrs. Moon enjoys reading, yoga, traveling and playing the flute.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Li Moon, who has dedicated her life and career to make Hillsborough's school the best they can be for our children. Plato once said, ''The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life.'' Mrs. Moon has put hundreds of men and women on the path to success. My daughter today is a vibrant and successful sophomore, thanks in part to Mrs. Moon, an exceptional teacher and human being.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, on April 24th we commemorate the Armenian Genocide—the deportation, forced march and massacre of 1.5 million innocent Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turks nearly a century ago. In what has become a bitter annual ritual for Armenian-Americans and those who stand with them, we once again call upon the Obama Administration and the United States Congress to formally and officially recognize the Armenian Genocide as a tragic and unambiguous fact of history. Such recognition is critical to fortifying America's moral standing in the international community and, as we prepare in the coming year to mark the 100th anniversary of this tragedy, is long and painfully overdue.

CONGRATULATING MIKE JAWSON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM USGS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mike Jawson on his retirement from the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Mike has served as Center Director for the USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse, WI for the past nine years. During this time, Mike has repeatedly shown his dedication to his field and his strong leadership capabilities.

Mike's background is indicative of both his strong ties to Wisconsin, and his commitment to his field. Mike earned a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, a Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Ph.D. from Washington State University. In the past, Mike has worked for the Dept. of Defense as a Chemist, for the USDA–ARS as a Soil Scientist, for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as an associate professor, for the EPA-Kerr Research Center as Branch Chief, and for the George Washington Carver Center as a National Program Leader and working with the National Climate Change Office.

In 2005, Mike returned to Wisconsin to become Center Director at USGS in La Crosse. In this capacity, Mike managed the multi-disciplinary program of biological research, directing 11 different science teams, each with dynamic personalities and varied skill sets. As a leader of the science component of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration's Long Term Resource Monitoring Program, Mike was able to secure and implement funding for facility improvements and several new restoration projects. Additionally, Mike was able to host the first Center visits of U.S. Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR and TAMMY BALDWIN, and then-Governor Jim Doyle. Mike's accomplishments with the USGS will not soon be forgotten and his hard work and dedication will be missed.

As the Representative of western and central Wisconsin, I care deeply about issues related to the environment, natural resources, and the Mississippi River. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mike for his passionate work addressing natural resource management and science information needs for the Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi ecosystems.

IN HONOR OF KENNETH BATEMAN BEING NAMED OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Kenneth Bateman, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Somerset Medical Center, who has been named Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Somerset County, New Jersey, Business Partnership.

Ken is a mainstay of the Somerset community where his contributions to the county, its residents and the New Jersey life sciences sector have improved the lives of many. Under his leadership, the Somerset Medical Center has experienced tremendous growth, expanding and encompassing new missions and endeavors that have made the facility a premier regional medical center.

Ken and the Somerset Medical Center have invested in the community by building new state-of-the-art facilities which have made Somerset a healthier and better place to live and raise a family.

I congratulate Kenneth Bateman for his well-earned recognition.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH J. WENDA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Joseph J. Wenda, a Middletown Township resident and former township supervisor, passed away on April 24, 2014 after a long illness. He was 55 years old, a father and brother, who also will be remembered fondly by his relatives and many friends. Joe was soft-spoken and humble in his demeanor, but strongly dedicated to public service and his community. An elected township supervisor who served with distinction, he was respected and admired for his hard work and thoughtful decision-making. He was a man of integrity who treated his associates with equal and sincere interest and respected all points of view. He was first elected supervisor in 1996 and held office until 2001. Although he was often asked to seek re-election or a higher office, he chose to remain active in community and civic affairs, serving with equal dedication. Joe Wenda will be remembered throughout the community he loved for his contribution and his service—and he will be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF DARYL IDLER, HENRY GAMBOA AND ROBERT RODRIGUEZ OF EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the unselfish contribution of Henry Gamboa, Robert Rodriguez and Daryl Idler and to recognize their tireless support of the patients of Balboa Naval Medical Center San Diego.

For eight consecutive years, the ownership of the Cottonwood Golf Club, 3121 Willow Glen Road, El Cajon, CA, has consistently and generously donated their two 18-hole golf courses, golf carts, equipment, staff and their time for the success of the annual Duncan L. Hunter Wounded Marines Golf Classic. Their contribution represents as much as $15,000 annually in lost revenue, employee salaries and miscellaneous expenses for the day of the tournament, as well as the weeks and months of preparation prior to the actual event.

Because of their dedication to the patients at Balboa, more than a quarter million dollars have been raised during the eight-year history of the tournament. This year's classic is the largest to date in terms of numbers participating and in dollars raised, expected to exceed $75,000.

Always family oriented, Cottonwood Golf Club has the same small-town values that make the course such a great place to play. Some of the biggest events in East San Diego County that are inspired by their family values include the previously mentioned Duncan L. Hunter Wounded Marines Tournament, the Mother Goose Parade Tournament, the Jack-a-Lopes Classic and a wide variety of local and regional community and charitable events.

What makes the Duncan L. Hunter Wounded Marines Golf Classic truly unique is the fact that every dollar raised goes directly for patient's care. Armed Services, YMCA, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, administer the Restricted fund, meaning every penny goes for the patient's creature comforts.

As the Congressman whose district includes the Cottonwood Golf Club, I am proud to have the honor and privilege of representing these businessmen and their great business. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Henry, Robert, Daryl and everyone at Cottonwood Golf Club for continuing to demonstrate to all of us that caring for those who defend our freedom is more than words, it's a commitment to following through on what needs to be done.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY ELLEN BENNINGER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mary Ellen Benninger who has volunteered her time and talents to our schools in Hillsborough, California for decades. She is being honored tonight as the Citizen of the Year by the Associated Parents Group.

Mary Ellen's dedication to our schools and our community is an inspiration to parents, teachers and students alike. Her leadership and contributions have made Hillsborough's schools the best they can be for our children.

Mary Ellen started to volunteer when her children attended South School and then Crocker Middle School. For the last eight years she served on the Hillsborough City School District Board of Trustees where her board colleagues lovingly call her MEB. She was board president from 2008–2010 and has served on the Citizen Oversight Committee, Bond Finance Committee and as Trustee Liaison to Hillsborough's School Foundation during her tenure.

Wherever Mary Ellen gets involved, her leadership helps set the direction of the organization or initiative she takes on. While on the

HCSD board, Mary Ellen simultaneously served as a Hillsborough Recreation Commissioner from 2005–2007 and on the Hillsborough Schools Foundation from 1999–2013. She also volunteered for the South School Parent Group Board, the Hillsborough Little League and Concours d'Elegance and was deeply engaged in passing Measure B. At St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church, she was a Catechism teacher for ten years.

I feel fortunate to count Mary Ellen as a friend and am a long-time admirer of her lasting contributions to our community. She is altruistic, passionate, intelligent and has an extraordinary memory. Her superb service has not gone unnoticed. She received the Eric Award and the South Hillsborough School's Outstanding Service to Youth Award.

Mary Ellen was born in Seattle, Washington. She graduated from Mayo High School in Rochester, Minnesota in 1975 and earned her BA in Economics from Stanford University in 1979. She had a successful career in retail management for 16 years.

In 1986, she married her freshman dorm sweetheart, Tom Benninger. Six years later they moved to Hillsborough and raised their two children Will and Claire. When Mary Ellen is not giving her time, she enjoys tennis, skiing and hiking.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Mary Ellen Benninger whose big heart runs over with love for all children in our tony town of Hillsborough. Winston Churchill once said, ''We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.'' Mary Ellen has made an exceptional life for herself benefitting our entire community.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MASONIC LODGE #74 IN BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Black River Falls Masonic Lodge #74. The historic building, located in downtown Black River Falls, WI, was built in 1914 to accommodate the growing membership of Lodge #74.

One of the basic purposes of Freemasonry is to ''make good men better,'' and the men and women of Lodge #74 take this purpose to heart. The Free and Accepted Masons that belong to Lodge #74 strive to live by the three core tenets of Freemasonry: brotherly love, relief and truth, and improve character and moral and spiritual outlook. The Freemasons work tirelessly to promote the principles of personal responsibility and morality, and encourage their colleagues to incorporate Freemasonry's lessons into their everyday lives.

The Freemasons of Wisconsin are active in charity work throughout the state. The Charities of the Grand Lodge include the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc., Three Pillars, The Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, and the Medical Fund. These charities serve thousands of individuals each year through programs that support masonic relief, education, community health, safety, and youth engagement. The Black River Falls Masonic Lodge #74 gives back to the local Black River Falls community in a number of ways. For example, the Lodge holds a pancake breakfast every spring on Palm Sunday where all of the proceeds are used for scholarship and local charity efforts.

It is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the Black River Falls Masonic Lodge #74 on its 100th anniversary and re-dedication. The commitment of its members to bettering themselves and their community is truly deserving of recognition. The Black River Falls community and the state of Wisconsin are fortunate have the Freemasons making a difference in the lives of individuals.

APRIL IS IBS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as IBS Awareness Month.

IBS, or Irritable Bowel Syndrome, is a gastrointestinal disorder that alters how the digestive tract functions.

It can cause extreme pain, alter lifestyles, and cost an individual thousands of dollars on healthcare expenditures.

There is no single cause of IBS, and no single cure.

Studies estimate IBS affects up to 20 percent of the adult population. However, only 5 to 7 percent of the adult population has been diagnosed with the condition.

This is partly because individuals with IBS are less likely to seek treatment.

Many are afraid of the stigma that is associated with the disorder.

People need to know that they don't need to suffer in silence. There are many ways to treat and manage IBS.

The first step is to find out about IBS, and have your questions answered.

As an institution, let's agree to lessen the stigma for IBS patients and urge those who may be affected to find out more and seek treatment.

APPLAUDING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT'S HISTORIC FIRST OPEN ENROLLMENT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Affordable Care Act's historic first open enrollment along with the 8 million people who now have the health security they deserve.

And I am proud of the immense contribution California has been to these surging numbers. More than 3 million California consumers enrolled in health insurance plans or in Medi-Cal.

Moreover, after connecting my district to over 20 events and enrolling over 2,300 residents through my ''Enroll OC'' initiative, Orange County alone represented 10 percent of all California enrollments.

These final enrollment numbers are promising and although we have surpassed our goals, enrollment is only the first step.

We must now shift our focus to educating these new consumers about the services available to them through their health insurance providers.

Therefore, as an effort to educate new consumers in my district, I will be initiating a new campaign and hosting ''Know Your Benefits'' events throughout Orange County.

And I urge my colleagues to go beyond the kind of work necessary to reach those who the law was meant to help.

CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS FOR A UNIFIED CYPRUS BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the continued negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriots as critically important towards peacefully resolving the dispute surrounding a unified Cyprus. I am pleased to learn that progress has been made following the issuance of a joint statement that resumed negotiations between Greek Cypriot negotiator Andreas Mavroyiannis and Turkish Cypriot negotiator Kudret Ozersay in February of this year.

The United States remains committed to supporting peace and cooperative relations in the Eastern Mediterranean. Cyprus was, by legend, the birthplace of the ancient Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite. However, its modern history has, in contrast, been largely dominated by enmity between its Greek and Turkish inhabitants. However, I commend President Nicos Anastasiades of the Republic of Cyprus and President Dervis Eroglu of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus for their leadership and coming together for the future of all Cypriots.

It is my sincere hope that we may soon see an end to the Cyprus question once and for all, and welcome a unified Cyprus into the international community of nations. To this end, I encourage President Barack Obama, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and their respective governments to continue their efforts to help facilitate a peaceful resolution. As called for by the United Nations in various statements and declarations, I believe that the reunification of Cyprus based on a bicommunal, bi-zonal federation with political equality represents the most sustainable path to peacefully uniting the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

A unified Cyprus would positively impact the entire region through improved multilateral relations, greater economic opportunities, and increased security. In particular, the reunification of Cyprus would be a significant step towards strengthening the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) at a time of renewed

tensions with Russia. Furthermore, it may signal the beginning of closer cooperation between Greece and Turkey, as well as revitalize discussions for Turkish accession to the European Union.

Mr. Speaker, the resumption of negotiations for a unified Cyprus is a most welcome development. I remain a friend and ally to the people of Cyprus, and support their aspirations for peace and unity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND REOPENING OF THE ORIGINAL GROSSMONT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rich history and proud legacy of the Grossmont Union High School District in my congressional district of East San Diego County. On May 1, 2014, the District will host a grand reopening of their District Office building to rededicate a historical landmark in the City of El Cajon, the original Grossmont High School Building.

Originally constructed in 1922, the Grossmont High School Building for decades was home to the teachers and students that made up the oldest high school in East San Diego County. As the campus expanded, new buildings were added and this facility eventually became the District Office. The project was actually two buildings, a stone veneer over cast-in-place (CIP) concrete at the front and a two-story conventional wood-framed and plaster building in the rear. The structures were independent of each other and both required seismic upgrades. The necessary improvements consisted of a shotcrete membrane for the inside of the exterior walls at the stone section and full-height steel braceframes in the wood-framed building.

Standard improvements to the building include all new HVAC, plumbing, electrical, lighting, Fire Alarm and communications. Newer styles have been blended with the traditional as significant efforts were made to honor the features of the original structure. The original stone veneer has been refurbished and upgraded original-style wood windows have been installed in line with the original theme. Also keeping with the original motif is the reuse of existing wood flooring. Newer amenities such as modern steel and tile stairs with stainless and glass handrails, glass conference rooms and curvi-linear (arched panel) ceilings have been added to complete the transition to new as well as honoring the old traditions.

The majority of the funding for this project was provided from former redevelopment funds, primarily from the City of El Cajon. The remaining balance of the project funding was allocated from the District's capital facilities fund and Propositions H and U, which were specifically utilized to bring the structure into compliance with ADA standards, including an elevator and wheelchair accessibility.

Besides refurbishing this proud local landmark, I am particularly proud to see redevelopment funds stay within the City of El Cajon thereby benefiting students in the District and those who support student achievement. I have always appreciated the hard work and dedication the Grossmont Union High School District has shown to furthering the educational goals of our students and I congratulate them on this achievement and continued investment into our community.

HONORING WANDA FULLMORE

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Wanda Fullmore, who, after 39 years of dedicated service to the people of Madison, Wisconsin, is retiring from the Mayor's Office.

Her welcoming voice, warm smile and engaging personality greeted the visitors of five Madison mayors since 1975. Regardless of who sat in the mayor's chair, her unofficial title was ''The Real Mayor.'' You knew you had become a local community leader when Wanda knew you well enough to call you ''Honey!''

Mayors would come and go, but Wanda was the consistent presence and institutional memory that guided residents through the complications of local government for nearly four decades. Her knowledge of Madison city government was unparalleled. Better than any directory, organizational chart, or 211 referral system, Wanda could find the one person in city government who could solve even the most esoteric of problems. And chances are, she not only knew their phone number by heart, but also the names and ages of their children.

As anyone who answers phones for a living knows, her job was not always pleasant or easy. She incurred the wrath of many constituents upset about everything from parks to potholes and taxes to traffic. She handled them all with patience and grace.

Wanda Fullmore: greeter, listener, caseworker, gatekeeper, public servant, sounding board, advocate, friend. She will be missed by all who had the pleasure of working with her and the thousands of people whose lives she touched.

I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in wishing her an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING AMMA SRI KARUNAMAYI

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amma Sri Karunamayi, a prominent Hindu spiritual leader who has devoted her life to promoting public service and peace.

Amma is best known for her acts of charity, which include providing spiritual guidance to those in need, establishing a free school for more than 700 students and constructing a hospital that provides free care to patients in need. After spreading her teachings in India for many years, Amma sought to take her mission overseas.

In 1995, Amma took her first tour of the United States and returned every year thereafter. This year, she will be back for her 20th anniversary tour. To commemorate this occasion, Amma will be hosting an interfaith World Peace prayer ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia from May 1st until May 11th.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Amma Sri Karunamayi's achievements, and to congratulate her on 20 years of spreading spirituality and peace throughout the United States.

SENATE—*Wednesday, April 30, 2014*

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O divine Master, incline the hearts of our lawmakers to follow in Your way. May they seek to stay within the circle of Your providential plan for their lives, striving to please You as they live for Your glory. Lord, deliver them from crooked thoughts, careless words, and selfish hearts. Forgive them for the things undone that ought to have been done and the things done that ought not to have been done. Spirit of purity and grace, guide our Senators with Your power.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter.

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 30, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 354, the minimum-wage legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 354, S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in morning business until 10:30 a.m. this morning. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the final half. Following morning business, the time until noon will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees prior to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the minimum-wage bill at 12 p.m. today. At 4 p.m. there will be additional rollcall votes in relation to nominations.

Mr. President, later today, as I have announced, we are going to have, we hope, the beginning of a debate on the increase of the Federal minimum wage. Millions of American workers will be watching how each Senator votes today. To them it is a matter of survival.

They will be observing to see if we ensure that a full-time worker in America receives a livable wage.

For Republicans, this vote will demonstrate whether they truly care about our economy. Republicans have fashioned themselves over the years as defenders of the economy. Congressional Republicans have told the American people they are the party of jobs and financial prosperity. How illogical then that the Senate Republicans today will not be supportive of legislation to increase the minimum wage.

What is preventing my Republican colleagues from giving the American workers a livable wage—a fair shot—knowing that 75 percent of the American people support increasing the minimum wage? If Americans are searching for an answer as to why they would refuse to raise the minimum wage, they should look no farther than the Republicans' billionaire benefactors—I repeat, billionaire benefactors—the Koch brothers. Absolutely no one was surprised yesterday when Americans for Prosperity, which is only one of the Koch-funded political organizations, instructed Republicans in Congress to vote against a minimum-wage increase. They said: We are going to score this vote.

What does that mean? It means if you vote yes, you are not going to get any help from Charlie and David. They want a ''no'' vote so they can make Charlie and Dave happy.

In case any of their followers in the Senate were to experience a change of heart and be inclined to vote for an increase, the organizations have warned that they will really go after these people. Again, I repeat, score the vote.

In other words, when it comes time for the Koch brothers to play the role of Santa Claus, Republicans should know that Charles and David are making a list and checking it twice—probably more than that. Even though 75 percent of Americans support this legislation—and our economy stands to profit from a wage increase—the will of the Koch brothers seems to be the top priority for my Republican colleagues.

Former Governor Pawlenty, who was considered by many people in the last election cycle to be the right person for the Republicans to nominate for President, came out today strongly and said words to the effect of: I am not afraid of the Koch brothers. I believe the minimum wage should be increased.

My Republican colleagues should listen to this respected Republican leader.

To add to the Republicans' theater of the absurd, the House of Representatives Budget Committee is holding a hearing today on poverty in America. How about that.

The Presiding Officer will recall that committee chairman PAUL RYAN ran for Vice President. He was part of the ticket that labeled 47 percent of Americans as moochers and not deserving the Republicans' attention—moochers. Representative PAUL RYAN himself has even called struggling Americans ''takers.'' Taking into account his well-documented disdain for hard-working Americans trying to help their families, I am anxious to learn how Representative RYAN plans to eradicate poverty since he considers them takers and moochers. Maybe he will need to check with the Koch brothers first, as it seems he did with his recent budget proposal.

While House Republicans hold hearings and Senate Republicans do nothing, Senate Democrats are doing something. We continue to propose meaningful legislation, such as this minimum-wage bill, that gives American families a fair shot at prosperity. The Republicans filibustered extended unemployment benefits. They filibustered giving women the right to make the same amount of money as men. Why should my daughter get 77 cents when a man doing the same job she does gets $1? It is unfair, but they filibustered

that. We are going to continue to propose meaningful legislation.

Senate Republicans assert that increasing the minimum wage will not help working families. That assertion is not only wrong, it makes no sense. It is illogical. Twenty-eight million Americans stand to benefit from an increase in the minimum wage. I repeat: About 10 percent of all Americans stand to gain from the legislation before this body. We are going to vote to see if we can begin debate at noon today.

Republicans assert that boosting the minimum wage would hurt businesses and slow down our economic recovery. Almost 75 percent of small businesses support raising the minimum wage. Why? It creates more business for them. It is good for the economy. The assertion that boosting the minimum wage would hurt businesses, again, is wrong and it is illogical.

Researchers at the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank have found consumer spending increases—yes, increases—dramatically following a minimum-wage hike and businesses reap the benefits of a minimum-wage increase. That is what these experts said. This minimum-wage legislation is good for American workers, businesses, and the economy, but Republicans refuse to even allow us to debate the issue. Instead, they have signaled their intention to filibuster the minimum-wage legislation just as they have filibustered virtually everything the President suggested during the past 5 years.

When it comes to helping working-class families, the Republicans in Washington are echoing what the Republican leader declared last week in Kentucky: It is not my job to create jobs.

Well, it is his job. It is the Republicans' job, it is my job, and it is the job of every Member of Congress to do everything we can to help create jobs. That is why in addition to raising the minimum wage, which will create jobs, we believe there should be something done about the infrastructure deficit we have in this country which would help create tens of thousands of jobs. It is so badly needed.

Today we have an opportunity to help our hard-working constituents from sea to shining sea and show them that we are attentive to their needs.

I urge my Republican colleagues to join us and Governor Pawlenty and give American workers a fair shot at the American dream by ensuring they are paid a livable wage. At the end of the day our job is to give every American a fair shot to provide for themselves and their families—no welfare, just a job.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to start this morning by reading an excerpt from a 1998 memo from Gene Sperling to President Clinton. It relates to a minimum-wage proposal similar to the one we are considering today. Here is what he wrote:

> Your entire economic team believes that this approach is too aggressive and are concerned that . . . [it] could prove damaging to employment prospects of low-skilled workers, as well as to the general macroeconomic performance of the economy.

But the memo noted there was a plus side to supporting that proposal. ''[It] would unify [the] liberal wing of the Democratic party.''

Today feels like déjà vu all over again because even though our constituents keep telling us they expect Washington to focus on jobs, that is clearly not what they are getting from the Senate. Instead, Senate Democrats are pushing legislation today that would cost as many as 1 million jobs in this country—legislation that the left flank of their party demands. That is their response to the pleas of our constituents to do something about jobs—a proposal that nonpartisan analysts tell us could cost jobs.

But then again, these are the same Washington Democrats who have been at the helm of our economy for 5½ years, the same ones who have been bragging about a recovery for the past 4.

We learned this morning the economy grew by just 0.1 percent—0.1 percent. So I can assure you that if this is the Democrats' idea of a recovery, the people in my State at least are not terribly impressed. They are ready for new ideas. They are ready to turn the page from the liberal playbook that just has not worked.

It is clearer every day that the DC liberal establishment is completely out of ideas. They do not even pretend to be serious about jobs anymore. The clearest proof of that is today's vote—on a bill that could cost about 17,000 jobs in Kentucky alone, and potentially as many as a million nationwide.

But Senate Democrats do not seem to care. They do not seem to care that about 6 in 10 Americans oppose a bill like this if—if—it means losing hundreds of thousands of American jobs. Washington Democrats' true focus these days seems to be making the far left happy—not helping the middle class.

They seem to think they can coast on talking points and stale ideas and that the American people have not been paying attention to their recent dismal record at actually helping the people they claim to care about.

They seem to think people will not notice that time and time and time again they have ended up making things harder for the people they claim they want to help.

But the American people see through that game. It is crystal clear from new polling that we have seen this week. People realize the Washington liberal establishment is just out of energy and out of ideas. If they did not realize it before this year, they got confirmation of it when Senate Democrats effectively admitted that their so-called agenda for the rest of the year was drafted by campaign staffers.

In short, Washington Democrats are just not serious about helping the middle class. That helps explain why they would even consider legislation that we all know could cost up to a million jobs at a time when Americans need those jobs more than ever.

It helps explain why satisfying their leftwing patrons has become a more urgent priority than helping to create the kind of well-paying middle-class jobs our country needs.

I think our constituents deserve a lot better than what they have been getting this year from Democrats who control the Senate. They are already struggling under the weight of Washington Democrats' last ideological adventure—ObamaCare.

Washington Democrats promised the Sun and the Moon to sell that law, and then just rammed it through anyway when Americans refused to buy what they were selling.

Washington Democrats told us ObamaCare would lower costs, but polls show that nearly twice as many people believe the government is adding secret mind-control technology to our TVs as believe the law is actually decreasing health care costs.

Washington Democrats promised Americans that they could keep their

plans if they liked them too. As we know, that turned out to be the ''Lie of the Year.''

Washington Democrats downplayed ObamaCare's negative impact on jobs, just as they are doing with this legislation we will consider later today.

Yet the government's own nonpartisan analysis shows that ObamaCare will effectively drive 2.5 million people out of the American workforce. We are already seeing the effects in Kentucky, where hospitals are laying off workers and cutting salaries because of the impact of this law.

One of the largest health care systems in the State recently let go nearly 500 employees, and its CEO stated that ObamaCare was a factor in that decision. The head of another community hospital in Glasgow, KY, also said that ObamaCare was a factor in his hospital's recent decision to reduce salaries and cut as many as 49 employees.

It is happening at other businesses too.

As a result of ObamaCare, a company in Kentucky with 8,000 employees was forced to cut part-time workers' hours to below 30 hours a week. That was a difficult decision—one that particular company, like so many others, never wanted to make because of the impact it will have on its own employees, but one that it felt was necessary to comply with ObamaCare.

I recently read a story about Paul Deskins, who runs an auto dealership in Pikeville with about 50 employees. Paul says that ObamaCare might force him to reduce his workforce or sell his body shop altogether. ''We were hoping that Obama thing would go away,'' he said. Millions of Americans feel the same way.

Washington Democrats promised this law would help the little guy, but it ended up hurting many of the people it purported to help.

We are seeing the same thing with the legislation before us today. Six in 10 Americans do not want a policy like this if—if—it costs jobs. No matter how Senate Democrats try to spin their support for this bill, the bottom line is this: It could cost up to 1 million American jobs—17,000 of those jobs in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. That is really the opposite of what Americans expect us to do on jobs.

So it is time for Washington Democrats to drop the tired ideological approach that has failed so miserably the last 5½ years. It is time for them to work with Republicans to boost job creation and start helping the middle class. That has been Republicans' focus all along, and it is about time Washington Democrats joined us in working for the middle class too.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I rise today out of a genuine concern that the foreign policy that our administration is conducting is creating danger for the U.S. citizenry and creating danger throughout the world. Let me speak a little bit about that.

I think all of us have seen what happened in Syria when the administration had an opportunity on the front end of a conflict to put its thumb on the scale to change the dynamic of what was happening inside the country and stated that it would do so. It did not.

This weekend I was at a security conference and people on both sides of the aisle expressed dismay at the way the administration had conducted its operations—or actually had not conducted it operations in Syria, and yet had stated so many times what it was going to do.

Today we find ourselves in a situation where I am absolutely certain that one of the policies we will end up carrying out in Syria will be a counterterrorism policy because of our concern about the fact that because we did not act when we could—not with American boots on the ground; that is not what anybody has proposed—but when the administration could have done something to prevent the disaster that has occurred there, to prevent 60,000 more Syrians from being killed indiscriminately—in many cases by helicopters from the administration dropping barrel bombs on innocent civilians there—when the administration could have acted to keep those types of atrocities from occurring, to keep Al Qaeda and other extremists from coming into the country—when it said it was going to act and did not, when it could have done that—now we are going to find ourselves, very quickly, in a situation, in my opinion, where we realize this is a threat to our homeland, and we are going to be engaged in counterterrorism activities.

I say that as a predicate to the issue I am going to discuss, which is Ukraine.

So many Members of our body have recently been to Ukraine. As a matter of fact, I count 12 Members—Members on both sides of the aisle—who have spent time visiting Ukraine and going to Maidan and seeing what the people there did. They rose up to hope for a free world, to hope for human rights, to hope for democracy, and to rid the country of corruption.

Today, we have a prime minister who is young, who is taking on the issues of the day, and doing everything he can to usher this country into a new era—a country that is destined to join the West on its current path.

At the same time, we see a country whose greatest threat to that occurring is Russia—a country that, as we know, illegally went into Crimea and annexed it, a country that today has 40,000 troops on the border, a country that has black ops operators inside eastern Ukraine, the industrial part of Ukraine that it hopes over time will, in a sense, become a part of what they are doing in Russia.

We see every day the destabilization occurring. We know the most important next step in Ukraine is for them to go to this May 25 election and have an election that the world community believes was a valid election. Yet we know that daily Putin and Russia do everything they can to destabilize Ukraine and to delegitimize this process of elections and moving forward.

So a number of us, out of grave concern for what is happening—out of concern about where this is going to lead America, where this is going to lead Europe—have come together to write a piece of legislation because what we have seen from the administration is a lot of rhetoric. Unfortunately, what we see is an administration that cannot help itself but to try to be in every 24-hour news circle, talking about what it is going to do, but then when it actually comes to the time of actually doing it, that is not what has occurred.

This week I was very disappointed when the administration unveiled its next round of sanctions. We had all hoped the administration would put in place sectoral sanctions, sanctions that would have an impact on the Russian economy, so that Putin and all those around him who are carrying out these activities would understand they would pay a price for what they are doing illegally in this part of the world, which, by the way, goes against the agreements we all came to around the Budapest Memorandum, where we said we would honor the sovereignty of this country.

For that reason, a number of us have come together to write a piece of legislation. It is legislation that is intended to try to drive an outcome. It is a piece of legislation that moves away from the way the administration has been dealing with this, where they are always a day late and a dollar short. They are always responding to what Russia does. They are always doing something that, in essence, deals with the situation after something bad has already occurred. This legislation is designed to, again, drive an outcome, to show the administration there is a strategic way to deal with this issue.

Let me tell you what this does not do. I was very disappointed to pick up the Wall Street Journal this morning and read on the front page that those of us who are concerned—which, by the way, is strongly bipartisan, strongly bipartisan in this Senate: concern about what is happening in Ukraine and concern about the fact that the administration has not done those things with economic sanctions in a stronger way to cause Russia to pay a price for what it is doing—but I was very disappointed to pick up the paper and read where the President said those

people who want to see military action by the United States in Ukraine—that is not what this bill does. As a matter of fact, what the bill does is it lays out a strategy to try to keep that from happening, which I think numbers of us on both sides of the aisle are concerned that under the current policy of saying what we are going to do and not doing it, of basically continuing to allow Russia to do what it is doing inside eastern Ukraine, that this is actually the very policy that could lead to significant problems down the road. We all understand these are how major conflicts unfold, and we all understand we are talking about two countries that are armed with nuclear weapons.

So today at noon a number of us will gather around and introduce a piece of legislation that does three things.

No. 1, it strengthens NATO. I think everyone would agree that the commitment of NATO to its allies, our commitment to NATO, our partners' commitment to NATO, has waned over the last period of time.

By the way, this is not something that has just occurred under this administration. It has been going on for some time. We have only three countries, as a matter of fact—three countries—within the NATO alliance that are actually honoring their commitments relative to the support of NATO.

So the first piece of this is to strengthen NATO. It is to expedite, by the way, this administration's own plan relative to missile defense—the plan they have laid out. It does not change that technology.

The second piece of this legislation is intended to deter Russia from what it is doing.

If my colleagues remember, the Geneva accords said Putin would move the Russian troops who are intimidating people inside Eastern Ukraine away from the border. But I think what we have seen now is that ''red line'' has changed. Now what the administration is focused on is them actually not going inside the country, but all of us understand that Russia is actually accomplishing what it wishes to accomplish inside Ukraine without even sending troops in because they are able to do it again with black ops.

So this piece of legislation that my friend from Wyoming and so many others were involved in developing lays down clear sanctions first—beginning today, or after passage, beginning with sanctions—sanctions that hit several important entities in the banking sector and in the energy sector, so we actually do something that affects the Russian economy until such time that they pull those troops away from the border and they remove those black ops operators inside the country who are fomenting the problems.

Secondly, in the event Russia does actually cross the border with military troops, this bill again imposes much deeper sanctions on Russia and certainly signifies to them what kind of price they would pay.

Again, earlier this week when the administration put forth its sanctions, it was a marvel to see that the stock market in Russia, several days in a row, continued to go up. It had no affect on Russia, none. Editorial writers and people on both sides of the aisle understand this was nothing more than a slap on the wrist. Putin understands that. Russia understands that. They understand that we as a nation so far have not signified that we are willing to use these economic sanctions in a way—through the President's own Executive order, I might add—to change behavior. So we are very concerned about the direction this is taking.

The third thing this bill will do is harden our non-NATO allies. I think my colleagues know that in the country of Moldavia, from where I just recently returned—and Senator BARRASSO on another trip just recently returned as well—and in Georgia and in Ukraine, there are a number of things we need to do as a nation to help them harden their country and this bill lays objective things out. Let me give one example. In the Russian-speaking area of Eastern Ukraine, the only information the people who are Russian-speaking in that part of the world are receiving is coming from Russia. It is propaganda about actions the United States is taking, which we aren't, and the great lives they will have if Russia is able to annex that part of the world. So at a minimum we need to make sure the information those people are receiving is very different. There are so many actions that we as a nation can be taking to ensure that Ukraine is not destabilized, that Moldavia is not destabilized, that Georgia is not destabilized.

Let me say this in closing because I see my friend is ready to speak on another topic. This bill we are introducing today is a serious piece of legislation. As a matter of fact, I am gratified by the work so many Members have put into making this legislation as it is. It is strategic. It is serious. It tries to accomplish a good outcome. I hope the introduction of this legislation will cause the administration to step away from the microphones and the cameras and to step away from the empty rhetoric that has been shared all across this world, to step back and say wouldn't it be good if we laid out a strategic approach to Europe.

It is time we realized Russia is destabilizing Europe, and that affects our citizens. Our citizens are 4½ percent of the world in population. We benefit from 22 percent of the world's gross domestic product. So the fact of the world being secure is not only important to us because of human rights and democracy and freedom, but it is important to the very livelihoods of the people of our country.

So I thank those involved. I look forward to discussing this more fully at noon today when we unveil this. Again, I hope the White House and those involved in setting foreign policy will step back, they will sit down, and they will begin to do take actions that strengthen NATO more fully. I hope they will take those actions that will certainly cause Russia to understand exactly what will happen if they continue on the path they are on, as well as strengthen our non-NATO allies which, because of the policies we have not put in place, are continually being destabilized.

Mr. CORKER. I yield the floor and I thank the Chair for the time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, first, I commend my friend and colleague from Tennessee for his leadership on foreign affairs and his efforts in these areas. I fully support all of his efforts to bring forth a united position on behalf of our country.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor because the American people have just received more horrible news about our economy.

The Commerce Department reported this morning that our economy grew at the smallest rate in 3 years. The exact number is 0.1 percent—much worse than expected. To be specific, investment in business equipment declined, residential home construction declined, U.S. exports fell sharply, and companies increased inventories at a much slower rate.

I wish to read what some of the economists have said about this. Dan North, a chief economist, said:

> We've been living in sub-3 percent land, and people have gotten used to that as the new normal. But it's not. It's anemic.

To make matters worse, the Financial Times this morning is reporting that China is poised this year to pass the United States as the world's leading economic power.

The American people deserve better than this and they shouldn't have to accept that anemic growth as the new normal. They deserve growth, good jobs, and better opportunities. That is not what they are finding from the Obama economy. Instead, the President continues to push an agenda that makes it harder for Americans to find good jobs and to bring home bigger paychecks. So I wish to speak about how the health care law specifically is slowing growth and how it is making American paychecks smaller.

I met earlier today with business leaders from Wyoming. They are here from Casper, Cheyenne, and Jackson, and I have heard input from them regarding how the health care law has impacted their businesses, how it has

impacted our State of Wyoming, and how it has impacted our economy not just in Wyoming but nationwide.

It is interesting to watch the White House and the President specifically spike the ball, claiming that 8 million people signed up for health insurance through the government exchanges. At the same time, President Obama has declared that the national debate about his health care law is over. The meaning of the number is highly questionable, and the administration's victory lap is premature. In fact, the ObamaCare debate is far from over.

So I come to the floor to speak about additional side effects of the Obama health care law. I will continue to do this week after week because the side effects on the American people and the American economy and on health care in this country continue to be very damaging.

I will speak about smaller paychecks as one of the ObamaCare side effects, to point out that the debate is not over for the millions of Americans who are experiencing the negative side effects of the President's health care law voted on by Democrats and not by Republicans. One of the worst of these side effects is the smaller paychecks many families are experiencing specifically because of the mandates of the health care law. It is happening all around the country.

Let me tell my colleagues what is happening as reported by the New Hampshire Union Leader. This is just one example. The article was talking about small businesses that have found that paperwork and costs related to the law are threatening the economic platforms on which their companies are built. It quoted a man who runs a ski area saying the law could mean he has to open later in the season and close earlier in the season. That is because people on his payroll for 120 consecutive days or longer have to be offered health insurance under the Democrats' health care law.

Mother Nature might say there is plenty of snow, the skiers and snow boarders are ready to go, the resort wants to open, restaurants are ready to serve people, hotels are ready to host people, but ObamaCare says the resort can't open without facing enormous costs for Washington-mandated insurance. It is hurting people working at the ski resorts. It is hurting people in businesses in those communities.

Who pays for the negative side effects? It is the seasonal workers who will now be limited to fewer than 120 days of work at ski facilities such as this one in New Hampshire. They will work fewer days with smaller paychecks because of the health care law. The New Hampshire Union Leader summed it up this way: ''As snowboarders say: bummer.''

It is not just seasonal workers who are being hurt. This column also talks about the ski resorts in Colorado being hurt.

In North Carolina, State government agencies are starting to get very worried about how to deal with the health care law's mandates. The law says employers—including State and local governments—have to cover people who work 30 hours a week or more. That is whom the law considers full-time workers. When I talk to business leaders from Wyoming, most people think of full-time work as 40 hours. Not President Obama. He is a 30-hour man.

According to a story from WTVD in Raleigh, State agencies are looking at cutting the hours of part-time workers to keep them under that 30-hour limit.

The North Carolina Agriculture Department has about 250 part-time employees who are now working more than 30 hours. They have 250 workers in the North Carolina Agriculture Department, and those 250 people are working more than 30 hours, but they are part time. The North Carolina Department of Transportation has almost 600 people in the same situation. So North Carolina is going to have to look very closely at what to do with those people, and that can mean smaller paychecks.

Local governments are having to make these same decisions because of the health care law. WITN, another station in Greenville, NC, did a story last month about how schools are cutting the hours substitute teachers can work—the same 30-hour Obama workweek limit again. The health care law wasn't about substitute teachers, but they are the ones feeling the negative side effects and they are the ones seeing smaller paychecks.

The story quoted a teacher in Pitt County, NC, who said she got a letter from the school district there telling her she wouldn't be able to work as much. Substitute teachers are now limited to 3 days a week. Why? Because of the expensive mandates of ObamaCare.

She told the TV station, ''I'm willing and able to work, and now they're telling me I can only work for so long.''

This teacher is one of 200 in her North Carolina school district who are going to be limited to 21 hours a week, and she is wondering how she is going to make ends meet with 21 hours a week. That is a side effect of the health care law that means smaller paychecks for substitute teachers.

President Obama says the debate is over. Is it over for teachers in North Carolina who are seeing their time cut to under 30 hours a week? Is it over in ski resort communities in New Hampshire and in Colorado?

Look what is going on in Iowa. An article just last week in the Ottumwa Courier said that a local school district was cutting the hours on all paraeducators from 37 hours per week to 29 hours. Those extra hours may not mean much to Democrats on the floor of the Senate or the House Members who voted for this health care law, but they are a real big deal for a lot of families struggling in the Obama economy.

In Colorado, the Aspen Daily News reported last month that adjunct professors at Colorado Mountain College are going to have the same limit of 29 hours a week. This school has 112 full-time faculty, but it has 600 part-time professors. Some of them just want to teach a class here or there to make extra money, but some of them are trying to string together enough hours to support themselves, to support their families, and they are getting hammered by the President's health care law that every Democrat in this body voted for.

It is happening all over the country. We have heard stories today about New Hampshire, North Carolina, Colorado. Here is a final example. A borough in Alaska announced earlier this year that it was putting a cap on the hours of firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

According to one technician, some stations are limiting people to just 24 hours a week. So we see teachers, firefighters, professors, seasonal workers all hurt by the side effects of the Obama health care law, and they are all getting hit with smaller paychecks—nothing they have asked for. They want to work. They are ready to work. They are willing to work.

We have a weak economy, an anemic economy, and the President and Democrats do not seem to care. They do not seem to care. They think the debate is over. President Obama says the debate is over.

He says Democrats who voted for this should forcefully defend it and be proud. How can the President forcefully defend these smaller paychecks? How can the President be proud of these smaller paychecks because of his law and what he had Democrats vote for—in North Carolina; Alaska, where you hear these stories; New Hampshire; one after another after another; Colorado.

Well, it is not over for Americans, who are continuing to get hit in their wallets, people in New Hampshire, North Carolina, Iowa, Colorado, Alaska, all over the rest of the country. It is not over for Republicans, who will continue to stand for those Americans and keep pushing for commonsense reforms that will actually help people get the care and what they wanted all along, which was better access to quality, affordable health care.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes and that following my remarks Senator FRANKEN be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes and Senator MARKEY be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise this morning to talk about the matter before us, which is the minimum wage. Today the Senate will vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the Minimum Wage Fairness Act, the legislation we are considering, which would increase the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour over the course of 3 years. We do not know what the result will be today, but we are working to get as much support as possible because getting past this first hurdle, of course, is essential to getting the bill passed, to giving Americans who are working very hard a fair shot at some economic security that they may not have right now.

We have a lot of work to do because there are still people out there—especially here in Washington—who are making arguments that do not make a lot of sense and, to me, do not make a lot of sense to the people of Pennsylvania. Where I came from, when someone works a full day and a full week, they should not—most people believe they should have a fair shot at making not just a living but making sure they have enough of a living that they can lift themselves out of poverty. You should not work 40 hours a week and be paid a poverty wage. Unfortunately, that is the case for far too many Americans.

Increasing the minimum wage would help workers make ends meet, and it would offer a lift up the ladder to the middle class and boost the economy by boosting new spending. We know that is the case. All the data shows that. All the studies show that. But we still have to make the case to some folks here in Washington.

Wages for most workers are not keeping up with the cost of living, the cost of paying a mortgage and raising a family and some of the other middle-class concerns. The pay for minimum-wage workers is not keeping up with inflation.

Six years have passed since the last minimum wage increase was enacted. Pay for the middle class is stagnant, while the gap between the haves and the have-nots has widened substantially.

The chart on my right tells the story of what could happen if we are able to pass an increase in the minimum wage. It is about giving a fair shot to our families and to our workers by raising the minimum wage. Increasing the minimum wage helps a lot of folks across the country more broadly. Of course, it helps working families.

Look at these numbers. Workers who would get a raise: 27.8 million workers across the country. There are very few things the Senate can do today or this week that would provide that kind of direct economic jump-start to so many communities and to 27.8 million people.

Look at the boost to GDP. I mentioned that earlier—a $22 billion boost to the economy. Again, there are very few things, if any, we could pass in the Senate that would provide that kind of jump-start to the economy when we need it.

The number of jobs created across the country: some 85,000. Some think the number is higher than that. I know this would have a job-increase impact into the thousands in Pennsylvania.

Look at the number for women. There is mostly an issue about women who are working every day trying to support their families. It also has an impact, obviously, on children. Women who would get a raise: 15.3 million women across the country. I would like to hear someone who is on the other side of the aisle demonstrate to women across this country what they will do in place of that if they are going to say that now is not the time for a raise in the minimum wage. What about those women who are shouldering most of the burden to raise their families and to make their way in a tough economy?

Children with a parent who would get a raise: 14 million children have a parent who would get a boost in the minimum wage. Again, I would say: What is your answer or what is your strategy to give a boost but really, more appropriately stated, a measure of security to our children? I am not sure I can name another action this Senate could take to make sure 14 million children have a measure of security that they do not have today even in an economy that—in some parts of the country—is getting a little better.

Americans overall lifted out of poverty: 2 million Americans will be lifted out of poverty if we pass an increase in the minimum wage.

Again, I would ask anyone on the other side, is there an action, is there a bill, is there a vote, is there a step we can take in the Senate this week or next week that would do the same to help 14 million children, to lift 2 million Americans out of poverty? I do not know of any. I will wait and see what their answer is. I hope they will answer that question because they should. This is a debate. They should answer that question. Tell us what you will do to help 14 million children if you are not going to support lifting or raising the minimum wage.

Less spending on food stamps: $4.6 billion per year. We hear attacks all the time—unjustified though they are—from the other side about SNAP. We used to call it the food stamp program. They are always saying: We need to reduce spending in that program. Well, instead of cutting people, as so many in this body seem to want to do every day of the week, voting for budgets that would slash support for people who need help just having a measure of food security, being able to feed their families, instead of doing that, why don't we support raising the minimum wage, lifting them out of poverty, lifting them out of the dependence they have to have on an important program such as SNAP? That is the better way to reduce those numbers. It is not just a question of what is right; it is a question of the best economic strategy for that worker, for his or her family, and for the economy overall.

Finally, veterans who would get a raise: 1 million veterans. We hear speeches all the time here in Washington from both sides of the aisle. In most cases—in almost every case—they are heartfelt and they are honest about the support that one Senator or a group of Senators provide to help our veterans. I have no doubt that people are sincere when they say that. But there are some opportunities around here where you can take action. You can cast a vote that has a direct benefit not just for 14 million children but in this case for 1 million veterans.

You have to ask yourself, if you cannot cast that vote, what are you going to do? What are you going to do with the power you have to cast your vote, to stand and say: I support an increase in the minimum wage. If you are not going to do that, if you are not going to vote for this or ever vote for this, then what are you going to do to help those same 1 million veterans or those same 14 million children or those 15.3 million women? If you have an answer for that, if you have a different strategy that will get us to these numbers, let's hear it. I would like to hear the answer to that. I have not heard it yet. Maybe I have not been listening. But I will try to listen closely to what the arguments are on the other side of the aisle.

So the hashtag #raisethewage is a good way to summarize why this is so fundamental but really so simple. This is about giving people a fair shot. It is not about some program people are asking to be created. It is about basic fairness in giving folks a fair shot in an economy that is still very tough for a lot of families.

I think it is critical that we emphasize some of these numbers, but it is also really about the human trauma so many families have been living

through. So many of them have lived through the recession and are still climbing out of the hole they are in. They have lost their jobs; they may have run out of unemployment insurance; they may have lost their homes in the course of all of that. There is no question and it is irrefutable that the cascading effect of that trauma hits not only the worker and maybe, if they have a spouse or a partner, the person standing next to them, but it also has a cascading effect on the children as well and the family and then on all of us.

We all have a stake in this. The idea of raising the minimum wage is about some other group of people out there who are far away from us makes no sense. If we raise the minimum wage, the economy for everyone gets better. Folks don't have to take my word for it. Over 600 economists—600, not 6 or 10 but 600 economists—including 7 Nobel laureates, have signed a letter stating their support for raising the minimum wage to $10.10 because it would be good for workers and it would not have a negative effect on jobs and would even provide a boost to economic activity.

I am not going to read the whole January letter from the 600 economists, but I will read a statement from it and then I will conclude.

> At a time when persistent high unemployment is putting enormous downward pressure on wages, such a minimum-wage increase would provide a much-needed boost to the earnings of low-wage workers.
>
> In recent years there have been important developments in the academic literature on the effect of increases in the minimum wage on unemployment, with the weight of evidence now showing that increases in the minimum wage have had little or no—

Let me say it again, ''little or no''—

> negative effect on the unemployment of minimum-wage workers, even during times of weakness in the labor market. Research suggests that a minimum-wage increase could have a small stimulative effect on the economy as low-wage workers spend their additional earnings, raising demand and job growth, and providing some help on the jobs front.

That is a long statement by 600 economists. It is very measured. It is not inflating numbers and saying this is going to cure all of our economic challenges or all of our economic woes, but it is a clear and unequivocal endorsement of raising the minimum wage. I would add to that, with all due respect to those smart economists, the data on this chart.

Let me make one more point and then I will conclude. I don't have it in front of me, but one of the organizations that has endorsed the increase in the minimum wage is the American Academy of Pediatrics. Why? Because they know a lot about taking care of kids. They know a lot about providing the best health care for kids. They know a lot about the traumas and the difficulties that a lot of children face, especially if they are poor or if they are in a family getting low wages. That child is impacted. There is no doubt about that. All the science tells us that. All the literature tells us that. But if the American Academy of Pediatrics is saying we should raise the minimum wage because it is good for kids and these 600 economists are saying it is good for the economy and so much other information is saying it will help our veterans, 1 million veterans and 14 million kids, what is the argument on the other side against it?

I have heard some of the arguments, but I have not heard an argument yet that says they have a strategy on the other side of this debate that will help 15.3 million women, that will directly help 14 million children and that will help 1 million veterans and boost our economy on top of it. I would be for this even if there wasn't a boost to the economy because we could help people individually, but that is an added reason to be supportive of this bill.

This is long overdue. We shouldn't be having this debate every 5, 6 or 8 years. We should raise the minimum wage appropriately, to a reasonable number that makes sense, and then index it so we can take this issue off the table, so it would increase appropriately, as it should, over time.

If we had done that in the 1960s or 1970s, the minimum wage would be not just higher than it is today, $7.25, it would be more than $10.50 an hour, something higher than that.

If you are unalterably opposed to raising the minimum wage, I would hope you would have a strategy to make sure that 14 million kids are benefited by your action, by your bill—not over 20 years but by some other legislative vehicle—and you should have a strategy to make sure 1 million veterans have some measure of economic security they don't have, and you should be able to answer what the American Academy of Pediatrics said is good for children. If you can answer those kinds of questions, then I would love to take a look at your bill, but if you can't, you have some explaining to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. I thank my colleague for his words on the minimum wage. There were very important points raised in terms of that letter from those economists and the American Academy of Pediatrics. It adds wonderfully to the debate.

I rise to support, similar to my colleague from Pennsylvania, an increase in the Federal minimum wage. I am a proud cosponsor of the Minimum Wage Fairness Act, which would give 16.5 million Americans a much deserved raise.

I am incredibly proud of the important step Minnesota took to raise the minimum wage earlier this week. Just a few weeks ago or earlier this month the Governor and the Minnesota State legislature took this big step for workers and families. Because of this, hundreds of thousands of hard-working Minnesotans will themselves receive a raise.

This is a big deal. Before this increase, the Minnesota State minimum wage was actually lower than the Federal minimum wage.

I would like to talk a little bit about why Minnesota has taken this important step. Minnesotans believe that if someone works full time, 52 weeks a year, they should be able to put food on the table and a roof over their family's head. They believe that if someone works in America, they should have a chance to work their way up into the middle class. As I have traveled around Minnesota, I have heard from people all over the State who have been working long hours and yet still struggle to support their families, to work their way to the middle class and provide a brighter future for their children.

As a State, we recognized that there were too many people working very hard at one, two, and sometimes three jobs and were still struggling to get by. Parents have been wondering how they are going to be able to pay for their kids' college or even how to make the next car payment. Instead, they have been working 60-hour weeks and missing out on spending precious time with their children.

That is why I am proud that Minnesota has now joined 21 other States with minimum wages higher than the Federal minimum. In Washington, I am going to keep doing my part to help Minnesota workers.

Recent research confirms that what we see in Minnesota is happening across America. In a survey last year of workers earning less than $10 an hour, two-thirds of these workers said they are not meeting or are just meeting their basic living expenses. Two-thirds of these workers report needing public assistance. Two in five said they can't afford additional education and training. With wages too low, these workers are trapped. They are trapped in poverty.

The economy is getting better, but raising the minimum wage is about doing everything we can to make sure it gets better for everyone. Last year our Nation's largest businesses saw record profits. The market finished last year up over 26 percent, its best return since the 1990s. Raising the minimum wage is about making sure Minnesotans and workers across the country get to be a part of this improving economy.

That is why Minnesota has taken this important step. We know a strong minimum wage and a strong middle class go hand in hand. That is why I support raising the Federal minimum

wage to a level that allows people to work their way to a better life.

For decades the Federal minimum wage has lost its value. If the Federal minimum wage had kept pace with inflation since its peak value in the 1960s, today it would be worth over $10.50 an hour. Today the Federal minimum wage is just $7.25 an hour.

When families have had to pay more for food, rent, utilities, childcare, and education, the minimum wage not only hasn't kept up, it has gone down. It is not only minimum wage workers who haven't seen an increase in wages. Since the 1970s we have seen worker productivity grow by 135 percent while the average wages for middle-class workers have not changed. Americans are working harder than ever but average wages are stuck and the minimum wage actually has been declining.

Let me tell you about what raising the minimum wage would mean to one Minnesotan. Her name is Misrak. She is the mother of two and works at the airport as a cleaner, where she makes a low wage. Because she couldn't make ends meet, she had to take a second job assisting passengers in wheelchairs who need help. She has been doing this for 4 years, and during that time she has received only one raise worth just 80 cents an hour. She doesn't get vacation days or sick days or time off with her children. She wants to help her children finish college, and they want to finish college so they can be sure that if they work hard, that will be a path out of poverty and into the middle class. For Misrak, even though she works over 60 hours per week, she and her family are just barely scraping by.

Bringing the minimum wage back to a level that can support a family is the first step in restoring the promise that if someone works hard, they can build a better life for themselves and their family. Sometimes people ask why raise the minimum wage to $9.50 an hour as we did in Minnesota or $10.10 as we want to do. They say why not leave minimum wage workers alone to figure out things for themselves.

I don't believe raising the minimum wage is going to solve all the problems working families face. They need more than a minimum wage. They need good jobs, good schools, and good roads to provide a better future for themselves and for their children, but I support raising the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour because it is a wage that says Americans value work. It is a minimum guarantee that anyone who shows up 40 hours a week and ready to work should be able to provide food and shelter for themselves and their children and should not live in poverty.

Other people say we don't need to raise the minimum wage because it is not working families who earn the minimum wage. Instead they say it is mainly teenagers in their first job who earn the minimum wage. In fact, the vast majority of workers who would get a raise under this bill are working adults, including approximately 350,000 adults in Minnesota. One-quarter are parents, including over 85,000 parents in our State. Parents who would see a raise from the bill we are considering are the parents of 14 million children, an estimated 150,000 of them in Minnesota. These are kids. The American Academy of Pediatrics says do this. We know that kids who have deprivation have trauma. There are different kinds of deprivation, and we know it makes it harder for them to learn. It changes their brain chemistry to be under that much stress, so let's do it for these kids.

The majority—56 percent—of Minnesotans who would be affected by an increase are women. Nationwide, one in five working mothers would see a raise under this bill, and 6.8 million workers and their families would be lifted out of poverty.

Raising the minimum wage is good for working families and it is good for the economy. It boosts economic activity and helps local businesses. A study from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago found that increasing the Federal minimum wage to $10 an hour could boost GDP by up to 0.3 percentage points. In a recent analysis of State employment data, Goldman Sachs noted that based on their analysis of States that increased their minimum wage at the start of 2014, the employment impact, if any, from a higher Federal minimum wage would be small relative to the normal volatility in the market. A higher minimum wage—

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for an additional 2 minutes or 1½ minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. In that case, 2 minutes.

A higher minimum wage also helps our economy because increasing the minimum wage boosts the purchasing power of consumers and creates more customers for local businesses. People earning minimum wage spend the money they are earning. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that the increased economic activity from an increase to $10.10 could create 85,000 new jobs and boost GDP by $22.2 billion over the 3 years of implementation. Increasing the minimum wage helps businesses in another way too. Workers who are better paid are also more productive and less likely to quit. That means businesses save on recruiting and training costs. It also means they have better, more loyal, and harder working employees.

Businesses in Minnesota understand this. I spoke with Danny Schwartzman, the owner of Common Roots Cafe and Catering in Minneapolis. Danny pays his employees a minimum of $11 per hour, plus benefits, such as paid time off and health insurance. Danny has written:

> Over time, other businesses will see what I have seen—that paying people more yields more for the bottom line. It's easier to recruit and retain people. Happier employees are more likely to provide better customer service. Lower turnover means dramatically lower training costs and better employee performance.

Danny understands that his business will do better if his workers are doing better.

It is time that Congress follow Minnesota's example. The minimum wage is about making sure that work pays. It is about the American dream. If you work hard and take responsibility, you can put a roof over your head, provide a decent life for your children, and help them get ready for the future. It has been too long since the Federal minimum wage kept that promise to America's workers and their children, and that is why we need to raise it today.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I am proud to stand here today to support raising the minimum wage. No person in America should work full time and not earn enough to be above the poverty level. The poverty level in the United States in 2014 is about $23,000 for a family of four. Today, if someone works under the minimum wage for 40 hours a week they are still in poverty. No one should work 40 hours a week and be given a salary that does not lift them and their families out of poverty. That is absolutely wrong.

Millions of people in our country have been trying to climb into the middle class. But no matter how hard they work, they are stuck in the same place.

In America today, nearly half of those who grow up in families in the bottom fifth of income earners will stay there as adults. Tens of millions of Americans labor tirelessly for years to scale the economic ladder but they can never get off the ground. That is unacceptable, it is immoral, and that needs to change.

Raising the minimum wage is a first step to fighting income inequality in our country. We must help restore the dignity and the value of work and help millions of families escape poverty by increasing the national minimum wage.

Today, more than 46 million Americans are living in poverty. The average American household made less in 2012 than it did in 1989. That is wrong. It is plain wrong. Over these last 20 years, the top 1 percent of wage earners in America has seen their income skyrocket by 86 percent. In the years ahead it is going to get worse for those making the minimum wage. Over the next 5 years the real value of the minimum wage is projected to decline by 10

percent or over $1,400 of purchasing power for a full-time worker, unless we increase the minimum wage.

What does that mean? It means Americans will be able to buy less if we don't do it, and it will be harder for families to get by. The poor will effectively get even more impoverished. Even as they are working 40 hours a week, they get poorer and poorer and poorer because that minimum wage does not buy as much as it did the year before and the year before and the year before. So the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. That is the system we have right now unless we take action to make sure those who earn the minimum wage are keeping pace with what it takes to buy the food, to pay the rent, to pay for the schools for the children in their family. If we don't do this, they get poorer and poorer while continuing to work 40 hours a week.

We know low-income Americans would benefit from raising the minimum wage, but they are not the only ones. Hundreds of small businesses in my home State of Massachusetts have signed on to a petition for a fair minimum wage of $10.50 per hour. That petition says that raising the minimum wage makes good business sense. That same small business petition says workers are also customers.

They are right. Increasing the purchasing power of minimum-wage workers helps stimulate the economy. Research has shown time and time again that minimum-wage workers spend the additional income they receive when the minimum wage is increased. If we increase the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour, 28 million workers would receive about $35 billion in additional wages.

Raising the minimum wage does not cause job losses, even during periods of recession. Most minimum-wage workers need the income to make ends meet and spend it quickly. It goes right into the economy. So economists believe it will actually boost the economy by creating about 85,000 new jobs and increasing economic activity by about $22 billion. That means everyone in our economy should be on board.

Raising the minimum wage is about giving families security, opportunity, and dignity—the security to know they can make ends meet, the opportunity to climb out of poverty and into the middle class, and the dignity to know they are getting paid a fair wage for a hard day's work. That is why I am proud to stand here today to urge my colleagues to increase the minimum wage so that we give America the raise it needs for those who are working so hard for our economy.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12 noon will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The minority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I think people listening to the debate on the minimum wage issue may be a little bit confused, because we all want to see hard-working American families work their way toward the American dream, but we are not going to be able to do that with the Federal Government setting wages for restaurants, small businesses, and other people across the country.

I have no objection, obviously, if Massachusetts or Minnesota or some other State wants to raise the minimum wage. That is their choice. But what my colleagues are now asking for is the Federal Government, or the Nation, to set a minimum wage at a level which will destroy between ½ and 1 million jobs. That is not just me talking, that is the Congressional Budget Office, which is the official scorecard for the Congress.

Think about this: You are a small business and your biggest expense is wages for the people who work there. Now the Federal Government comes in and says: Forget about your local conditions in North Dakota or in Texas. We are going to say, from Washington, DC, that everybody has to raise wages by 40 percent. I can't imagine there will be many businesses, small businesses in particular, that can absorb a 40-percent increase in their overhead.

This is going to hurt low-wage earners who are currently employed. That is what the Congressional Budget Office has said. And it is going to hurt the economy.

I heard the distinguished Senator from Minnesota say the economy is doing great. Well, I guess he must have missed the latest report on the first quarter of 2014. Because of the bad weather—we had an unseasonably cold first quarter—the economy grew at .1 percent. In other words, it almost went into what would be a negative growth or a recession. Of course, recession is defined as two quarters of negative growth, but my point is this strong growth he is talking about in the economy is a figment, it is not the fact, and we need to deal with the facts on the ground.

I wonder sometimes why public opinion holds Congress and Washington in such low esteem. Actually, I don't wonder why. My conclusion is they think we are out of touch. We are out of touch with regular American families—people who are working hard to make ends meet, getting the kids ready for school and living their version of the American dream. The latest statistic I saw says that 27 percent of the American people think we are on the right track. That is a shocking number. That means 73 percent think we are on the wrong track.

What is the old saying, that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome? Well, let's not do the same thing over and over again—keep America on the wrong track and engage in a policy decision here on this minimum wage, this 40-percent increase in the minimum wage, which will actually hurt more people than it helps.

This is not just my view. There was a poll that came out yesterday which said, basically, once people understood that people would be put out of work by increasing the minimum wage, 58 percent said it is not worth it. So 58 percent of the respondents said it is not worth it.

You know, it would be nice—it would be great—if we lived in a world where Washington could dictate what wages will be and all of a sudden peace, love, and happiness would break out—the age of Aquarius—because Washington is somehow distributing free money that didn't come from somewhere, that didn't come out of somebody's pocket or as part of someone's overhead or it didn't have any negative impact. But that is not the world we live in.

Again, this is not just public opinion, it is not just my opinion, it is not just the opinion of the Congressional Budget Office about the job-killing nature of this dramatic 40-percent increase proposed in the minimum wage. Back in 1998, President Clinton's economic adviser Gene Sperling—who just left the Obama administration—wrote a memo to President Clinton when a similar proposal was being made to raise the minimum wage 41 percent at that time. The Harkin bill we will vote on here shortly proposes to raise the minimum wage 40 percent. This was back in 1998 that Gene Sperling is writing to President Clinton on a proposed increase of the minimum wage by 41 percent, but for all practical purposes it is the same sort of proposal. This is what Mr. Sperling wrote to President Clinton:

> Your entire economic team believes that this approach is too aggressive and are concerned that Senator Kennedy's proposal could prove damaging to the employment prospects of low-skilled workers . . .

This was Senator Ted Kennedy's proposal back in 1998. Again, that is what the Congressional Budget Office has said about this bill. He goes on to say, ''as well as to the general macroeconomic performance of the economy.''

So what are our friends across the aisle proposing we do when the economy grew at .1 percent this last quarter? Well, administer a body blow to this anemic economic growth. And this is not just my opinion. It is deja vu all

over again, as they say. I guess if you are around Washington long enough, you are going to see this movie replayed over and over.

The fact is that our economy is weaker today than it was in 1998. Sure, unemployment is coming down slowly, but the economy is growing too slowly and the number of people in the workforce is the lowest it has been for the last 30 years, the so-called labor participation rate.

So what did President Clinton do when his economic advisers said: Don't do it, Mr. President. While it is good politics, perhaps, it really will hurt the economy, and it will put people out of work.

President Clinton, to his credit, decided not to pursue that particular 41-percent increase in the minimum wage.

I mention that as a sad contrast with the current situation where President Obama, seeing his favorability ratings at the lowest they have been since he became President, is trying to change the subject and basically make a political point when the fact is that making the political point will actually hurt a lot of hard-working Americans.

So the majority leader has decided that rather than spend the week debating legislation that would actually create jobs, we should spend it debating a proposal that would destroy jobs.

We all know that a massive minimum wage increase such as this can be a job killer. So it really wasn't surprising when we saw that quantification by the Congressional Budget Office saying this proposal could destroy up to 1 million jobs. Yet, when I was listening here, I didn't hear the distinguished Senators from Massachusetts or from Minnesota talk at all about the Congressional Budget Office report. They want to ignore that. They want us to believe that this increase in the minimum wage would have little or no effect on employment and that maybe it would have a positive effect. I heard the Senator from Massachusetts make that claim, but the people who actually run America's businesses know better.

I had dinner the other night with some folks in the restaurant business, and I will mention some examples in a moment. Most of these folks I happened to have dinner with are pretty successful, but they started out washing dishes or bussing tables or waiting on tables. They started at the bottom and worked their way up because they could find a job, get their hand on the first rung of the economic ladder and then put the other hand on the next one and work their way up to where now they are very successful businesspeople. But they understand how businesses work. They understand the negative consequences of this bad policy coming from Washington, DC.

Just ask Robert Mayfield from Austin, TX, where I live. Mr. Mayfield has been in business for 35 years now, and he is pretty successful. He also knows a thing or two about the consequences of rising labor costs. This is what we are talking about. For a business, this is the overhead. This is the labor costs they have to pay out of their income.

Mr. Mayfield wants Members of Congress to know that he strongly opposes this proposal because it will cost people jobs. Here is how he describes it:

> What's most devastating about an increase in the minimum wage is that costs go up, and as a business owner, I have to raise prices—

So if we think we can pay somebody $10.10 an hour to work in a McDonalds and it won't have an impact on the cost of a Big Mac, well, we are living in a fantasy world. And that is what Mr. Mayfield says.

> I have to raise prices, and sometimes the market [won't bear it]. In the end, jobs will be lost and service will suffer . . . The people in Congress wanting to pass a minimum wage bill don't know any more about how a business works than a hog knows about Sunday School. What makes it worse is Obamacare hanging over our heads. It's a job killer.

I heard this again today from a friend of mine from San Antonio. Louis Barrios, whose family has run Mexican restaurants in San Antonio for many years, talked about the combination of ObamaCare and now this proposed minimum wage increase.

He said: Right now, we would like to pay a single mom who is working in our restaurants to take orders. If Congress lifts the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour, we will have no choice but to replace that server, that waitress, with an iPad.

That is what is happening in a lot of fast food restaurants these days.

Again, Congress shouldn't operate in a vacuum without knowledge or an awareness of what the consequences might be.

I am not suggesting that any of our friends who are advocating this minimum wage increase want to put that single mom out of work, but if we embrace that policy, that is what Louis Barrios told me this morning would likely happen. And people like Robert Mayfield and Louis Barrios are supported by countless economists.

So we have folks who are actually doing the work, and then we have the big thinkers like the economists who studied this issue and concluded that this size minimum wage increase is a really bad idea in terms of the economy. More than 500 of those economists, including several Nobel Laureates, recently signed an open letter to several policymakers expressing their opposition to this 40-percent minimum wage hike. Their letter said:

> Many of the businesses that pay their workers minimum wage operate on extremely tight profit margins, with any increase in the cost of labor threatening this delicate balance.

That is also what Robert Mayfield said: I can't absorb it without passing it along to customers, increasing the prices they have to pay or I may have to lay some people off or I may just have to close my business altogether.

They are operating on tight profit margins.

When so many economists and so many folks who are working across America are telling us the same thing—and the truth is that it makes perfect common sense—it would be the height of arrogance for us to ignore their concerns. But that is what President Obama and Majority Leader REID are asking us to do today.

I made this point at the beginning. I fully share our colleagues' concerns about the stagnant wages being earned by American workers all across America. Indeed, since the Obama economic recovery—that was after the recession of 2008, but after the Obama economic recovery started kicking in in June 2009, the median household income in this country has gone down by $1,800. So I understand the concern, but I find it a little depressing that Congress's only answer is to raise the minimum wage by 40 percent, which will put people out of work and shut down small businesses, when there are a lot better ways for us to address it, and I will talk about that in a moment. Raising the minimum wage by 40 percent will not grow the economy and it will not create jobs. It will do the opposite.

Of course, the truth is—and we read this in newspapers a couple of weeks ago—we all know what is happening here, so let's talk about the 800-pound gorilla here in the Senate Chamber. The truth is that the President and Majority Leader REID don't expect this bill to pass because they actually are very intelligent people and they know the facts as I have just described them here on the floor of the Senate. This is all about politics. This is about trying to make this side of the aisle look bad and hard-hearted to try to rescue this midterm election coming up in November. They see the President's approval rating going down, they see a number of midterm races for the Senate in play, and they have to do something. They are desperate. ObamaCare didn't work out the way they thought it would. You can't keep what you have if you like it. Your premiums didn't go down $2,500 if you are an average family of four. And, no, you can't keep your doctor in too many cases under the health insurance exchanges. So they are desperate.

We know from reporting in the New York Times and elsewhere that this minimum wage bill—this show vote we are going to have here shortly—is part of a larger messaging package created in collaboration with the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. That is not me talking; that is the admission by the leadership on the other side of the aisle. This is not about actually

solving the problem; this is about political theater, courtesy of Majority Leader REID.

The real tragedy is that millions of Americans don't have any time or any patience for this sort of political theater and partisan gamesmanship because the numbers are very troubling. The Obama recovery is 5 years old. Yet 10.5 million people are still unemployed—including 3.7 million people who have been unemployed for more than 6 months—with an additional 7.4 million people working part-time because they can't find full-time work or, because of ObamaCare, their employers have taken them off full-time work and put them on part-time work in order to avoid the employer penalties.

It is true that the hard-working American family needs some help, but the truth is that this remedy being offered today—this medicine—to try to supposedly solve the problem will just make things worse. So I have a proposition to make to our friends across the aisle. If they would work with us, if they would leave these games by the wayside, and if they would focus for a minute on trying to work with us to engage in solutions that would help grow the economy and help reduce unemployment and help raise wages across the Nation, then we would gladly embrace that, and we have introduced a number of bills that would do exactly that.

I know the distinguished Senator who is presiding comes from an energy-producing State like mine, and this is no mystery to her, but in Texas, like North Dakota, there are a lot of really good jobs, but people don't have the skills necessary to qualify for those good jobs.

I was in Fredericksburg, TX, recently, where they are training welders at the community college. A welder can make $100,000 or more a year. In the Permian Basin in Midland and Odessa, TX, truckdrivers can make $100,000 a year. It is unbelievable what this renaissance in American energy has done to our economy and job creation.

One thing we could do that would be a heck of a lot more constructive than this kind of show vote and partisan gamesmanship would be to improve our workforce training programs, the Pell grant program, and try to find ways to get people the training they need in order to qualify for these good, high-paying jobs being created by this wonderful renaissance in American energy.

We could do some other things. We could try to rein in some of the regulations that I hear about day in and day out from my constituents are constraining businesses. We could approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, which makes a lot of sense and would create about 42,000 jobs. It would give us a safe source of energy from a friendly country such as Canada. We could do something else constructive. We could provide some relief for those people who have had full-time jobs turned into part-time jobs because of ObamaCare. Senator COLLINS from Maine and Senator SCOTT from South Carolina have a bill that would do exactly that.

Unfortunately, while I am an optimistic person, I am not particularly optimistic about the majority leader and the President changing their tactics in this election year. So that is why, tragically, under these circumstances we find ourselves here today debating a jobs bill that will actually kill jobs rather than one that would create jobs. What a terrible lost opportunity that is.

I see my friend from Maryland is here ready to speak.

I ask unanimous consent that several letters that have been provided to us by organizations such as the American Hotel & Lodging Association, the Wholesale Marketers Association, among other business organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my comments. All of these letters are opposing this 40-percent minimum wage increase.

I would finally ask unanimous consent to make as part of the record a column written by a gentleman by the name of Michael Saltsman in the IndyStar newspaper entitled ''Wage hike cost is no myth.'' This is the source for the information we got about the Clinton archives and this memo that Gene Sperling wrote to President Clinton advising him that even though it might be good temporary politics, it would actually hurt a lot of low-wage workers. I ask unanimous consent that they be made part of the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Indy Star, Apr. 26, 2014]

WAGE HIKE COST IS NO MYTH

(By Michael Saltsman)

President Obama and Democrats in Congress have made a 40 percent increase in the minimum wage their signature election-year initiative. Supporters of the policy have dismissed concerns that the policy will hurt jobs as a ''myth'' (Indiana University's Fran Quigley made the claim in his April 15 column). But the ''myth'' argument has become increasingly difficult to defend. Not only has the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office validated opponents' worst fears about a higher minimum wage and job loss, but the release of new papers from President Clinton's archives shows that his own economic team had misgivings about a 40 percent wage hike.

In 1998, the U.S. economy was relatively strong: Business was booming, unemployment was at 4.6 percent, and just under 14 percent of teens were unemployed. (That's a relatively low figure for this demographic group.) The late Democratic Sen. Ted Kennedy had proposed a 40 percent increase in the federal minimum wage, from $5.15 an hour to $7.25.

But in a memo to President Clinton, chief economic adviser Gene Sperling warned against supporting the senator's plans: ''Your entire economic team believes that this [40 percent increase] approach is too aggressive . . . and could prove damaging to the employment prospects of low-skilled workers.'' Clinton took his team's advice. Flash forward 16 years: The U.S. economy today is dramatically weaker than it was in the late 1990s. Unemployment stands at 6.8 percent, and the unemployment rate for young adults is 20.6 percent. (The jobless rate for this young age group has been above 20 percent for 66 months, a historical record.) If President Clinton's economic team was concerned about enacting a 40 percent wage hike in 1998, they'd be scared to death of doing it now.

And with good reason: The CBO analyzed the minimum wage proposal on the table, and estimated that as many as 1 million jobs would be lost if it was passed. A recent national survey of affected employers indicates that nearly 40 percent would be forced to cut staff to adapt to the higher labor costs. Even the Obama White House, in private conversations in 2013, was uneasy with a dramatic wage increase in this environment: According to the Washington Post, the president's team ''rejected a figure so high, worried that it could destroy jobs.''

What explains this year's lapse of economic judgment, then? One explanation, supported by reporting in The New York Times, is that the push for $10.10 is an election-year ploy to boost enthusiasm among the party's base. It's also a useful tactic to change the conversation away from the deeply unpopular health-care law—even if it comes with collateral damage for the least skilled in America. We won't know for certain if President Obama endorsed this cynical strategy until his own records and papers are released—perhaps 10 or 15 years from now. What we can say for certain today is that supporters of a higher minimum wage are flat-out wrong when they dismiss the employment consequences of a 40 percent hike. If claiming that a minimum wage hike will harm jobs truly is a ''right-wing myth,'' it's the only such myth that both the Obama and Clinton White Houses believed in.

APRIL 28, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR: The undersigned associations, representing a broad cross section of the U.S. economy, urge you to reject current proposals to raise the Federal minimum wage. One such proposal is S. 2223, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act, which will increase the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour for non-tipped employees and tie future minimum wage increases to inflation.

For many businesses, this 39 percent increase could truly be the difference between continuing to operate and going out of business. For the employees it attempts to help, it may be the difference between a job and unemployment.

As the Congressional Budget Office recently confirmed, raising the minimum wage will be detrimental to job creation and low-skilled workers trying to get started on the economic ladder. Traditional economic theory and modeling holds that the more expensive something is, the less of it one can afford. This is exactly what will happen if the minimum wage is increased—there will be fewer low-skilled workers hired, other workers will lose hours, and employers will have more incentive to find other ways to be productive, such as using technology or automation where they would previously have hired

someone. When Congress' own economists say increasing the minimum wage will reduce employment, Congress should listen.

Any discussion about raising the minimum wage needs to recognize that many businesses run under very slim operating margins and will have the hardest time absorbing these higher labor costs. They will have to find more revenues or trim costs to make up the difference. Furthermore, indexing the minimum wage to inflation means that employers will likely be faced with automatically increasing labor costs without an automatic increase in revenues or profits.

Further, while the legislative package may contain benefits intended to help small businesses, these are insufficient to mitigate the negative impact the wage increase will surely have on businesses.

We respectfully ask that you oppose S. 1737 and other similar proposals to raise the minimum wage. The best way to help low-skilled and low-income workers is to favor more comprehensive, pro-growth solutions to our nation's most pressing economic issues.

Sincerely,

American Hotel and Lodging Association, American Wholesale Marketers Association, Asian American Hotel Owners Association, Association of Kentucky Fried Chicken Franchisees, International Franchise Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of Theatre Owners, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors, National Council of Chain Restaurants, National Federation of Independent Business, National Franchisee Association, National Grocers Association, National Office Products Alliance, National Restaurant Association, National Retail Federation, NATSO, representing America's Travel Plazas and Truckstops, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Professional Landcare Network, Society of American Florists, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

Re: American Farm Bureau Federation Opposition of S. 2223

U.S. SENATE,
Washington DC.

DEAR SENATOR: For agricultural producers across America, remaining economically competitive on fruits, vegetables and other commodities that are labor intensive is a continual struggle. Particularly over the last few decades, the American market has seen tremendous increases in the importation of foreign-grown produce, especially from nations where labor costs are substantially lower than those in the United States. Nevertheless, hired labor (including contract labor) remains an important input to U.S. agricultural production, accounting for about 17 percent of variable production expenses and about 40 percent of such expenses for fruits, vegetables, and nursery products.

As the Congressional Budget Office recently confirmed, raising the minimum wage will be detrimental to job creation and low-skilled workers trying to get started on the economic ladder. As the minimum wage is increased, workers risk losing hours and employers will have more incentive to invest in technology rather than hiring the low-skilled worker. Additionally, in the agricultural sector, where margins are historically slim, any proposal that escalates labor costs can put growers in a precarious position. S. 2223, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act, proposes to increase the federal minimum wage by nearly 40 percent, making it even more difficult for growers to remain competitive. Growers will have to find more revenues or trim costs to make up the difference. The increased pressure from higher labor costs would only make it harder for farmers, particularly small- and medium-sized growers, to compete or even stay in business.

S. 2223 threatens the economic well-being of many agricultural producers in labor-intensive crops. Farm Bureau urges you to vote ''no'' on this bill when it is taken up on the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

BOB STALLMAN,
President.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, urges you to vote against S. 2223, the ''Minimum Wage Fairness Act,'' which would ultimately increase the federal minimum wage by $2.85 per hour, and index it to inflation.

The proposed increase—almost 40 %—would cause small business employers who have very tight operating margins and are least able to absorb higher costs to eliminate entry-level jobs, reduce hours and benefits for current employees, and possibly dismiss current employees. Furthermore, indexing the minimum wage to inflation means labor costs would continue to increase even though employer revenues and profits may not.

Many economists, including those used by Congress, have concluded that raising the minimum wage would be detrimental to job creation and low-skilled workers trying to get started on the economic ladder. The Congressional Budget Office recently determined that as many as 500,000 jobs could be lost by late 2016 if this increase is passed. This determination was later endorsed by Chairman of the Federal Reserve Janet Yellen—if the minimum wage is increased there would be fewer low skilled workers hired, other workers would lose hours, and employers would have more incentive to replace employees with technology or automation.

The economics columnist Robert Samuelson summed it up well: ''Many studies find negative job effects. The CBO didn't make them up. Hiking the minimum wage is more compelling as politics than as social policy . . . weak labor markets still reflect the Great Recession's hangover.''

Additionally, the temporary tax breaks included in this bill to soften the impact would not offset the harm of the additional labor costs. The push for this increase in the minimum wage comes against the backdrop of employers struggling to recover from the recession and to figure out the impact of Obamacare on their operations. The last thing they need is for the cost of their labor to go up as well.

Increasing the minimum wage would be a further drag on the economy and Chamber members trying to be part of the recovery, both big and small. The Chamber strongly opposes S. 2223, the ''Minimum Wage Fairness Act.'' The Chamber may consider including votes on, or in relation to, S. 2223—including votes on the motion to proceed—in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN,
Executive Vice President,
Government Affairs.

INTERNATIONAL FOODSERVICE
DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION,
McLean, VA, April 29, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the International Foodservice Distributors Association, I am writing to urge you to oppose legislation to raise the minimum wage. As our economy continues to struggle amid uncertainty around issues such as healthcare, now is not the time for government to impose additional new costs on American businesses.

IFDA is the non-profit trade association that represents businesses in the foodservice distribution industry throughout the United States and internationally. IFDA members include broadline, systems, and specialty foodservice distributors that supply food and related products to professional kitchens from restaurants, colleges and universities, to hospitals and care facilities, hotels and resorts, and other foodservice operations. Our members operate more than 800 distribution facilities with more than $125 billion in annual sales.

Increasing the minimum wage at this time makes little sense, especially with our foodservice operator customers continuing to face tremendous headwinds from a wide variety of factors. As employers struggle to create jobs, the nation's job participation rate remains at historically low levels. This has resulted in severe reductions in consumer's disposable income, a critical element in the growth of food away from home.

Other challenges have come from additional government requirements. The employer mandate in the Affordable Care Act will result in dramatic cost increases as operators must provide healthcare for their employees or move their workforce away from full time employment. The continued diversion of corn to the fuel supply created by the Renewable Fuel Standard has increased costs by as much as $18,000 per year to individual restaurant operators.

Increasing the minimum wage now will do nothing to solve what continues to be the most critical issue facing our nation today, the stagnant economy and continuing high unemployment rate. I strongly urge you to oppose any effort to increase the minimum wage.

With best wishes,

JONATHAN EISEN,
Senior Vice President,
Government Relations.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE
ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the nation's 825,000 franchise small businesses and the nearly 18 million workers they support, I write today to urge you to vote against legislation to raise the federal minimum wage. One such proposal is S. 2223, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act, which will increase the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour and tie future minimum wage increases to inflation. For the many franchise businesses that are labor-intensive and already operate on thin profit margins, this legislation could be the difference between continuing to operate and going out of business—between maintaining employees or shedding more jobs.

Businesses should be able to determine the most competitive starting wage and subsequent raises for their employees within their

industry and local economy. A drastic minimum wage increase would ripple throughout the fragile American economy and undermine employer's desires to reward hard work with wage increases. This effect will be even more pronounced when combined with the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act's employer mandate. According to the Congressional Budget Office, raising the minimum wage will be detrimental to job creation and low-skilled workers trying to get started on the economic ladder. When Congress' own economists say increasing the minimum wage will reduce employment, Congress should listen.

Although this legislation contains other benefits for small businesses that the International Franchise Association (IFA) fully supports, they are insufficient to mitigate the negative impact of a drastic increase in the minimum wage. On their own, tax incentives for purchasing or hiring are a significant boon for franchise business owners, and they should be considered along with other business tax extenders that will help the nation's small businesses grow and thrive. Including important pro-growth initiatives as a sweetener for the bitter pill of an artificial wage floor that disrupts the labor market is the type of public policy that holds our nation's franchise owners back from fully contributing to the nation's economic recovery.

I urge you to vote ''NO'' on this measure. The IFA will consider all votes on, or in relation to, this issue among our annual list of ''Key Votes.''

Sincerely,

STEPHEN J. CALDEIRA,
President & Chief Executive Officer,
International Franchise Association.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHAIN RESTAURANTS,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR ALEXANDER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR ALEXANDER: The U.S. Senate is expected to consider S. 2223, legislation seeking to increase the federal minimum wage from its current level of $7.25 an hour to $10.10 an hour, an increase of 40 percent. On behalf of the National Council of Chain Restaurants, I am writing to express our strong opposition to this ill-timed and flawed proposal.

At this key juncture in the country's economic recovery, the last thing that the Senate should be considering is a scheme to raise labor costs on many local businesses across the United States. As you may know, the vast majority of workers earning the minimum wage are teens living with their parents, adults living alone, or second household earners. Moreover, as minimum wage workers gain important skills, they receive significant raises. As such, the legislation before the Senate fails to recognize that the federal minimum wage is a starting wage, and that most employees don't stay on this starting wage for very long.

In addition, S. 2223 would increase the cash wage for tipped employees by almost 240 percent. This provision is included even though current law already requires employers to pay eligible employees the statutory wage rate in the uncommon instance that tipped income doesn't reach the starting wage rate (on a national level, the median hourly wage for tipped employees is $16–$22/hour). Finally, the proposal links future wage hikes to the consumer price index, injecting an unnecessary degree of uncertainty and volatility into labor cost calculations for chain restaurant businesses.

Chain restaurants are employers of opportunity in local communities around the country, whether it is a first job for individuals with limited work skills to long-term careers in a fast-paced, competitive and innovative industry. Rather than considering legislation which raises the cost of staying in business for labor-intensive small establishments while limiting needed job opportunities, the Senate should advance policies proven to foster broad-based economic growth and to address the historically low labor participation rate and the nation's persistently high unemployment rate (including a teen unemployment rate of over 20 percent).

We urge you to oppose S. 2223, or related legislation, when it is considered by the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. GREEN,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I am writing in strong opposition to S. 2223, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act, a bill to increase the minimum wage to $10.10 and permanently index it to inflation. NFIB opposes any effort to increase the federal minimum wage, and a vote on S. 2223 will be considered an NFIB KEY VOTE for the 113th Congress.

Like most government mandates on business, raising the minimum wage will have a deep and disproportionate impact on the small-business sector because small businesses are the least able to absorb such a dramatic increase in their labor costs. The small-business sector has historically created two-thirds of net new private jobs in the U.S. economy, but has failed to recover in recent years because of a series of policies that increase the burden on small-business owners—increases to healthcare costs, higher taxes, more costly regulations, and now the minimum wage increase proposal.

The minimum wage directly affects small businesses because a large amount of their earnings go directly to pay for operating expenses, such as equipment, supplies, property costs, inventory and employee wages and benefits. Increasing labor costs does not incentivize growth or hiring—they make it nearly impossible. Permanently indexing the minimum wage, like S. 2223 proposes, would ensure that it would rise every year, further adding to the burden placed on employers and placing them at a competitive disadvantage. S. 2223 also increases the minimum cash wage for tipped employees until it reaches 70 percent of the federal minimum wage. Raising the cost of labor creates incentives for employers to find ways to use less labor.

The latest Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report supports NFIB's Research Foundation findings: significant job loss as a result of increasing the minimum wage. NFIB's Research Foundation analyzed the potential economic impact of raising the California, Illinois, New Jersey and New York minimum wages, and the results were telling. An increase of California's minimum wage to $9.25 per hour would cost the state 68,000 jobs—63 percent of which are in the small business sector—and a $5.7 billion reduction in real economic output. Illinois would lose 21,000 jobs (67 percent in small businesses) and $4.5 billion in economic output from an increase to $10.65 per hour. A New Jersey proposal to increase the minimum wage to $8.25 would cut 31,000 jobs from the state (59 percent in small businesses) and $17.4 billion in lost economic output. The New York study concluded a loss of 68,000 jobs (more than 70 percent in small businesses) and $2.5 billion in lost economic output.

The job killing effects of this minimum wage hike are obvious. Small business cannot afford another economically devastating mandate from the federal government. NFIB urges you to vote NO on S. 2223 and will consider it an NFIB KEY VOTE for the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

SUSAN ECKERLY,
Senior Vice President,
Public Policy.

NATIONAL GROCERS ASSOCIATION,
April 28, 2014.

Hon. SENATOR HARRY REID,
Senate Majority Leader, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Republican Leader, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID AND SENATOR MCCONNELL: The National Grocers Association (NGA) strongly urges a NO VOTE on the Minimum Wage Fairness Act (S. 2223) as it comes to the floor for a vote. NGA Independent retail and wholesale grocers have a significant economic impact across nearly every community in America. Our industry is accountable for close to 1 percent of the nation's overall economy and is responsible for generating $131 billion in sales, 944,000 jobs, $30 billion in wages, and $27 billion in tax revenue. We are proud that the communities we serve are also the neighborhoods we live in.

The Minimum Wage Fairness Act, if enacted would increase the federal minimum wage to $10.10 per hour over a 2 year period and tie future minimum wage increases to inflation. While the independent grocery industry welcomes any focus on the improving economy and creating jobs, a minimum wage increase during a time when our economy continues to recover runs counter to that goal. A recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) supports this claim noting that increasing the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour could reduce total employment by 500,000 workers by the second half of 2016.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2012, cashiers in the grocery industry made an hourly mean wage of $10.24, nearly 2 dollars more than the current federal minimum wage and higher than any of the other retail industries including department stores, convenience stores, and restaurants. Grocers are proud of the jobs that we provide and the wide array of career opportunities we offer to our employees. We are often the first job for many teens and offer diverse opportunities for employees of many skill sets, some of which have age restrictions such as meat cutters, bailers, and fork lift operators who must be at least 18 years of age.

Because this is a critical issue to our member companies, NGA will be key voting the Minimum Wage Fairness Act (S. 2223) and including it on our 2014 Legislative Scorecard. Thank you for your consideration. Independent grocers look forward to your support on this very important issue by VOTING NO on S. 2223.

Sincerely,

PETER J. LARKIN,
President and CEO.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF MANUFACTURERS,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to oppose the Motion to Proceed to S. 2223, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act introduced by Senator Tom Harkin (D–IA).

The NAM supports labor policies promoting job creation and manufacturers are committed to compensating employees at a competitive wage for their work. High levels of job performance and employee satisfaction are encouraged by relating compensation that is both internally equitable and externally competitive to performance on the job.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently reported raising the minimum wage from $7.25 to $10.10 an hour will be detrimental to job creation. In fact, CBO estimates that an increase in the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour could result in a loss of employment of 500,000 by the second half of 2016.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on S. 2223, including procedural motions such as a Motion to Proceed, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 113th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ARIC NEWHOUSE,
Senior Vice President,
Policy and Government Relations.

NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the nation's restaurant and foodservice industry, we urge you to oppose the Minimum Wage Fairness Act (S. 2223). The National Restaurant Association may consider any votes on, or related to, this legislation in our annual ''How They Voted'' legislative scorecard.

The Minimum Wage Fairness Act, would increase the federal minimum wage to $10.10 an hour and raise the minimum cash wage for tipped employees to 70 percent of the minimum wage for non-tipped employees. This represents a nearly 40 percent increase in the current federal wage, and a tripling of the cash wage for employees who receive tips.

With over 13.5 million employees, the restaurant and foodservice industry is the second-largest private employer in the United States. As average pre-tax profit margins in the restaurant industry range from 4 to 6 percent, restaurateurs have little ability to absorb or offset higher labor costs, especially at this time of economic and operational uncertainty. Roughly 90 percent of the industry consists of small business owners, with only 1 out of 10 restaurants in the U.S. owned and operated by chain corporations.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) officially concluded that raising the federal minimum wage to $10.10 would result in 500,000 job losses. Moreover, that's a conservative estimate, as CBO recognized in its analysis that the job losses could be as high as 1 million.

As the continued fiscal battles at the federal level have negatively affected consumer confidence, the unknown factors associated with potentially significant cost increases from implementation of the 2010 health care law have created an increasingly difficult business environment for Main Street businesses. While we understand the legislation is intended to help low-income families, U.S. Census data reveals that the average household income of restaurant employees who earn the federal minimum wage is $62,507. Moreover, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 71 percent of minimum wage restaurant workers are individuals under the age of 25, most of whom work part-time. These are critical positions for bringing people into the labor force.

Mandating such a dramatic increase in the starting wage at this time, when many businesses are already struggling in a difficult economic climate, will limit employment opportunities and slow economic growth in a sector of the economy that is undergoing a tremendous amount of change. We welcome a discussion about wages and economic factors, but we ask you to oppose this proposed wage increase and similar proposals and work with the small business community on a plan to strengthen the economy and create some sense of certainty going forward.

Sincerely,

SCOTT DEFIFE,
Executive Vice President,
Policy and Government Affairs.

NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPUBLICAN LEADER MCCONNELL: On behalf of the National Retail Federation (NRF) and the nation's retail industry, I am writing to urge you to oppose the proposed forty percent increase in the federal minimum wage that the Senate plans to consider this week. Our nation's economy is continuing to struggle to create jobs, and this legislation will likely make it worse, particularly among younger workers. Please note that we will consider votes on this measure among the Key Retail Votes for our annual voting scorecard.

NRF is the world's largest retail trade association, representing discount and department stores, home goods and specialty stores, Main Street merchants, grocers, wholesalers, chain restaurants and Internet retailers from the United States and more than 45 countries. Retail is the nation's largest private sector employer, supporting one in four U.S. jobs—42 million working Americans. Contributing $2.5 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation's economy. NRF's This is Retail campaign highlights the industry's opportunities for life-long careers, how retailers strengthen communities, and the critical role that retail plays in driving innovation.

Raising the standard of living for low-skill, low-wage workers is a valid goal, but there is clear evidence that mandated wage hikes undermine the job prospects for less skilled and part-time workers. Policymakers have other tools, such as increasing the earned income tax credit, fixing the tax code, education improvements, immigration reform, transportation funding, and strong trade alliances that will aid in achieving that goal without creating more unemployment. Finding more opportunities for those trying to start out is a better economic approach than restricting the amount of jobs for those seeking employment.

What we should be doing is talking about how we improve people's chances to move up. The minimum wage was designed to have young people get into the marketplace to get started. With a workforce of 155 million, a approximately 2 million are on minimum wage. To talk about raising the entry, or starting, wage is to admit we have failed on education and training.

Slow job growth is the most pressing issue facing the U.S. economy and our focus should be on the creation of jobs and increasing opportunities for the under-employed. For many businesses, particularly smaller employers, uncertainty is the dominant mood. Higher labor costs also loom in the future with the pending implementation of the Affordable Care Act. All of these factors suggest that now is the least opportune moment to engage in what is essentially an opportunity tax by raising the minimum wage.

Employers respond to higher labor costs by hiring fewer workers. A higher minimum wage eliminates entry-level positions that provide unskilled employees the opportunity to gain experience. Less experience makes it harder for workers to become more productive and earn higher wages. There is a domino effect: such an increase creates wage inflation by putting upward pressure on existing wages of those making more than the minimum. It would limit job growth and stunt that group of workers ability to advance. There would be a contraction of jobs instead of an increase in positions available. Lost jobs as a consequence of a higher minimum wage will inevitably make it harder for these individuals to learn new job skills than can create a path to a brighter future.

The retail sector has been a leading job creator throughout the recession and the recovery. For many Americans, the retail industry provides the chance to learn new job skills, to earn a living, to find a career, or to earn some extra money. Retail offers a wide range of career opportunities, the vast majority of which are above minimum wage, and supports one out of four U.S. jobs.

NRF encourages Congress to forgo soundbite politics and instead focus on economic policies that find ways of putting people to work. This is not the time for yet another anti-job mandate for those employees that are looking for jobs and those companies who want to help grow the economy.

NRF looks forward to working with Congress as you seek to increase economic growth in this country.

Sincerely,

DAVID FRENCH,
Senior Vice President,
Government Relations.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Thank you, Madam President.

I have been on the floor several times, and many of my colleagues, particularly on this side of the aisle, have been here to talk about a growing trend in America; that we see a concentration of wealth and a shrinking middle class. If you are a business owner, you should be very concerned about that. The growing middle class is what buys the products that go to the restaurants that keep our economy going. Time and time again we have asked to proceed on legislation that would allow us to help the growing middle class. This is not our first effort with the minimum wage. Many States have passed increases in the minimum wage. It is time for our Federal Government to do the same, to help a growing middle class.

The last effort was on behalf of gender equity, paycheck fairness, where we sought to have a fair shot for women in the workplace, so they don't have to work extra time to make the same income as a man for equal work. A woman receives on average about 77 percent of what a man does in the same job. So we tried to move forward with a fair shot for women with paycheck fairness. But, no, the Republicans said, no, we are not even going to consider it. We are not even going to take that up.

We are hearing some of the same arguments now in regard to proceeding on the debate on the minimum wage. My friend from Texas talked about the Affordable Care Act. We are proud the Affordable Care Act gives a fair shot for all Americans to have access to quality, affordable health care. Millions of Americans today have quality health insurance coverage they didn't have before the passage of the Affordable Care Act. It is working. We now know that insurance companies cannot discriminate against women or anyone based upon preexisting conditions. Those days are over. There is now a fair shot for health care access—access for all Americans. We know small business owners now can get competitive plans and they can choose among a lot of different types of plans, a fair shot for small business owners to be treated equally with larger companies in regard to the insurance marketplace. We have done that.

We have expanded Medicaid to close that coverage gap known as the doughnut hole for prescription drug coverage, and there are no longer any copayments on preventive health care. We extended Medicare because we want a fair shot for our seniors for their security, and that is why our caucus defends the Social Security system, knowing how important it is for our seniors. Yes, we do fight for our children. A fair shot for our children means we support Head Start and we support help for higher education because we know that is the ticket to economic growth.

In a few moments—in a few moments—we will have a chance for a fair shot for working families in this country by moving to consider the minimum wage law. We haven't adjusted the minimum wage law for a long time. I heard my friend from Texas talk about job issues. Every time we have increased the minimum wage our economy has grown, and there is a reason for that. This legislation will put $34 billion into the economy, will help grow the economy, and will lift 2 million Americans out of poverty.

Think about this. If someone works 40 hours a week and they receive the minimum wage, there is not a State in this country where they can get affordable housing. People cannot support their family on the minimum wage in the United States of America. By passing the Minimum Wage Act, we give 28 million Americans a raise. This is a fair shot for all workers in this country.

Let me dispel some of the rumors that are out there. The average age of a person on minimum wage is 35 years old. We are not talking about college students. We are talking about people trying to support a family on the minimum wage, and they cannot do it. Many have children. The majority are women. It is time we answer this inequity in our system. We haven't had an increase in the minimum wage—in fact, if we look at what it was in 1968, this increase will basically get us back to where we were in 1968. It will help our economy.

We have heard these projections before; that every time we do this it will kill jobs. It doesn't do that. Look at the history. Look at what has happened with the previous increases in the minimum wage: Our economy has gotten stronger. It has grown stronger.

So it is time to give a raise to American workers. It is time to help a growing middle class. It is time we give a fair shot to working families in America. I urge my colleagues to vote to proceed on this debate. Don't continue a filibuster. Let's give America a fair shot, and I urge my colleagues to support the motion to proceed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Thank you, Madam President.

I rise to offer rebuttal to the claims my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are making about their proposals to enact an unprecedented increase in the Federal minimum wage. I come at this issue as a former small business owner and an employee who once worked for the minimum wage. I started as a stock boy. Another time I was a window washer. I learned some important things while I was doing that: I learned work ethic, I learned to show up on time, I learned to do the job well, and learned other skills so I could advance. Eventually I got the schooling, skills and the work ethic to own my own business.

My colleagues gloss over the fact that minimum wage is for entry-level employees. Unskilled workers, young people, and those new to the workforce are those who typically earn the minimum wage because it is their first job or opportunity to gain career skills. This is evidenced by the fact that a majority of minimum wage earners are between the ages of 16 and 24. These are the jobs where the workers learn to be dependable, how to work with other employees, and how to obtain that work ethic. A lot of them don't know how to run a cash register. They don't know how to make change. They don't know how to greet a customer. They don't know how to interrupt their texting in order to wait on the customer. This is why two-thirds of the employees who start at the minimum wage are earning more than the minimum wage within 1 year. They learn how to do those things. They pick up skills.

Somebody was talking to me about how people who are getting the minimum wage are in dead-end jobs such as fast food. I happened to be standing next to a guy who was working at Burger King. He said: Wait a minute. I started 6 months ago. I started at minimum wage. I learned the job. I am dependable. I show up. I know what the other work is. I am a supervisor now. In 6 months, I am a supervisor. I am making a lot more than the minimum wage, and in another year I might have my own store.

That might have some validity because I have a friend in Cheyenne who owns a McDonald's, and he points out to me the other people in Wyoming who now own a McDonald's who used to work for him who all started at a minimum wage. You have to start somewhere.

A lot of people think when they graduate from college they are supposed to move into an executive position. Chances are they will get a job and they will start at the bottom of the company. If they do their work well, learn the skills and become dependable, they will work their way up and they will make more money.

Even more troubling are the claims my colleagues are making to justify this particular increase. Increasing the Federal minimum wage by nearly 40 percent represents an arbitrary and unprecedented increase which is largely unsupported by economic analysis. Both in the Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee and on the Senate floor advocates for this bill have declared that an increase to $10.10 an hour would restore the minimum wage to the purchasing power it had in 1968. They make this claim because they use the Consumer Price Index to justify their point of view. What they are doing is starting an inflation cycle.

Look at this. If somebody is making $7 and they get moved to $10, the person who is working for $9 has to go to $12 and the person at $11 has to go to $14 and so on up. You cannot put on a new guy with no skills at a wage higher than they were before unless everybody gets a pay raise. That is wonderful. It goes all the way up the ladder. It just doesn't stop at the $14 level. In fact, it even affects seniors. The seniors' cost of living is based on wages, not on what it costs a senior to buy something. So everybody in America is going to get a raise, and that is wonderful, except—and here is the catch—in order to pay for those raises the money has to come from somewhere.

So if you like the dollar deal at your fast-food place, get ready for a dollar

and a half at your fast-food place. Yes, right, it is only a 40-percent increase, but a buck and a half sounds better than $1.40, so they are going to raise it to the next level where they can pick up the customers, where it will sound good. Yes, you get a 30-percent increase, but the cost of what you buy goes up 30 percent. Did you get ahead? I don't think so.

The only one that gains in that is the Federal Government. You have moved into a higher tax bracket. That is how we raise taxes in America. We cause an inflation cycle. We give people more money and we make them pay more taxes and all they get to buy is whatever they bought before. So that purchasing power of 1968 will go up to the purchasing power of 2009 and beyond because the prices will have to go up.

My colleagues are quick to deny the CBO estimates that we have all seen which suggest their proposed plan would result in a loss of low-wage jobs. The minimum wage does not have to go up for minimum wage employees to get a raise. The proposal before the Senate throws cold water on job creation and adds to the burden businesses are already facing under the President's failed health care program.

Instead, the Senate should be considering proposals which promote job growth. The Workforce Investment Act has been out there for 8 years. It would train millions of people to jobs that are available in their community right now. It would give them skills beyond the minimum wage. Let's consider tax reform, growing U.S. exports, approving the Keystone XL Pipeline, as several of my colleagues and I recently highlighted.

But let me also speak on a personal level about the minimum wage. I have noted many times that I was a small business owner. My wife and I operated our own shoe stores in Wyoming and Montana. I know that all small business owners have families, their own and the families who work with them. One cannot credibly claim to be helping workers while at the same time hurting the businesses that employ them, especially under the guise of helping working families.

At our shoe store we hired people who didn't have basic skills. Some of them had never run a cash register. They never sold anything. They weren't sure how you dressed in the business community. We put them through courses. Each course resulted in a pay raise. For several people after several months they were actually able to earn what they were paid. Yes, it costs money to train people, especially those who have little or no skills, and those are the ones whom we need to help.

By increasing the minimum wage Congress would shut the employment door on the very individuals they are trying to help. Small business is the driver of our economy. They take these unskilled workers and they train them. The simple fact is that an increase of minimum wage is of no benefit to a worker without a job or a job seeker without a prospect of getting a job.

I want to cover that tax problem again—the inflation issue. Minimum wage increases also start an inflation cycle. When some people get a wage increase, then everyone has to get a wage increase to recognize those who know more, do more, are more reliable, and have more skills. To pay everyone more, prices have to go up. When this happens, people will make more, but they have to spend more so they actually don't get ahead. The only one who benefits is the Federal Government because they get a tax increase.

At some point someone actually has to produce more to get more, and that can be done with new skills or a new idea with training. The problem we face is one of minimum skills, not minimum wages. The effect may be low wages, but the cause is low skills. We need to address those workers who have few, if any, of the skills they need to compete for a better job and command higher wages.

We need to start thinking in terms of skills, the kind of skills that will help students support themselves and their families in the future, that will empower our current workforce to pursue higher-paying jobs and those without a job to become selfsustaining. I sincerely hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle reconsider their plans to continue to push this effort. There are a number of bills this Senate can consider that would promote job creation over an arbitrary increase in the Federal minimum wage. Our focus should be on small businesses and creating a business environment that is friendly for growth, builds and gives people jobs that pay more than the minimum wage. Higher prices, higher taxes, and fewer jobs is not what Wyoming and the rest of the country needs in these fragile times.

I yield the floor and reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I say to my colleague from Wyoming that I disagree with him on this issue, but I do agree wholeheartedly with his observation about the importance of training people for this 21st century economy, and I have enjoyed working with him so much on the HELP Committee.

I am on the floor today to talk about the minimum wage bill that is before us this week, and once again to have the opportunity to come here and say that Washington, DC, is absolutely decoupled with the conversations people are having in Colorado, whether they are Republicans, Democrats or Independents. We had another example of that here today during this debate—if you can call it a debate—because once again there are people in the Senate who are using their prerogatives as Senators to keep us from debating a bill fully and to keep us from actually having an up-or-down vote on a bill that the vast majority of Americans support whether they are Democrats, Republicans, or Independents.

There is a reason why America supports this legislation. If you work 40 hours a week in the United States of America—the greatest country in the world—at a Federal minimum wage, you barely make over $15,000 a year. If you work 40 hours a week—week after week after week—you make $15,000 a year. A worker in this country with a spouse and two kids, a family of four—a typical family in this country—depending on the single minimum wage paycheck is in deep trouble. They are not just below the minimum wage, that family makes two-thirds of the poverty level.

A breadwinner in a family of four working at the minimum wage is more than $8,000 below the poverty line. That family with a full-time breadwinner is impoverished in the United States of America to the tune of $8,000. If you have a family who depends on you to keep a roof over their heads and put food on the table, that is not enough to get by. It is not even close.

It may be hard for people here who are paid $174,000 a year to understand what it would be like to live on $15,000, but let's think a little bit about what that family's life is like. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that even under the cheapest plan possible—the thriftiest plan possible—where the family cuts every single corner, spending as little as can be spent, it costs over $7,000 a year to feed a family of four with growing kids. It costs $7,000 under the most difficult circumstances possible. At least half of that family's $15,000 paycheck goes just to groceries—just to feeding a family and keeping them nourished. After payroll taxes, that leaves a family with less than $7,000 to cover every other cost—that is it. Food is half of what you bring home and you are left with $7,000.

In Denver, where my family lives, the average rental unit costs over $12,000 a year. That is an average. That includes tiny studio apartments. In Denver, this family of four would have to squeeze into a rental unit well under half that cost. They would need to live in a space woefully inadequate for their needs, their family, and their children. That family would have to stretch their pocket change—and whatever is left after they spend the money they barely have to feed and house their children—to cover utilities, medicine, health, clothes, transportation, school supplies, and the countless other expenses that life throws at us. It cannot be done. It is simple arithmetic.

A family such as the one I just described needs thousands of additional dollars from the Federal and local government just to get by. We don't want to have a minimum wage that is so low that people who are working 40 hours a week have to be on public assistance just to support their families. Think about how crazy that is. Someone working full time, 40 hours a week in a minimum wage job today, needs thousands of dollars in support from the Government to provide for their family. That is not what we want in America.

The situation is a lot worse than it used to be because the minimum wage is not indexed to inflation. So as costs rise, the minimum wage loses its purchasing power and stays the same until Congress raises it, which is why we are trying to have this debate here. There is no one else who can do this in America. Democratic and Republican Congresses that have dealt with this over the years have found ways to do it. Congress has raised the minimum wage over and over for precisely that reason.

Even so, today, as we stand on this floor with the responsibility to the American people, our minimum wage is down substantially from where it used to be. The Federal minimum wage stands at $7.25 an hour. That is $3.44 an hour and more than $7,000 a year below what it was in 1968 in real inflation-adjusted dollars. It is a $7,000 gap, which makes a huge difference to the family of four we just considered trying to survive on the minimum wage.

In 1968, a minimum wage job kept a family of three out of poverty. That is what the Congress did in 1968. They said if you work 40 hours a week, your family ought to live above the poverty line. A full-time worker with two children was 20 percent above the poverty line. Today that same family is 19 percent below the poverty line all because the minimum wage has not kept pace with inflation. It also has not kept pace with average earnings.

In 1968, the minimum wage was 54 percent of the average hourly pay for a U.S. worker; today it is just 36 percent. At the same time, even when you account for inflation, college costs are three times what they were four decades ago. It is no wonder that the working families I hear from in Colorado feel they are working harder than ever before but falling farther behind.

The bill we are talking about today raises the Federal minimum wage by 39 percent to $10.10 an hour. That is actually less than the 47-percent increase that is required to get back to the 1968 level. So we are still not going to be back where we were in 1968, but we will make progress in the sense that the people who are earning minimum wage will no longer be living in poverty.

Consider what this bill does for a family's ability to provide for itself. Look at just one major Federal safety net program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP. Food stamps is what that is. The reason the House of Representatives held up the farm bill for so long was over the issue of food stamps. As we think about what we are doing here and the debate we are having, I think that is important to keep in context. This is a program that millions of low-income families depend on in order to eat.

This minimum wage bill would reduce SNAP enrollments by over 7½ percent because people would now be making a living wage. That is over 3.1 million Americans who would no longer have to depend on a program to feed their kids. If you vote for this legislation, you are voting to reduce the roles of those who depend on food stamps by 3 million Americans. It is not a virtue that we have those 3 million Americans on food stamps. They ought to be earning a living wage. We would save $46 billion in SNAP payments over the next decade if we pass this bill.

It applies to other programs as well. Two-thirds of Americans who earn under $10 an hour use public assistance in some form—two-thirds, two-thirds, two-thirds. Working families—Americans who actually have a job who are working 40 hours a week—cost the Government about $243 million a year through programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, and other safety-net programs. Raising the minimum wage makes American workers less dependent on these programs to support their families.

There are many compelling reasons to raise the minimum wage. There is a compelling reason why all the surveys show that the American people, no matter what party they are in, think we ought to raise the minimum wage. Yet in a few hours, if nothing changes, a minority of Senators will most likely not even come to the floor to vote on this but will use their powers in the Senate to block an honest up-or-down vote about whether we ought to raise the minimum wage in this country. They don't even want us to have a proper debate on this bill much less pass it.

What is so radical about what we are trying to do that they won't even let us have an up or down vote? Is this somehow unprecedented? Is what we are talking about unknown in the annals of the Senate? Actually, it is not. Since the minimum wage was enacted by the Congress in the 1930s, we have managed to raise the minimum wage on 10 different occasions over 70 years. We have raised the minimum wage very routinely to try—not always successfully—to keep pace with inflation. We have done it many times.

Democratic and Republican Congresses have raised the minimum wage. Democratic Presidents have signed minimum wage increases into law and Republican Presidents have signed minimum wage increases into law. President Eisenhower signed a 33-percent increase in the minimum wage in 1955. President Nixon signed a 44-percent minimum wage increase into law in 1974. George H. W. Bush signed a 27-percent minimum wage increase into law in 1989. In 1996, a Republican-controlled Congress enacted a 21-percent minimum wage increase which President Clinton signed into law. Most recently in 2007, President George W. Bush signed a 41-percent increase into law.

You can see on this chart all the different times the minimum wage has been raised and by how much. If you look at the 10 different times we have increased the minimum wage, the average increase has been about 41 percent. This increase increases it by 39 percent, and that is below average. But to hear some people talk, you would think this bill is an unprecedented assault on American capitalism.

Tom Delay described the minimum wage earlier this year as unconstitutional. Others have said it doesn't affect a lot of workers. Several years ago the Speaker—before he was Speaker—said he would ''commit suicide before [he voted] on a clean minimum-wage bill.'' This makes no sense. It is at war with our history.

I see my colleagues are here.

I ask and beg my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are not allowing us to have an up-or-down vote on something that the American people want—whether they are Democrats, Republicans or Independents—to allow us to have that vote.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I believe our side has 38 seconds left, and I ask unanimous consent for an additional 60 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HARKIN. Reserving the right to object.

What was the request?

Mr. VITTER. For an additional 60 seconds to the 38 seconds remaining.

Mr. HARKIN. That is fine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE AMENDMENT

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I come to the floor to address what I consider to be a very important issue which we have never voted on, and that is the basic principle that Washington should be treated as all other Americans with regard to whatever law we pass, including ObamaCare. Specifically, my ''no-Washington-exemptions'' proposal regarding ObamaCare has yet to get a vote, so I will be filing that proposal as an amendment to the Portman-Shaheen bill.

As we can remember, late last year it was filed as an amendment to that bill

when it was on the floor. There was general agreement at that time, after some back and forth, that it should and would get a vote. It was reported in The Hill on September 17 that Senator REID agreed to a vote on the amendment in the context of that bill. Senator PORTMAN agreed to this concept at the same time—September 18—on the Senate floor, and Senator SHAHEEN did as well on September 18. So I am refiling as an amendment to the same bill.

I look forward to this important debate. I look forward to a vote. Obviously, if an alternative in the near future, such as a stand-alone vote, is presented, I will be happy to accept that as well. I look forward to coming back to the floor to debate this important issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. VITTER. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, we believe that every American who works 40 hours a week deserves a fair shot at getting out of poverty. Under the present minimum-wage law, that doesn't happen. A person can work hard, with pride, as Americans do, and work that 40 hours and still be below the poverty line. That is basically not part of what America is all about, because America says to everybody, If you work hard, you can provide a decent life for yourself and your family. Since the minimum wage has stagnated, that doesn't happen.

Since 1968, the minimum wage has failed to keep up with inflation and has lost a third of its value. That is not a fair shot for Americans. A full-time minimum-wage worker makes only about $15,000 a year—not a fair shot for Americans. It is wrong. It flies in the face of the American dream.

Each Senator is allowed one guest at the State of the Union Address. I brought a young woman named Shareeka Elliott. Let me tell my colleagues about her. Shareeka is a cleaner at Kennedy Airport. She scrubs toilets and floors from 10 at night until 6 in the morning. After the overnight shift, she hops on multiple buses each day to take her two daughters to school. They are in different parts of the borough of Brooklyn. Only then is she able to get home and take care of her household. For her hard work, Shareeka is paid $8 an hour—not enough.

When we talk to Shareeka, we find she is a beautiful woman. She is not angry. But do my colleagues know what raising the minimum wage to $10.10 would do for her? Eighty dollars a week. It would allow her to provide her children with the barest of necessities—when kids can't get clothes and can't get a decent meal when they are not in school; when they can't get any toys for Christmas. That is not America.

This woman isn't a freeloader. She is getting on the bus, traveling 2 hours to Kennedy Airport, working many 8 hours from 10 at night until 6 in the morning, getting back on the bus, and then finding two more buses to take care of her children, and she can't make enough money to get out of poverty. What kind of country is this? It is hard to believe, on both the economics issue and the moral issue, that we have opposition from the other side of the aisle to even let this come to a debate.

We know what raising the minimum wage will do for the millions of Shareekas: It gives them a life with some degree of dignity. It gives their children a little more—not a lot—for basic necessities. It pumps money into the economy. I bet most Americans would say that even if it costs me a little more—a nickel more on my hamburger to give people such as Shareeka a decent living—most Americans are generous people and they would say that is fair.

Here are our colleagues. They are back in the 19th century, saying we shouldn't do this. It is hard to believe, when we think of the 1890s and the 1930s, how people struggled to get a decent life, and they didn't think of the beauty of the 1940s and 1950s and 1960s and 1970s and 1980s when people knew if they worked hard, they could at least achieve a decent life. That American dream, symbolized by the lady who holds the statue in the harbor of the city I represent, is flickering out. We have a chance now to have it at least lit up a little more. We say no? What is going on in America?

Our colleagues are saying the economy isn't growing as fast as it should. Yet they don't want to pump money into the economy. Our bill is a win/win. Seventy-three percent of all Americans, including a majority of Republicans, support a $10.10 minimum wage. Tim Pawlenty, former Governor of Minnesota, told his colleagues to support the wage increase. When we have a few small interest groups holding this back, it is a shame.

I urge my Republican colleagues to look at our economy and then look into their hearts, and I am confident that if they did, they would have a change of heart and let us pass this bill.

I will say one final thing. If we don't succeed this time—we believe strongly in a fair shot for everybody, including those who are paid minimum wage and work hard and long—we will bring this bill to the floor again and again and again, and just as with unemployment insurance, sooner or later we will get it done. We will get it done. The American dream, a fair shot for everyone, demands no less.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to express my strong support for increasing the minimum wage. It is outrageous that this Congress will not help middle-class workers.

This Congress needs to do two things to make sure we give a fair shot to everyone and build a stronger middle class: Raise the minimum wage and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

I am on the side of economic fairness and building a stronger middle class to bring opportunities to families across the Nation. What is economic fairness? It means that if you work hard and play by the rules, you deserve a fair shot at the American dream.

The minimum wage is at a historic all-time low. It has lost 30 percent of its buying power compared to its peak buying power in 1968. The minimum wage only pays $15,000 a year. That is $4,000 below the poverty line for a family of three. Increasing the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour would pay $20,200 a year—lifting that family of three out of poverty.

What does increasing the minimum wage mean for Maryland? Increasing the minimum wage will give 450,000 workers in Maryland a raise. Increasing the minimum wage will improve the lives of 210,000 Maryland children because their parent just got a raise. When we raise the minimum wage, we all move a rung up on the opportunity ladder.

Congress needs to raise the minimum wage so that hard work is worth it—because a full-time job shouldn't mean full-time poverty!

That is why I am an enthusiastic cosponsor of the Fair Minimum Wage Act. This bill raises minimum wage from $7.25 per hour to $10.10 an hour over 3 years and indexes minimum wage to inflation in the future.

Minimum wage is a women's issue. Women make up two-thirds of minimum wage workers nationwide. Congress needs to raise their wages and make sure they are not being redlined or sidelined by outdated policies or harassed and intimidated when seeking justice for pay discrimination.

Being a woman costs more, and women pay more for everything. Women pay more in medical costs than men—an estimated $10,000 over a lifetime. Women are often responsible for childcare. Women even get charged more for dry cleaning! We are charged more for our blouses than men's shirts, and we are tired of being taken to the cleaners! When we earn less, we are asked to pay more.

Women are almost half of the workforce and 40 percent of them are the sole breadwinners in their families—they are tired of being paid crumbs!

Women continue to make less. Women are still making only 77 cents for every dollar a man makes. Women of color suffer even greater injustice. If you are African American, you earn 62 cents for every dollar a man makes. If you are Hispanic, you earn 54 cents for every dollar a man makes.

Everybody likes to say to us—''Oh, you've come a long way.'' But I don't think we've come a long way. We've only gained 18 cents in 50 years!

By the time she retires, the average woman will lose more than $431,000 over her lifetime because of the wage gap. That affects your Social Security and pension. It weakens your retirement security.

Not only do women make up two-thirds of minimum wage workers, women are nearly three-quarters of workers earning tips at their jobs. The minimum wage for employees who earn tips is barely over $2 per hour. The Fair Minimum Wage Act will slowly increase that base wage by less than $1 a year until it reaches 70 percent of the regular minimum wage. Increasing this wage will make a huge difference for women breadwinners who have so much to fear from a slow week in an off-peak season.

But this is not about men vs. women. It's about building a middle class. Wages have been flat for everyone. Men need a pay raise too. When they get it, we'll stand shoulder to shoulder with them—because we all need a raise to raise our families!

The Fair Minimum Wage Act is about putting change in the lawbooks and change in family checkbooks. I'm glad that Maryland is leading the way by passing legislation to raise the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour by 2018. I will keep fighting to raise the wage nationwide, and I hope Congress will follow Maryland's good example.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, we should raise the minimum wage.

It is indisputable that the minimum wage now lags far behind the cost of living. We last acted to raise the minimum wage in 2009, when we set the current rate of $7.25 an hour. Adjusted for inflation, that is just $6.62 in current dollars. And it is far lower than the rate in 1980, which was nearly $9 an hour when adjusted for inflation.

The CBO estimates that nearly 1 million Americans would rise from poverty under this legislation. And earlier this year, economists who surveyed the empirical research on this subject estimated that the impact would be far greater: roughly 4.6 million people immediately lifted above the poverty line, and 6.8 million over time.

And it is indisputable that failure to raise the minimum wage—among the lowest in the developed world—has contributed to growing income inequality. Here is what The Economist, a generally conservative publication, said in December:

> Skepticism about the merits of minimum wages remains this newspaper's starting-point. But as income inequality widens and workers' share of national income shrinks, the case for action to help the low-paid grows.

The Economist and others recognize that we should consider this issue in the context of a large issue: Increasingly, working hard is not the path it used to be to get ahead in this country. Increasingly, income goes not to working families, but to investors, to the owners of capital. The share of our national income that flows to those who work for a living has, by every measure, fallen. That is enormously troubling. This is a Nation built on the idea that hard work is the path to success, the path to a better future for our families. That breakdown of the relationship between one's labor and one's prosperity threatens to fracture the understandings that have fed our growth and success for more than two centuries.

None of the statements I have made so far are particularly controversial; they represent mainstream economic thinking. Republicans so far have one response to these facts: They say raising the minimum wage will destroy jobs. They cite this as an unassailable fact. But this position is disproved by history, and refuted by economists. When the University of Chicago surveyed leading economists last year, they said by a four-to-one margin that the benefits of a minimum wage increase outweighed the potential costs.

Republicans have opposed minimum wage increases at any time, under any economic circumstances. Republicans are wedded to a policy of tax cuts for the wealthy, reduced protections for workers and consumers and reduced protection for the environment as the answer to any and all economic problems. Corporate profits are at an all-time high, as are income and wealth for the most fortunate Americans. But for average working families, the last 30 years have been an exercise in running to stand still, or even losing ground.

We can and must raise the minimum wage. Empirical evidence supports it, and fairness demands it.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, how much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 8 minutes remaining on the Democratic side.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, in a few moments we are going to vote here in the Senate on whether we are going to bring the minimum-wage bill to the floor for debate and a vote. In a few minutes, it will be clear where each Senator stands. Who in this Chamber is going to stand with millions of Americans who work full time for a living but who are left in poverty or on the brink of poverty, struggling to make ends meet? Who is going to vote to give these good people a fair shot at the American dream, and who is going to vote against them? We are going to find out in a few minutes.

There is no question that working families need a raise. Fourteen million children in America—that is one in every five—are in a family that would get a raise under our minimum-wage bill.

Businesses need a raise. Over 600 economists—7 Nobel Prize-winning economists—have said the lack of demand is what is hurting businesses in America, because people don't have enough money to go into their stores on Main Street and buy what they need. Businesses need customers. If we raise the minimum wage, the people who are getting the raise aren't going to go to Paris, France, and spend that money. They will spend it on Main Street. That is what our businesses need.

Our economy needs a raise, because when businesses do better, they hire more workers, they add jobs, and it generates more economic growth.

People in poverty definitely need a raise. This bill, our minimum-wage bill, will lift an estimated 7 million people out of poverty. All working families need a raise.

Some of my friends on the Republican side say not all of this goes to people who are in poverty. That is absolutely true, because 12 million people who have family incomes between $20,000 and $60,000 a year will also get a raise. What is wrong with that? These hard-working families need to be able to put some money aside for a rainy day, provide for their kids' education, maybe buy a new car, buy a new home, upgrade. What is wrong with that? So, yes, this helps a lot of American families get a fair shot at the American dream.

I might add, taxpayers need a raise in the minimum wage. Right now, we are spending about one-third of $1 trillion—$243 billion a year—on social programs to help families who are struggling to make ends meet, who are low income or who are in poverty. It has been estimated that the minimum-wage bill will save $4.6 billion a year in money we won't have to pay for food stamps—$46 billion over 10 years taxpayers will save when we increase the minimum wage, because people will have the money. They will be able to go out and buy their own food and they won't need food stamps.

Again, any way we look at it, we need to raise the minimum wage.

I wish to pick up where Senator SCHUMER left off. This is about real people. This is not abstract.

This is Alicia McCrary of Northwood, IA, a wonderful woman who came to testify before our committee. She has four boys. She moved to Northwood from another State. She was in a very abusive relationship. She wanted to get her kids to a safe place, so she moved there with her four boys. She testified. She works at a fast-food restaurant. She makes $7.65 an hour. She has four boys, as I said. She is an amazing woman, working very hard. She rides a

bus 20 miles each day, every day, to get to work. She wants to work full time, but the bus, which costs her $10 a day, by the way, only runs until 3 p.m., so she has to leave by then. Her wages are so low that every day she has to tell her children they can't have things their friends have. They can't play a certain sport. They can't all get a haircut at the same time. They can't even buy shoes at the same time, because she can't afford it.

Alicia does not want to be on public assistance, but she has to be. She is participating in a program run by the North Iowa Community Action Agency to help her achieve self-sufficiency and get off the system because she wants to support herself through her own work. Here are her own words:

If the minimum wage is increased, it would be very helpful to my family. . . . I would see more reductions in TANF—

That is her public assistance and food assistance—

and would see another increase in my rent, but that would be OK. I will have more money overall and it would come from my own hard work and my family will be better off. I want to work and stand on my own two feet. . . . I work very hard doing my job and I believe I am worth $10.10 an hour. . . . If you can move forward with increasing the minimum wage, my family will be more successful in reaching our goal of a better life.

This is the real people who will be helped by increasing the minimum wage.

I have listened to a lot of the debate on the floor and I have heard the objections from my friends on the Republican side. I have heard a lot of talk about the Keystone Pipeline and the high-paying jobs it would create. I don't doubt that it probably would. But unless Alicia is ready to pick up and move her four kids to Texas and become a petroleum engineer, it is not going to help her one bit. I haven't heard one offer from the other side that will be a single solution that would help Alicia's life be better. So the Keystone Pipeline isn't going to help Alicia, a fast-food worker who works hard every day. It is not going to put food on her table or help her boys get a haircut or get a pair of shoes or buy a computer so they can do their homework. A minimum-wage increase will do that. A minimum-wage increase will give Alicia a raise.

The American people are desperately calling for us to pass this bill. The time has come. In fact, it is past time to do the right thing, the morally correct thing, to raise the minimum wage. The time has come to give realistic hope—realistic hope, not false hope—to people such as Alicia McCrary and so many people in our country who work hard every day—millions of working Americans—to give them a realistic hope that our economic system is not going to continue to leave them further and further behind. It is time to say yes to giving a fair shot to the American dream, to being a part of the middle class, to Alicia McCrary and millions of hard-working but low-paid Americans. The time has come to raise the minimum wage.

Madam President, I yield back any remaining time.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 354, S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Jeff Merkley, Patrick J. Leahy, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Thomas R. Carper, Christopher A. Coons, Bill Nelson, Al Franken, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Bernard Sanders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Leg.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Carper	Hagan
Begich	Casey	Harkin
Bennet	Coons	Heinrich
Blumenthal	Corker	Heitkamp
Booker	Donnelly	Hirono
Boxer	Durbin	Johnson (SD)
Brown	Feinstein	Kaine
Cantwell	Franken	King
Cardin	Gillibrand	Klobuchar
Landrieu	Murphy	Stabenow
Leahy	Murray	Tester
Levin	Nelson	Udall (CO)
Manchin	Reed	Udall (NM)
Markey	Rockefeller	Walsh
McCaskill	Sanders	Warner
Menendez	Schatz	Warren
Merkley	Schumer	Whitehouse
Mikulski	Shaheen	Wyden

NAYS—42

Alexander	Flake	Moran
Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Blunt	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heller	Reid
Chambliss	Hoeven	Risch
Coats	Inhofe	Roberts
Coburn	Isakson	Rubio
Collins	Johanns	Scott
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Crapo	Kirk	Shelby
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Enzi	McCain	Toomey
Fischer	McConnell	Vitter

NOT VOTING—4

Boozman	Pryor
Cochran	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 54 and the nays are 42. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I enter a motion to reconsider the vote on which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to S. 2223.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. MORAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

225TH ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today marks the 225th anniversary of George Washington's inaugural address to the Nation. I don't think anyone has said anything about it. That is a major thing for us to think about each year. It is the 225th anniversary.

It is reported that more than 10,000 people—this is way back 225 years ago—gathered on this day in 1789 to hear from a man who won a war and who is now ushering in an era of peace and freedom in our new Nation.

Peter Lillback is a historian, and he pointed out in his book, which I read recently, that our first President, Washington, knew that everything he was to say in the first inaugural address would set a precedent for all that was to come after him in establishing our Nation. It is why Americans should take note at how Washington weaved in with intentionality his belief in the Omnipotent.

Washington said:

It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official Act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe.

Washington went on to say:

No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States. Every step, by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency.

We are here because of the hand of God. Washington's leadership was grounded in his belief in God, His law, and that liberty is God's gift. As we reflect on the anniversary of Washington's speech it is important we are reminded as a nation what our Founding Fathers sought to establish.

In this same inaugural speech Washington said:

The destiny of the Republic model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.

Washington's conviction was that we as Americans are entrusted by God to preserve basic freedoms established in the Constitution, such as the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion. The secular culture we see our Nation embracing today would seek to censor such words from a leader such as Washington. Their intolerance fails to acknowledge it was Washington's convictions and our Founding Fathers' faith values that gave us the public square.

On September 27 last year, I talked about this issue on the Senate floor—about how Oklahomans regularly ask me—and I don't think this is unique to Oklahoma; it can be true in any State—why we have an administration that suppresses our Judeo-Christian values while praising Islam. As I said then, I find it sad that our Nation does not have the same belief today that we had back when Washington was President. We have become arrogant, inward-focused individuals. Rather than submitting to God's authority, we define truth, justice, and morality by what feels good at the time.

Today, instead of having leaders who protect the church from government, we have leaders who believe it is the government's job to impose on churches what should be universally upheld as truth. As leaders, we should be protecting all Americans' freedom to practice their religion.

It is only appropriate that on this anniversary we also consider the words of Washington's Farewell Address in 1796 where he pointed out that the pillars supporting our Republic are morality and religion. In his address he said:

Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of particular structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

We have to restore the morality of our Nation given to us by the Founding Fathers, as President Washington articulated 225 years ago. That morality is found in the Judeo-Christian values articulated not just by Washington but by all of our Founding Fathers.

As my son likes to say: Without God, the Constitution is nothing but a piece of paper.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, it has been 7 years since Congress increased the minimum wage, 7 years since Congress stood up for our working families, 7 years since Congress gave America a raise.

Earlier today the Senate had a chance to do something about that when we voted on whether to increase the minimum wage. Earlier today we had a chance to give a raise to the parents of at least 14 million children, a chance to lift nearly 1 million full-time workers out of poverty. A majority of Senators tried to do that today. Fifty-five Senators supported raising the minimum wage, but Republicans filibustered the bill, so it didn't pass. This is outrageous.

For nearly half a century, as we came out of the Great Depression, the people of this country lived by the basic principle that we all do better when we work together and build opportunities for everyone. For nearly half a century, as our country got richer, our people got richer, and as our people got richer, our country got richer. The basic idea was that as the pie gets bigger, we all get a little more—even those who only make the minimum wage.

I know this story because it is my story. Like a lot of folks, I grew up in a family who had ups and downs. When I was 12, my daddy had a heart attack and was out of work for a long time. The bills piled up. We lost our car, and we were right on the edge of losing our home. My mom was 50 years old when she pulled on her best dress and walked to the Sears to get a job. It paid minimum wage, but back then a minimum wage job was enough to keep a family of three above water, and that is how it was for us. That is one of the ways our country built and protected America's great middle class. But that is not how it works anymore.

In 1968 the minimum wage was high enough to keep a working parent with a family of three out of poverty. In 1980 the minimum wage was at least high enough to keep a working parent with a family of two out of poverty. Today the minimum wage is not even enough to keep a fully employed mother and a baby out of poverty.

Something is fundamentally wrong when millions of Americans can work full time and still live in poverty, and something is fundamentally wrong when big companies can get away with paying poverty-level wages and then stick taxpayers with the cost when their full-time workers end up on food stamps and Medicaid.

I understand that some big businesses might like to keep things the way they are, but I really don't understand this Republican filibuster. There is nothing conservative about leaving millions of working people in poverty. There is nothing conservative about expanding enrollment in government-assistance programs. There is nothing conservative about preserving a sweetheart deal for companies that would rather milk the taxpayers for more corporate welfare than compete on a level playing field.

I am disappointed about what happened today, but I am also hopeful. A majority of the Senate—Democrats in the Senate—voted to honor work, to honor the people who get up every day and bust their tails to try to build a better life for themselves and their children. This is an uphill fight, but it is not over yet. It took us 4 months and many Republican filibusters before we finally convinced a handful of our Republican colleagues to support an extension of emergency unemployment benefits, but we passed that bill in the Senate, and we will pass this bill too, because after 7 years, with millions of our working families struggling to get by, with millions of children depending on a mom or dad who works long hours for low pay, it is long past time to increase the minimum wage.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEVY NOMINATION

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise today to take a few moments to talk about Jon David Levy, who is a nominee for the Federal district court in Maine who will be voted on this afternoon. Senator COLLINS and I have come to the floor together to talk about this nominee and his extraordinary qualifications for this position.

My history with Jon Levy is kind of interesting. He was one of my very first appointments to the bench when I was Governor of Maine in 1995. The important thing I wish to get across is I didn't know him. He wasn't a contributor, a supporter or a political ally in

any way, shape or form. At that time he was a really smart lawyer with a judicial demeanor. He was recommended to me—he was discovered, if you will—by a nonpartisan judicial selection committee. I interviewed him, met him, liked him, and appointed him to the Maine District Court, which is our lower court of general jurisdiction, where it is really the people's court. He excelled in that court in terms of his decisionmaking skills as well as in his demeanor and his ability to interpret and apply the law in very real and practical circumstances.

He was so good, as a matter of fact, that as I was leaving the governorship in the last year or so, I had the opportunity to appoint him to Maine's Supreme Court. In fact, I believe he is the only person to have gone directly from our district court to the supreme court in our State without stopping in the middle at our superior court, the court of general jurisdiction, because he was so outstanding. He has proven himself as an appellate judge to be exactly what we all hoped and expected would be the case: thoughtful, deliberative, very much sensitive to the real needs of the people who are appearing before the court. He has never forgotten that the law is about serving the public.

So I think he is uniquely qualified—perhaps not uniquely but especially well qualified—for this position because he has been a trial-level judge and an appellate judge, and now he is being considered for a Federal trial-level court where I think he will be an outstanding judge. I don't think he will be; I know he will be.

The other thing I think is so important—and it happened that just a few years ago I was in our supreme judicial courtroom watching a ceremony where young lawyers were being admitted to the bar. It is a ceremony that happens every year. Of course, to the judges, it is fairly routine. To the young lawyers, it is the biggest deal in their lives thus far. It happened that the day I was there to move the admission of a young friend of mine, Justice Levy was presiding. It was an opportunity for me to watch him interact with the members of the bar and the public. Of course, a lot of members of the public are in the courtroom on that day. His whole demeanor was so thoughtful, dignified, and yet warm and not intimidating.

Having practiced law myself, my least favorite judges were those who tried to intimidate members of the bar. I remember vividly at one point being in a trial and making an argument to a judge in Maine that wasn't really going very far, and I said: Judge, I really feel as though I am batting my head against a brick wall here. After a slight pause the judge said: Mr. KING, I know of no one in Maine better equipped for that venture. I wasn't all that thrilled by that response, although he was probably right.

Justice Levy has a wonderful demeanor. He has that wonderful combination of high intelligence and yet at the same time a warm and thoughtful demeanor that is not intimidating but allows the litigants, the lawyers, and the witnesses to get their stories out, to get the record complete so that he or the jury can make the best decision.

I think he is a judge's judge. In fact, in seeking comments about his appointment to this position, I think one of the most telling comments came from the chief justice of our supreme court where he has been now for some 10 years, and her comment was, ''You tell Angus I am going to get him for this,'' which meant she doesn't want to lose him. I think that is pretty high praise—that he has been such a valuable member of that court that his colleagues thought that highly of him.

Jon Levy is, as I say, a judge's judge, really a model of what we should want on our Federal bench. I am delighted that he went through the cloture process yesterday. Thanks, in part, to my senior colleague, he received more than 60 votes. In other words, he enjoys a significant amount of bipartisan support. He was reported out of the Judiciary Committee on a strong bipartisan basis.

I am just delighted to be able to rise today and urge my colleagues to support this really extraordinary gentleman who will grace the Federal bench in Maine and will, I believe, make us all proud for having supported such an outstanding jurist who has yet many years of service to his State and his country. I believe this is a great appointment by the President, and I look forward to Jon Levy's performance on the bench.

With that, I yield the floor for my esteemed senior colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I am very pleased to join my colleague from Maine, Senator KING, in supporting the nomination of Justice Jon Levy to the U.S. District Court for the State of Maine.

As Senator KING has pointed out, Justice Levy has had a long career as an attorney and as a judge in our great State. His experience makes him well qualified for Maine's Federal district court. He was appointed to the bench by my colleague, Senator KING, when he was Governor, and Justice Levy currently serves as an associate justice on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, a position he has held for more than a decade.

Justice Levy's legal skills have been evident for many years. After his graduation from law school where he was an editor of the law review, he clerked in the Southern District of West Virginia. Later, he was appointed to the position of special monitor in the U.S. district court for southern Texas.

In 1982, Jon and his wife had the good sense to relocate to Maine, and Jon entered private practice in York. Although his practice spanned a range of civil and criminal matters, he quickly distinguished himself in the area of family law. Jon literally wrote the book on family law. He is the author of ''Maine Family Law,'' which is a key resource on the subject for Maine's attorneys.

As both an attorney and a judge, Jon has remained very active with the local bar association and several State committees, working to improve the administration of justice in Maine. He has served as president of the York County Bar Association and received its Outstanding Member Award in 2006. He was also honored with the Maine State Bar Association's Family Law Achievement Award in 2001.

Justice Levy has been an advocate for advancing access to civil justice in Maine. He has championed initiatives to improve pro bono representation for Maine's elderly and low-income people and affordable representation for other Mainers in need of legal assistance. In the same vein, he helped to launch the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program, an annual statewide program that honors Maine attorneys who provide more than 50 hours of pro bono service per year.

Justice Levy has also advocated for these efforts nationally, and recently joined the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants. He has worked with Maine's Juvenile Drug Treatment Court in Maine's York County, which has seen numerous successes over the years.

This combination of experiences that Justice Levy brings to the court—his experience as a private attorney I think is so important; his experience as a State judge is so critical, as is his experience in family law, in pro bono representation—makes him a well-rounded individual to serve on our courts. Many times our judges are chosen just from the ranks of either academia or because they have previously served on the bench.

Judge Levy brings both private sector and judicial experience to this important post. I believe he will serve the people of Maine and the Nation with distinction, intelligence, and integrity. So I urge my colleagues to support this nomination when we vote later today.

Again, I commend my colleague from Maine for having the good sense to start Justice Levy on this path which, I believe later today, will lead to his confirmation as a Federal judge.

Thank you, Madam President. Seeing no one seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I wish to comment on the vote we took earlier today on whether to proceed to a bill that would increase the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour.

It has been several years since we increased the minimum wage, and I support an increase in the minimum wage. But I do not believe at a time when our economy is so fragile, as is indicated by the very slow increase in GDP that was reported this morning, we can afford to increase the minimum wage by some 39 percent.

I would note that just a year ago President Obama was suggesting we should increase the minimum wage to $9 an hour. I do not see any change in the economic conditions that would have caused him to abruptly change his position and now be advocating $10.10 an hour.

I know there are many low-income families who are really struggling in this country, and I believe our economy could accommodate an increase in the minimum wage. But the Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan entity, has told us the consequences of going to $10.10 an hour would be a loss of some 500,000 jobs—at a time when our economy simply cannot afford that kind of loss.

I have talked with numerous employers in Maine. They care deeply about their employees. They, in most cases, are willing and able to pay more. In fact, many of them do pay more. In fact, all of them pay more than the Federal minimum wage because Maine's minimum wage is $7.50 an hour rather than $7.25 an hour. So we are already above the Federal minimum wage.

But what they told me is that if there is too much of an increase too rapidly, they will be forced to shrink their workforces or not bring on those summer part-time employees, those high school students, those college students, those individuals who do not have the training and experience that are necessary to be productive in the job for which they are hired at that time.

There is a huge area of compromise available here between $7.25 and $10.10. I think it speaks to what is wrong with Washington today that we were placed in a situation where it was take it or leave it rather than our trying to come together and offer amendments and debate the level that might be acceptable to Members of this body and our colleagues in the House—a level that would not cause dramatic job losses, which would hurt the very people we are trying to help, and yet would recognize we do need to increase the minimum wage by a reasonable amount to help struggling low-income families.

So I have to express my disappointment and frustration that we cannot seem to have a normal legislative process, where ideas could be offered as amendments, as compromises between $7.25 and $10.10, where Members could bring other ideas to the Senate floor on how we might spur job creation, on how we could improve job training programs, which is a huge issue in this country.

I have talked to so many employers in Maine, particularly in the trades, who have jobs available but cannot find the skilled workers to fill those jobs. I had a terrific and enlightening meeting with union representatives from Bath Iron Works, who told me we need to do a better job at our community colleges in training workers for the great jobs—far above minimum wage—that exist at Bath Iron Works in my State.

So there are so many ideas out there that would help us improve the financial condition of our low-income families—from increasing the minimum wage by an amount that does not cause massive job losses, to improving our job training programs so we can fix this mismatch between the jobs that are available and the skills that our workers have.

I would note that the Department of Commerce Secretary testified there are 4 million jobs that are unfilled nationwide because of that mismatch in available jobs to the skills needed to fill them.

There are other proposals to give tax incentives to small businesses. We have allowed a very important tax incentive that encouraged hiring to expire at the end of last year. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit expired. Why not extend that—not only to those groups who qualify now, but also to people who have been unemployed for a long time, to encourage employers to take a chance on them, to bring them back into the workforce, where they want to be.

We could also include other provisions. For example, I have a bipartisan bill with Senator DONNELLY and Senator MANCHIN and Members on my side of the aisle that would fix the definition of full-time work under ObamaCare so it would be 40 hours a week and not 30 hours a week. We would go back to the standard definition of 40 hours a week.

There are tax incentives having to do with bonus depreciation and small business expensing that would encourage small businesses to make the investments so they can hire more employees.

We ought to have a full debate on all of these options, not just stop with one vote on whether to proceed to one bill to raise the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour, with no amendments allowed, with no alternative proposals being permitted.

I so believe if we could get back to the normal way of doing business, we would so much better serve the people of this country, including low-income workers who are struggling to get by. I believe we could come up with a compromise that would enjoy bipartisan support. I am not saying it would be easy, but we ought to at least try. I have talked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle who are willing to try, and we need to be given that opportunity.

Each and every Member in this body cares about individuals who are working two jobs, who may have two minimum-wage jobs because they are trying to support their families. I think we could come together. But we cannot come together unless we are allowed to offer alternatives, to fully debate the issues, and to bring forth ideas to improve our job training programs and to encourage the creation of more jobs, as well as better-paying jobs, in what, unfortunately, remains a very anemic economy.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DONALD STERLING AND DANIEL SNYDER

Mr. REID. Madam President, yesterday, all America watched while Commissioner Adam Silver and the National Basketball Association acted justly in punishing Donald Sterling for his harmful racist behavior.

Commissioner Silver banned Mr. Sterling from the NBA for life, and there was a $2.5 million fine.

I, along with most all of America, applaud the NBA's work in swiftly moving to stamp out bigotry from its ranks.

Commissioner Silver and the NBA leadership have set the standard for how professional sports organizations should act in the face of racism.

I wonder today how the leadership in the National Football League, the NFL—that money-making machine—I wonder if they have taken notice of the NBA's decisive action?

How long will the NFL continue to do nothing—zero—as one of its teams bears a name that inflicts so much pain on Native Americans?

I have 22 tribal organizations in Nevada. All over America, especially in the western part of the United States—but not only in the western part of the United States—we have large numbers of Native Americans.

It is untoward of Daniel Snyder to try and hide behind ''tradition''—tradition? That is what he says—in refusing to change the name of the team.

Tradition? What tradition? A tradition of racism is all that name leaves in its wake.

Mr. Snyder knows that in sports the only tradition that matters is winning.

So I urge Daniel Snyder to do what is morally right and remove this degrading term from the league by changing his team's name.

It has been done before—right here in Washington, DC.

Seventeen years ago, the owner of the Washington Bullets, the late Abe Pollin—a wonderful man—saw all the gun violence and murders taking place in the DC area. And what did he do? He voluntarily decided that name—the Washington Bullets—was not any good and changed it. He did not want his team to be associated with bullets. So he changed the name of the organization from the Washington Bullets to the Washington Wizards.

We have all followed the Washington Wizards over the last couple weeks. They are now in the second round of the playoffs. We are all happy about that. They have struggled for a long time. We support—the American people support—the Wizards, as do the people in the DC metropolitan area. Wizards is a good name.

Don't you think Daniel Snyder can come up with a name? It should be easy. He could invite the fans to choose a name. He could ask high school kids to come up with a name. Anything they came up with, with rare exception, would be better than the Washington team name they have now.

But since Snyder fails to show any leadership, the National Football League should take an assist from the NBA and pick up the slack. It would be a slam dunk, Madam President.

For far too long, the NFL has been sitting on its hands, doing nothing, while an entire population of Americans has been denigrated.

So I say to Commissioner Roger Goodell—I believe Roger Goodell is a good man—it is time to act. Remove this hateful term from your league's vocabulary. Follow the NBA's example and rid the league of bigotry and racism. I am sure your fans will support it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE OVERREACH

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today in defense of the U.S. Constitution, the separation of government powers it established, the rule of law it enshrined, and the legitimate prerogatives of the legislative branch—and this body in particular—under our constitutional system of government.

I am very concerned about what has been going on. Last week the Justice Department announced their plan to extend clemency consideration to a large new class of drug offenders.

Both the New York Times and the Washington Post estimate that the Department's new guidelines will potentially apply to tens of thousands of cases, with clemency likely to be granted to perhaps thousands of current Federal inmates.

This surprise announcement by the administration marks a worrying shift away from the longstanding norm requiring individualized determinations based on the particularly compelling circumstances of specific cases. Instead, the Justice Department has laid the groundwork for mass clemency based on a few widely shared and broad criteria.

Of course, the Constitution gives the President the power to grant clemency in individual cases. No one disputes this authority. It has been exercised by Presidents throughout our Nation's history, and it is properly used on a limited, case-by-case basis to ameliorate specific instances of injustice experienced by particular individuals.

By contrast, it is the rightful province of the legislative branch to establish broader sentencing policy through duly enacted Federal statute.

There is sentencing law on the books and Congress periodically revisits and revises this sentencing policy. But in our constitutional system, changing the law requires legislative action by Congress.

In the face of this most basic constitutional requirement, the President has apparently instead decided to use—or, rather, abuse—the clemency power in an attempt to rewrite sentencing law unilaterally. His invocation of clemency is merely a fig leaf to disguise a blatant effort to usurp legislative authority.

The President's clemency power is not a vehicle by which the executive branch may effectively revise or discard lawful statutes with which the President disagrees. But that is precisely what President Obama and his Justice Department have promised to do.

The amount of time that entire classes of drug offenders spend in jail will no longer be based on uniform sentencing law passed by Congress and administered by the Federal court and Judiciary. Instead, it will be determined by the President's personal views of ''justice,'' by the Attorney General's subjective notions of what he considers ''fair,'' and by some Justice Department bureaucrat's sense of ''proportionality.''

Such a result turns our system of government on its head, and it represents an abdication of the President's core constitutional duty.

Instead of faithfully executing the law, President Obama is simply seeking to enforce his personal ideological preferences. It is precisely this sort of unchecked and unaccountable rule that our Nation's Founders sought to prevent.

The Obama administration's unilateral action on drug sentencing is especially troubling since Congress is actively considering a number of potential sentencing reforms. Indeed, an ideologically diverse, bipartisan group of Senators has demonstrated they are eager to legislate on this issue. Several sentencing reform bills have been drafted and introduced. Legislation has been considered and reported by the Judiciary Committee.

Although a President should never expect to get every single idea he wants through the legislative process, bipartisan agreement here seems well within reach—especially if the administration chose to focus on working with Congress to change the law rather than acting alone to undermine it.

Yet even in an area where constructive action is achievable, the President has decided to go it alone, and in doing so he violates the most basic constitutional principles he once taught to his law school students.

Examples of such executive abuse have become all too common under this administration, especially since President Obama announced his new ''pen and phone'' strategy of unilateral action specifically designed to bypass Congress and evade constitutional restraints.

Just last week the Associated Press reported that, under orders from the White House, the Department of Homeland Security is considering limiting deportations to only criminal aliens with felony convictions.

Using the excuse of prosecutorial discretion—another executive tool limited to individual cases and particular circumstances—the administration is seeking to frustrate duly enacted immigration law and instead implement its own broad immigration policies.

Whatever our thoughts on the sensitive questions of immigration policy, everyone can agree that such an act requires legislative action and should not be brought into effect through executive fiat.

I am struck by how far this approach contrasts with the President's own judgment as recently as last fall. If the administration continued broadening enforcement carve-outs, he said, ''then essentially I'll be ignoring the law in a way that I think would be very difficult to defend legally.''

Given the lawlessness of broad enforcement carve-outs, the President stated flatly, ''that's not an option.''

President Obama went on to acknowledge that he does not in fact have the authority to halt most deportations. In his own words:

If in fact I could pass all these laws without Congress, I would do so. But we're also a nation of laws, that's part of our tradition.

The easy way out is to . . . pretend that I can do something by violating our laws, but what I'm proposing is the harder path, which is to use our democratic process to achieve the same goals.

I wish to associate myself wholeheartedly with President Obama's exhortation last fall that we are a nation of laws, and that substantive changes to the law must come about through the democratic process.

As public servants, our common allegiance must first be to the rule of law under the Constitution, as it—more than anything else—is what secures the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

I fear that President Obama's frustration with an inability to win broad support for every aspect of his legislative agenda has caused him to ignore clear legal and constitutional obligations. He now seems to view the longstanding rules, requirements, and traditions central to our system of republican self-government as irritants—mere suggestions that he is willing to bend past their breaking point in order to advance his controversial agenda.

Concern about the potential for executive overreach has animated American political life from the very beginning. Indeed, it predates our Republic, and shaped its founding.

Centuries ago, absolutist monarchs such as the Stuart dynasty of England, seizing on the powers of the medieval popes as a model, claimed a ''royal provocative'' to suspend the application of the laws, and used this power to justify their oppressive rule.

The Stuarts' unchecked reign in England—the nation that pioneered the modern conception of the rule of law—ignited a long and bloody struggle that eventually brought about the Glorious Revolution. Thereafter, the 1689 English Bill of Rights confirmed the ''ancient rights'' of Englishmen and enshrined the notion that the monarch had no ''dispensing power'' to waive the application of the laws of the realm.

As many noted historians and legal scholars have observed, the American Founders were well versed in these 17th century English constitutional struggles. Viewing themselves as heirs to the English political tradition, the Framers of our new Nation set out to establish a system of government with an eye toward preventing similar abuses.

With the old monarchy's abuse of the claimed dispensing power fresh in their minds, the Founders' initial plan of government in the Articles of Confederation did not even include an executive. When that framework proved unworkable, the Framers drafted and the States ratified a constitution that avoided either historical extreme: an all-powerful executive that claimed the power to dispense with the bounds of law or a powerless executive lacking the capacity to govern effectively.

The structural features of our Constitution navigate between these two poles, creating an energetic executive but carefully cabining his power. It vests legislative authority in Congress, not the President.

While the precise line between enforcement discretion and lawmaking may sometimes seem blurry, the Constitution makes clear that changes to the law are the province of the legislative rather than the executive branch, and that when Congress and the President have enacted statutory laws, the executive cannot unilaterally displace it.

The Constitution also requires the President to ''take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.'' This clause does not suggest or invite the President to enforce the law—it obligates him to do so. And he is bound by the text of the Constitution to do so ''faithfully.''

To execute the laws faithfully, as defined by the great Samuel Johnson, author of the most definitive dictionary of that age, is to do so ''honestly, . . . [w]ith strict adherence to duty and allegiance, . . . and [w]ithout failure of performance.''

As a diverse array of legal scholars have noted, it is ''implausible and unnatural'' to read this clause to allow the President authority to deviate from the loyal enforcement of Federal statutes.

James Wilson, the original proponent of the take care clause, put it this way:

[The President has] authority, not to make, or alter, or dispense with the laws, but to execute and enact the laws, which [are] established.

He continued:

To contend that the obligation imposed on the President to see the laws faithfully executed, implies a power to forbid their execution, is a novel construction of the constitution, and entirely inadmissible.

There are certain situations in which the Executive may in fact legitimately ignore or even contravene a duly enacted Federal statute. But such circumstances are few and far between.

The Presidents of both parties have long claimed authority not to enforce unconstitutional statutes.

According to this view, if the considered view of the executive branch determines that a statute clearly violates the Constitution, the highest law, then that statute is no law at all and does not warrant enforcement.

Presidents have also sought to justify partial nonenforcement based on a lack of sufficient resources. As the Supreme Court has explained:

The President performs his full constitutional duty, if, with the means and instruments provided by Congress and within the limitations prescribed by it, he uses his best endeavors to secure the faithful execution of the laws enacted.

In other words, the Constitution still obligates the President to do his best to ensure that duly enacted laws are faithfully executed, even when he and his subordinates are working with limited resources. In such cases he is obligated to ensure that those resources are optimally allocated to achieve as faithful execution as is possible.

Sadly, political expedience and ideological fervor has led our current President to disregard his fundamental obligations to '' . . . take care that the laws be faithfully executed.''

Take, for example, the Nation's drug laws, an area where the Obama administration has decided it disagrees with the criminal statutes on the books and wants to implement a different policy, no matter the governing Federal law.

As I noted earlier, the administration's massive clemency push seems to employ the President's specific constitutional power—one limited to relieve individual instances of injustice—to provide relief to large swaths of criminals who fit a few broad criteria.

The President also directed major changes over which Federal drug crimes are charged and at what level, citing prosecutorial discretion, a limited authority derived from the power to adapt enforcement to an individual's specific circumstances, to implement broad criteria affecting thousands of prosecutions. Given the scope of this Executive action, compared to its narrowly tailored authority, the administration's invocation of prosecutorial discretion has become a transparent excuse used to try to justify flouting existing Federal law.

Much of the same is true in the context of immigration. The administration has advanced a growing number of enforcement carve-outs to increasingly expansive classes of illegal immigrants. First, the administration exempted those brought here as children, then veterans, then their families. Now the administration may seek to exclude from application of duly enacted immigration law anyone who has not committed serious felonies.

While, of course, no one disagrees that violent criminals should be our highest priority, the administration has come much further and essentially made current immigration law a dead letter for virtually everyone else. Last week I joined 21 of my colleagues in a letter to the White House highlighting this Executive abuse. How can the administration even claim it was attempting to faithfully execute immigration law when almost all deportations last year were limited to convicted criminals and recent border crossers, when ICE agents were forced to release 68,000 potentially deportable aliens last year alone? Think about that. When the administration took disciplinary action for ICE officers for making lawful arrests, when the President of the National ICE Council felt compelled to testify before Congress that although ''. . . most Americans

assume that ICE agents and officers are empowered by the Government to enforce the law, nothing could be further from the truth.''

Another egregious example of this administration's willful failure to faithfully execute the law involves education. The Department of Education has given 42 of the 50 States waivers from application of No Child Left Behind. Rather than seek a legislative reauthorization of the statute to set realistic goals going forward, the administration has chosen simply to establish their preferred education policy by attaching their own conditions to the waivers that the States need to receive Federal money.

Recently, the State of Washington became the first to lose its waiver, primarily because it did not meet the administration's mandate for teacher and principal evaluation—a mandate that has no grounding in the actual statute. When the vast majority of States receive waivers by meeting conditions that bear little resemblance to provisions of the law itself, is the administration faithfully executing the law as required under our beloved Constitution? To the contrary, the President is using waiver conditions to bring about an entirely different set of education policies, and he is doing so to avoid spending his energies and political capital on a legislative process that might expose divisions within his own party or force his administration to compromise with those who do not share all of his policy preferences.

Of course any discussion of Executive overreach by this administration must include ObamaCare. Back when the administration was writing that 2,700-plus page monstrosity, the bill's proponents argued that its length and complexity were necessary evils, that its many intricate parts were essential to achieve the bill's promised objectives. The individual mandate, the employer mandate, the minimum coverage requirements, the cuts to Medicare Advantage, and the limits for subsidies to State-run exchanges—we were promised that these provisions and others were both critical and carefully timed to expand coverage and rein in costs. Yet when the time came to implement the law, the administration's tune changed.

To justify violating a number of clear statutory mandates, the administration has mustered a weak and unconvincing hodgepodge of legal acrobatics all for the purpose of allowing the administration to avoid enforcing the central provisions of its own signature law. When we in Congress adopted legitimate legislative fixes to provide hard-working Americans relief from ObamaCare's disruptive effects, the White House displayed shocking audacity in threatening to veto lawful delays to some of these cuts and mandates.

I don't know if anyone could imagine a better example of an administration allowing political expediency and ideological commitments to trump the President's constitutional obligations to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. Equally troubling, where the President's legislative efforts have failed, he has decided simply to regulate, seemingly undeterred from stretching his existing statutory authorities past their breaking point. Again, this is the very definition of Executive abuse.

For example, a hallmark of the President's so-called pen-and-phone strategy was to sign an Executive order forcing Federal contractors to raise their minimum wage. He issued this directive despite the fact that there is already a Federal statute that governs the minimum wage for Federal contractors.

Although a different statute gives the President some discretion in the area of Federal procurement, its plain language demands—as courts have long held—that there be a sufficient nexus between the President's orders and the statute's stated goal of efficiency and economy in Federal procurement. Increasing a contractor's labor costs by hiking their minimum wage is wholly inconsistent with this statutory goal, demonstrating there is no legal basis for the administration's Executive order.

Yet another area of grave concern is the effort by this White House to establish new institutional arrangements that fail to respect the separation of government powers and the basic principle of checks and balances enshrined in our Constitution. Take the Dodd-Frank bill, another signature piece of the President's agenda.

All Americans should be concerned with the unchecked institutional form of the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. This administration's unwaivering devotion to expanding the scope and reach of Federal regulation was made manifest in efforts to place the CFPB beyond Congress's constitutional power of the purse. The CFPB Director is empowered to collect a certain percentage of the Federal Reserve's operating expenses, indexed to inflation, thereby denying Congress its rightful authority to allocate Federal spending and keep the agency in check with respect to its overweening regulatory ambitions. What the White House sought was unaccountable Executive power, a CFPB that could regulate with virtually no meaningful restraint.

When a number of my colleagues and I expressed a desire to address the serious objections to the CFPB structure before confirming the President's choice to lead the agency, the White House decided that abiding by the appointments process established by the Constitution was too inconvenient. Determined to press forward with the administration's agenda at all costs, the President simply installed his choice for CFPB Director as well as other key Federal officers without the advice or consent of the Senate—again, the height of Executive arrogance.

The administration sought to justify this move by citing the President's power under the Recess Appointments Clause, but all the relevant legal authority suggested otherwise. The original public meaning of the clause, well-established historical practice, the constitutional requirement for the House of Representatives to consent before the Senate may adjourn for more than 3 days, the Senate's constitutional authority to set its own rules, and the Senate's own determination that it was not in recess at the time, all of this made clear that the President had no authority to make the appointments unilaterally. Yet as an indication of its willingness to simply ignore the law and Constitution, that is precisely what the President did.

This brazen lawlessness cannot stand, and it will not. Already several Federal appeals courts have ruled that these appointments were unconstitutional, and most observers expect the Supreme Court to agree.

Yet the Obama administration remains undeterred. Having decided to bypass Congress and go it alone, the White House has likewise sought to remove meaningful accountability by means of the Federal judiciary. As in the recess appointments cases, Federal courts have rejected a variety of this administration's lawless actions and vindicated critical constitutional rights. No court has served as a greater check on Executive overreach than the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, which oversees most Federal regulatory actions. So the White House has sought to remove even this modest restraint.

After the DC Circuit rightfully invalidated several key administration actions as outside the bounds of Federal law, the President then sought to pack that court with compliant judges in order to obtain more favorable decisions.

The President's allies in this body, in their own words, ''focused very intently on the D.C. Circuit'' determined to ''switch the majority'' on the court, and were willing to ''fill up the D.C. Circuit one way or another.''

In the rush to eliminate any possible judicial obstacle to unilateral progressive advances, they ran roughshod over the rules and traditions of this body, working untold and permanent damage to two venerated institutions of our constitutional system.

This whole episode demonstrates a brazen willingness on the part of this administration to ignore virtually any legal or constitutional constraints and even tamper with the judiciary simply for the sake of advancing its own ideological goals or objectives.

I have only had time today to scratch the surface of the pattern of Executive abuses in areas as diverse as EPA, and NLRB regulatory actions, inappropriate IRS targeting, net neutrality rulemaking, and the refusal to defend the Defense of Marriage Act. Such executive lawlessness should be troubling to all Americans regardless of political stripe or partisan affiliation.

It is the Constitution, the political institutions it established, the legal framework it enshrined, the checks and balances it requires, that ensures we remain a government of laws and not of men. Absent these essential restraints, we will all become subject to increasingly arbitrary rule, a government that knows no bounds and seeks to regulate and control virtually every aspect of our lives.

President Obama once spoke of the necessity for such restraint. He warned of the dangers associated with unilateral executive action, and he highlighted the critical importance of adhering to constitutional procedures.

While campaigning for President in 2008, he said:

> I taught constitutional law for ten years. I take the Constitution very seriously. The biggest problems we're facing right now have to do with [the President] trying to bring more and more power into the executive branch and not go through Congress at all, and that's what I intend to reverse when I am President of the United States.

How far we have come since Candidate Obama made those empty promises.

I have been a Member of this body for nearly four decades. I have worked with half a dozen Presidents. On many occasions we have been able—working together—to accomplish great good for the American people. My concern today is not partisan. My criticisms are not ideological, nor is my interest as a Member of the Senate simply institutional. Throughout my years as a Member of this body, I have acknowledged and defended the power of the President when he acts lawfully—he or she. In the national security context in particular, where the President is at the height of his constitutional and statutory authorities, I have defended the prerogatives of the President no matter the party occupying the White House and no matter the political unpopularity of doing so.

The concerns I have expressed today are about legitimacy. What authority to govern does the President or any of us have except that which we derive from our Constitution? My criticisms are about restoring accountability. How are we going to keep this or any administration honest when it seeks to cut out Congress's legitimate role in the governing process?

Above all, my observations today are about liberty. Yes, that is right—liberty. If we are to maintain our freedoms, which so many of our fellow citizens have fought and died to preserve—including my own brother and two brothers-in-law—we must always remember to heed James Madison's warning in Federalist 47:

> The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.

It is essential to the continued well-being of our Nation, to the legitimacy of our government, and to the liberties of our citizens that the exercise of Executive power is kept within lawful bounds. Doing so requires continual vigilance by the court, by Congress, and by the American people to uphold the standards of the Constitution, and that includes the President as well.

I will close with a word of warning from President George Washington which is perhaps even more true today than when President Washington spoke it way back when.

> If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed.

I thank the Presiding Officer and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the World Health Organization has deemed this week ''World Immunization Week.'' Every year the WHO designates a whole week to promote the world's most powerful tools in public health—the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.

Immunization is one of the most successful and cost-effective health interventions ever introduced, preventing up to 3 million deaths a year from diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, polio, and measles. Thanks to decades of research, there are 25 diseases that can be prevented by vaccines, including some forms of influenza, meningitis, and even certain types of liver and cervical cancer.

The theme this year is ''Are you up-to-date?'' This year one in five children worldwide will not receive the vaccinations they need, some because their parents choose not to and others because it is just not available. Through the Global Vaccine Action Plan, the WHO and other members of the World Health Assembly are working to close this gap and promote equitable access to vaccines for every adult and child in the world. The aim—their goal—is to have all people vaccinated against preventable diseases by 2020.

One of the diseases the WHO is targeting is polio. I have a few years on the Presiding Officer, but I can recall growing up in the 1950s. When you grew up in that era, polio was a real concern. In some years 60,000 kids would come down with polio, and at that time nobody knew why. They could not figure out where it was coming from or how to stop it.

Parents—my mom included—had their theories. Some of those theories were based loosely on health and others on legend. My mother used to say: Don't you go play in that rainwater outside in the street after it rains; you could get polio. I can remember hearing that.

When we were kids, I remember the earliest television shows showed people in iron lungs and surviving in that machine that kept them alive and looking at the world through a mirror that was perched above their heads. Many people were afflicted by polio. Some of my closest friends growing up had polio. Our Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, suffered from polio as a child. It was not uncommon. It was way too common.

Then came the day in 1955 when Jonas Salk came up with the Salk vaccine. It was such an amazing piece of news. It was shared in every classroom across the country. They had a vaccine. It involved a shot, and none of us were excited about that, but the idea of being protected for life from polio was worth it.

Then came along the Sabin oral vaccine, which we were even happier to hear about.

It was an indication to a lot of people that with hard work and research cures could be found.

It was April 12, 1955, when Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., an epidemiologist at the University of Michigan and a mentor to Salk, announced that Salk discovered a polio vaccine that was safe and effective. When that announcement was made, families across America celebrated. We couldn't wait to get in line. April 12 was deliberately chosen for the announcement because it marked the 10th anniversary of the death of the most famous polio survivor of all—President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Roosevelt also founded the March of Dimes Foundation in 1938, without which Salk may not have had the resources to complete his research. A massive field trial led to the release of the vaccine, the first of its kind. It was conducted on 1.8 million children in America, and it was proven 80 to 90 percent effective. We achieved this victory over polio. It really was a big deal. As a result, polio was eradicated in the United States of America in 1979.

In February the Senate passed a resolution I cosponsored with Senator KIRK of Illinois supporting World Polio Day. This resolution commended not only the work of Jonas Salk but also the Rotary Club, WHO, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and UNICEF for their work to eradicate polio. These organizations have joined with the United States and other national governments to successfully reduce cases of polio by more than 99 percent. We now believe there are only three nations on Earth where there is evidence of polio: Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The success of the polio vaccine showed the public what medical research could accomplish and encourage.

Yesterday Chairman MIKULSKI of the Senate Appropriations Committee had a hearing on research, and we had some great witnesses. Among them was Dr. Francis Collins, who is the head of the National Institutes of Health. They came to talk about America's investment in research and innovation. You would think that with the success of the Salk polio vaccine and all the other things that have followed, that America would have learned a valuable lesson about this investment. Sadly, today, some 60 years after the discovery of the Salk polio vaccine, we are not making progress as we should. In fact, in some respects we are falling behind.

Because of our failure to adequately fund the National Institutes of Health over the last 10 or 12 years, we have seen a 20-percent decline in the awards for medical research.

I talked to Dr. Francis Collins about this 2 or 3 months ago. He heads up the NIH. He is a brilliant, wonderful man who was in charge of mapping the Human Genome Project. He did it ahead of time and on budget and produced a wealth of information that is now being used to find cures for diseases.

A month or so ago, the National Institutes of Health introduced their AMP Program where they engaged the 10 largest pharmaceutical companies in America to join with the NIH to use the human genome to find cures for the following diseases: Alzheimer's, type 2 diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis. Those are the first three targets they are going to go after. We need to go after more, and we need to encourage them for several reasons:

First, if we don't make an investment in medical research that future generations of researchers can count on, young people will not dedicate their lives to medical research.

Think of this for a moment: 30 years ago 18 percent of all the NIH medical researchers were under the age of 36. Now it is 3 percent. Younger people are not moving toward medical research because they are uncertain of our national commitment in this area. Shame on us. At a time when we should be enticing the best and brightest in the world to get involved in biomedical research, our indecision and lack of leadership at the governmental level is failing to fund these entities and this effort.

I asked Dr. Collins: What is the kind of commitment we should make as a nation in medical research that can make a dramatic difference?

He said: Senator, if you could give us 5 percent real growth a year beyond inflation, 5 percent a year for 10 years, I will promise you we will make dramatic progress.

So I did a calculation. I asked my staff what it would cost us as a nation to increase medical research 5 percent a year for 10 years. Well, they added the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Defense medical research, and the Veterans' Administration medical research. They said: All right. Put them all together. If we gave them a 5-percent raise each year, how much would it cost over 10 years? The answer: $150 billion.

That is a huge sum of money, but in that same period of time we are likely to budget over $18 trillion in spending for the government. It is a very tiny piece of the overall spending of our government.

Some people who are budget hawks will step back and say: Great idea, Senator, but we just can't afford it. We can't afford to commit to coming up with $150 billion over 10 years.

I would ask them to consider two things:

First, last year in the United States of America, the Federal Government spent, through the Medicare and Medicaid Programs, over $200 billion treating one disease: Alzheimer's. If through our medical research we could find some blessed cure for this terrible disease or even delay its onset, it would more than pay for the amount of money we would have to invest in medical research. It is that important.

Secondly, there are things we can do which I will stand up and say I am prepared to do which would fund a major part of this research. If we increased the Federal tax on tobacco products by 95 cents a package, it would pay for more than half of the medical research I just suggested. Over a 10-year period of time, 900,000 American lives would be saved because children wouldn't be able to afford to buy these tobacco products.

So this medical research commitment is not only a good one in terms of reducing our costs of medical care, but it also is something we ought to achieve in order to make sure there will be breakthroughs in the years ahead to eliminate and treat many of the diseases which haunt us and our families across America.

The American Cures Act is a bill I have introduced. I am happy to have a number of my colleagues cosponsoring it. It has the support of virtually all of the major medical research organizations. It should be bipartisan, and I hope those on the other side of the aisle who share my commitment to medical research will join me.

Discovering the polio vaccine won Jonas Salk the Nobel Prize and allowed him to create the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, one of the premier institutes for biomedical research. If he had done nothing else, Salk's place in history would have been honored and assured. But Jonas Salk wasn't content to rest on past achievement. After all, he was an American. In the last years of his life, he spent his time searching for a cure for AIDS. When his early efforts failed, he was undeterred. When asked why, he said: You can only fail if you stop too soon. This is a decisive moment in the history of our Nation. We have to continue to invest in order to reap the immense rewards of decades of work by the best scientific and medical minds in the world. The only way we can fail is by stopping too soon.

SHAH NOMINATION

Madam President, I rise to speak in support of Manish Shah, who has been nominated to serve as a Federal district court judge in the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Shah is an outstanding nominee. He has the experience, qualifications and integrity to serve with distinction on the Federal bench.

Mr. Shah was nominated to fill the seat that became vacant when Judge Joan Lefkow took senior status. He has been reviewed by my judicial screening committee, and he was chosen by Senator KIRK's committee to serve and I supported the selection.

He is a Federal prosecutor in the Northern District of Illinois. He is currently chief of the criminal division of that office and he has a lengthy resume of achievements in this field.

Mr. Shaw has won numerous awards and recognitions for his work in the U.S. attorney's office, including the FBI Director's Award for Outstanding Criminal Investigation. He graduated from Stanford University and the University of Chicago Law School. He clerked for 2 years for Judge Jim Zagel of the Northern District of Illinois.

Incidentally, his nomination in the Northern District of Illinois is historic. Upon confirmation, he will be the first article III judge of South Asian descent to serve in the State of Illinois. He appeared before the Judiciary Committee last November in a hearing that I chaired. He was reported out unanimously from that committee.

I am sorry it has taken so long for us to get to his nomination on the calendar, but I am certain he will be an excellent addition to the bench for the Northern District of Illinois.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

BASTIAN NOMINATION

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I rise today to express my support for the nomination of Stanley Bastian to be a district judge for the Eastern District of Washington. Stan Bastian is exactly the kind of highly qualified Federal judge eastern Washington needs.

The Eastern District of Washington represents a wide swath of Washington that includes 20 counties that cover 63 percent of our State. Yet the court has been operating with two vacancies. So it is time for the Senate to move forward on filling this position, and I hope we confirm Mr. Bastian today. I also hope we can move forward on a vote on Salvador Mendoza in the coming weeks as well.

Mr. Bastian has been called an ''outstanding choice'' for the Eastern District bench, and I want to make sure we understand why. He was born in Washington and is well versed in Pacific Northwest issues. As my colleagues Mr. WYDEN and Mr. MERKLEY will note, he is a graduate of the University of Oregon, but he also went to law school at the University of Washington. Mr. Bastian has handled a diverse portfolio of legal matters, including representing counties, public utility districts, fruit growers, medical clinics, brokers, and individuals, and he brings more than 30 years of experience to the Federal bench, including 25 years in private practice.

He has well rounded experience from all sides of the legal process, from civil and criminal trials to mediation, arbitration, and negotiations between various parties. Throughout his career, Mr. Bastian has shown a dedication to justice and equal access to the law. As an experienced trial attorney, he has earned the support and recognition of his peers.

When I interviewed Mr. Bastian, I was impressed by his respect for legal precedent and his commitment to the rule of law, his work to improve access to justice, and his local knowledge that has been very important in serving eastern Washington and all of Washington.

Mr. Bastian also served as a judicial pro tem in municipal courts, and recently he had the opportunity to lead the Washington State Bar Association. As the president of that organization, Mr. Bastian focused on ethics, professionalism, and civility in the legal profession. He has a long and wide-ranging background in the law and in the legal community, and that is exactly why we should put him on the Federal bench.

His legal career exemplifies public service, a commitment to access to justice, and a stellar legal intellect. I am confident he will serve the Eastern District well.

So I hope we move forward on these nominees this afternoon and confirm Mr. Bastian.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the Levy nomination, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 711, that there be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, prior to a vote on confirmation of that nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at 11 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on the cloture motions for Calendar Nos. 591, 592, and 575; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, all postcloture time be expired and at 1:45 p.m., the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of Calendar Nos. 591, 592, 730, and 701; further, that on Monday, May 5, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on confirmation of Calendar Nos. 575 and 703; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote, equally divided in the usual form, that any rollcall votes following the first in each series be 10 minutes in length and, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. With this agreement, we will have up to seven rollcall votes this afternoon and as many as three rollcall votes beginning at 11 a.m. tomorrow, and as many as four rollcall votes tomorrow afternoon beginning at about a quarter of 2.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that even though we are a minute or so short, we start the votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SHERYL H. LIPMAN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

NOMINATION OF STANLEY ALLEN BASTIAN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

NOMINATION OF MANISH S. SHAH TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

NOMINATION OF DANIEL D. CRABTREE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

NOMINATION OF CYNTHIA ANN BASHANT TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOMINATION OF JON DAVID LEVY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

NOMINATION OF ROBERT O. WORK TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Sheryl H. Lipman, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee; Stanley Allen Bastian, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington; Manish S. Shah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois; Daniel D. Crabtree, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas; Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California; Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine; and Robert O. Work, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have not had the opportunity—and it is my fault—to speak to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, but hoping he will not be upset, I ask unanimous consent that the 2 minutes prior to this

first vote be yielded back, and then I will talk to Senator LEAHY to see how he feels about the others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON LIPMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Sheryl H. Lipman, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee?

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 118 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Gillibrand	Moran
Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Grassley	Murphy
Barrasso	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Paul
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Heller	Reid
Boxer	Hirono	Risch
Brown	Hoeven	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Isakson	Rubio
Cardin	Johanns	Sanders
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Chambliss	Kaine	Scott
Coats	King	Sessions
Coburn	Kirk	Shaheen
Collins	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coons	Landrieu	Stabenow
Corker	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Levin	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCain	Walsh
Enzi	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	McConnell	Warren
Fischer	Menendez	Whitehouse
Flake	Merkley	Wyden
Franken	Mikulski	

NOT VOTING—5

Boozman	Pryor	Wicker
Cochran	Vitter	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BASTIAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Bastian nomination.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all remaining debate time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Stanley Allen Bastian, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington?

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 119 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Gillibrand	Moran
Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Grassley	Murphy
Barrasso	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Paul
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Heller	Reid
Boxer	Hirono	Risch
Brown	Hoeven	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Isakson	Rubio
Cardin	Johanns	Sanders
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Chambliss	Kaine	Scott
Coats	King	Sessions
Coburn	Kirk	Shaheen
Collins	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coons	Landrieu	Stabenow
Corker	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Levin	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCain	Walsh
Enzi	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	McConnell	Warren
Fischer	Menendez	Whitehouse
Flake	Merkley	Wyden
Franken	Mikulski	

NOT VOTING—5

Boozman	Pryor	Wicker
Cochran	Vitter	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SHAH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Manish S. Shah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois?

● Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Manish Shah. I am proud to have put forward Mr. Shah to be a Federal district court judge for Northern Illinois. I thank President Obama for nominating him. I thank the Senate for voting to confirm Manish Shah.

Senator DURBIN, Illinois' senior Senator, and I work to ensure Illinois has highly skilled judges to help strengthen our courts. Mr. Shah was such a judicial nominee.

In Illinois, Mr. Shah has established himself as an outstanding lawyer and dedicated public servant. He was among the most experienced prosecutors in the Northern District of Illinois. Now with Senate confirmation, Mr. Shah starts the next phase of his legal career. He is ready to take a seat on the Federal bench.

We, as Americans, should be proud of Manish Shah. He is a great American success story. Mr. Shah was born in New York. His parents emigrated from India and raised their two sons in West Hartford, CT. Mr. Shah attended Stanford University and graduated with honors and distinction. He attended the University of Chicago Law School, and again he graduated with honors.

After law school, Shah was a litigation associate at Heller Ehrman in San Francisco and clerked for Hon. James B. Zagel of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. Shah joined the Chicago U.S. attorney's office in September 2001 and prosecuted violent crime, international drug trafficking, complex fraud, and public corruption. During his time as a Federal prosecutor, Mr. Shah developed a stellar record—notably, Mr. Shah worked with former U.S. attorney Patrick Fitzgerald. Mr. Shah and a team of prosecutors and Federal agents investigated and prosecuted a series of cases arising out of the city of Chicago's Hired Truck Program and Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

While working at the U.S. attorney's office Mr. Shah served in several leadership positions. He was a deputy chief of the General Crimes Section and the Financial Crimes and Special Prosecutions Section, and he was the chief of the Appellate Section. Mr. Shah was the chief of the Criminal Division and responsible for supervising the prosecutions in the Northern District of Illinois handled by the approximately 130 Assistant U.S. attorneys. These are the types of life and work experiences that make great judges.

Mr. Shah will be a knowledgeable jurist who will provide a fair forum for the resolution of civil disputes and the prosecution of alleged crimes. I am sure Mr. Shah will have a long and stellar career on the Federal bench in the Northern District of Illinois. I am certain Mr. Shah will be a top-rate judge.

I congratulate Mr. Shah on his confirmation. I look forward to following his judicial career.

Congratulations, Manish Shah. I wish you well.●

Mr. FRANKEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Gillibrand	Moran
Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Grassley	Murphy
Barrasso	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Paul
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Heller	Reid
Boxer	Hirono	Risch
Brown	Hoeven	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Isakson	Rubio
Cardin	Johanns	Sanders
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Chambliss	Kaine	Scott
Coats	King	Sessions
Coburn	Kirk	Shaheen
Collins	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coons	Landrieu	Stabenow
Corker	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Levin	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCain	Walsh
Enzi	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	McConnell	Warren
Fischer	Menendez	Whitehouse
Flake	Merkley	Wyden
Franken	Mikulski	

NOT VOTING—5

Boozman	Pryor	Wicker
Cochran	Vitter	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CRABTREE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Daniel D. Crabtree, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas?

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN, the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 121 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Ayotte	Graham	Murphy
Baldwin	Grassley	Murray
Barrasso	Hagan	Nelson
Begich	Harkin	Paul
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Heller	Risch
Boxer	Hirono	Roberts
Brown	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cantwell	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johanns	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Chambliss	Kaine	Sessions
Coats	King	Shaheen
Coburn	Kirk	Shelby
Collins	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Landrieu	Tester
Corker	Leahy	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cruz	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCain	Warner
Enzi	McCaskill	Warren
Feinstein	McConnell	Whitehouse
Fischer	Menendez	Wyden
Flake	Merkley	
Franken	Moran	

NOT VOTING—6

Boozman	Mikulski	Vitter
Cochran	Pryor	Wicker

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BASHANT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the nomination of Judge Cynthia Bashant to the Federal district court in San Diego.

As my colleagues know, I recommend candidates to the President through a bipartisan judicial selection process. Judge Bashant excelled in this process, earning my recommendation to President Obama.

I am confident she will do an outstanding job on the Federal bench.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Smith College in 1982 and her law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1986.

She spent 3 years practicing civil litigation at the law firm MacDonald Halsted & Layborne, which later became part of the firm Baker & McKenzie.

In 1989, she joined the U.S. attorney's office in San Diego, where she tried at least 15 cases in Federal court.

Judge Bashant served as deputy chief of the narcotics unit in San Diego from 1995 to 1997, and then as chief of the border crimes unit from 1997 to 1998.

During her prosecutorial career, she prosecuted numerous important cases. One was a major drug trafficking case that involved: the Sinaloa drug cartel; a 1,600–foot tunnel under the southern border; 23 defendants; and wiretaps in Chicago, San Antonio, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

She prosecuted an individual who robbed more than 20 banks, a local record in San Diego at the time.

Just after the Violence Against Women Act passed in 1994, Judge Bashant prosecuted the first Federal domestic violence case in the Southern District of California and one of the first in the Nation.

The defendant was accused of luring his wife, who had just filed for divorce, into their car, after which he took her to Mexico against her will, beat her black and blue, and cut off all of her hair. The defendant pleaded guilty to violating a provision of VAWA designed to criminalize precisely this sort of conduct.

In one of her other cases, the defendant was a human smuggler. To avoid a checkpoint, he led a large group of undocumented immigrants across the Interstate 5 freeway on foot. The group included a mother and her six children, ranging in age from 6 to 15 years old.

The 6-year old boy was killed by oncoming traffic in front of his mother. The smuggler simply left the mother and her five other children by the side of the road.

In preparation for trial, Judge Bashant met extensively with the mother, who understandably was distraught and afraid to testify. Judge Bashant and the mother's sister helped the mother be ready to testify against the smuggler.

Ultimately, Judge Bashant secured a guilty plea from the defendant, and the court imposed several sentencing enhancements on him.

For her work on this case, Judge Bashant won the Justice Department's Victim-Witness Award.

She also won numerous other DOJ awards, including the Director's Award for Superior Performance and special commendations 6 years in a row.

In 2000, Judge Bashant was appointed to the San Diego Superior Court.

As a judge, she has presided over more than 1,000 cases that have gone to verdict or judgment—including more than 100 criminal jury trials.

She has been a leader on the superior court, as well as in the San Diego community. Most recently, she was presiding judge of the Juvenile Court from 2009 to 2012.

In 2012, the San Diego Juvenile Justice Commission named her Judge of the Year.

She served as chair of the San Diego Commission on Children, Youth, and

Families, which advises the county board of supervisors on issues affecting family well-being.

She served on the San Diego County Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council as well.

She also has served as president and currently serves on the advisory board of the Lawyers Club of San Diego—a highly respected organization that works to promote gender equality in the legal profession.

She also has served on the board of the Children's Initiative of San Diego, which was established in 1992 to advocate for effective policies to support the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in San Diego.

Simply put, Judge Bashant is a perfect fit for this position. She has experience in private practice. She spent 11 years as a Federal prosecutor in San Diego. She has been running her own courtroom for 13 years.

I have no doubt she will hit the ground running on the Southern District, which has the third-greatest criminal caseload per judgeship in the Nation.

Beyond her qualifications and experience, Judge Bashant clearly is an outstanding woman and a real leader. As one of her judicial colleagues told my judicial selection committee, Judge Bashant is ''an energetic, smart, really impressive hard worker who 'really cares.' ''

So, I am very proud to have recommended Judge Bashant to the President, and I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Boxer	Coburn
Ayotte	Brown	Collins
Baldwin	Burr	Coons
Barrasso	Cantwell	Corker
Begich	Cardin	Cornyn
Bennet	Carper	Crapo
Blumenthal	Casey	Cruz
Blunt	Chambliss	Donnelly
Booker	Coats	Durbin
Enzi	Kirk	Risch
Feinstein	Klobuchar	Roberts
Fischer	Landrieu	Rockefeller
Flake	Leahy	Sanders
Franken	Lee	Schatz
Gillibrand	Levin	Schumer
Graham	Manchin	Scott
Grassley	Markey	Sessions
Hagan	McCain	Shaheen
Harkin	McCaskill	Shelby
Hatch	McConnell	Stabenow
Heinrich	Menendez	Tester
Heitkamp	Merkley	Thune
Heller	Mikulski	Toomey
Hirono	Moran	Udall (CO)
Hoeven	Murkowski	Udall (NM)
Inhofe	Murphy	Walsh
Isakson	Murray	Warner
Johanns	Nelson	Warren
Johnson (SD)	Paul	Whitehouse
Johnson (WI)	Portman	Wyden
Kaine	Reed	
King	Reid	

NOT VOTING—6

Boozman	Pryor	Vitter
Cochran	Rubio	Wicker

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the last rollcall vote will occur in a matter of a few seconds, and after that there will be a voice vote.

The first series of votes tomorrow will be at 11:15 a.m. Starting at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow afternoon, we will have up to four votes. If we are fortunate, there will only be two or three votes.

This is the last vote tonight. We start at 11:15 a.m. tomorrow morning, and then at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

VOTE ON LEVY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Blumenthal	Cantwell
Ayotte	Blunt	Cardin
Baldwin	Booker	Carper
Begich	Boxer	Casey
Bennet	Brown	Chambliss
Coats	Johnson (SD)	Paul
Collins	Kaine	Portman
Coons	King	Reed
Corker	Kirk	Reid
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Donnelly	Landrieu	Rubio
Durbin	Leahy	Sanders
Feinstein	Levin	Schatz
Fischer	Manchin	Schumer
Flake	Markey	Shaheen
Franken	McCain	Stabenow
Gillibrand	McCaskill	Tester
Grassley	McConnell	Thune
Hagan	Menendez	Udall (CO)
Harkin	Merkley	Udall (NM)
Heinrich	Mikulski	Walsh
Heitkamp	Murkowski	Warner
Hirono	Murphy	Warren
Hoeven	Murray	Whitehouse
Isakson	Nelson	Wyden

NAYS—20

Barrasso	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Crapo	Johanns	Sessions
Cruz	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Enzi	Lee	Toomey
Graham	Moran	

NOT VOTING—5

Boozman	Pryor	Wicker
Cochran	Vitter	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON WORK NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert O. Work, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court once again chose to dismantle campaign finance laws which had protected

hard-working Americans for decades. In McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission, a sharply divided Court held that aggregate limits on campaign contributions are a violation of the First Amendment. These were the same five justices who, just 4 years ago, reversed a century of precedent in Citizens United by declaring that corporations have a First Amendment right to endlessly finance and influence elections. Rather than increasing access and encouraging participation for all Americans, this Court continues to rule against our democratic principles and in favor of moneyed interests.

The Court's recent dismantling of campaign finance laws has been devastating. As Justice Breyer warned in his dissent:

> Taken together with Citizens United, [the McCutcheon] decision eviscerates our Nation's campaign finance laws, leaving a remnant incapable of dealing with the grave problems of democratic legitimacy that those laws were intended to resolve.

I could not agree with him more.

Nobody who has watched our elections or even tried to watch television since the Citizens United decision can deny the enormous impact that decision has had on our political process. In small states like Vermont, that decision coupled with McCutcheon poses an even greater risk. I have heard time and again from Vermonters concerned about these toxic effects, and I agree that something must be done. That is why I have cosponsored the DISCLOSE Act since 2010 to restore transparency and accountability to campaign finance laws, and that is why we have held multiple hearings in the Judiciary Committee on the impact of these alarming Supreme Court decisions. Earlier this month I announced that the Judiciary Committee would have another hearing on this issue. That hearing will take place in June. We will hear testimony from individuals who have witnessed the real impact these harmful decisions have had on Americans seeking to exercise their right to vote and to be heard.

The Judiciary Committee's hearing will also take place close to the anniversary of yet another devastating Supreme Court decision. Last June, as the Nation prepared to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his historic ''I Have a Dream'' speech, the same narrow majority of the Supreme Court struck down the coverage provision of the Voting Rights Act and effectively gutted the most successful piece of civil rights legislation in this Nation's history in Shelby County v. Holder.

The Voting Rights Act, including the coverage formula and Section 5, was reauthorized and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2006, after the Senate voted 98–0 and the House voted 390–33 in favor of the reauthorization. Yet the Court struck down a key provision of the Act despite the fact that it has worked to protect the Constitution's guarantees against racial discrimination in voting for nearly five decades. In striking down the coverage formula in the Voting Rights Act, the Court dramatically undercut Section 5's ability to protect American voters from racial discrimination in voting. The result is that many Americans who were protected by this law have now been left vulnerable to discriminatory practices and have had much greater difficulty accessing the ballot box. Along with other lawmakers, I have introduced a bipartisan and bicameral bill, S. 1945, to respond to the Court's decision and would reinvigorate the most vital protections of the Act. I hope Senate Republicans will work with me on this important effort.

This current Supreme Court's pattern of denying access to the ballot box for everyday Americans while expanding the ability of billionaires and corporations to buy elections is disturbing, to say the least. In an article by Ari Berman at The Nation dated April 2, the author states that ''The Court's conservative majority believes that the First Amendment gives wealthy donors and powerful corporations the carte blanche to buy an election but that the Fifteenth Amendment does not give Americans the right to vote free of racial discrimination.'' Since the Court's ruling in Shelby County, eight states previously covered under Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act have since passed or implemented new voting restrictions and voters are already seeing the consequences of that lack of protection. Mr. Berman concludes that ''[a] country that expands the rights of the powerful to dominate the political process but does not protect fundament rights for all citizens doesn't sound much like a functioning democracy to me.'' I agree and I ask unanimous consent to have this article printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

Sara Mayeux at Harvard Law School observed that the Court began its McCutcheon opinion by noting that ''There is no right more basic in our democracy than the right to participate in electing our political leaders'' yet, this same narrow majority discarded that very principle just last year when it struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act in Shelby County—a case that was much more about the right to participate in electing our political leaders than this one.

The observation is consistent with the disturbing trend exhibited by this Court in Citizens United, McCutcheon, and Shelby County, which is that the Court underscores and endorses the rights of corporations and billionaires to participate in our democracy, and yet dismisses that same right for the average American to participate in our elections and to vote free from discrimination.

Every American should understand how devastating these rulings are to our system of democracy. Time and again, this narrow majority of conservative Justices has substituted their own preferences for those of the duly-elected Congress, despite the Supreme Court's own precedents. This Court's disregard for Congressional findings about both the threat of corruption and the irreparable harm of racial discrimination in voting demonstrates how out of touch with reality some of the Justices have become. These sharply-divided rulings undermine the fundamental concept that our democracy is supposed to work for all Americans. I will continue to work on behalf of the American people to see that all Americans and not just a wealthy few will continue to have a right to participate in our representative democracy and to have their voices heard.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Nation, Apr. 2, 2014]

THE SUPREME COURT'S IDEOLOGY: MORE MONEY, LESS VOTING

(By Ari Berman)

In the past four years, under the leadership of Chief Justice John Roberts, the Supreme Court has made it far easier to buy an election and far harder to vote in one.

First came the Court's 2010 decision in Citizens United v. FEC, which brought us the Super PAC era.

Then came the Court's 2013 decision in Shelby County v. Holder, which gutted the centerpiece of the Voting Rights Act.

Now we have McCutcheon v. FEC, where the Court, in yet another controversial 5–4 opinion written by Roberts, struck down the limits on how much an individual can contribute to candidates, parties and political action committees. So instead of an individual donor being allowed to give $117,000 to campaigns, parties and PACs in an election cycle (the aggregate limit in 2012), they can now give up to $3.5 million, Andy Kroll of Mother Jones reports.

The Court's conservative majority believes that the First Amendment gives wealthy donors and powerful corporations the carte blanche right to buy an election, but that the Fifteenth Amendment does not give Americans the right to vote free of racial discrimination.

These are not unrelated issues—the same people, like the Koch brothers, who favor unlimited secret money in US elections are the ones funding the effort to make it harder for people to vote. The net effect is an attempt to concentrate the power of the top 1 percent in the political process and to drown out the voices and votes of everyone else.

Consider these stats from Demos on the impact of Citizens United in the 2012 election:

The top thirty-two Super PAC donors, giving an average of $9.9 million each, matched the $313.0 million that President Obama and Mitt Romney raised from all of their small donors combined—that's at least 3.7 million people giving less than $200 each.

Nearly 60 percent of Super PAC funding came from just 159 donors contributing at least $1 million. More than 93 percent of the

money Super PACs raised came in contributions of at least $10,000—from just 3,318 donors, or the equivalent of 0.0011 percent of the US population.

It would take 322,000 average-earning American families giving an equivalent share of their net worth to match the Adelsons' $91.8 million in Super PAC contributions. That trend is only going to get worse in the wake of the McCutcheon decision.

Now consider what's happened since Shelby County: eight states previously covered under Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act have passed or implemented new voting restrictions (Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, Texas, Virginia, South Carolina and North Carolina).

That has had a ripple effect elsewhere. According to The New York Times, ''nine states [under GOP control] have passed measures making it harder to vote since the beginning of 2013.''

A country that expands the rights of the powerful to dominate the political process but does not protect fundament rights for all citizens doesn't sound much like a functioning democracy to me.

CBO COST ESTIMATES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on Monday, the Finance Committee reported S. 2260, the Expiring Provisions Improvement Reform and Efficiency (EXPIRE) Act of 2014, and S. 2261, the Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2014.

At the time that the bills and accompanying reports were filed, the statements of the Congressional Budget Office, required under section 402 of the Budget Act, were not yet available, and, in each case, the committee report indicated that the statements would be provided separately.

I ask unanimous consent to have the CBO statements printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for the Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2014.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Logan Timmerhoff.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF,
Director.

Enclosure.

Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2014

The Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2014 would make various clerical corrections, clarifications, and conforming and other technical changes to the Internal Revenue Code. Those provisions that the bill would modify were originally enacted in a variety of laws, including the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. In addition, the bill would repeal many elements of the Internal Revenue Code that are not used in computing current taxes and thus are obsolete.

The staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that the bill would have no budgetary effect. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

JCT has determined that the bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Logan Timmerhoff. The estimate was approved by David Weiner, Assistant Director for Tax Analysis.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for the Expiring Provisions Improvement Reform and Efficiency (EXPIRE) Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Barbara Edwards.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF,
Director.

Enclosure.

Expiring Provisions Improvement Reform and Efficiency (EXPIRE) Act

Summary: The Expiring Provisions Improvement Reform and Efficiency (EXPIRE) Act would reinstate and extend certain expired and expiring tax provisions through December 31, 2015; most of the provisions expired on December 31, 2013, and would be retroactively reinstated, but a few are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2014. In some cases those provisions would be extended and amended. The bill also would make several additional changes to tax law.

The staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that enacting the bill would reduce revenues by about $81.3 billion over the 2014–2024 period. A small portion of those estimated reductions in revenues, less than $0.1 billion over the period from 2014 to 2024, results from off-budget (social security) revenues. CBO and JCT also estimate that the bill would increase direct spending by $2.8 billion over the 2014–2024 period.

On net, JCT and CBO estimate that enacting the bill would increase deficits by about $84.1 billion over the 2014–2024 period. Pay-as-you-go procedures apply because enacting the legislation would affect revenues and direct spending.

JCT has determined that the provisions of the bill contain no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impacts of the bill are shown in the following table.

	By fiscal year, in billions of dollars—												
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2014–2019	2014–2024
CHANGES IN REVENUES													
Individual Tax Extensions	−1.0	−8.7	−6.5	−0.3	−0.1	−0.1	−0.1	−0.1	−0.1	−0.1	−0.1	−16.6	−17.0
Business Tax Extensions	−21.8	−100.5	−8.1	32.4	20.5	14.4	8.5	3.6	1.4	−0.2	−0.6	−63.1	−50.4
Energy Tax Extensions	−2.0	−3.5	−1.6	−0.5	−1.0	−1.4	−1.7	−1.8	−1.9	−2.0	−2.1	−10.1	−19.6
Debt Collection Contracts	*	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.9	4.8
Other Provisions	*	*	*	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.0
Total Revenues	−24.8	−112.6	−15.8	32.0	20.0	13.6	7.4	2.4	0.1	−1.6	−2.1	−87.6	−81.3
On-budget	−24.8	−112.6	−15.8	32.0	20.0	13.6	7.4	2.4	0.1	−1.6	−2.1	−87.5	−81.3
Off-budget	*	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	−0.1	−0.1
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING													
Debt Collection Contracts													
Estimated Budget Authority	*	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	2.4
Estimated Outlays	*	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	2.4
Rum Excise Tax Payments													
Estimated Budget Authority	0.1	0.2	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3	0.3
Estimated Outlays	0.1	0.2	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3	0.3
Health Coverage Credit													
Estimated Budget Authority	*	0.1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1
Estimated Outlays	*	0.1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1
Child Tax Credit													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Estimated Outlays	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total Direct Spending													
Estimated Budget Authority	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.4	2.8
Estimated Outlays	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.4	2.8
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (−) IN THE DEFICIT FROM CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING AND REVENUES													
Effect on Deficits	25.0	112.9	16.0	−31.8	−19.8	−13.3	−7.1	−2.1	0.2	1.9	2.4	89.0	84.1
On-budget	25.0	112.9	16.0	−31.8	−19.8	−13.3	−7.1	−2.1	0.2	1.9	2.4	88.9	84.1

	By fiscal year, in billions of dollars—												
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2014–2019	2014–2024
Off-budget	*	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1

Sources: Congressional Budget Office and staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation.
Note: Details may not add to totals because of rounding; * = between −$50 million and $50 million.

Basis of estimate: JCT provided the estimates of all provisions except one dealing with outlays of certain rum excise taxes. The estimates reflect an assumed enactment date of July 1, 2014.

Extensions of individual tax provisions: The individual income tax provisions would reduce revenues by $17.0 billion and increase outlays by $0.1 billion over the 2014–2024 period, JCT estimates. Those amounts include, among others, the extension of provisions that allow:

Individuals to claim state and local sales taxes as an itemized deduction in lieu of state and local income taxes in calculating their individual income tax liability; JCT estimates that the revenue reduction would total $6.5 billion over the 2014–2024 period.

An exclusion from gross income for the discharge of indebtedness on a principal residence; JCT estimates that the revenue reduction would be $5.4 billion over the 2014–2024 period.

Individuals to claim the refundable health coverage tax credit, which JCT estimates would reduce revenues by $28 million and increase outlays for refundable tax credits by $106 million over the 2014–2024 period.

Extensions of business tax provisions: The business tax provisions would reduce revenues by $50.4 billion over the 2014–2024 period, JCT estimates. In addition, CBO estimates that outlays would increase by $0.3 billion over the 2014–2024 period. Those amounts include, among others, provisions that allow:

Businesses to qualify for both additional first-year depreciation of 50 percent of the basis for qualifying property and additional expensing (that is, immediate deduction from taxable income) for qualifying property under section 179 of the Internal Revenue Code. JCT estimates that those provisions would reduce revenues by $101.8 billion over the 2014–2015 period, and increase revenues by $95.7 billion over the 2016–2024 period, with the net effect of reducing revenues by $6.0 billion over the 2014–2024 period.

Businesses to claim the research tax credit, which JCT estimates would reduce revenues by $16.0 billion over the 2014–2024 period. The provision would extend the credit in effect in 2013 in modified form.

Certain foreign subsidiaries that engage in banking, financial, and related businesses to defer taxation of certain income until it is repatriated to the U.S. parent corporation; JCT estimates that the provision would reduce revenues by $10.4 billion over the 2014–2024 period.

The Treasuries of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to receive increased payments relating to excise taxes on rum manufactured in those places as well as rum imported from other countries. CBO estimates that those payments, which are recorded in the budget as outlays, would total $336 million over the 2014–2024 period.

Extensions of energy tax provisions: The extension of the energy tax provisions would lower revenues by about $19.6 billion over the 2014–2024 period. The provision with the largest effect on revenues—reducing them by an estimated $13.3 billion over the 2014–2024 period—would extend to the end of 2015, the date by which construction must begin in order for renewable power facilities to be eligible for the electricity production credit or the investment credit in lieu of the production credit.

Debt collection contracts: The bill would require the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to contract with private collection agencies to collect payments of certain tax liabilities. JCT estimates that the provision would increase revenues by $4.8 billion over the period from 2014 to 2024. The IRS would retain up to 25 percent of the amount collected by the private collection agencies to pay for the services of those collection agencies. In addition, up to an additional 25 percent would be retained by the IRS to fund a program of personnel hiring and training related to tax compliance, and to administer the contracts with private collection agencies. As a result, direct spending would increase by $2.4 billion over the 2014–2024 period.

Other provisions: JCT estimates that the remaining provisions in the bill would increase revenues by $1.0 billion over the 2014–2024 period. The provision with the largest effect on revenues would allow the Treasury Department to levy up to 100 percent of a payment to a Medicare provider to collect unpaid taxes; JCT estimates that the provision would increase revenues by $0.8 billion over the 2014–2024 period. JCT also estimates that a provision that would apply penalties to tax preparers who fail to exercise certain due diligence requirements for claims of the refundable child tax credit would reduce outlays for refundable tax credits by $40 million over the 2014–2024 period.

Pay-as-you-go considerations: The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in revenues and outlays that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in the following table. Only on-budget changes to outlays or revenues are subject to pay-as-you-go procedures.

CBO ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR THE EXPIRING PROVISIONS IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY (EXPIRE) ACT, AS ORDERED REPORTED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON APRIL 3, 2014

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2014–2019	2014–2024
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (−) IN THE ON-BUDGET DEFICIT													
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Effects	24,959	112,872	16,007	−31,824	−19,763	−13,332	−7,137	−2,143	153	1,875	2,388	88,921	84,058
Memorandum:													
Changes in Revenues	−24,797	−112,587	−15,753	32,045	19,994	13,574	7,390	2,408	125	−1,583	−2,083	−87,526	−81,272
Changes in Outlays	162	285	254	221	231	242	253	265	278	292	305	1,395	2,786

Sources: Congressional Budget Office and staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: JCT has determined that the provisions of the EXPIRE Act contain no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Revenues: Barbara Edwards and staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation Federal Spending: Matthew Pickford

Estimate approved by: David Weiner, Assistant Director for Tax Analysis.

TRIBUTE TO GABRIELLE BATKIN

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Gabrielle Batkin on the occasion of her becoming the staff director of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Gabrielle has a long career in public service. She served in Senator Frank Lautenburg's office, in Congressman PALLONE's office, on the Senate Budget Committee, and joined my office in 2001. Gabrielle started on the Appropriations Committee's Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee, then moved to the Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittee, eventually becoming the clerk of the subcommittee. For the last year she has been the deputy director of the Appropriations Committee.

Gabby has played a part in some of my biggest achievements, including the most recent passage of the Appropriations Omnibus Package for Fiscal Year 2014. Her expertise and service ensured that America was well-funded and ready to get back to work after sequester and shutdown.

Throughout these wonderful 13 years, Gabrielle has been an invaluable member of my staff. Not only has she helped me immensely in my work as a U.S. Senator, but she has served the people of Maryland with distinction. Today I want to thank Gabrielle, her husband Josh, and her three wonderful children

Henry, Will, and Charlie, for sharing her with us. I want to recognize her for all of the important work she has done and wish her the very best as she embarks on the next stage in her career.

COMBATING GLOBAL HUNGER

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I would like to discuss global hunger. From April 28 to May 2, people across the United States and across the globe are participating in the Live Below the Line campaign to raise awareness for global hunger and to show support for the critical programs that seek to alleviate hunger. Participants in the Live Below the Line campaign, including many of my constituents in Maryland, are subsisting on $1.50 a day to demonstrate the challenges faced by millions of people each day. Right now, more than 1.2 billion people involuntarily live on less than $1.50 a day for food and drink.

Children are particularly vulnerable to hunger and undernourishment. Studies show a child's entire life is shaped by whether or not she or he receives proper nutrition during the first 1,000 days of her or his life. And tragically, 3.1 million children under the age of 5 die each year as a result of poor nutrition and hunger.

When we think of global hunger, we often think of Sub-Saharan Africa where 223 million people, 24.8 percent of the population, face food insecurity. Or we think of Asia, where more than 500 million people suffer from hunger. In Laos, for example, 50 percent of children under the age of 5 are chronically malnourished. And in Burma, it is estimated that about 35 percent of children are undernourished and stunted.

But hunger is not just a problem for developing countries. Families across America and in my home State of Maryland are also struggling. According to the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture report on Household Food Security in the United States, 12.5 percent of all households in Maryland were food insecure between 2009 and 2011, and more than 27 percent of children in Maryland are living in poverty.

Proper nutrition is not just important to individual health, it is critical to the long-term health and success of nations. Poor nutrition and rampant hunger results in a less healthy and less productive workforce, hampers economic development and growth, and ultimately perpetuates the cycle of hunger and poverty for successive generations. It should not be that way; every child should have the opportunity to grow up healthy and strong.

Thanks to organizations like the World Food Program USA and the United Nations World Food Program, who together work to solve global hunger, the number of hungry people in the world has fallen by 17 percent since 1990. And in 2013, the World Food Program provided 24 million school children in 60 different countries with meals at school. This not only reduces undernourishment and hunger, but also incentivizes school attendance. We need more programs like this, and we need more people to be aware of this issue, both here in the United States and abroad.

With the world population expected to increase to 9 billion by 2050, transforming how people farm and what people eat is the only way, I believe, to ensure food security for future generations.

We are making great strides in global food security, particularly through the U.S. Feed The Future Initiative, which focuses on building sustainability and resilience into communities by transforming how people farm and what people eat.

In 2009, then-Secretary of State Clinton said,

> We have the resources to give every person in the world the tools they need to feed themselves and their children. So the question is not whether we can end hunger. It's whether we will.

Ending global hunger and poverty will not happen tomorrow, but if we continue to coordinate with our global partners, harness the power of the private sector and the NGO community, and use our development aid in the most effective and transparent way possible, we will have much better outcomes. The United States must be relentless in striving to assure that no one goes hungry.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TONY ZEISS

● Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a friend of education, a passionate champion for job creation and innovation, and a truly outstanding leader from North Carolina.

Dr. Tony Zeiss has served as the president of Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, since 1992. CPCC is an institution familiar to many of my colleagues in this body. In January 2012, during his State of the Union Address, the President held up the partnership between CPCC and Siemens Energy as a model of customized training for workforce development. Central Piedmont Community College was also selected as the 2002 Community College of the Year by the National Alliance of Business.

The community college's success is due, in large part, to Dr. Zeiss's leadership and commitment to fostering innovation in workforce and career development.

Dr. Zeiss is a native of Indiana and a proud alumnus of Indiana State University, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. He received his doctorate degree in community college administration from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. Zeiss is passionate about his adopted home State of North Carolina and the importance of making a difference in his community. He has served on several local, regional, and national boards. He is the past chair of the board of the American Association of Community Colleges, past board chair for the League for Innovation, and was the Association of Community College Trustees' National Chief Executive Officer of the year for 2004–2005.

While it is evident he is deeply engaged in his community, the true sources of strength for Dr. Zeiss are his wife Beth, his two sons, his daughter-in-law, and his two grandchildren.

One of the first opportunities Dr. Zeiss sought out when he arrived in North Carolina was participation in Leadership North Carolina, a nonprofit organization that engages current and emerging leaders from across the State through ongoing networking and service opportunities. In 1995, Dr. Zeiss graduated from Leadership North Carolina as an alumnus of Class I. In 2005, the LNC board of directors recognized his contributions to the State by presenting him with the L. Richardson Preyer Alumni Award, presented annually to an LNC alumnus whose demonstrated leadership has made a significant improvement in the quality of life, economic well-being, and/or sense of community in our State.

Elected as chair of Leadership North Carolina in 2012, Dr. Zeiss has brought his considerable leadership experience and passion as an alumnus to strengthen the organization during his 2-year tenure. His work has positioned the program for sustainability for years to come and strengthened its reputation among leaders in business, government, education, and the nonprofit sector. The measure of a good leader is the legacy he or she leaves behind. Dr. Tony Zeiss leaves North Carolina with 950 informed and engaged leaders and has challenged them to leverage their influence for the benefit of our State and Nation.

On June 30 of this year, Dr. Tony Zeiss will complete his tenure as chair of the Leadership North Carolina board of directors. We need strong, effective, visionary leaders now more than ever. Dr. Zeiss's service to Leadership North Carolina has been focused on promoting the LNC program and soliciting financial support for its sustainability and growth, all while engaging, challenging, and informing future leaders. I join the board of directors of Leadership North Carolina in recognizing Dr. Zeiss for his leadership, vision, and determination.

As a fellow parent and grandparent, I am grateful for the example Dr. Zeiss has set for young people and the opportunities he has provided through the gifts of education and leadership. He is the embodiment of our State's motto, Esse Quam Videri, to be rather than to

seem, and I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Tony Zeiss for his service to North Carolina.●

FREMONT COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Fremont County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities and a healthier, safer community

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Fremont County worth over $155,000 and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $4.4 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be Fremont County's excellent work to secure funding for firefighting equipment through Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, fire grants. I look forward to seeing how Fremont County has implemented this important funding in their community.

Among the highlights:

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as—for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Fremont County's fire departments have received over $896,975 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Southeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Fremont County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. I have fought for funding for affordable housing programs through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which local economic development officials have successfully won over many years, securing over $475,000 and helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities in Fremont County.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin Grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Fremont County has received $150,000 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Fremont County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $47,400.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Fremont County has received more than $2.6 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed-captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Fremont County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Fremont County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Fremont County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives, and, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa, and I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

SHELBY COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Shelby County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Shelby County worth over $544,000 and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $8.4 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be early in my career when I helped Elk Horn to cut through the bureaucratic red tape holding its historical Danish windmill at customs in New York due to import levies. I also worked with community leaders to see that they received a refund of that levy. Soon after, I spent one of my work days helping the people of the community to rebuild it as a bicentennial project. The windmill stood on Danish soil for 127 years before it was purchased by the Elk Horn community. I am pleased that my state staff director, Rob Barron, will be revisiting this site exactly 38 years after my workday on May 1, 1976.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin Grants—for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Shelby County has received $391,730 in Harkin Grants. Similarly, schools in Shelby County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $20,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Shelby County has received more than $2.1 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that with the help of community leaders like Sheri Bowen with the public health department, Shelby County has recognized this important issue by securing $162,500 for wellness grants and through direct appropriations for mental health services for distressed farmers.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Shelby County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Shelby County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Shelby County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. And I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

TRIBUTE TO SARAH JOHNSON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Sarah Johnson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Sarah is a graduate of Custer High School in Custer, SD. Currently, she is attending South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, where she is majoring in mining engineering. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sarah for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MEGAN ASSMAN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Megan Assman, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Megan is a graduate of Winner High School in Winner, SD. Currently, she is attending South Dakota State University, where she is majoring in political science. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Megan for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JENNESSA SCHOLL

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Jennessa Scholl, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Jennessa is a graduate of Spearfish High School in Spearfish, SD. Currently, she is also a graduate of Black Hills State University, where she majored in mass communications. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Jennessa for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ADAM WEK

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Adam Wek, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Adam is a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending South Dakota State University, where he is majoring in political science. He is a hard worker who

has been dedicated to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Adam for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID JENSEN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Mr. David Jensen, a native of Lemmon, SD, for being awarded the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Defense Medal for Valor. The Medal for Valor is the highest civilian award for valor, and David received this honor for his actions while deployed in Afghanistan on September 10, 2012. He was recognized for his bravery in an awards ceremony at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes on April 14, 2014.

David served in the 75th Ranger Regiment and the U.S. Army Special Operations Command before he was honorably discharged. He is now a special operations task force advisor at Fort Bragg, NC, working for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.

David has also worked as a contractor for Wexford Group Inc., serving with the U.S. Army Asymmetric Warfare Group. In 2012, David was deployed to Afghanistan as an operational adviser for the Asymmetric Warfare Group alongside Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. On September 10, 2012, David and Company C were set to fly out of Bagram Airfield with Afghan National Security Forces to conduct a partnered air assault operation in Parwan Province. During preflight operations, however, one of the CH–47 Chinook helicopters was struck by an enemy rocket, igniting the fuel tanks of the aircraft. Despite the high risk of danger and personal harm, David immediately began evacuating wounded soldiers from the burning aircraft, making several trips before the flames overcame the entire aircraft. After evacuating four wounded soldiers from the wreckage, David promptly began administering medical attention to the injured. A humble man, David has said that he merely reacted, doing what needed to be done.

David Jensen is most deserving of the Medal for Valor for his exemplary bravery in the face of danger and putting the concerns of others before his own. His selfless acts saved the lives of his colleagues, and our Nation will always be grateful for his dedicated service. As thankful citizens, we must never take for granted the courage of heroes like David who selflessly answer the call to duty.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSE ELGUEZABAL

● Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I wish to honor Jose Elguezabal, a veteran of the U.S. Army.

It is my honor to share the story of Jose's service, because no veteran's story should ever go unrecognized.

Jose was born in Eagle Pass, TX, and served our Nation during World War II. Unfortunately, most of the records of his service were destroyed in the fire at the National Personnel Records Center in 1973.

Jose told his daughter Anna how his platoon came under fire, killing every member but Jose. Jose was captured by enemy forces and spent 6 months as a prisoner of war in France.

When Jose returned home, he and his wife of 63 years had 10 children—9 girls and 1 boy. His children said he was a great father and a true patriot who flew an American flag and a Prisoner of War flag outside of his house every day until he passed away.

His family pieced Jose's military service record together to finally track down the medals Jose earned through his service.

We were joined by Jose's daughter Anna and her husband John, who recently retired after spending 40 years serving Malmstrom Air Force Base as a firefighter.

It was my honor, along with the commanding officer at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Col. Robert Stanley, to present to Anna the medals that long ago should have been presented to her father: The Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal & Bronze Star Attachment, WWII Victory Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Honorable Service Lapel Button, and Marksman Badge & Rifle Bar.

These decorations are important tokens of Jose's heroism. But these decorations are also powerful reminders that we should never let a veteran's service go forgotten.

These medals were presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ROBERT VIERECK

● Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I wish to honor John Robert Viereck, a U.S. Army veteran from World War II.

It is my honor to share the story of John's service, because no veteran's story should ever go unrecognized.

John was born in Wilmington, CA, in 1924.

John's father loved the sea and encouraged his son to join the Merchant Marines. John joined up but was so seasick after his first trip that his career in the Merchant Marines came to an end.

On July 8, 1942, John enlisted in the U.S. Army.

John was a radioman and cryptographer for the Big Red One—the Army's First Infantry Division, Antitank Company, 26th Infantry Regiment.

He served in Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, England, France, Belgium, Germany, and Czechoslovakia.

John served in seven campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge, and spent a total of 31 months in Europe and Africa.

When John returned home to the United States in 1943, he was diagnosed with shell shock, something we know today as post-traumatic stress disorder.

After World War II, John attended the Frank Wiggins Trade School to study TV and radio. John bought his first TV in the late 1940s and his daughter Fran remembers that from then on the Viereck household always had a TV.

John worked as a truck driver in Wilmington, as a taxi driver in Gardena, and then as a Zamboni operator in Torrance, CA. He was also a ham radio operator.

Weather, politics, war, and the military have been lifelong topics of interest to him.

John moved to Helena in 2003 to be closer to his daughter.

In the presence of John's family, it was my honor to present to him the Bronze Star Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster; the Good Conduct Medal; the American Campaign Medal; the European-African-Middle Eastern, EAME, Campaign Medal, with 4 bronze stars, meaning he served in four of these campaigns; the WW II Victory Medal; and the Honorable Service Lapel Button.

The medals are a small token but they are a powerful symbol of service and sacrifice.

These medals were presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 994. An act to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

The bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 12:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 627. An act to provide for the issuance of coins to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4167. An act to amend section 13 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, known as the Volcker Rule, to exclude certain debt securities of collateralized loan obligations from the prohibition against acquiring or retaining an ownership interest in a hedge fund or private equity fund.

H.R. 4414. An act to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4488. An act to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 627. An act to provide for the issuance of coins to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4167. An act to amend section 13 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, known as the Volcker Rule, to exclude certain debt securities of collateralized loan obligations from the prohibition against acquiring or retaining an ownership interest in a hedge fund or private equity fund; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 30, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 994. An act to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5423. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–134); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5424. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–180); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5425. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–006); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5426. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–022); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5427. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–029); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5428. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–036); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5429. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–148); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5430. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–009); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5431. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–002); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5432. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–193); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5433. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–008); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5434. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–173); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5435. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Government of Cuba's compliance with the United States-Cuba September 1994 ''Joint Communique'' and on the treatment of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 ''Joint Statement''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5436. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1002 (P.L. 107–243) and the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (P.L. 102–1) for the December 17, 2013–February 14, 2014 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5437. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5438. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2013 annual report on voting practices in the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5439. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014–0034—2014–0048); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5440. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel (OSS–2014–0551); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5441. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5442. A communication from the Diversity and Inclusion Programs Director, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5443. A communication from the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5444. A communication from the Staff Director, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5445. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5446. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Transportation's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5447. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5448. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5449. A communication from the Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, Office of the Assistant

Secretary of Defense (Readiness and Force Management), transmitting, pursuant to law, a compilation of fiscal year 2013 reports from the Department of Defense Components relative to the implementation of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5450. A communication from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the District of Columbia Family Court Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5451. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Administrative Wage Garnishment'' (5 CFR Part 1639) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5452. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA–3368–EM in the State of Georgia having exceeded the $5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5453. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; Industrial Funding Fee (IFF) and Sales Reporting'' (RIN3090–AJ36) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5454. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Solicitation of Federal Civilian and Uniformed Service Personnel for Contributions to Private Voluntary Organizations'' (RIN3206–AM68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5455. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Met Many Requirements of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 but Did Not Fully Comply for Fiscal Year 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5456. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2014 through 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5457. A communication from the Chairman, National Mediation Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Annual Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5458. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Certification of Fiscal Year 2014 Total Local Source General Fund Revenues (Net of Dedicated Taxes) in Support of the District's Issuance of $495,425,000 in General Obligation Bonds (Series 2013A)''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5459. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' (Docket No. FEMA–2013–0002) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5460. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Premium Rates; Payment of Premiums; Reducing Regulatory Burden'' (RIN1212–AB26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5461. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on mining activities as required by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5462. A communication from the Director of the Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Black Lung Benefits Act: Standards for Chest Radiographs'' (RIN1240–AA07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2271. A bill to establish the Green Bank to assist in the financing of qualified clean energy projects and qualified energy efficiency projects; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2272. A bill to prohibit discretionary bonuses for employees of the Internal Revenue Service who have engaged in misconduct or who have delinquent tax liability; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado:

S. 2273. A bill to improve energy savings by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2274. A bill to expedite decisions on applications for authorization to export natural gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 430. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 1, 2014, as ''Silver Star Service Banner Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. HAGAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 431. A resolution honoring military children during the National Month of the Military Child; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 315

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to reauthorize and extend the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2008.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to improve security at State and local courthouses.

S. 541

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 541, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 1066

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1066, a bill to allow certain

student loan borrowers to refinance Federal student loans.

S. 1141

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the rehabilitation credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1187

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1187, a bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1725

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1725, a bill to amend the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 to confirm that a customer's net equity claim is based on the customer's last statement and that certain recoveries are prohibited, to change how trustees are appointed, and for other purposes.

S. 1733

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1733, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 1837

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1837, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of consumer credit checks against prospective and current employees for the purposes of making adverse employment decisions.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 1881

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1881, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2024

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2024, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, with regard to the definition of ''marriage'' and ''spouse'' for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 2080

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2080, a bill to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, enhance fish and wildlife-dependent recreation, and for other purposes.

S. 2126

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2126, a bill to launch a national strategy to support regenerative medicine through the establishment of a Regenerative Medicine Coordinating Council, and for other purposes.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2231, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide an individual with a mental health assessment before the individual enlists in the Armed Forces or is commissioned as an officer in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2252, a bill to reaffirm the importance of community banking and community banking regulatory experience on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, to ensure that the Federal Reserve Board of Governors has a member who has previous experience in community banking or community banking supervision, and for other purposes.

S. 2263

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2263, a bill to appropriately limit the authority to award bonuses to employees.

S. 2270

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2270, a bill to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 417

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 417, a resolution designating October 30, 2014, as a national day of remembrance for nuclear weapons program workers.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 430—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 1, 2014, AS ''SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY''

Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 430

Whereas the Senate has always honored the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Silver Star Service Banner has come to represent the members of the Armed Forces and veterans who were wounded or became ill in combat in the wars fought by the United States;

Whereas the Silver Star Families of America was formed to help the American people remember the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces by designing and manufacturing Silver Star Service Banners and Silver Star Flags for that purpose;

Whereas the sole mission of the Silver Star Families of America is to evoke memories of the sacrifices of members and veterans of the Armed Forces on behalf of the United States through the presence of a Silver Star Service Banner in a window or a Silver Star Flag flying;

Whereas the sacrifices of members and veterans of the Armed Forces on behalf of the United States should never be forgotten; and

Whereas May 1, 2014, is an appropriate date to designate as ''Silver Star Service Banner Day'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of May 1, 2014, as ''Silver Star Service Banner Day'' and calls upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 431—HONORING MILITARY CHILDREN DURING THE NATIONAL MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. HAGAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 431

Whereas more than 2,200,000 individuals demonstrate courage and commitment to freedom by serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas 43.5 percent of members of the Armed Forces, when deployed away from their permanent duty stations, leave behind families with children;

Whereas no one feels the effect of deployments more than the children of deployed members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas as of March 2014, more than 52,000 children have had a military parent wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas the daily struggles and personal sacrifices of children of members of the Armed Forces are too often unnoticed;

Whereas countless children live with a parent who is a member of the Armed Forces and who bears a visible or invisible wound of war;

Whereas the children of members of the Armed Forces are a source of pride and honor to the people of the United States, and it is fitting that the United States recognize the contributions of such children and celebrate the spirit of such children;

Whereas the National Month of the Military Child, observed in April of each year, recognizes military children for their sacrifices and contributes to demonstrating the unconditional support of the United States for members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas in addition to programs of the Department of Defense to support military families and military children, various programs and campaigns have been established in the private sector to honor, support, and thank military children by fostering awareness and appreciation for the sacrifices and the challenges that such children face; and

Whereas a month-long salute to military children encourages support for the organizations and campaigns established to provide direct support for military children and families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) joins the Secretary of Defense in honoring the children of members of the Armed Forces and recognizes that such children share in the burden of protecting the United States; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to join the military community in observing the National Month of the Military Child with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor, support, and thank military children.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 30, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 30, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Transportation Security Administration Oversight: Confronting America's Transportation Security Challenges.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 30, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., to hold a Near Eastern and Southern and Central Asian Affairs Subcommittee hearing entitled, ''A Transformation: Afghanistan Beyond 2014.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 30, 2014, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Lessons Learned from the Boston Marathon Bombings: Improving Intelligence and Information Sharing.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 30, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 30, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Drug Enforcement Administration.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 30, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SH–216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Dollars and Sense: How Undisclosed Money and Post-McCutcheon Campaign Finance Will Affect the 2014 Election and Beyond.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 30, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SR–418 of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Overmedication: Problems and Solutions.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 30, 2014, in room SD–562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 2:15 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Exploring the Perils of the Precious Metals Market.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 430, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 430) expressing support for the designation of May 1, 2014, as ''Silver Star Service Banner Day''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 430) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

NATIONAL MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 431, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 431) honoring military children during the National Month of the Military Child.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 431) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business tonight, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, May 1; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11:15 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that at 11:15 a.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 591, 592, and 575, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be a series of votes at 11:15 a.m. tomorrow and another series at 1:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:46 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 1, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 30, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

SHERYL H. LIPMAN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE.

STANLEY ALLEN BASTIAN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.

MANISH S. SHAH, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

DANIEL D. CRABTREE, OF KANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS.

CYNTHIA ANN BASHANT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

JON DAVID LEVY, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ROBERT O. WORK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Wednesday, April 30, 2014*

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 30, 2014.

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

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING THE CHERRY FAMILY

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cherry family from Girard, Illinois, as they prepare to retire from Cherry's IGA, a family-operated business for more than 100 years in Macoupin County, Illinois.

Cherry's opened in 1908 as the Girard City Meat Market, owned by Clarence Cherry, as an extension of his family farm located only 1 mile away from the store.

In the 1950s, the store turned into a full-service grocery store under the watch of son, Phil Cherry. In 1987, Phil's son, Jim, took over the store and has owned it to this day.

It is hard to overstate the importance of a local grocery store and what a strong local grocery store can mean to the residents of a small community like Girard. For more than 100 years, the Cherrys were more than just small business owners, they were friends, community leaders, and public servants.

The Cherrys embodied all that is great about this country, and they achieved the American Dream. So congratulations, and thank you to the Cherry family and enjoy your well-earned retirement.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, tick, tick, tick. The clock and the calendar march on. Congress just took a 2-week vacation, and I am back to remind my colleagues that the window to pass legislation to fix our broken immigration system, stimulate the economy, keep families together, and strengthen America is ticking away.

With just 25 legislative days until the July Fourth recess, the Republicans have a difficult task, and it gets harder with each passing day. But I am optimistic this morning. Last week I saw the Speaker of the House in his district urging his Republican colleagues to get to work and legislate on this important issue. Republicans from COFFMAN in Colorado to KING in New York are calling for reform.

In my home State of Illinois, practically every Republican running for office came out to stand with former Speaker Denny Hastert and the business community to say they want Republicans to allow a vote on immigration. One speaker, Carole Segal, the cofounder of Crate & Barrel, shared the microphone with two American kids whose parents are being deported, and there was not a dry eye in the house. I knew there was a reason I shopped at Crate & Barrel.

While some House Republicans, the Speaker, and key Republican supporters and funders get it, the majority leader did not list immigration as something the House should address this spring. It is nowhere on the legislative calendar.

In order to fix what is broken about our immigration system, we must do three things at the same time. We must repair and improve our legal immigration system so that we can eliminate the black market; we must strengthen and humanize our enforcement system so that our laws serve our national interests; and we must legitimize and destigmatize those people who actually live, work, and raise families in our country by inviting them to join us on the right side of the law so that they can earn the privileges and fulfill the responsibility our great Nation demands.

The easiest way for Republicans to get this issue behind them would be to schedule a vote on the bipartisan bill that passed the Senate last year. An hour or 2 of debate and a 15-minute vote is all we need. Done, punto. Not one of the Republicans who thinks that legislating on immigration reform this year is ''too hard'' needs to vote for it, and it will still pass comfortably the House of Representatives.

But House Republicans say that the bill has too many pages and doesn't have the imprint of House Republicans. Okay. Fine. We have introduced the discharge petition for H.R. 15 for any Republicans who change their minds.

Republicans say they prefer a series of short, digestible bills to address the three components of reform. Fine. Pass multiple bills to fix our immigration system, and we Democrats will work with you and the Republican majority. But remember, more bills take more time, and time is not something Republicans have plenty of.

Republicans have said they don't want a special path to citizenship for adults who entered the country illegally. They want some sort of noncitizenship status that might or might not lead to citizenship over time. My side finds that very hard to swallow. At least we want to keep talking and hear you out. We want to see if we can reach a bipartisan agreement and move forward.

Democrats think citizenship is important, and we are ready to fight for it. We think making everyone play by the same set of rules is very, very important to the American people. Okay. If this is the only way you will fix the three components of immigration reform, let's talk and let's see if we can reach an agreement.

Now we hear the warning that if Obama does anything, even a clarification of the current deportation policy, Republicans say Obama will be ''poisoning the well'' for reform. This is from a party that seems to hardly need an excuse to scream about mass amnesties, Mexicans rushing across the border, and Obama's plot to undermine and sabotage America.

Sadly, even some important Democrats don't think any form of Presidential action would be prudent at this time when it comes to deportation. They seem to be saying: Let's just ride out the pain of deportations in the Latino and immigrant communities while we score political points against the do-nothing Republicans.

Maybe we can try again when Democrats are in charge again, even though we didn't do it the last time we were in charge. Yes, Democrats had 257 votes, and we didn't call a single vote for 4 years on comprehensive immigration reform.

One by one, deportations are driving fathers and mothers out of our communities and leaving children in foster care. Neither party is free from blame, and neither party seems to have the appropriate level of urgency when it comes to the deportation of and the devastating effect our broken immigration system has on our immigrant families.

The Republicans control the calendar, and Democrats will bring 200 votes to the table if you work with us. We must all be willing to put it on the line, to stand up for what is right, what is achievable, and what will heal and strengthen our Nation. We still have the next 25 days. Time is of the essence, Mr. Speaker.

KENTUCKY'S EQUINE INDUSTRY

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an industry that is at the very center of the culture and economy of Kentucky's Sixth Congressional District, our signature equine industry.

Central Kentucky is rightfully designated as the ''Horse Capital of the World,'' but this is a little title that we happily share with our neighbors in the city of Louisville on the first Saturday of May. As we celebrate the highlight of the thoroughbred racing season, the annual running of the Kentucky Derby, the Run for the Roses, I want to also acknowledge the men and women who dedicate their lives to our signature horse industry and the significant economic and jobs impact of this equine industry in Kentucky and beyond.

When you think of the Kentucky Derby, the fastest 2 minutes in sports, you think of Aristides in the first running of the Derby in 1875; you think of Orb, who won the Derby last year in 2013; and all of the great thoroughbred horses that came in between, from Sir Barton in 1919, the first Triple Crown winner; Gallant Fox; Omaha; War Admiral, who was of course in that duel with Seabiscuit; Whirlaway; Count Fleet; then in modern times, Secretariat, the fastest running of the Kentucky Derby in 1973; Seattle Slew, a Triple Crown winner in 1977; and our last Triple Crown winner, Affirmed, in 1978.

Despite the growing popularity of the thoroughbred racing industry and the vast number of our constituents that enjoy equine recreation, many Americans remain unaware of the significant impacts of the horse industry on our modern economy. The horse industry has a significant presence in at least 45 States and across many facets of the economy.

According to a comprehensive study by the American Horse Council, the Nation's 9.2 million horses created $102 billion in annual economic activity. This economic engine supports 1.4 million full-time jobs. In our Commonwealth, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, it is estimated that 80,000 to 100,000 people owe their jobs to our signature horse industry.

While many outside the industry perceive thoroughbred racing perhaps as a sport only reserved for the rich and famous, we in Kentucky know differently. We know that that is simply not the case. Horse farms in my district range anywhere from small family operations with fewer than 20 acres and only a half dozen mares to world-renowned breeding operations that attract thousands of mares from across the globe. Further, these farms support a myriad of related industries, such as agriculture, manufacturing, retail, tourism, just to name a few. I will invite anybody watching on C–SPAN to come to central Kentucky and visit some of our world-famous horse farms. Clearly, this is an industry that brings people with an affinity and passion for horses together, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

Kentucky's horse industry is critical to our economy, which is why I have led of number of efforts in Congress to promote the equine industry. I serve as the chairman of the Congressional Horse Caucus. This caucus serves as a forum to provide Members of Congress the opportunity to learn about the impact of government policies that impact the equine industry and to collaborate with government leaders and industry stakeholders from across the country.

I have introduced two bills impacting the tax treatment of horses. The first bill, H.R. 998, titled the Equine Tax Parity Act, would eliminate the 44-year-old tax provision that discourages investments in the equine industry and discriminates against equine assets.

The second bill, H.R. 2212, the Race Horse Cost Recovery Act of 2013, would make permanent the 3-year depreciation schedule for horses, for race horses, which is critical to the health of Kentucky's horse racing industry as well as job growth and other horse-related industries.

I plan to continue my efforts to advance these critical bills and urge any colleagues in the House to contact my office if they wish to join the Congressional Horse Caucus or support these important legislative and job-creating initiatives.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, as we gather with friends and family this Saturday, the first Saturday in May, to watch the 140th running of the Kentucky Derby—again, the fastest 2 minutes in sports—let's not forget to honor all of the men and women who make this great sport possible. From the farm, to the sales, to the track and beyond, horses require the loving care of dedicated professionals at each step along the way. Without the efforts of the owners, the breeders, the trainers, the farriers, the grooms, the jockeys, the track operators, the employees, and all the people who support the horse industry, without their efforts, our great horse industry, our great pastime, simply would not be possible.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. I rise in memory of the devastating atrocities that were committed in Nazi-occupied Europe, where more than 6 million people lost their lives. In every generation, we must bear witness to the events of the Holocaust to fully understand what transpired and to ensure that this would never happen again.

To fully comprehend the horrors of the Holocaust, we must lay our eyes on the hallowed grounds where the cruelest crimes against humanity were perpetrated. I recently returned from Ukraine. There, I stopped to pay my respect at the site of the Babi Yar massacre in Kiev. To stand in the place where more than 100,000 people were shot and buried in a mass grave brings reality to the horrible accounts of the massacre. Every person had a name and a story.

I have twice visited Auschwitz-Birkenau. I walked through the rooms where the prisoners slept, filled now with the possessions they left behind. I saw the fields where prisoners stood waiting in line for their meager rations. I saw the walls where Jews were lined up before Nazi soldiers shot them.

□ 1015

I saw the gas chambers where you could still see scratches on the walls from prisoners desperate to escape.

Every person had a name and a story.

When I followed the train tracks out of Auschwitz, I reversed the path that led so many to their final resting places. From that moment, I have committed to remember what happens when senseless hatred prevails.

Unfortunately, the hatred and intolerance that led to these crimes against humanity is still alive today.

At some point, no survivors of the Holocaust will be alive to recount their heroic and heartbreaking tales of survival. We must make sure that we never repeat this dark mark on world history by teaching our children tolerance, and never forgetting the innocent victims of the Holocaust.

The Hebrew word ''yizkor'' means ''we will remember.'' Though Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed on April 28 this year, I ask that we dedicate ourselves to remembering the horrors of the Holocaust and commit to prevent genocide in our lifetimes and in the future.

IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 2014, AS ''DIA DE LOS NINOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS''

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in recognizing and celebrating ''Dia de los Ninos,'' or ''Day of the Children.''

On April 30, many countries around the globe, especially in the Western Hemisphere, dedicate this special day to the children.

Whereas, the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the United States to declare April 30, 2014, to be Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans, a day to bring together Latinos and other communities in the United States to celebrate and uplift children, I urge all Americans to nurture and invest in all children and support them in leading healthy and prosperous lives.

In honor of Dia de los Ninos, I encourage all Americans to instill creativity, ingenuity, and a love of learning in all children and to support Federal investments that expand access to a high quality education for all, from cradle to career.

In honor of Dia de los Ninos, I urge President Obama and House and Senate leadership to pass commonsense immigration reform and take bold steps to protect immigrant children and keep families together.

For Latinos, passing humane immigration reform and reuniting children and parents who have been separated by our Nation's broken immigration system is of the utmost importance. Family reunification and providing much-needed relief to millions of immigrant children, youth, and families is critical to the health and well-being of Latino families and to our Nation's future.

In honor of Dia de los Ninos, I call on our Nation's parents to become more involved in the education of our children. As the primary teachers of family values and culture, I urge parents to encourage their children to go to college and to contribute to our Nation and to their respective communities.

Above all, I ask parents to preserve and pass on their rich language and cultural traditions to future generations.

We in south Texas recognize the rich cultural traditions that exist along the U.S.-Mexico border region, and we are proud that many of our children speak at least two languages. We are determined to increase educational attainment at every level.

In the United States, many Latino families continue the tradition of honoring their children on Dia de los Ninos. Today, I wish to share this custom with my colleagues in both the House and the Senate and with all Americans.

Given the significance of Dia de los Ninos in the Western Hemisphere, I urge Congress to honor the gifts of Latino and immigrant children to society by designating April 30 as Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans.

SCIENCE CHICKS

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

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, the Science Chicks, a new club in Mount Prospect, Illinois, represents the future of our country.

These 24 middle school girls built their remote operating vehicle and equipped it with motors and an underwater camera. They did all the electrical wiring themselves from scratch. At a competition at the University of Illinois, their submersible vehicle picked up items from the bottom of the pool's floor.

These girls represent millions around the country that have the ability to achieve greatness in the STEM fields. It is now our job to support them.

When I was in flight school learning to become a helicopter pilot, all the flight instructors asked me to please try to find more women to join the Army flight school. They said that women made excellent natural pilots, but that they were less likely to even come forward and apply to the flight training program than their male peers.

I wonder how many girls around the country could achieve great things in math, science, or even flight school, but are simply unaware of the opportunities that are out there for them. We need to make sure that our public schools have the resources to invest in STEM education and that girls are encouraged to reach their full potential.

This is not only about empowering our daughters, but building the future of our economy and strengthening American competitiveness abroad. STEM education is crucial to providing good jobs for future generations and allowing our businesses to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, let's follow the example of the Science Chicks and support STEM education throughout this country.

A LOOK IN THE MIRROR

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, the job of a Congressman is, simply put, to keep America number one. This Congress is failing at that job.

Today, the Financial Times reports that, for the first time since 1872, America will soon no longer have the largest economy in the world.

This is the headline: ''China To Overtake the U.S. As Top Economic Power This Year.''

We are losing our position to China, which is overtaking us some 3 years earlier than expected.

Even more importantly, last week, The New York Times reported that our middle class, which used to be the world's richest, no longer is.

This Congress simply must take responsibility for this. We must pass job-creating, pro-growth legislation. But this Congress has failed to do that.

This Congress has failed to take up and pass major infrastructure legislation, immigration reform, and tax reform.

We know how to solve many of these pro-growth problems, but this Congress is refusing to do so.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues should not blame anyone else for this mess. We are the largest body of elected leaders in this country. All we need to do to solve these problems is look in the mirror.

STATEMENT ON ANNOUNCEMENT BY NBA COMMISSIONER ADAM SILVER

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to address the statement made just yesterday by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

As we all know, Mr. Speaker, Commissioner Silver dealt swiftly, decisively, and broadly with the reprehensible racist tirade that has been attributed to Los Angeles Clippers owner, Mr. Donald Sterling.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to applaud Commissioner Silver for his swift, forward-thinking, decisive action and for taking a meaningful step forward in improving racial relations here in America, and having a very progressive impact on the culture of our Nation by forbidding the racial and racist attitude of any individual that may seek to hide behind the popularity and celebrity status that we give to our athletes and other entertainers.

Commissioner Silver's response to Mr. Sterling's appalling statements sent a message to all those who may hold racial or discriminatory attitudes that there is no place to hide here in the United States of America.

Whether it comes from the floor of the House, whether it comes from the other body, whether it comes from any quarter, we should all be outraged at the racial attitudes of intolerance and indifference and the hatred that is being spewed across the airways of our Nation. Three times over this last month we have heard reprehensible commentaries by others. We should all have felt a sense of enormous outrage at the comments of these individuals.

Much is left to be done, Mr. Speaker.

The one thing that is before the Nation and the NBA is that the owners have to do what they are required to do. I urge the owners to do what is best for the Clippers, what is best for the players in the NBA and the NBA itself, what is best for the fans of the NBA, and what is best for the Nation. I ask the owners this morning to remove Mr. Sterling from the privileges of owning an NBA team and remove him from the equation that he currently operates in. And do that finally, firmly, and quickly.

We need a decision by the NBA owners now to remove Mr. Sterling.

TOLLING WILL CRIPPLE OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the United States Department of Transportation yesterday delivered to Congress a draft highway reauthorization which proposes to remove the prohibition on tolling existing capacity on interstate highways.

As my colleagues are aware, the interstate highway system was created to enhance the flow of goods and services throughout the country.

□ 1030

These investments have served to improve our economy and the lives of our citizens, while allowing America to remain competitive in a global market.

Plain and simple, tolling existing capacity will do nothing more than cripple our economy. In fact, Mr. Speaker, any attempt to remove the prohibitions on tolling interstate highways must be highly scrutinized.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, in 2007, a scheme was put together to toll Interstate 80. This was a prime example of a betrayal of public trust, where the Commonwealth, under then-Governor Rendell, aimed to use toll grants on other projects unassociated with the interstate.

Mr. Speaker, tolling can work for new capacity or to mitigate congestion by providing alternative lanes of travel, but it must be done in a transparent manner. Pennsylvania's plan was not crafted for the public good, but to cover up for a history of highway mismanagement and cronyism throughout the bureaucracy.

Now, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on finding a fiscally responsible way to maintain investments in critical transportation infrastructure projects across the country.

As we move forward on a new highway reauthorization, let us restore the public trust, not further erode it. The American people deserve as much.

TURNING DARKNESS INTO LIGHT AND HATRED INTO LOVE

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of Sunday, April 13—Palm Sunday and the eve of Passover—it was a beautiful spring day in Overland Park, Kansas. Many families were gathering across the community to be close and to celebrate these meaningful and important religious holidays; yet on that day of great beauty, tremendous evil was arriving in my community. On that day, hatred, combined with bigotry, would spur a tragedy of horrific proportions in Overland Park.

That afternoon, a singing competition for the best high school singers in the metropolitan area was occurring at the Jewish Community Center just down the street from where my family lives.

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City has been in operation since 1914 and is a bustling center for events, meetings, discussions, exercise, and service of a diverse community where all people and all faiths are welcomed.

That day, two members of my church, the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, were driving into the parking lot of the Jewish Community Center to participate in this competition—a grandfather and his grandson—when, out of nowhere, a man driven by hatred, anti-Semitism, and a life of racism decided to take their innocent lives.

Reat Underwood, one of the victims, a 14-year-old boy and freshman at Blue Valley High School, had an amazing voice. Reat's love of theater came naturally to him. With that training, Reat began his theater career at age 4 in Camelot Academy.

Reat was heavily involved with volunteering, and he cared about his community and was very active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Carrying on the traditions of his grandfather and uncles, Reat was a Cub Scout with Pack 3097 at Blue Valley Middle School and then a Boy Scout with Troop 37, the Red-Tailed Hawk District, where he had reached Life Scout. He was preparing for his Eagle Scout boards with Troop 92, to be held in May.

Reat will be missed by his family, especially his younger brother, Lucas, who gave a beautiful tribute at Reat's services.

Reat's grandfather, Bill Corporan, who was taking Reat to this singing contest, also was a victim. Reat's family all lived in Overland Park, and his grandparents had moved there from Oklahoma, so they could live near their grandchildren.

Dr. Corporan had met and married his wife, Melinda, in Ponca City, Oklahoma, and they were married in 1965. He graduated with a doctorate of medicine from the University of Oklahoma in 1972, and the whole family became very big Sooner fans.

He operated family medicine practices throughout Oklahoma before finally moving with his wife to Overland Park to be close to their family. He continued serving his community as a physician and a medical director to the very last days.

A third victim, Terri Lamano, was arriving at Village Shalom, a retirement community almost a mile down the street to visit her mother. She too became a victim of vile bigotry and hatred from that violence that afternoon.

Terri worked as an occupational therapist at the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired in Kansas City. She spent her time working with children and families of those in need.

Her daughter, Alissa, described Terri as ''a beautiful soul who always thought of everyone else before herself. She was the best mother, wife, sister, and friend that anyone could ask for.''

Sadly, Terri was taken from us just 2 days before her 25th anniversary with her husband.

Today, I rise to pay tribute to these victims. We will never forget them. Our hearts break for them, and this Congress honors them for their beautiful lives and legacies.

Although the events which transpired are evil and will have long-lasting effects in our community, they have also brought us together and strengthened the bonds between all of us.

Mr. Speaker, my district is a diverse one, demographically. It is a strong community with a strong community spirit. With urban, suburban, and rural areas, the Third District of Kansas is a microcosm of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, these hate crimes were shocking to our community as these types of actions were so foreign to us. The days following the horrendous act, though, were filled with love, community, and comfort as members of our entire community came together to support one another.

Hundreds and hundreds of community members gathered together for an interfaith unity service at the Jewish Community Center. Vigils were held. Thousands turned out for memorial services.

Mr. Speaker, this type of hate and violence has no place in our society, and

our Kansas community, as many often do, rallied and demonstrated in unified voice and spirit that one act of violence cannot break our bonds and tear us apart.

Mindy Corporan, a friend of mine and the woman who tragically lost both her son and father that day, stated something profound after these events. She said:

> We want something good to come out of this. We don't know what that's going to be, so we want people to let us know if they think something good has come out of it.

Mr. Speaker, I was there for the week following the shooting. I saw the reaction of the entire community and the support and comfort our community has shown each other.

Mr. Speaker, the entire Third District of Kansas honors Reat, Bill, and Terri and every single other human being who has been the victim of racism, discrimination, hatred, and evil. We honor them, each and every one of us, by doing our part to turn darkness into light and to turn hatred into love.

INCREASE IN CARGO PREFERENCE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we have challenges in the United States with the notion of how we are going to protect American-flagged ships, the capacity to be able, in times of national emergency, to provide the transport services that we need.

I have been a supporter of the Jones Act. I think it is important to have cargo preference. I think it is important to be able to manage. I am interested in other areas that we might explore to be able to make sure that the United States is not at the mercy of other nations in times of emergency.

I will say that I have been dismayed at recent activities to force, in the Coast Guard reauthorization, to increase the cargo preference for American food aid from its current level of 50 percent to 75 percent. This is outrageous, and it is not the answer.

The situation we face today is that we require this food to be delivered in American ships. It increases the delay in terms of when the food gets there, and we are competing with local communities.

Mr. Speaker, in an ideal world, we would do what most international aid countries do when they deliver assistance. They use money to buy local products. This helps support local agriculture, and it provides the food when it is needed, not months later.

The United States primarily delivers surplus commodities that we produce in the United States that are shipped halfway around the world, that arrive often too late, and it is in direct competition to local producers.

It undercuts their capacity to take care of themselves, while our assistance gets there too late, and it increases the cost of doing so.

Now, in times past, the government had reimbursed the cost differential. That was eliminated in the Budget Control Act, so that is gone, and we have had this provision that was snuck in. It was not widely debated. Members of the House and the Senate did not understand what was going on.

We have had terrific leadership from Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL in the House Foreign Affairs Committee to try and focus on ways to be able to provide greater flexibility to United States aid, so we can help more people at less cost and not undercut their capacity to support themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that my colleagues will take a good, hard look at this provision. We need to make sure that this is removed, to at least go back to where it was at 50 percent; but more important, we ought to look at how we provide this food aid around the world.

At a time when we are providing lavish support to American farmers and ranchers, they don't need the additional support to undercut production of food in some of the poorest and most desperate countries in the world.

We ought to stretch those dollars. We ought to make sure that that aid arrives sooner, when it is needed; and we ought not to have this artificial mechanism that is both more expensive, less efficient, and most important, it hurts the people that we are trying to serve.

There is bipartisan leadership in the House that is trying to fix this, working with NGOs around the country and around the world. We ought to roll up our sleeves and do this in a cooperative way and prevent undercutting these poor countries and eliminating the ability to get food to them quickly.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Lead us this day in Your ways, that our Nation might be guided along the roads of peace, justice, and goodwill.

Recent events, including the tragic murders in Kansas motivated by religious bigotry and the unfortunate high-profile racism displayed in Los Angeles, remind us that we as a nation still have work to do to guarantee that our founding documents and their soaring ideals are realized by all who dwell in our land.

Grant strength and wisdom to our Speaker and the Members of both this assembly and the Senate, to our President and his Cabinet, and to our Supreme Court, as well as to us all, that all our institutions and all our communities fulfill the noble promises of our representative form of self-government.

Grant us the courage to become whom You have called us to be—our better selves—so that the United States might continue to be a nation worthy of emulation.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

> I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

NO BONUSES FOR IRS TAX DELINQUENT EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last week we learned that the IRS paid out more than $1 million of taxpayer-funded bonuses and other awards to more than 1,100 employees who owe back taxes. That is outrageous.

This bonus scandal comes at a time when the IRS is under fire for targeting Americans based on their beliefs and amid reports that reveal IRS workers broke the law by engaging in political activity on the job. Simply put, the IRS is out of control. IRS employees are failing to comply with the very laws they were hired to enforce. Worse, it further proves that Washington doesn't respect nor care how Americans' hard-earned tax dollars are spent.

It is time for the IRS to respect hardworking American taxpayers, and that is why I am introducing a commonsense bill to prohibit the IRS from providing bonuses to tax delinquent IRS workers.

I urge my colleagues to join in this effort. It is the right thing to do.

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the United States Department of Transportation released a proposal to spend $302 billion over the next 4 years on highway and transportation projects in our Nation. Though this is an improvement on the current pathetically weak investment in roads and bridges, this is not nearly enough to adequately address America's broken infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the American Society of Civil Engineers gives the United States infrastructure a D grade and predicts that an additional $3.6 trillion investment will be needed by 2020 just to bring America's infrastructure to a state of good repair.

Making a real investment, going beyond the President's proposal, is not only an investment in our Nation, it is also an important investment in our Nation's people. Nation-building right here at home can't be outsourced and could create millions of jobs and dramatically lower the unemployment rate.

I urge my colleagues to support large-scale investment in America, supporting American people and American businesses.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 63rd annual National Day of Prayer. Tomorrow morning, I will join a bipartisan group of Members to gather together and pray for our country.

As we continue to face obstacles each day, both as a country and as an individual, I urge Americans to join us in praying for wisdom and guidance, thanking God for the many blessings we have been given in this Nation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our brave servicemen and servicewomen and their families who are serving our country overseas and here, protecting our freedom and putting their lives on the line for our security. We pray they return home to our grateful Nation swiftly and safely.

Let us also continue to pray for peace in our own communities. Psalm 145 promises that the Lord is near to all who call upon Him, and I urge you to join me tomorrow in observing the National Day of Prayer.

ANIMAL EMERGENCY PLANNING ACT OF 2014

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on National Animal Advocacy Day to announce the introduction of the Animal Emergency Planning Act of 2014. This bill would require entities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act to develop a plan for how they will respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and manmade, that would most likely occur in their facilities.

Regulated animal breeding facilities, commercial animal dealers, transporters, exhibitors, and research facilities would be required to submit plans to the USDA annually and to train their employees on the contingency plans and procedures.

Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, as well as other recent disasters, have highlighted the need for planning to minimize the impact of these disasters on animals, which can have devastating effects.

Local first responders, nongovernmental agencies, and private individuals in the past have often ended up shouldering the cost and taking on the responsibility of protecting and caring for these animals. It is only fair and reasonable to require emergency readiness plans from those in these businesses. So please join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of making the research and development tax credit permanent. America has a long tradition of supporting research and development.

The R&D tax, which was first enacted in 1981 under President Ronald Reagan, stimulates investment, creates high-value jobs, and drives economic growth. But the R&D credit has never been made permanent. In fact, the credit expired at the end of last year, which has caused significant uncertainty and hurts long-term investment for businesses of all sizes.

The roller coaster of tax extensions, expirations, and renewals should stop. Businesses need to make decisions on what is best for their workers and companies, not the stop-and-go policies of an uncompetitive Tax Code.

Permanency of the R&D tax credit will propel U.S. competitiveness, and it will also help promote future investment, innovation, and job growth right here at home.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today there are 2 million Americans that stand to lose everything they have worked for, through no fault of their own—2 million Americans that are working Americans that get up every day and work hard to find their next job. They are America's unemployed who have lost their extended unemployment benefits. They stand to lose everything.

Rather than taking up H.R. 4415, which I introduced right after the Senate acted on a bipartisan basis to deal with this problem of the unemployed in our country, to make sure that that unemployment compensation is there for them when they need it, rather than take that up, the House Budget Committee has sent to this floor for its consideration a budget that would slash essential programs to provide a safety net for those hardworking Americans who stand to lose everything in order to fund tax cuts—big tax cuts—for America's wealthiest people. That is policy that we just can't tolerate. Rather than taking up the needs of those 2 million, we have taken on the challenge of trying to provide more tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

If this had happened because of a storm, we would act overnight. We need to take up H.R. 4415 right away.

BIPARTISAN TRADE PRIORITIES ACT

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, given the fact that 95 percent of consumers live outside our borders, the U.S. must continue to pursue trade opportunities. The U.S. actually had a trade surplus with our 20 trade agreement partners in 2012.

Trade agreements expand opportunities and fuel competition, which benefits consumers and can strengthen and protect American interests around the world. Though trade agreements make sense strategically and economically,

some nations, however, are not playing by the rules.

Barriers to agriculture are the most pressing issue for my home State of Nebraska, but every industry is subjected to outdated tariffs and nonscientific barriers which countries fashion to protect their own domestic industries.

If the U.S. fails to lead, our exports will be placed at a competitive disadvantage to those from countries moving forward with aggressive trade agendas. To enhance U.S. leverage in the marketplace, we need to pass the Bipartisan Trade Priorities Act. By renewing this act, we would demonstrate seriousness about formulating enforceable, science-based rules and empower the rest of the world to follow suit.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AGENDA

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, all you need to do is watch one episode of ''Mad Men'' to know that women in the workforce have come a long way. While we would like to say that everything is better now, we certainly know that is not the case.

On the central coast of California and across the United States, women continue to earn less than men for equal work. Child care costs more than college tuition. Access to earned paid family leave, maternity leave, and sick days is lagging. These are barriers for women, but they also have a ripple effect on their families and on our local economies.

We are not powerless to address this, and that is why I hosted an open community forum last week to explore the many ways that we can support an economy that works for women and families. That is why we need a vote on the Women's Economic Agenda, a slate of legislative proposals to strengthen the middle class and our local economies. Because we know that when women succeed, America succeeds.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, this week, our Nation observes the 63rd National Day of Prayer. Leaders have been gathering in our Nation to recognize this day since Congress recognized it in 1952. We have always been and still remain a nation under God.

This week, I will continue to pray for our Nation. I will pray for my colleagues who serve with me here in Congress. I will pray for the people I serve in south Mississippi. I will pray that God Almighty continues to watch over our people and that he will continue to bless this land.

Also, my prayers and my thoughts are with all those in my home State of Mississippi and throughout the country who were affected by this week's storms. I want to thank my colleagues who have reached out to my office and to our delegation.

This week, as we bow our heads once more to observe the National Day of Prayer, we also remember the 35 lives lost, the loved ones who mourn them, and the hundreds of communities who are picking up the pieces to rebuild their lives.

□ 1215

NOMINATION OF SHERYL LIPMAN

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will consider the nomination by President Obama of Ms. Sheryl Lipman to be a district court judge in the Western District of Tennessee.

Yesterday, with less than 60 votes, cloture was lifted in the Senate.

Ms. Lipman will assuredly be confirmed by the Senate today. She is an outstanding jurist whom I recommended to the President. She was counsel to the University of Memphis, an esteemed attorney in private practice, and the executive director of Diversity Memphis, a group that brings people together. She was recommended by a bipartisan group of ad hoc lawyers in Memphis as the highest-qualified person seeking the position. She will serve the district well.

I commend President Obama for his nomination, and I thank Senators ALEXANDER and CORKER for their bipartisanship in voting for the lifting of cloture, voting for her today, and helping this nomination come about.

COMMEMORATION OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, to pay respect to over 12 million people, including 6 million Jews, systematically murdered by the Nazis. We learn how ordinary men and women can turn a blind eye to massive suffering and death.

This January, I traveled to Poland to observe the 69th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. We were joined by representatives and parliamentarians from 60 different countries, over half of the Knesset from Israel, and many, many survivors.

The memory of the Holocaust is seared forever into the consciousness of a generation of people who survived it. Through their stories, the lessons of that dark time serve as a warning to future generations.

In the words of Elie Wiesel:

Human suffering anywhere concerns men and women everywhere.

It is with that sentiment I vow: never forget, and never again.

SEXUAL ASSAULT ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it astonishes me that by the time women graduate from college, one in five will be a victim of sexual assault.

Colleges are institutions of higher learning, and no student—especially young women—should ever feel threatened on the campus that they call home for 4 years.

I applaud the President for announcing a series of efforts to strengthen Federal involvement and provide schools with the tools needed to end sexual assault on campuses. We must work across the aisle to put an end to this violence and to give victims the support they need.

The new Web site launched yesterday, notalone.gov, will do just that: increase transparency through annual surveys and information on the prevalence of sexual assault on campuses.

As a member of the third class of women ever to graduate from Dartmouth College, I was proud to see President Phil Hanlon step up to address unsafe and inappropriate behavior on the Dartmouth campus and to see the University of New Hampshire recognized for its initiatives to reduce sexual violence on campus.

We must continue to address these issues head-on and ensure a safe and secure environment for learning for all college students, men and women.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4486, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4487, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 557 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 557

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for

consideration of the bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4487) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. Pending the adoption of a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015, the amounts provided for current law mandatory budget authority and outlays contained in the statement of the Chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives in the Congressional Record dated April 29, 2014, shall be considered for all purposes in the House to be allocations to the Committee on Appropriations under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

SEC. 4. During consideration of H.R. 4486 and H.R. 4487 pursuant to this resolution, the suballocations printed in House Report 113–425 shall be considered for all purposes in the House to be suballocations under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for consideration of the first two appropriations bills that the House will consider for fiscal year 2015: H.R. 4486, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act; and H.R. 4487, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act.

The resolution provides an open rule for consideration of H.R. 4486 so that all Members have the opportunity to come to the floor and offer amendments on this important piece of legislation.

The resolution also provides a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 4487, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, which is customarily considered in this manner. This structured rule makes in order eight amendments.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to this House the first of what I hope are many appropriations bills for fiscal year 2015. Because of the Ryan-Murray budget agreement late last year, the Appropriations Committee has been able to move expeditiously and report these two bills for consideration by the whole House. In fact, this is the earliest that appropriations bills have been considered in this House since 1974.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, both of these bills enjoy strong bipartisan support. Both were reported out of committee by voice vote and take into account updated priorities for the coming fiscal year.

I am proud, for example, that we were able to provide additional funding for our veterans, who have given so much in service to our country. I am also proud that these bills maintain the fiscal discipline this country so desperately needs.

The MilCon-VA bill actually spends $1.8 billion less than fiscal year 2014, and the Legislative Branch bill provides for level funding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Chairman ROGERS for beginning this process in earnest, and look forward to consideration of additional appropriations measures at the appropriate time.

I urge support for the rule and the underlying legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my friend from Oklahoma for yielding me the customary 30 minutes for debate.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4486, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015 provides for $165 billion in appropriations for veterans programs, military construction projects, and other agencies and programs. H.R. 4487, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, provides for $3.3 billion for legislative branch activities.

Clearly, the parties working on this matter worked together, and we need more of that in this institution. This bipartisan effort brought Democrats and Republicans together to draft legislation that appropriates funds to military construction projects, improves quality of life for veterans and military families, and allows for the continued operation of the essential functions of our Nation's governing body.

Included within these measures is an increase of $8.8 billion for veterans benefits programs, guaranteeing those who have dedicated themselves to defending our Nation will receive the benefits they earned.

I am very proud of the fact that Mike Sykes is sitting with me today, who is one of those veterans that is working in my office and prepared me for this particular day. I would like to thank him, TOM, and all of the people that work with us with reference to this particular part of the responsibilities that we have on the Rules Committee.

H.R. 4486 provides for significant reductions to Defense Department construction spending, which is in line with the President's fiscal 2015 request, but uses those savings to increase total funding for the Veterans Affairs Department by 7 percent.

This shift represents the growing awareness that as we wind down the costly wars that we have been engaged in for over a decade, we must now turn our full attention to supporting those who will bear the cost of those wars for decades to come.

□ 1230

Last week, I participated in a ceremony for World War II, Vietnam, and

Korean war veterans where we were honoring a gentleman that has spent a large portion of his career in making sure that veterans receive their proper due.

It was telling to me that we had not done all that they anticipated that we could, and, therefore, I am hopeful that we will take cognizance of the fact that the veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan will have tremendous needs, and, hopefully, this small advance will allow for us to attend them properly.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is provided a total of $158.2 billion in budget authority, an increase of almost 7 percent over last year. This legislation ensures full funding for essential VA compensation and benefits programs in areas like education, vocational training, and housing assistance.

This measure also includes $58.7 billion in advance funding for the VA, ensuring that veterans will continue to have full access to their medical care needs, regardless of where Congress stands in the annual appropriations process.

The underlying legislation includes funding for important national programs and activities, such as the Medical and Prosthetic Research account, Post-9/11 GI Bill authorities, and encouragement for the department to maximize the availability of mental health services to veteran victims of sexual trauma while serving in the military.

H.R. 4487, the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, while a bipartisan effort—and for the most part, noncontroversial—still falls short of restoring funding levels for Member offices and committee staffs.

As with their fixation on cutting spending on any investment in our Nation's infrastructure, education, and scientific research, my friends on the Republican side continue to believe that you can reduce the budget indefinitely and still get the same product.

What they fail to acknowledge is that, eventually, there comes a breaking point where the lack of investment produces tangible reductions in the quality of the product rendered, and unfortunately, that time is fast approaching for Members' offices and committee staffs.

Two reports mentioned by the minority members on the Legislative Branch Subcommittee bring into stark relief the consequences of ongoing funding shortfalls.

The first, by the Congressional Management Foundation and the Society for Human Resource Management, shows that over 50 percent of congressional staff cite salaries as a major factor in their decision to leave their positions.

The second, by the Congressional Research Service, found that, between 1977 and 2010, House committee staff levels dropped by 28 percent, while Senate committee staff levels have increased by almost 15 percent over the same time.

Either the Senate is doing a lot more work than we are, or we are seriously hamstringing our ability to conduct thorough research and debate on the critical issues before us today.

We cannot continue to decimate our staffs and committees, while asking for more and more from them. As we must be responsible stewards of the resources that the American people have entrusted us with, so too must we be responsible to those who have chosen public service.

Just as we cannot continue to allow companies to pay nonliving wages, we cannot continue to pay our staffs in the same manner that we have. We can and must do better.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking my good friend for putting an emphasis and a spotlight on an area of bipartisan cooperation in the veterans area. He is precisely right in the concern that both sides of the aisle have for the men and women in uniform that have fought this Nation's battles.

While the wars themselves have been contentious, I actually don't think the funding of veterans has ever been contentious, regardless of who was President and regardless of who was in control of this Chamber.

Quite frankly, as I recall, during the Bush years, we increased veterans expenditures by about 100 percent over an 8-year period. That has continued under President Obama.

Again, you can never do enough, but I think the Congress actually, over an extended period, has really tried in this area and has worked together quite well in a bipartisan sense.

My friend also referred a little bit to the legislative branch, and there, again, we probably have some areas of agreement, maybe some areas of disagreement, but not profound ones.

The reality is we are in a difficult time financially. My friend is absolutely correct when he points to some of the reductions in House expenditures. We have reduced, by about 14 percent, House expenditures over the last 3 or 4 years.

I would suggest, while those changes have been difficult, they have been appropriate, given the size of the deficit and the fiscal difficulties we had.

It is important to note, in this budget, we make no further reductions. As a matter of fact, we actually increase expenditures in some important institutions that actually support Congress and its work.

We have not done it again, as my friend has correctly stated, for Members' offices or for committees. We did do a little bit of that last year in raising so-called MRAs and committee budgets.

This year, because of the allocation we had, frankly, I have chosen, as chairman of that committee, to focus on things like the Government Accountability Office, the Government Printing Office, the Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, areas that are absolutely indispensable in the operation of this institution. The Library of Congress, another one where the Congressional Research Service is housed, again, is very important to what we do.

Hopefully, as we go forward, we will be able to do more in some of these areas, but I think, given what we had, we have done reasonably well; and again, while these have been tough decisions, they have been made in a bipartisan manner with the cooperation between majority and minority on the appropriate Legislative Branch Subcommittee.

Finally, my friend did point to the Senate, and I suppose we always have a little bit of envy of the other body in terms of its funding. I would suggest, while their expenditures have gone up, they have not been particularly dynamic in their legislative performance.

Frankly, far be it from me to offer a definitive opinion. We normally let each institution do what they want to do, but I am always happy for the contrast in the budget of a Republican House and a Democratic Senate because I think it is abundantly clear which one is serious about fiscal responsibility and which one is not, and I suspect we will have that debate going forward.

Again, I thank my friend for his remarks and his focus on what is genuinely important, and I know, when he talks about this institution and its staff and its functions, he does so with genuine respect and genuine concern.

Again, some of those concerns, I certainly share, and perhaps, going forward, as we did last year and we tried to do in some of the supportive institutions this year, we can restore some of that capability that I know he and I would both like to see us have.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased at this time to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Mr. MORAN is leaving us after this session, and he will be sorely missed, but he takes it upon himself to address an issue that is of vital concern to all Members of the House of Representatives.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my very good friend, Judge HASTINGS of Florida. Thank you very much for your service to this country, Judge.

Mr. Speaker, my comments, although critical, will be in no way personally critical of my very good friend from Oklahoma with whom I serve on the Appropriations Committee. He knows my very high regard for his integrity, his judgment, his character; and I value our friendship.

I rise in opposition to this rule, not the Military Construction-Veterans part—because that is an open rule, that is not at issue—but with regard to the Legislative Branch.

There are several amendments that should not have been made in order, should not, in my view, have even been taken seriously, but the reason I oppose it is particularly because there was an amendment that was not made in order that should be discussed on the floor of this House.

I offered an amendment, a very modest one, to provide $25 a day to the Members in the form of a housing allowance for the days that we are in session—only the days we are in session. Now, we have been in session an average of 112 days per year recently, so that would have come out, not coincidentally, to exactly what our salaries would have been raised by, had there not been a freeze included in this Legislative Branch Appropriations bill.

Frankly, it is an incentive for the Congress to be in session more days, but it is far more important than that. It would also have only applied to people who live more than 50 miles from Capitol Hill. I live 10 miles. In fact, it would not apply to any of us directly anyway because we can't raise our own salaries. It would only apply to future Congresses.

That is what this amendment is about. It is about the composition of this Congress, this institution, in the future, and that is why it is important.

I know it is not going to be popular among our constituents. When the word got out I suggested it in Mr. COLE's subcommittee and on full committee, we got hundreds of calls, all of them negative, most of them profane; but that doesn't mean that it is an issue that should not be discussed on the House floor.

We have denied pay increases to ourselves 11 times since I came into the Congress. There was a deal made a couple decades ago that said, if you don't receive money from speeches and honoraria, in return, the Congress will simply increase its pay by the cost of living each year, so it will be less politicized.

But what we did not only eliminated those outside sources of income, but we have in fact, politicized the issue by freezing our pay consistently. In fact, over the last 5 years, we have frozen our pay. This will be the sixth year in a row, and it is creating a serious problem, a problem that is only going to be exacerbated in the future.

I know the opinion of our constituents, but one of the things they may not be aware of is that the District of Columbia has one of the highest rental costs in the Nation. It is about $27,000 a year right now for a very modest rental apartment, and it goes up each year.

At the same time, since I came into the Congress, congressional pay has gone down by one-fifth. We are paying ourselves one-fifth less than we were in 1992, so it is very difficult for many Members to afford to live here.

This is the first time that this pay freeze has been included in a Legislative Branch appropriations bill. It sets a precedent, and it is a precedent that is going to be very difficult to reverse. I don't think either party is going to take it upon themselves to try to change this. It is going to become obligatory in each successive Legislative Branch appropriations bill.

So I suspect, 5, 10, 15 years from now, it is still going to be the same; and what is the result of that?

Well, it means that the Congress is probably going to be composed of two types of Members. One will be those Members who come in for one, two, three terms and then, frankly, cash out, go into the private sector, take advantage of that experience, albeit limited, in the Congress, and then provide well for their families.

□ 1245

The second class of Member is likely to be those who are independently wealthy, who, in fact, as some do, could afford to give back their salaries because they don't need it.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN. I thank the Member.

So what does that mean? It means those people who are in their thirties, and early forties, who have young families, who, in fact, have home mortgages, who have unpaid student loans, who are small business owners, they are all going to be less likely to represent our constituencies who are most represented by those folks who have difficulty meeting their costs day after day.

I think this is very dangerous. It is a dangerous precedent. We should be able to discuss it. And that is all we ask for. I didn't expect a positive vote, but I expected a discussion of a very important issue as to how this Congress is going to be represented in the future.

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

First, I want to begin by extending the same regard and personal affection to my friend that he was kind enough to display toward me. I have had the privilege of serving with him on the Appropriations Committee, obviously, ever since I arrived at that committee; and we currently serve on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee together, the Legislative Branch Subcommittee together, and Interior Subcommittee together. And on that committee, Interior, of course he was an absolutely superb chairman. I happen to think he is an even better ranking member. But he was a superb chairman, and we have worked together on many items. And I, like my friend from Florida, am going to miss my friend from Virginia, who I think has rendered distinguished service in this Chamber, and certainly to our committee.

In terms of his suggested amendment, I will make two points. First, we are advised this is a clause 2 violation to be legislating on an appropriations bill; and I thought there was a reasonable chance, secondly, that we would have a chance to discuss this and he would have a chance to make his point.

And I am glad that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) did make the point that he made because I think it is a very important point to be made. I particularly share your concerns about the long-term character of the body, and I think those were well stated. I don't think we are in any danger right now of reaching that point, but I think my friend does point out a trend that could occur.

I would also be quick to add, there are about as many different styles of Members as there are Members themselves. Some people come here with the idea of being here for a long time. Other people come here for shorter periods of time, not with the idea of cashing out, but because they believe that is the appropriate way to serve.

In my State, my good friend Senator COBURN has always lived by term limits. He did when he was in this Chamber. He has, again, in the Senate. So not every Member that comes here and serves 6 or 8 years is trying to cash out. They just think that is the appropriate length of time, and that is a judgment that is quite often shared by their constituents. And again, I think either one is appropriate. I think Members and districts make that decision for themselves.

But I also think, in consideration of the decisions we have made in the last several years—by both parties, by the way. Again, my friends, when they were in the majority, had some concerns about increases in salaries as well, and I think that was because they saw the fiscal problems of the country.

We have had to make some tough decisions around here in the last few years. We are going to have to make, I think, some more tough decisions. And I think sometimes, to add legitimacy to those decisions, you have to lead by example. I think that is what we have tried to do. I think that is what my friends tried to do as well during the period that they were in the majority. So as long as we are preaching fiscal

austerity, we have got to practice a little fiscal austerity.

But I want to conclude by saying, I still think my friend's point is a very important one to be heard. I am glad he made the remarks that he did and has raised it.

I am sorry for your staff because I am sure the incoming mail and calls have been extraordinary.

But again, one of the things I like about my friend, even when I disagree with him—because on occasion, we do—he is never afraid to articulate a position and present a point of view. And if there is a little fire associated with that, so much the better. I think he enjoys the give-and-take of that. And that is one of the things I am going to miss the most about him when he departs this Chamber.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, before yielding to the next speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, just in response to my friend from Oklahoma, what Mr. MORAN pointed to was the fact that moderate rent in this metropolitan area is $27,000 a year. I don't think it is unreasonable for us to not only have a discussion, but to do something about the fact that there are Members that are here that can't afford that on the salary that they make. Now, it may be that the constituency is unsympathetic. It may be that these are tough times.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

It may be that these are tough times, but the simple fact of the matter is we have at least 20 Members of the House of Representatives living in their offices, and I don't think that that is right. And I think that the public needs to know that, and I think once the public understands that a lot of that is attributed not only to that Member's idea about how to serve, but the fact that he or she cannot serve in a proper manner living in accommodations that I think they deserve by getting to this high station.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN), a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Ms. HAHN. I thank my friend from Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP for working with me to include two much-needed provisions in this Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations report. This bill makes important steps in fulfilling the promise that we have made to our veterans by providing job search assistance and offering homeless assistance to veterans displaced by domestic violence.

The unemployment rate for veterans is 9 percent compared to 6.7 percent nationwide, and it is even higher for women veterans. The unemployment rate for our women veterans is 9.6 percent. And after fighting for this country, we should ensure that they have a job and a place to live.

Veterans have skills our businesses need, and the VA should assist in matching potential employers with job-seeking veterans. My provision will encourage the VA and the Department of Labor to create a job placement service.

Also, I am very pleased that the chairman included language covering veterans displaced by domestic violence. Due to an oversight in our current law, the legal definition of ''homeless veteran'' differs significantly from the standard civilian definition of ''homeless person.'' This means veterans fleeing from domestic violence could be excluded from receiving the benefits available to other homeless veterans.

The language included updates the definition of ''homeless veteran'' to bring it into line with the rest of the law. This meaningful change to this policy will make a large difference in the lives of veterans, particularly women veterans, displaced from their home due to domestic violence. In addition, this change is supported by several veterans organizations, such as the VFW, AMVETS, and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

Mr. Speaker, both of these provisions represent a real step forward for fulfilling the promise to our Nation's veterans. And while sometimes we discuss our own living situation here, what is really important today is making sure that our veterans are housed with dignity and respect.

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

I want to thank my friend from California for working so closely with Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP on what is a genuinely important contribution to the legislation; and I think, frankly, it is pretty exemplary of the manner in which Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP worked together throughout this process. I saw it myself during our full committee markup where, literally, they were working together to make changes to try and respond to Members' legitimate concerns in this area and did it right to the last minute of the bill.

So I know we are going to have contentious moments in the appropriations process; we always do as we go forward. But in this particular case, in this legislation, and certainly between the chairman and ranking member, I think we have an example of how to work together in a bipartisan fashion that most Americans, if they had a chance to learn about it, would be genuinely pleased with.

So again, I thank my friend from California for participating outside the committee in that. I think she made a very valuable contribution, and I am pleased that she made that point. And again, I recognize the wonderful work of Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. BISHOP.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased at this time to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), my good friend.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Judge HASTINGS, for his friendship, his consideration, and his assistance during my time here in Congress. And I am pleased to recognize the very fine Member, my good friend, Representative COLE from Oklahoma.

I will speak later, at another time, about the appropriations bill on the legislative branch. I now want to speak in support of the Military Construction, VA and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

For 4 years in a row, the Appropriations Committee has placed in the bill an additional $20 million for suicide prevention and mental health outreach services. Several people have made this possible, starting with my New Jersey colleague, Representative RUNYAN, who has worked with me very closely and in a very bipartisan way on this issue over the last 4 years. I want to thank the subcommittee chair, Representative CULBERSON, and Ranking Member BISHOP for their steady support of our efforts; and of course to the full committee leaders, Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY, for their support.

Since 2012, the committee has increased funding for suicide prevention and outreach by $120 million overall at the request of Representative RUNYAN and me and other Members who have joined us in this effort, but our work on this issue is far from over.

Last week, The Washington Post reported that, while the suicide rates for our Active Duty force have come down in recent years, we have actually seen a tragic increase in suicide rates among our Guard and Reserve and veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs' own statistics show that suicides among veterans have risen from an average of 18 per day in 2007 to about 22 per day, each one a tragedy. And I fear that the number may be even higher than is recorded.

I have no doubt that this committee and every Member of this body is committed to reversing this tragic trend, and these additional funds will certainly help. I believe that Congress must now give greater attention to the question of why we are seeing a difference emerging in the suicide rates between our Active Duty force, on the one hand, and our Guard and the Reserve and veterans population, on the other.

While this bill will be the last VA appropriations bill on which I work in Congress, I know that other Members who share my concern will carry on this work, and for that, I am grateful.

I hope that Congress will authorize a regular permanent increase in funding for mental health and suicide prevention so that these annual appeals for appropriations will not be necessary in the future.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield the gentleman from New Jersey an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HOLT. Finally, I would say to anyone who is listening—my colleagues and the public alike—if they know a current or former servicemember who may be in need of help, Vets4Warriors, which is the Defense Department's New Jersey-based peer-to-peer counseling program, can help. The phone number is 1–855–VET–TALK. Calls are free, answered 24 hours a day, staffed by former servicemembers. It is the best lifeline we can offer.

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

I want to begin by thanking my friend from New Jersey and again recognize his very special and very distinguished service in this body. This is a typical example of the good sense and the compassion he brings to the floor on a regular basis, and I know I appreciate that. And while we are in different parties, he is one of the people, like my friend from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) who spoke earlier, that I most admire and I think is generally admired on both sides of the aisle. So I associate myself with the remarks he made and appreciate that very, very much, and I wish him well in whatever he chooses to do next because he has certainly distinguished himself here, as he had in his academic career before he came here. And whatever he does next, I know he will be equally distinguished in that field, but we will miss him very much in this body.

And with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 1010, our bill to raise the Federal minimum wage to $10.10 an hour.

□ 1300

I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) to discuss the importance of raising the minimum wage.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding time to debate the rule.

Pop quiz. There is a piece of legislation that will give more than 25 million Americans a pay raise, bring nearly 1 million Americans out of poverty, and lower total food stamp aid by $4.6 billion.

What do you do? What do you do? If you are the House Republican majority, you schedule a vote for H.R. 627, the National Park Service 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, and not legislation that accomplishes the items I just mentioned by raising the minimum wage.

What is it going to take for my Republican colleagues to do something that will actually help the economy? They came into the majority after the 2010 midterm elections saying that priorities one, two, and three were jobs, jobs, jobs. But this body hasn't seen anything substantive that would show that to be the truth.

Since 2011, the House Republicans forced the shutdown of the government, threatened the full faith and credit of the United States, and developed an obsession with repealing the Affordable Care Act. They have done nothing to help the American people.

No American working full-time should live in poverty. Raising the minimum wage will increase the take-home pay for more than 28 million Americans. It will add $35 billion to the economy and higher wages through 2016. It will create 85,000 new jobs as a result of the increased economic activity.

But make no mistake. Those statistics are not likely to change their minds. No facts likely will because their refusal to give millions of Americans a raise is not about facts or economics; it is about keeping their sugar donors happy—sugar donors like the Koch brothers and Sheldon Adelson.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. TAKANO. And while these sugar donors are throwing 10s of millions of dollars away on campaign ads in select toss-up districts, regular, hardworking Americans are struggling just to keep their heads above water.

For our country to move forward and continue to grow, we must do more for those who need help. President Franklin Roosevelt once said:

> The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have little.

To provide enough, we must raise the minimum wage.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question so we can bring the minimum wage bill to the floor and get to work growing our economy and helping working families.

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

Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate what my friend from California had to say, the reality is this legislation doesn't have anything to do with the minimum wage, and frankly, it would be inappropriate to consider the minimum wage here. It would be legislating on an appropriations bill, something that as a rule we do not do around here.

Second, while not wishing to engage in a long debate about the minimum wage, I will say this. Remember, the people of this country and the people of individual States have the opportunity to move on this issue when they choose. Indeed, 19 States, if I recall correctly, actually have minimum wages above the Federal minimum wage.

There is serious concern that the one-size-fits-all minimum wage doesn't make a lot of sense. I can tell my friend I don't pretend to be an expert on what the cost of living in California or New York is, but I am sure it is considerably higher than it is in the State of Oklahoma, and at the end of the day, I actually trust the Oklahoma Legislature, the Oklahoma Governor, and the Oklahoma electorate to make this decision for themselves. I don't think imposing a national solution or national standard in this case is necessary or desirable.

So, again, I think you leave this to the wisdom of the States and localities. I think that is what our Founders generally envisioned we should do when we had questions of this nature.

Again, I am sure we will have this debate another time and on other occasions. It is a perfectly appropriate debate to have. It is not an appropriate debate, it would not be something we could do legislatively on this particular rule or the underlying legislation. So it seems to me not a strong reason to vote against either one because this vehicle could not carry the legislation that my friend from California would like to see enacted.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would advise my friend from Oklahoma that I am the last speaker, and I am prepared to close if he is prepared to close.

Mr. COLE. I am prepared to close whenever my friend is.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Thank you very kindly.

Mr. Speaker, it has been one of our more syrupy debates around here, and it is because of the bipartisan nature that allowed for this legislation to come to the Rules Committee and then to be put here on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that we can be pleased by the level of support provided in this legislation for essential veterans programs. America's veterans deserve the very best support our Nation has to offer, and I am pleased to note that Democrats and Republicans came together to craft legislation that provides the necessary resources for veterans and their families.

At the same time, though, we must realize that if we continue to strangle the support for the offices that are tasked with creating the legislation

and programs to support those very veterans, we will eventually begin to fail them, as well.

We must break free from the false logic that all spending is bad spending and realize that investments in our country, our infrastructure, our education, our medical research, or even our legislature is a sound one.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 1010, our bill to raise the Federal minimum wage to $10.10 an hour. And while my friend from Oklahoma makes very salient commentary regarding what might very well be a view of some note in our body politic, I don't deem it unwise or unnecessary to talk about lifting people out of poverty at any time during the course of our legislative business, understanding the rules and the fact that this would not have been a rule germane to the specific issue.

But it is germane to the families out there in America. It is germane to the people that are working and are still in poverty that may be lifted out of poverty if we were to have a $10.10-an-hour minimum wage.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' and defeat the previous question, and I now yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I would like to say that one of the basic functions of Congress is to fund the government, and this rule would begin the process for consideration for fiscal year 2015 of actually doing that function and doing it in an orderly way and appropriate way.

I am particularly pleased that the appropriations process has moved as well and as quickly as it has so far this year. To that, I give credit to my friend, Chairman ROGERS, and my great friend, Ranking Member LOWEY. They have worked well in a bipartisan manner.

I want to also commend the chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. Mr. BISHOP is the ranking member, and Mr. CULBERSON is the chairman. I think they have done a wonderful job.

Frankly, I have had the opportunity to work with my good friend DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ in the legislative branch as the ranking member, and I am currently privileged to be the chairman. I think that has been a very productive relationship. I have no doubt we are going to have some contention in other bills, but these bills have really moved together in a bipartisan fashion, and I think given the allocations that we had, have been worked through in a very professional, workmanlike way.

Now, my friend from Florida did mention the syrupy debate, and I know that is not his style. I have had the privilege of serving with him on the Rules Committee not just in this Congress but in a previous Congress, and he is one of the best debaters on the floor, and I have no doubt on every occasion I have seen he always gives as good as he gets and makes his case quite well. But I have appreciated having the opportunity to have this exchange with him. Obviously, I would urge that my colleagues actually support the rule and the underlying legislation.

While the rule vote is a procedural vote, and it is not uncommon for us to basically have a partisan division, I suspect that when the underlying legislation actually reaches this floor on the MilCon bill, the VA bill, and on the legislative branch bill, we will have a great deal of bipartisanship. Certainly, I look forward to that vote. I look forward to the debate and discussion over those. But the first thing we have to do is pass the rule, so, again, I urge my colleagues to pass this.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 557 OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 5. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1010) to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 6. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1010.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R–Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

The Republican majority may say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: ''Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.''

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: ''Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the Rule for H.R. 4486, the "Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015," which supports our military and their families and provides the benefits and medical care that our veterans have earned for their service.

H.R. 4486 provides the facilities and infrastructure needed to house, train, and equip our military personnel to defend this Nation, both in the United States and abroad, provides the housing and military community infrastructure that supports a good quality of life for them and their families, and allows the military to maintain an efficient and effective base structure.

The bill also funds programs to ensure that all veterans receive the benefits and medical care that they have earned as a result of their sacrifices in the service to our Nation.

Just as our military pledges to leave no one behind on the battlefield, Democrats in Congress have pledged to leave no veteran behind when they come home.

The bill provides a total of $165 billion in FY 2015 to fund military construction projects and programs of the Veterans Affairs Department, an increase of $7 billion (4%) over current funding levels. This total includes $93.5 billion in mandatory spending for VA benefits and $71.5 billion in discretionary funding.

The bill provides a total of $64.7 billion in discretionary funding for the VA in FY 2015, a 2% increase over current funding and I am pleased that it increases mandatory funding for veterans' compensation and benefits by almost 10 percent.

Mr. Speaker, although there is much in this bill that I support, I wish to note two major concerns.

First, I disagree with the funding level for VA Medical Care in the bill, which is $368 million below the President's request and the amount I support. This underfunding for VA Medical Care could delay the timely delivery of health care services to veterans and impede our efforts to end veterans' homelessness in 2015.

Second, the bill provides $50 million less than the President's request for Information Technology operations and maintenance programs. The result is likely to be a delay in making the necessary improvements to technology infrastructure that ensure continuity of operations for services that support all of VA's services and benefit delivery.

Third, I do not support section 411 of the bill, which would prohibit the use of funds to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States to house individuals held in the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. I do not support this rider because it unduly constrains the flexibility that the our Armed Forces and counterterrorism professionals need to best protect U.S. national security.

Mr. Speaker, the VA serves nearly 48.5 million people: 22 million veterans and 26.5 million family members of living veterans or survivors of deceased veterans, so in in my remaining time let me highlight some of the positive aspects of the bill:

$1.2 billion for family and military personnel housing—equal to the administration's request;

The bill contains an advance appropriation for FY 2016 of $58.7 billion, continuing the trend started in the Democratic-led 111th Congress of providing advance appropriations to the VA for the medical services, medical support and compliance, and medical facilities accounts.

This is a significant benefit to the veterans served by the VA at the 152 hospitals, 107 domiciliary residential rehabilitation treatment programs, 133 nursing homes, 300 Vet Centers, 70 mobile Vet Centers and 821 outpatient clinics, which include independent, satellite, community-based and rural outreach clinics.

$589 million is provided for for medical, rehabilitative, health services and prosthetic research—$3.3 million above current levels and recommends that a proportionate amount of funding for prosthetics should be focused on prosthetics for females, who outnumber male amputees by 3 percent.

In addition to veterans medical benefits, the bill provides $93.7 billion, an increase of $8.84 billion, in mandatory funding for other veterans benefits—primarily veterans compensation and pensions, and readjustment benefits.

$78.7 billion for veterans service-connected compensation benefits and pensions, an increase of $7.2 billion (10%) over current funding levels.

These funds are used for service-connected compensation payments to an estimated 4.6 million veterans, survivors and dependents and pension payments to 519,000 veterans and survivors.

$14.8 billion for veterans readjustment benefits, an increase of $1.6 billion (12%) over current funding levels. These funds include education and training assistance to veterans and service personnel; vocational rehabilitation; special housing and transportation grants to certain disabled veterans; and educational assistance to eligible dependents of deceased and seriously disabled veterans, as well as dependents of servicemembers who were captured or are missing in action.

This is not a perfect bill but this piece of legislations addresses the most critical needs of our service members, military families, and veterans.

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

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 227, nays 189, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 184]

YEAS—227

Aderholt	Barr	Black
Amash	Barton	Blackburn
Amodei	Benishek	Boustany
Bachmann	Bentivolio	Brady (TX)
Bachus	Bilirakis	Bridenstine
Barletta	Bishop (UT)	Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)	Hastings (WA)	Poe (TX)
Broun (GA)	Heck (NV)	Pompeo
Buchanan	Hensarling	Posey
Bucshon	Herrera Beutler	Price (GA)
Burgess	Holding	Reed
Byrne	Hudson	Reichert
Calvert	Huelskamp	Renacci
Camp	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble
Campbell	Hultgren	Rice (SC)
Cantor	Hunter	Rigell
Capito	Hurt	Roby
Carter	Issa	Roe (TN)
Cassidy	Jenkins	Rogers (AL)
Chabot	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Chaffetz	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (MI)
Coble	Jolly	Rokita
Coffman	Jones	Rooney
Cole	Jordan	Ros-Lehtinen
Collins (GA)	Joyce	Roskam
Collins (NY)	Kelly (PA)	Ross
Conaway	King (IA)	Rothfus
Cook	King (NY)	Royce
Cotton	Kingston	Runyan
Cramer	Kinzinger (IL)	Ryan (WI)
Crawford	Kline	Salmon
Crenshaw	Labrador	Sanford
Culberson	LaMalfa	Scalise
Daines	Lamborn	Schock
Davis, Rodney	Lance	Schweikert
Denham	Lankford	Scott, Austin
Dent	Latham	Sensenbrenner
DeSantis	Latta	Sessions
DesJarlais	LoBiondo	Shimkus
Diaz-Balart	Long	Shuster
Duffy	Lucas	Simpson
Duncan (SC)	Luetkemeyer	Smith (MO)
Duncan (TN)	Lummis	Smith (NE)
Ellmers	Marchant	Smith (NJ)
Farenthold	Marino	Smith (TX)
Fincher	Massie	Southerland
Fitzpatrick	McAllister	Stewart
Fleischmann	McCarthy (CA)	Stivers
Fleming	McCaul	Stutzman
Flores	McClintock	Terry
Forbes	McHenry	Thompson (PA)
Fortenberry	McKeon	Thornberry
Foxx	McKinley	Tiberi
Franks (AZ)	McMorris Rodgers	Tipton
Frelinghuysen	Meadows	Turner
Gardner	Meehan	Upton
Garrett	Messer	Valadao
Gerlach	Mica	Wagner
Gibbs	Miller (FL)	Walberg
Gibson	Miller (MI)	Walden
Gingrey (GA)	Miller, Gary	Walorski
Gohmert	Mullin	Weber (TX)
Goodlatte	Mulvaney	Webster (FL)
Gosar	Murphy (PA)	Wenstrup
Gowdy	Neugebauer	Westmoreland
Granger	Noem	Whitfield
Graves (GA)	Nugent	Williams
Graves (MO)	Nunes	Wilson (SC)
Griffin (AR)	Olson	Wittman
Griffith (VA)	Palazzo	Wolf
Grimm	Paulsen	Womack
Guthrie	Pearce	Woodall
Hall	Perry	Yoder
Hanna	Pittenger	Yoho
Harris	Pitts	Young (AK)
Hartzler		Young (IN)

NAYS—189

Barber	Chu	Dingell
Barrow (GA)	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Bass	Clarke (NY)	Doyle
Beatty	Clay	Duckworth
Becerra	Cleaver	Edwards
Bera (CA)	Clyburn	Ellison
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Engel
Bishop (NY)	Connolly	Enyart
Blumenauer	Conyers	Eshoo
Bonamici	Cooper	Esty
Brady (PA)	Costa	Farr
Braley (IA)	Courtney	Fattah
Brownley (CA)	Crowley	Foster
Bustos	Cuellar	Frankel (FL)
Butterfield	Cummings	Fudge
Capps	Davis (CA)	Gabbard
Capuano	Davis, Danny	Gallego
Cárdenas	DeFazio	Garamendi
Carney	DeGette	Garcia
Carson (IN)	Delaney	Grayson
Cartwright	DeLauro	Green, Al
Castor (FL)	DelBene	Green, Gene
Castro (TX)	Deutch	Grijalva

Hahn	Maloney, Carolyn	Sánchez, Linda T.
Hanabusa	Maloney, Sean	Sanchez, Loretta
Hastings (FL)	Matheson	Sarbanes
Heck (WA)	Matsui	Schakowsky
Higgins	McCarthy (NY)	Schiff
Himes	McCollum	Schneider
Hinojosa	McDermott	Schrader
Holt	McGovern	Scott (VA)
Honda	McIntyre	Scott, David
Horsford	McNerney	Serrano
Hoyer	Meng	Sewell (AL)
Huffman	Michaud	Shea-Porter
Israel	Miller, George	Sherman
Jackson Lee	Moore	Sinema
Jeffries	Moran	Sires
Johnson (GA)	Murphy (FL)	Slaughter
Johnson, E. B.	Nadler	Smith (WA)
Kaptur	Napolitano	Speier
Keating	Neal	Swalwell (CA)
Kelly (IL)	Negrete McLeod	Takano
Kennedy	O'Rourke	Thompson (CA)
Kildee	Owens	Thompson (MS)
Kilmer	Pallone	Tierney
Kind	Pascrell	Titus
Kirkpatrick	Pastor (AZ)	Tonko
Kuster	Payne	Tsongas
Langevin	Pelosi	Van Hollen
Larsen (WA)	Perlmutter	Vargas
Larson (CT)	Peters (CA)	Veasey
Lee (CA)	Peterson	Vela
Levin	Pingree (ME)	Velázquez
Lipinski	Pocan	Visclosky
Loebsack	Polis	Walz
Lofgren	Price (NC)	Wasserman Schultz
Lowenthal	Quigley	Waters
Lowey	Rahall	Waxman
Lujan Grisham (NM)	Roybal-Allard	Welch
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Ruiz	Wilson (FL)
Lynch	Ruppersberger	Yarmuth
Maffei	Rush	
	Ryan (OH)	

NOT VOTING—15

Brown (FL)	Meeks	Rangel
Cicilline	Nolan	Richmond
Gutiérrez	Nunnelee	Rohrabacher
Harper	Peters (MI)	Schwartz
Lewis	Petri	Stockman

□ 1339

Messrs. MORAN, HIMES, TAKANO, and BARBER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present and voting on rollcall vote No. 184 (Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4486) I would have voted "no."

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 184 I was at a funeral in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

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

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3344

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor from H.R. 3344.

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

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on consideration of H.R. 4486, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 557 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4486.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEBSTER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1343

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. WEBSTER of Florida in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is a real honor and a privilege for me to present the Veterans Affairs and Military Construction Appropriations bill to the House of Representatives with my good friend from Georgia, SANFORD BISHOP.

This is a bipartisan bill that we produced together with unanimous support of the committee and the subcommittee to ensure that our veterans and our men and women in uniform have everything that they need to do their job with complete peace of mind.

In fact, I often think of the job of this subcommittee as the peace of mind subcommittee, to be sure that our men and women in uniform have everything they need when it comes to their physical infrastructure and that, when they leave the services and go into the VA system, they have everything they need.

□ 1345

Making sure that our men and women in uniform have everything that they need and making sure that our veterans when they leave the service have the best possible medical care this country can provide is one of those fundamental functions of the government. We have an obligation as guardians of the Treasury and as good stewards of taxpayers' hard-earned dollars to ensure that this vital, core function of our Federal Government is fulfilled to our veterans and to our men and women in uniform.

In this appropriations bill, we have included $71.5 billion in discretionary funding, which is $1.8 billion less than last year and $398 million less than the budget request. We have provided the full budget request number of $6.6 billion for military construction projects, and while we have provided $1.8 billion less in fiscal year '14, we have included $64.7 billion in discretionary funding for the VA, which is about $1.5 billion more than last year. We have included an additional $20 million to get at the claims backlog and $17 million more than was requested for electronic medical records.

In this legislation, we are ensuring that we have continued strict oversight of the VA in their reporting requirements on the claims backlog. The length of time it takes veterans to receive the disability benefits that they have earned is just unacceptable, so Mr. BISHOP and I have included language in this bill to have very strict reporting requirements over which we will continue to exercise vigorous oversight in the months ahead at the VA to ensure that the claims backlog is reduced.

We are also introducing a mechanism here that we have found to be very, very effective in the case of electronic health records. The VA and the Department of Defense are operating two completely different medical record systems that don't talk to each other. So, when you are in uniform in the Armed Forces and leave and go into the private sector and when the VA picks you up, the VA can't read your medical records. This is unacceptable. Since 2008, the Congress has had laws on the books that require the VA and the Department of Defense to have transparent, interoperable medical records that would be easily and quickly readable when a servicemember leaves the active service and goes into the VA system. Yet they are still not there, so we have in this bill a mechanism that says you are only going to get 25 percent of your money up front on implementing electronic health records until you come back to the committee and show us that you are meeting your obligation under the law to provide an immediate, seamless, and transparent transfer of your medical records from the Department of Defense to the VA.

In particular, I want to thank Chairman ROGERS for his support in this effort. He had a constituent of whom I

am confident he will talk about in a minute—a young man in his district who really struck a chord with me. It is a tragic example of how unacceptable this is, that one agency can't read the medical records of the other. He is a young man who was injured. He lost his eyesight, I believe, Mr. Chairman, in Afghanistan. He had the vision in one eye lost, but had damage in the other eye. He still had some vision in the other eye, so when he left the service to go into the VA and when the VA needed to work on his other eye immediately in order to save his vision, the VA could not read the medical records provided to them by the Department of Defense. The doctors at the VA, understandably being cautious and concerned and being unable to read the records, didn't operate as quickly as they should have, and the young man lost his eyesight as a result of the medical records being unreadable by the VA. It is tragic, unacceptable, and utterly outrageous.

I am working closely with the chairman of the armed services Appropriations subcommittee. Chairman ROGERS has been terrifically helpful in this as has Ranking Member LOWEY and my good friend Mr. BISHOP from Georgia. We are working with the armed services subcommittee in Appropriations to put identical language in the bill so that the DOD is in the same boat.

You are going to have to earn your money. Prove to us that you are obeying the law, that you are fulfilling your obligation to our veterans and to our men and women in uniform, and then we will release the money. Follow the law and you will get your money. It works every time in the private sector. Certainly, I am confident that it is going to work here. I often think of the fact that I have been using an Apple Macintosh computer since they first came out in 1985. I never dreamed that you would be able to use a Windows operating system on a Macintosh computer, but, today, you can run Microsoft Word and other Windows programs on a Macintosh operating system. Surely, if Apple and Windows can work it out, the VA and the Department of Defense can as well. This bill ensures that that is going to happen. If they want to see the rest of their money, they are going to have to obey the law and get an interoperable, transparent medical records system in place.

Mr. Chairman, we have also limited the availability of construction funds in this bill to 5 years for hospitals that the VA builds so that the veterans don't have to wait endlessly for the completion of a hospital. I will never forget when I first got this marvelous assignment—I was assigned by Chairman ROGERS to handle this important bill—that the Denver hospital had $900 million, I believe, set aside, squirreled away in a hole. I don't think they had signed a contract or turned a spade of dirt, but they had $900 million squirreled away for years—that they had not used—in order to build that sorely needed hospital in Denver. That is just unacceptable.

This money that we are privileged to be stewards of was earned by our constituents by the sweat of their brow and their hard work, and it is our responsibility to ensure that the money is wisely spent, that it is spent to ensure that the law is enforced and, above all, that we do not spend any more than is absolutely necessary to fulfill the fundamental obligations of the United States Government. At the top of that list is to ensure that our veterans receive the medical care they have earned, that they receive the disability benefits in a timely fashion that they have earned, and that our men and women in uniform have all of the physical facilities they need to do their jobs with the peace of mind and the assurance that the United States Congress and the American taxpayers are right there with them, looking over their shoulders, to take care of them.

That is why this is the ''peace of mind'' committee, and it is a privilege for me to serve with my good friend from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP). So that my good friend Mr. BISHOP can address the House, I reserve the balance of my time.

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 2015 (H.R. 4486)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE					
Military construction, Army	1,104,875	539,427	526,427	-578,448	-13,000
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps	1,629,690	1,018,772	998,772	-630,918	-20,000
Military construction, Air Force	1,052,796	811,774	719,551	-333,245	-92,223
Military construction, Defense-Wide	3,445,423	2,061,890	2,021,690	-1,423,733	-40,200
Total, Active components	7,232,784	4,431,863	4,266,440	-2,966,344	-165,423
Military construction, Army National Guard	314,740	126,920	126,920	-187,820	---
Military construction, Air National Guard	119,800	94,663	94,663	-25,137	---
Military construction, Army Reserve	156,560	103,946	103,946	-52,614	---
Military construction, Navy Reserve	29,000	51,528	51,528	+22,528	---
Military construction, Air Force Reserve	45,659	49,492	49,492	+3,833	---
Total, Reserve components	665,759	426,549	426,549	-239,210	---
Total, Military construction	7,898,543	4,858,412	4,692,989	-3,205,554	-165,423
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program	199,700	199,700	199,700	---	---
Family housing construction, Army	27,408	78,609	78,609	+51,201	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Army	512,871	350,976	350,976	-161,895	---
Family housing construction, Navy and Marine Corps	73,407	16,412	16,412	-56,995	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps	379,444	354,029	354,029	-25,415	---
Family housing construction, Air Force	76,360	---	---	-76,360	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Air Force	388,598	327,747	327,747	-60,851	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Defense-Wide	55,845	61,100	61,100	+5,255	---
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund	1,780	1,662	1,662	-118	---
Total, Family housing	1,515,713	1,190,535	1,190,535	-325,178	---
Chemical demilitarization construction, Defense-Wide	122,536	38,715	38,715	-83,821	---
Department of Defense Base Closure Account	451,357	270,085	270,085	-181,272	---
Military Construction - fiscal year 2014 (Sec. 127)	---	---	125,000	+125,000	+125,000
Military Construction - fiscal year 2015 (Sec. 128)	---	---	245,000	+245,000	+245,000
Military Construction, Army (Sec. 129)	-200,000	---	-79,577	+120,423	-79,577
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec.131)	-12,000	---	---	+12,000	---
Military Construction, Air Force	-39,700	---	---	+39,700	---
Military Construction, Defense-Wide	-14,000	---	---	+14,000	---
Military Construction, Air National Guard	-14,200	---	---	+14,200	---
42 USC 3374 (Sec. 131)	-99,949	---	-100,000	-51	-100,000
NATO Security Investment Program (Sec. 130)	---	---	-25,000	-25,000	-25,000
Total, title I, Department of Defense	9,808,000	6,557,447	6,557,447	-3,250,553	---
Appropriations	(10,187,849)	(6,557,447)	(6,762,024)	(-3,425,825)	(+204,577)
Rescissions	(-379,849)	---	(-204,577)	(+175,272)	(-204,577)
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
Veterans Benefits Administration					
Compensation and pensions	71,476,104	78,687,709	78,687,709	+7,211,605	---
Readjustment benefits	13,135,898	14,761,862	14,761,862	+1,625,964	---
Veterans insurance and indemnities	77,567	63,257	63,257	-14,310	---
Veterans housing benefit program fund:					
(indefinite)	---	---	---	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(500)	(500)	(500)	---	---
Administrative expenses	158,430	160,881	160,881	+2,451	---

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 2015 (H.R. 4486)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account	5	10	10	+5	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(2,500)	(2,877)	(2,877)	(+377)	---
Administrative expenses	354	361	361	+7	---
Native American veteran housing loan program account	1,109	1,130	1,130	+21	---
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration	84,849,467	93,675,210	93,675,210	+8,825,743	---
Veterans Health Administration					
Medical services:					
Advance from prior year	(43,557,000)	(45,015,527)	(45,015,527)	(+1,458,527)	---
Current year request	40,000	367,885	---	-40,000	-367,885
Advance appropriation, FY 2016	45,015,527	47,603,202	47,603,202	+2,587,675	---
Subtotal	45,055,527	47,971,087	47,603,202	+2,547,675	-367,885
Medical support and compliance:					
Advance from prior year	(6,033,000)	(5,879,700)	(5,879,700)	(-153,300)	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2016	5,879,700	6,144,000	6,144,000	+264,300	---
Subtotal	5,879,700	6,144,000	6,144,000	+264,300	---
Medical facilities:					
Advance from prior year	(4,872,000)	(4,739,000)	(4,739,000)	(-133,000)	---
Current year request	85,000	---	---	-85,000	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2016	4,739,000	4,915,000	4,915,000	+176,000	---
Subtotal	4,824,000	4,915,000	4,915,000	+91,000	---
Medical and prosthetic research	585,664	588,922	588,922	+3,258	---
Medical care cost recovery collections:					
Offsetting collections	-2,485,000	-2,456,000	-2,456,000	+29,000	---
Appropriations (indefinite)	2,485,000	2,456,000	2,456,000	-29,000	---
Subtotal	---	---	---	---	---
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (transfers out)	(-254,257)	(-269,366)	(-252,366)	(+1,891)	(+17,000)
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (by transfer)	(254,257)	(269,366)	(252,366)	(-1,891)	(-17,000)
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (Transfer out)	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	---	---
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (by transfer)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	---	---
Total, Veterans Health Administration	56,344,891	59,619,009	59,251,124	+2,906,233	-367,885
Appropriations	(710,664)	(956,807)	(588,922)	(-121,742)	(-367,885)
Advance appropriations, FY 2016	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+3,027,975)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations	(54,462,000)	(55,634,227)	(55,634,227)	(+1,172,227)	---
National Cemetery Administration					
National Cemetery Administration	250,000	256,800	256,800	+6,800	---
Departmental Administration					
General administration	327,591	321,591	321,591	-6,000	---
Board of Veterans Appeals	88,294	94,294	94,294	+6,000	---
General operating expenses, VBA	2,465,490	2,494,254	2,514,254	+48,764	+20,000
Information technology systems	3,703,344	3,903,344	3,870,552	+167,208	-32,792
Office of Inspector General	121,411	121,411	121,411	---	---
Construction, major projects	342,130	561,800	561,800	+219,670	---
Construction, minor projects	714,870	495,200	495,200	-219,670	---
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities	85,000	80,000	80,000	-5,000	---

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 2015 (H.R. 4486)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Grants for the construction of veterans cemeteries	46,000	45,000	45,000	-1,000	---
Total, Departmental Administration	7,894,130	8,116,894	8,104,102	+209,972	-12,792
Administrative Provisions					
Prior Year Rescissions (Sec. 233)	-182,000	---	-38,000	+144,000	-38,000
Section 225					
Medical services	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	---	---
(Rescission)	-1,400,000	-1,400,000	-1,400,000	---	---
Medical support and compliance	100,000	100,000	100,000	---	---
(Rescission)	-150,000	-100,000	-100,000	+50,000	---
Medical facilities	250,000	250,000	250,000	---	---
(Rescission)	-250,000	-250,000	-250,000	---	---
Total, Administrative Provisions	-232,000	---	-38,000	+194,000	-38,000
Total, title II	149,106,488	161,667,913	161,249,236	+12,142,748	-418,677
Appropriations	(95,454,261)	(104,755,711)	(104,375,034)	(+8,920,773)	(-380,677)
Rescissions	(-1,982,000)	(-1,750,000)	(-1,788,000)	(+194,000)	(-38,000)
Advance appropriations, FY 2016	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+3,027,975)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations	(54,462,000)	(55,634,227)	(55,634,227)	(+1,172,227)	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(3,000)	(3,377)	(3,377)	(+377)	---
Discretionary	(64,416,919)	(68,155,085)	(67,736,408)	(+3,319,489)	(-418,677)
Advances from prior year less FY 2016 advances	-1,172,227	-3,027,975	-3,027,975	-1,855,748	---
Net discretionary	(63,244,692)	(65,127,110)	(64,708,433)	(+1,463,741)	(-418,677)
Mandatory	(84,689,569)	(93,512,828)	(93,512,828)	(+8,823,259)	---
Total mandatory and net discretionary	147,934,261	158,639,938	158,221,261	+10,287,000	-418,677
TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES					
American Battle Monuments Commission					
Salaries and expenses	63,200	70,100	75,000	+11,800	+4,900
Foreign currency fluctuations account	14,100	1,900	1,900	-12,200	---
Total, American Battle Monuments Commission	77,300	72,000	76,900	-400	+4,900
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims					
Salaries and expenses	35,408	31,386	31,386	-4,022	---
Department of Defense - Civil					
Cemeterial Expenses, Army					
Salaries and expenses	65,800	45,800	61,881	-3,919	+16,081
Armed Forces Retirement Home - Trust Fund					
Operation and maintenance	66,800	62,400	62,400	-4,400	---
Capital program	1,000	1,000	1,000	---	---
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home	67,800	63,400	63,400	-4,400	---
Total, title III	246,308	212,586	233,567	-12,741	+20,981

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 2015 (H.R. 4486)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Grand total	159,160,796	168,437,946	168,040,250	+8,879,454	-397,696
Appropriations	(105,888,418)	(111,525,744)	(111,370,625)	(+5,482,207)	(-155,119)
Rescissions	(-2,361,849)	(-1,750,000)	(-1,992,577)	(+369,272)	(-242,577)
Advance appropriations, FY 2015	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+3,027,975)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations	(54,462,000)	(55,634,227)	(55,634,227)	(+1,172,227)	---
(By transfer)	(269,257)	(284,366)	(267,366)	(-1,891)	(-17,000)
(Transfer out)	(-269,257)	(-284,366)	(-267,366)	(+1,891)	(+17,000)
(Limitation on direct loans)	(3,000)	(3,377)	(3,377)	(+377)	---

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As you all know, this bill has a strong reputation for finding bipartisan common ground as members work together to fund the construction of military facilities and strive to improve the quality of life and the care afforded to our veterans and our military families. Once again, Chairman CULBERSON has continued this tradition. The bill before us provides funding levels that, I think, most Members on both sides of the aisle agree are appropriate while avoiding the contentious legislative riders that complicate passage.

I am pleased to join Chairman CULBERSON as the House takes up the fiscal year 2015 appropriations bill for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies. The MilCon-VA bill is critically important to the strength and well-being of our military, our veterans, and the families who sacrifice so much to defend our country.

In working with Chairman CULBERSON and the members of the subcommittee, we have crafted a bill that will address the funding needs for military construction and family housing for our troops and their families as well as other quality-of-life construction projects. In addition, it will provide funding for many important VA programs as well as for agencies like the Veterans Court of Appeals and the American Battle Monuments Commission. The bill before us today touches every soldier, sailor, marine, and airman. In addition, this bill will also impact military spouses, their children, and every veteran who participates in VA programs.

I want to commend the chairman for his work. Together, we sat through hearings and gained valuable insight to the workings of all agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction. I also want to thank all of our subcommittee members and recognize them for their hard work in crafting this bill. I believe that the minority was treated fairly during this process, and I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON for ensuring this bipartisan result.

Chairman CULBERSON has already provided the funding highlights in the bill, so I won't repeat them all, but I will say this: In my opinion, the FY '15 bill adequately provides for the Department's priorities in military construction for each of the services. If the Department needed something, it is in the bill, and if it didn't need it, it is not in the bill. The Department of Veterans Affairs is funded at $64.7 billion, which is $1.8 billion above the '14 enacted level. Overall, the bill meets the discretionary budget request in all areas of administrative expenses, research, and facilities. In addition, the bill includes $58.7 billion in advances, which is the same as the budget request.

While I am pleased with the healthy funding increase for the VA, many constituents from my district are still extremely frustrated with the claims backlog. Frankly, I would have to agree. Now, while the VA has made some progress on lessening the backlog, there are still over 300,000 claims considered as backlogged, so I was pleased that an additional $20 million was included in the bill to assist the VA in making even more progress on the backlog. In addition, Mr. Chairman, it is my hope that coupling the Veterans Claims Intake Program with continued rigorous reporting requirements, while fully funding the Veterans Benefit Management System, will help the VA reach its goal to end this backlog in 2015.

On the issue of electronic medical records, you all know my frustration, and I could spend all of the time yielded to me just on this one topic, but I will say this: We have finally gotten the two Departments' attention, and I expect to see some real progress on this soon. The bill continues the practice of fencing money for this endeavor to make sure that when it is completed we have a system that works, and works well.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that we have a strong bipartisan bill that supports our military, their families, and our veterans, and I would hate to see the hard work of our committee upended by contentious, partisan riders intended to serve in scoring political points instead of those that serve our Nation. I also believe the most important things of this bill are the resources and accountability provided to assist the VA in tackling the claims backlog. So I say to my colleagues that our committee strongly shares the deep commitment of this body in fixing the claims backlog issue. We have looked at numerous approaches and firmly believe our bill has found the optimal approach in dealing with this pressing concern for our veterans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky, Chairman ROGERS, the distinguished chairman of the full committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the 2015 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.

I am very happy to be on the floor with this bill today, Mr. Chairman, because it kicks off the 2015 appropriations cycle at a very early date. In fact, we know that this is the earliest in the year that our committee has presented a bill to the floor, at least since 1974, the date of the present Budget Act, and perhaps even more so beyond that. We just don't have the records for it. Nevertheless, it is a very early date. It also does the important work of providing funding for our military, infrastructure and for the care of our veterans.

This bill provides $71.5 billion in discretionary funding to meet those needs. Within that total, this bill provides $6.6 billion for military construction projects, family housing, medical units, education-training facilities. This will help make sure that the men and women of our Armed Forces have the quality of life that they deserve during their service and that they have the support that they need for our Nation's military missions.

The bill also provides a total of $64.7 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. That goes a long way toward fulfilling our commitments to our veterans, making sure that, in exchange for their service and their sacrifice, we will take care of their health and well-being. Of that money, $45 billion goes toward VA medical services, including funding for mental health care, suicide prevention, rural health initiatives, homeless veteran treatment, and job training. The bill also ensures that our benefit programs and health systems operate smoothly and efficiently.

□ 1400

This bill continues our committee's hard work to reduce the disability claims backlog, and demands that an interoperable Department of Defense-VA, the electronic health record system is up and running as soon as possible so that when a veteran goes to a VA hospital and the hospital medical people need access to Army records or DOD records when the soldier was injured, those records are available and compatible so that VA then can use those records to further the treatment of the soldier.

By providing increased funding for claims processing, continuing performance benchmarks to reduce the backlog, and placing conditions on funding for modernization of the VA health record system, we are sending a very strong message, Mr. Chairman, to that agency that we want these problems fixed, and we want them fixed now.

In total, the bill provides $1.8 billion less than last year, hard-and-fast proof that we can streamline this government and root out unnecessary spending without adversely affecting our troops and veterans. For example, less funding is provided to Military Construction accounts due to current price stability and a favorable bid climate, which saves taxpayer dollars but has no effect on quality of life or services for our troops.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is a model of bipartisanship that represents the good we can do by way of the appropriations process. That is, in most part, thanks to the subcommittee lead by my good chairman, JOHN CULBERSON, and his

ranking member, Mr. BISHOP. They worked on a collaborative basis to produce a bill that truly fulfills the needs of our military and our veterans.

I want to take a moment too to thank the staff who all put in a great deal of hard work to get this bill before the House this early and at all.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, this is the first of 12 appropriations bills that we must bring to the floor before the August recess. With an agreed-upon budget and early start, the cooperation of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle and ample floor time, I believe we can complete our work, our congressional duty, on time, on budget, and under regular order. I look forward to working with our colleagues to make this goal a reality.

I couldn't be prouder to kick off our 2015 appropriations bill season with this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it fully.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee, a very, very, very eloquent and hardworking lady, and who is committed to the support of our veterans and their families.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank our distinguished chairman, Mr. CULBERSON, and the distinguished subcommittee ranking member, SANFORD BISHOP, who really have done an extraordinary job on this bill.

Since it is the first bill coming to the floor, I share the pride expressed by the big chairman, Chairman ROGERS. This is regular order, this is an outstanding bill, and we can be very proud of the work. So thank you again, Chairman CULBERSON, Ranking Member BISHOP, for this very, very important bill.

This is the first of the 12 spending bills that the House will consider for fiscal year 2015. As I mentioned, I am so pleased that we are beginning the process with a bill, as reported out of committee, that includes reasonable spending levels and is devoid of controversial riders. I hope this is a sign of what is to follow.

Despite fiscal constraints, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill would meet the needs of servicemen and servicewomen and continue to support our veterans. I am particularly pleased with the emphasis on the increased need for prosthetics for our female servicemembers.

Congress must continue to track and provide vigorous oversight, as you heard from Chairman ROGERS and Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP, on the VistA Evolution Electronic Health Record to ensure its capability and interoperability with whatever health records system the Department of Defense eventually selects. As we have discussed many times, this discussion has gone on much too long. It is time for closure, and it is time for coordination. I do hope that happens sooner, rather than later. The overall increase above the fiscal year 2014-enacted level to the IT account should help the VA move forward.

This bill also takes several steps to reduce the disgraceful veterans claims backlog. The committee has previously provided the VA with additional resources. This bill would provide $173.3 million to the Veterans Benefit Management System and an additional $20 million to the Veterans Benefit Administration for digital scanning of old paper files, the centralized mail initiative, and staff overtime.

It withholds 75 percent of the VistA Evolution funds until VA provides information on the system, particularly regarding planned interoperability with the DOD.

It will continue to require the VA to provide monthly records on claims processing and remediation efforts for underperforming regional offices.

The VA has made progress in the last year, and this bill provides the resources to end the claims backlog, and that is what we expect of the Secretary in 2015.

This is a good bill. I hope it is preserved as the House considers amendments. Mr. Chairman, I urge your support.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, if I could ask how much time do we have remaining in this part of the debate?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 17 minutes remaining.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I have the pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), the chairman of the Defense Subcommittee.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, as you have so well articulated, the Nation owes an almost unrepayable debt to our men and women in uniform, past and present. As a result of their selfless service, we are absolutely obliged to deliver a full range of benefits that they were promised. That includes quality medical care for members of the military and our veterans at all times.

My colleagues, I want to commend the gentleman from Texas, the ranking member from Georgia, and their staff for their commitment to ensuring that there will be a seamless transition from the Defense medical system into the VA health care system through an integrated electronic medical record.

For nearly a decade, your subcommittee and our Defense Subcommittee have listened to a parade of administration officials tell us, first of all, they recognized the need for interoperability when it comes to electronic health records and, secondly, that we are on it. Mr. Chairman, they were not on it, and as a result, we have lost years as the VA and the Department of Defense struggled to develop either a single unified record or different but interoperable systems.

My colleagues, the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 mandated the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs were required to collaborate to create an electronic health record that would achieve interoperability and streamline the transition process from servicemember to veteran. Now, 7 years later, there is no interoperable record, and the original plan for the two Departments to use the same system has now been scrapped. The Department of Defense plans to acquire a new record system while the VA continues to upgrade its current one. Alternatively, the acquisition program for the Department of Defense has an estimated contract award date of the third quarter of fiscal year 2015 with initial operating capability by the first quarter of fiscal year 2017, nearly a full decade after the initial mandate.

My colleagues, this program has been plagued by inefficiency, poor planning, and apparently even less oversight by responsible members of the Department. The failure to make the significant progress on this issue is a national disgrace.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield the gentleman such time as he may consume.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you for yielding the time.

The failure to make significant progress on this issue is a national disgrace. Not only are the Departments squandering precious taxpayer dollars, but above all, our troops and veterans are suffering as they seek help.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you on this situation to end this debacle. It is inexcusable. We need interoperable records. We need the VA and the Department of Defense to work together successfully to serve our veterans.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), who has offered invaluable help on the committee in crafting the bill and who has a particular interest in the Defense Language School in Monterey and on maintaining our commitment to previous BRAC rounds in the State of California that they not be forgotten.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chair, thank you very much, Ranking Member BISHOP and Chairman CULBERSON.

I rise as the longest serving member on this subcommittee, and I want to commend you both, the chairman and the ranking member, for your hard work in ensuring that this bill is another significant step in fulfilling our promise to our country that has made these commitments to our veterans that we will leave none of them behind.

This committee has a strong history of working in a bipartisan way to

produce a bill that supports our Active Duty servicemembers, our veterans, and their families, and I think this bill is no exception to that.

For example, the VA has taken steps to rectify the deplorable backlog of benefit claims as everyone has mentioned so far. We owe it to our veterans to exercise our constitutional oversight responsibilities to ensure that the VA is actually fixing that backlog.

I am pleased the bill before us today includes language I requested with many of my colleagues that continues additional oversight requirements for the Veterans Benefits Administration and requires regular updates from the VA to Congress on the status of the backlog. Through regular updates from the VA, we will be able to ensure accountability that will ultimately end the backlog.

Additionally, I am pleased to see the bill recognize that the VA must be able to employ enough mental health providers. For example, as it currently stands, 95 percent of the marriage and family therapists in California, licensed in California, are barred from VA employment under current VA standards, which require a degree from only one specified national accreditation program.

I authored language in the report of the bill, accompanying the bill, to ensure that the VA explore expanding the accreditation requirements by looking at those that are recognized by the Department of Education so that more marriage and family therapists can get to work helping our veterans.

As a final note, I would like to point out that this bill is $1.8 billion below last year's enacted level, but it is only $0.4 billion less than what the President requested.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I yield the gentleman 10 seconds.

Mr. FARR. Thank you.

I am glad to see this bill has been protected from senseless budget cuts. I strongly encourage this Congress to honor the balanced approach that this bill shows in the bipartisan Budget Control Act that we adopted last year.

□ 1415

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, at this time it is my privilege to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY), a member of our subcommittee who does a superb job representing her constituents.

Mrs. ROBY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, there is no greater duty that we have as a Nation than to care for our veterans. I am so proud to stand in support of this bill funding critical VA needs like medical care, medical health services, suicide prevention, traumatic brain injury treatment, homeless services, and job training.

One way I believe that we can greatly improve VA services is to further develop the Patient-Centered Community Care program. Some services veterans need aren't always offered at their local VA hospital, or, if they are, the waiting list may be really long. In these cases, it only makes sense for the VA to contract out services through local providers and get the veteran patients the care that they need. And offering better care to veterans while saving taxpayer money is a win-win situation.

Our committee report for this bill asks the Department of Veterans Affairs to document the successes and efficiencies of Patient-Centered Community Care so we can make the case for allowing more veterans to take advantage of this innovative program.

I strongly support this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, at this time I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR), a strong member of the Appropriations Committee and a tireless fighter for our military veterans and their families.

Mr. CUELLAR. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman, my friend from Texas, JOHN CULBERSON, and I certainly want to thank our ranking member, Mr. BISHOP. These two gentlemen are true models of what bipartisanship is here in Congress. They have really done a great job to show the American public that when it comes to veterans and the military, this is not a Democratic or a Republican issue, but it is an issue that we all work together. So I certainly want to thank them.

I want to thank them for the work that they have done, but in particular I want to thank both gentleman and the committee about an issue dealing with the backlogs that have existed at the VA for many years.

Veterans of all generations deserve a benefit system that is easy to navigate and is responsive to their needs.

As of April 26, 2014, the VA claims totaled more than 596,000. Of those, 319,000 have been pending for more than 125 days. This is something that has to be cleared. And this is something that Congress is working on.

While Congress has done some work, more has to be done. We need to make sure that in this appropriations bill we not only provide the bureaucrats, with all due respect, with the money, but they have to be provided the oversight and the performance measures to make sure that, if they are given the money, they get to work and eliminate this backlog that has been affecting so many veterans in my district and across the State and the Nation.

So I want to thank the members of the Appropriations Committee for supporting the VA's Veterans Benefit Management System so old claims that are filed on paper can now be converted to digital files to make then more accessible and more searchable.

I also want to thank them for the money for VA employees' overtime so we can end the backlog by 2015. We have to get this job done.

Finally, the last point that I want to make that is extremely important is to make sure that we get the VA and the Department of Defense to create one electronic health records system.

Why is it that the Department of Defense has their own records, and once a veteran retires, the VA has a different record? We have to get them together so they can work together to make sure that we have the right paperwork filed and we speed up claims and the process between the VA and the Department of Defense, working together.

So, in conclusion, these two gentlemen and the members have been a true model of bipartisanship. I think we need to salute them. If we look at the work that Mr. BISHOP and Mr. CULBERSON have done here, this is the way we get our job done in Congress in a bipartisan way.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, can I ask how much time we have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to be sure to acknowledge and thank my friend, Mr. CUELLAR, from Laredo. We have been good friends and served together in the Texas House. I am sure he remembers the appropriations committee in the Texas House. And we understand the value of the power of the purse.

We are indeed using the power of the purse to achieve the goals that Mr. CUELLAR has just mentioned, that is, ensuring the claims backlog is dealt with and that the Department of Defense and the VA have an interoperable medical record.

There really is no more powerful check and balance that the legislative branch has over the executive branch than the power of the purse, which originates in the House.

Article 1, section 9 says that no money may be drawn from the Treasury, except by appropriations.

We are working together arm-in-arm, just as we did in the Texas House, in support of our veterans and military.

In fact, we also have found great common ground when it comes to law enforcement on the border, something that his folks in Laredo have a keen interest in: safe streets, good schools, a strong economy. And that all begins with law enforcement.

I want to thank the gentleman from Laredo because it has been a pleasure working with him on so many of these good issues.

We could have not gotten to this spot, Mr. Chairman, without the help

of the committee staff. We have got an extraordinary group of people who have made this possible. The Appropriations Committee is blessed to have had professionals here who have helped us for years.

I want to particularly thank Donna Shabazz, Sue Quantius, and Sarah Young, and make sure that we also recognize the extraordinary contributions by Matt Washington and Tracey Russell.

This has really been a team effort. It is an extraordinary complex piece of legislation to ensure that not only the money that our taxpayers have worked so hard to earn is wisely spent, but that the agencies that are the beneficiaries of these hard-earned tax dollars understand that with the receipt of this money comes the obligation to ensure that it is spent wisely. We are going to continue with aggressive oversight.

When it comes to oversight, Mr. Chairman, I also want to mention that we are going to have an amendment later today by the Congresswoman from Phoenix to deal with this really deeply concerning situation that we have seen arise in the Phoenix VA where you have got a doctor claiming that folks have lost their lives. They were unable to get access to the medical care they have earned from their medical service at the Phoenix hospital.

That is another way to enforce the law. With additional funding, we are going to use the inspector general's office to investigate this and find out what is actually going on. In that case, if there has been deliberate or intentional refusal to admit veterans to the VA hospital in Phoenix, there are going to be criminal charges.

Certainly, our heart goes out to those families in Phoenix. We are all committed to make sure that any veteran, any member of the military who has served this country, has immediate access to the best medical care in the world.

And that is why this is such a bipartisan bill and one that we offer to the House today, arm-in-arm. Both the gentleman from Georgia and the people of Texas that I represent were pleased to present this to the House and encourage the Members to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member of our Legislative Branch Subcommittee on Appropriations and a strong voice for the needs of our Nation's veterans, with a unique interest in the needs of our female servicemembers and veterans.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

First, let me commend and pile on to the commendations that are so deserving by our colleagues and my good friends, Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP, on crafting a strong and bipartisan bill. Congress really can work together when we put our heads and our hearts together.

Let me especially recognize their leadership in including language in the bill which will help many of our Nation's veterans transition into careers in civilian health care.

The United States military has the best-trained medics and corpsmen in the world. In fact, the data substantiates that Special Forces medics greatly increase the chances of survival for those who suffer injuries on the battlefield.

Despite this, former military medics have one of the highest unemployment rates among veterans because their extensive medical training in the military doesn't perfectly match qualifications in the civilian world.

For example, Army Specialist Nick Colgin, whom President Obama applauded as an American hero for saving the life of a French soldier shot in Afghanistan, was somehow considered unqualified to be an emergency medical technician in Wyoming.

This Military Construction-Veterans Affairs bill that we are considering can help fix this baffling disconnect. It includes language establishing a pilot program for veteran medics that will expand opportunities for physician assistant training at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This program will leverage the expertise of military medics to strengthen the health care profession and reduce veteran unemployment.

A perfect example of the way veteran medics can, when given the chance, successfully enter into a civilian health care profession is the story of Staff Sergeant Victor Arvizu, who valiantly served for 20 years as a combat medic in the Middle East and South Pacific.

From taking blood samples to pulling out shards of glass from the chests of soldiers to suturing wounds and inserting chest tubes, Sergeant Arvizu developed a special skill set that translated into a successful career when he returned home.

Sergeant Arvizu was able to use this expertise to gain employment as a health tech at a Veterans Affairs clinic in my south Florida district. But there are too many veterans in my district and nationwide who are still struggling to translate their expertise and skills into employment in the civilian workforce.

We need initiatives that will create more stories like Sergeant Arvizu's.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you.

Our veterans make the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and now we need to do our part by providing them with opportunities to use their skill sets. I am proud that this bill includes language that will help to do just that.

I urge support of the bill.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, at this time I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chair, let me first thank our ranking member for his tireless leadership on behalf of our veterans and as our ranking member on the MilCon Subcommittee.

I also want to thank our chairman for working with us once again to include language in this bill that would require the VA to provide detailed reporting on the unacceptable claims backlog and its efforts to eliminate it.

Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER and myself, for example, have been working with our veterans in the Bay area. Some of the stories and some of the cases that we have uncovered, discovered, and worked on are heartbreaking. I know Members throughout the country have many veterans whose benefits should have been provided and executed many, many years ago.

In order to reduce the veterans' benefit claims backlog, this bill fully funds the President's budget request of $173 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System and provides an additional $20 million to the Veterans Benefits Administration for records and staffing needs.

As the daughter of a veteran and the Representative of thousands of veterans in my district, I am deeply troubled to hear that young men and women who serve our country must wait an average of 255 days while the VA processes their claims. This wait is inexcusable and unacceptable. We have heard some of the tragic, tragic stories that have arisen out of this.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me just say I am very pleased that the House is moving quickly and in regular order to consider the Military Construction and VA Appropriations bill. It is my hope that this will continue as we move forward in the appropriations process with all of our subcommittees.

As a member of the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, it is my hope that our subcommittee, which is the largest share of funding outside of the Pentagon, will receive a proportionate and adequate increase in our total allocation.

Our subcommittee supports programs that impact nearly every household, every community, and every congressional district, and so we owe it to our constituents to have a full, open, and robust debate as the process moves forward.

Thank you to our chair and ranking member on behalf of all of the veterans in my district. I will support this bill. It is a step forward in our appropriations process.

Mr. CULBERSON. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1430

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill. It is a bipartisan bill, and it is a bill that, I think, meets the needs of our services for their military construction, as well as for our veterans and our military families.

As far as our military construction, if our services needed it, it is in the bill. If they didn't need it, it is not in the bill.

I am so happy that we have taken very strong steps to address the claims backlog at the Veterans Administration. We have taken strong steps to ensure that we will soon have coordinated, interoperable electronic health records between the Veterans Affairs Department and the Department of Defense; and I am happy that in this bill, together, we will assure accountability for our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Chairman, when our men and women took the oath to serve our country as part of our Nation's military, they took an oath to serve and defend; and when they completed that service, our Nation has, in fact, figuratively, written a check assuring that they will have the benefits that they need when they come back following their service.

It is our duty as a Nation, our duty as a Congress, and certainly our duty as a part of this committee, to make sure that that check that we figuratively wrote to those veterans never, ever comes back marked ''insufficient funds'' and to make sure that that check—the benefits of that check don't come back redeemed in a delayed fashion.

So we have done what is necessary to make sure that they get their benefits, that they get them in a timely manner, that the claims backlog is eliminated, and that we facilitate whatever it takes to make sure that they are rewarded for their service to our country because the price of freedom, it is not free.

Somebody had to pay that price, and the people who paid the price are the men and women who served our Nation in uniform and are now veterans and their families who also sacrificed as the servicemembers went to war.

I urge the adoption of this bill and ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I join Mr. BISHOP in urging the House to approve this legislation, and I agree with him wholeheartedly about making sure that any check—any check that our veterans have earned doesn't ever come back with insufficient funds.

It is one of the fundamental obligations of the Federal Government to ensure that our veterans are taken care of, they are given everything they need while they serve and they are in uniform, but then also that they are given access to the best medical care the country can provide to them once they enter into the private sector.

We have, in this legislation, given everything that the veterans have asked us for. We have made sure that the VA is fully funded, but we are using the power of the purse to ensure that the law is obeyed. We are making sure that our constituents' hard-earned tax dollars are spent wisely and frugally and carefully and that they actually reach the veterans who need them the most.

We are in an extraordinary era, Mr. Chairman. Survival rates are higher than they have ever been for our men and women in uniform. If they are lucky enough to survive their initial injury and make it to an aid station, the survival rate is in excess of 98, 99 percent.

It is absolutely extraordinary, the blessings of modern medicine. The work that the VA has been doing in prosthetics and helping these young men and women recover from their injuries is extraordinary.

This is our first obligation as a government, is to ensure that the men and women who make it possible for us to be here in a free society and debate legislation like this, that they are given everything that they have earned by their service to the country.

An important part of this is to be sure that we are also talking to our constituents about the budget problems that lie ahead of us and the importance of making sure that the social safety net, the social safety net that is out there—Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid—those programs remain solvent.

They are, right now, headed into bankruptcy, and we have got to make sure that we deal with those bigger problems for the longer term, so that we can continue to fully fund the needs of our veterans and our men and women in uniform.

It truly has been a privilege for me to work on this subcommittee with my friend from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP). The State of Georgia and the State of Texas—I feel a special kinship with the people of Georgia because they have a commitment to the military that is commensurate to that of the people of Texas.

We both admire our men and women in uniform immensely, and this is a piece of legislation that our folks back home, Mr. Chairman, may not see much disagreement, but that is because we are, all of us, so strongly in support of making sure that our men and women in uniform can focus on their mission and protect this Nation with complete peace of mind.

I urge all the Members of the House to support this legislation which is presented to them by the unanimous vote of the subcommittee and the full committee.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Chair, to the veterans who courageously served our country, we owe the best our nation can offer.

I appreciate the opportunity to stand here with my colleagues, working in a bipartisan manner to pass H.R. 4486, the Military Construction and Veteran Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.

Thank you to Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP from the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs for your hard work in crafting this legislation.

This bill, in part, provides funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and gives much needed support and resources to help the VA end the claims backlog.

We owe our veterans every promise we've made, and unfortunately, we've not been living up to these promises.

One of the pledges we make to our veterans is that, should they be injured during their service, we'll provide them with disability compensation to assist them as they transition home.

While the VA is making strides to reduce the claims backlog, more needs to be done.

Unfortunately, there remains a large claims backlog at many VA Regional Offices across the United States.

At the Oakland Regional Office, which serves my constituents in the 15th Congressional District of California, over 58 percent of claims have been pending for over 125 days.

These numbers are among the worst in the nation, with claims averaging over one full year to complete.

As a former prosecutor I am well acquainted with phrase ''justice delayed is justice denied.''

In the case of the veterans' claims, delayed care is denied care.

Unfortunately, since the retirement of Director Douglas Bragg in January, the Oakland Regional Office director position has been vacant.

I led a bipartisan letter signed by 19 California Members of Congress to the VA urging it to swiftly reduce the backlog by hiring a new, supremely qualified director of the Oakland VA.

Properly serving our veterans means listening to their concerns and taking action.

I've hosted several veteran town halls, where veterans across the East Bay shared their stories and ongoing struggles regarding pending claims at the VA.

My office is working hard to help every veteran in our district that needs assistance, but the problem goes beyond just one district, region, or state.

That's why we're here today. We're working to ensure that we reach every veteran that needs assistance and hold the VA accountable for its slow claims process.

Our veterans desperately need a VA that will provide both accurate and timely responses. It's what our veterans deserve, and I'll continue to push the VA to provide our veterans with the service and benefits they've earned.

Not only is there a backlog in first-time claims, now the backlog for appeals is becoming a serious problem.

I appreciate that language I supported along with other Members of the California delegation was included in the committee report on the bill to address this appeals backlog. It expresses our deep concern over this issue and encourages the Veterans Benefits Administration to take swift action to lower the wait time for appeals claims.

Thanks again to the Chairman and Ranking Member for accepting this language.

I'll continue working closely with my colleagues to ensure that the few that proudly served our country receive the benefits and care they earned.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

Where I come from, we believe that for those who we send into harm's way to protect and serve us in defense of our freedoms, we have a profound obligation to protect and serve them upon their return.

Last year's Military Construction and Veterans Administration bill did not do enough to fulfill this promise. Therefore I'm glad that this bill is an improvement.

This year's bill: increases funding for vital veterans programs here at home by $1.5 billion; significantly decreases unnecessary new military construction projects in places all around the world—new projects that the Pentagon itself says are not wanted and not needed; this bill comes closer to fully funding veterans mental health programs; as well as vital health care programs for the more than 3 million veterans living in rural communities; increases funding for technology to reduce the notorious backlog at the VA.

Mr. Chair, I rise specifically today to bring to light my grave concerns with the Regional Command-Southwest Command and Control facility in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

This facility offers 64,000 square feet of space for more than 1,000 military personnel, including accommodations for a three-star general.

Standing two stories tall, this windowless facility is larger than a football field, and was completed in 2013 at a cost of approximately $34 million.

According to Special Inspector General to Afghanistan John Sopko, this building is the ''Taj Mahal'' of command centers.

The unconscionable fact about this building, however—is that the military has no plans to use it.

Area commanders insisted three years ago that they did not need this building. They were in the middle of troop withdrawal, and they saw no reason to move in.

In Mr. Sopko's words, ''this is an example of what is wrong with military construction in general—once a project is started, it is very difficult to stop.''

Mr. Chair, we simply cannot allow any projects like this—projects that the Pentagon itself says are unnecessary—to receive funding from this Congress. It's shameful, it's wasteful, and it needs to stop.

American veterans of foreign wars like Afghanistan are sleeping under bridges—going without the life-saving health care and mental health services they deserve and so desperately need—and waiting for sometimes years for the VA to finally process their benefits claims.

Yet, during last year's debate on this bill, Republicans in the House rejected my amendment that would have doubled funding for veterans hospitals—and would have provided for extra personnel to address this atrocious backlog.

It is simply unconscionable that we allow this to go on while literally throwing billions of dollars away on buildings standing empty overseas.

Where is the outcry in this House? Where is the shock—where is the shame?

It is time we end these unsustainable wars of choice. It is time we cut back on our military footprint in unnecessary outposts around the world. It is time we prioritize those brave men and women whom we send into harm's way to protect us.

When it comes to these brave men and women, we must do everything in our power—we must leave no stone unturned to assure our nation's veterans have the very best medical care—counseling—housing—job training—and all the educational opportunities a grateful nation can provide.

Only the very best is good enough. That is how we keep our promise to our nation's veterans.

In closing, Mr. Chair, once again I commend those of us in the House who have fought for increases to veterans programs here at home, and for those of us in the House who are dedicated to ending these costly and terrible wars abroad.

And I strongly urge you and all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to continue to give veterans the benefits they so rightfully deserve now and in the future.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP for including legislative language I requested in this year's Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. It appears in section 232, as follows:

SEC. 232. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to award a contract to any contractor if the past performance of the contractor resulted in the completion of a construction project at a facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs more than 24 months after the original agreed-upon completion date for the project.

This language also exists as a stand-alone bill I have introduced, H.R. 4394: the 'Serve Our Heroes Now Act'. What it means is this—if someone is responsible for a delay of two years, or more, of completion of a VA facility, they cannot be awarded future contracts for military or VA construction.

In my own district, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (''VA'') is building a new VA Medical Center (''VAMC'') that will serve an area of more than 90,000 veteran patients in East Central Florida. This VAMC will be one of seven members of the VISN 8 Healthcare System, covering parts of Florida, Georgia, and all of Puerto Rico.

The original construction contract for the Orlando VAMC called for a final completion date of October 2, 2012. Eighteen months later, my constituents, who bravely fought for their country, are still waiting. This is a disgrace, and it must be remedied.

Section 232 is clear. If the current contractor for the Orlando VAMC is determined to be at fault for construction delays, it will be ineligible for future contracts awarded from funds appropriated by this bill. That hurts—but it doesn't compare to the pain my constituents suffer while waiting for the VA Medical Center that has been promised to them.

In closing, Mr. Chair, I want every Member here, and anyone else watching, to know that I will request this language in every Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that comes to this floor, as long as I serve in this body. Those responsible will be held accountable. I pray other veterans do not have to wait as long as my constituents have, and I pray that the new Orlando VAMC is fully operational by October of this year.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, as we consider H.R. 4486, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, it is crucial that we protect American workers from any efforts to weaken or repeal the provisions under Davis-Bacon or the use of project labor agreements (PLAs) in federally funded or assisted construction projects.

The Davis-Bacon Act is used to set fair wage rates and benefits that contractors or subcontractors must use to compensate their laborers during the construction, alteration, or repair of public buildings. Project labor agreements are collective bargaining agreements used to establish the terms and conditions of employment for specific construction projects. Both are important tools in ensuring that American workers receive fair pay and treatment for federal contract work, and that taxpayer dollars are being used effectively during public construction projects.

H.R. 4486 must not be used as the vehicle to strip American workers of their rights to fair pay and treatment for federal contract work. The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act should remain about funding critical infrastructure projects in support of our national defense, and to bring reliable benefits and medical care to our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Chair, any efforts to weaken the Davis-Bacon Act will only serve to harm American taxpayers and workers. The provisions under Davis-Bacon and specific PLAs are used to ensure that federal dollars are used responsibly and effectively when building up our nation's infrastructure. Davis-Bacon and PLAs bring needed oversight to federal contract work, while preserving fair compensation for workers. I urge my colleagues to oppose any amendments to H.R. 4486 that would weaken these protections.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak on H.R. 4486, MILCON-VA Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2015.

The bill provides a total of $165 billion in FY 2015 to fund military construction projects and

programs of the Veterans Affairs Department—$7 billion (4 percent) more than current funding.

This total includes $93.5 billion in mandatory spending (all for VA benefits) and $71.5 billion in discretionary funding.

Sequestration has caused significant problems for the VA in meeting the needs of our nation's veterans.

Unfortunately, H.R. 4486, does not provide the President's budget request for Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) medical care and includes unnecessary restrictions that could have negative consequences for benefits to our veterans.

I am disappointed with the funding level for VA Medical Care, which is $368 million below the President's request.

This funding level could delay the timely delivery of health care services to veterans and impede the Administration's efforts to end veterans' homelessness in 2015.

I hold our men and women of the armed services in the highest regard. I have fought for them to receive pay raises, affordable and safe housing, family support services, and the best possible medical care.

The Dr. Michael DeBakey VA Medical Center is in my District, and I am proud to say that Harris County is home to 187,717 veterans and Texas is called home by more than 1,618,413 veterans.

Our veterans never fail to respond to the call to serve their country. That is why we cannot and must not fail to serve them. And that begins by eliminating the back log. Veterans should not have to wait months to receive the care they need.

We must continue to fund programs to end veteran homelessness and increase benefits for veterans to assure they have access to healthcare, education and good paying jobs.

My support of veterans has been consistent and strong over the time I have served in the House of Representatives. I know firsthand how painful it is for Veterans to seek assistance for medical care—especially PTSD or Traumatic Brain injuries.

The VA has made important progress on the disability claims backlog which was at 900,000 last year, but the agency despite sequestration has made progress in reducing.

I will not be satisfied until the VA disability claims backlog has been eliminated.

VA funding should not be reduced from the amount requested by the Administration especially in light of the continuing backlog in disability claims.

Further, the bill provides $50 million below the request for Information Technology operations and maintenance programs, which may result in delayed technology infrastructure improvements that ensure continuity of operations for services that support all of VA's services and benefit delivery.

I appreciate the funding level provided for electronic health record interoperability and VistA Evolution, but I object to restriction on obligations for VistA modernization efforts.

Interoperability between the DOD and VA recordkeeping systems could significantly reduce the number of Veteran disability claims that are waiting processing.

Interoperability can also lead to significant cost savings by reducing inefficiencies that are created when the capacity for computing systems to automate benefits management and track claim submissions are not available.

Furthermore, interoperability among systems that are key to our men and women in uniform transitioning to civilian life makes sense for them and their families.

The Administration is committed to achieving seamless data integration and interoperability between the Department of Defense, VA, and also with private healthcare providers.

Meeting the challenge of interoperability must be addressed to make sure that Veterans receive the necessary and appropriate care in a timely manner.

The level of discretionary funding for FY 2015, which includes $55.6 billion in advance funding from prior-year appropriations, is $1.8 billion (2 percent) less than current comparable funding and $398 million less than requested.

I do thank the Appropriations Committee for its decision to provide $58.7 billion in advance FY 2016 funding for VA medical programs.

The measure boosts discretionary spending for the VA, providing $64.7 billion for FY 2015, $1.5 billion (2 percent) more than the comparable current level, while cutting military construction by $3.3 billion (33 percent) to $6.6 billion, equal to the administration's request.

The administration, given current budget caps on defense and nondefense spending, elected to propose reductions in military construction in order to preserve funding for defense readiness accounts in the Defense appropriations bill.

With defense and non-defense spending caps in place for FY 2015, House and Senate appropriators expect to avoid the gridlock on spending bills that occurred last year.

Mr. Chair, it is my hope that my colleagues in the majority will place the best interest of the American people first during the deliberations on the budget to ensure that Federal government nor the American people have to endure another shutdown.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 4486, the FY15 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. I commend Chairmen ROGERS and CULBERSON and Ranking Members LOWEY and BISHOP for crafting a bipartisan bill that not only provides for current and former service members and their families but also substantially addresses the veterans' claims backlog.

The MilCon-VA bill makes critical investments in our military infrastructure, housing, and services to our nation's veterans, active military members and their families. It provides $71.5 billion in discretionary funding for these programs and activities, including $64.7 billion for the Department of Veteran Affairs. It also provides $58.7 billion in advance funding for the VA in FY16.

This legislation also builds on efforts made in last year's MilCon-VA bill to end the claims backlog that continues to plague our VA regional offices, including the VA's Baltimore Regional Office. It fully funds the budget request of $173.3 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) and provides an additional $20 million to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) for digitizing records and staffing needs. The legislation also requires each VA regional office to submit a monthly report on its claims processing performance and imposes even stricter requirements on the poorest performing offices around the country. I am hopeful that these measures will be an important step in ensuring that backlogged claims are expedited as quickly as possible.

I do have reservations about a number of provisions contained in the bill, however. I strongly oppose section 411, which prohibits the construction, renovation, or expansion of any facility in the U.S. to house individuals that are currently being detained at Guantánamo Bay. And as the White House outlined in its Statement of Administration Policy, it is disappointing that this bill does not provide full funding for VA Medical Care, potentially delaying the delivery of important health care services to our veterans.

Despite my concerns, the MilCon-VA bill reflects our commitment and the promises we have made to our veterans, our service members, and their families. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment who has caused it to be printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4486

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, $526,427,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed $51,127,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent

public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, $998,772,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed $33,366,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, $719,551,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed $10,738,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading for military construction in Europe as identified in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the accompanying report may be obligated or expended until the Department of Defense completes a European Consolidation Study.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $9,800,000)''.

Page 11, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $9,800,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP for all of their hard work and the committee, all of your work on behalf of America's servicemembers and veterans to ensure that they have the military facilities that they deserve.

I am very heartened to see the Congress, on both sides of the aisle, working together to ensure that our military families and servicemembers and our veterans have every resource they need to be successful.

My amendment proposes to transfer $9.8 million to the Air Force construction account from the BRAC account to really highlight an area in military construction and our facilities that needs a little bit of extra attention because I think we can all agree that it is important to ensure that, after our servicemembers serve in hazardous areas across the globe, when they return to the United States and our military installations, that those installations are clean and safe and secure as well.

Mr. Chairman, I have the privilege of representing MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. MacDill is led by the 6th Air Mobility Wing, but has a host of very important tenants on the base, including United States Central Command, United States Special Operations Command, the 927th Air Refueling Wing, and the Joint Communication Support Element. In fact, at MacDill, we have 39 mission support partners, so it is a very busy base.

I wanted to bring to everyone's attention a deficiency in our mission support facility. Think about this big active base with all of these tenants, 13,000 military and civilian personnel at MacDill. Add on to that 170,000 military retirees in the area.

They all come to the mission support facility to get credentialed and to take care of the very most basic credentialing and security processes at the base.

Our mission support facility is far from the main gate. It is way too small, but most seriously, it contains black mold. It is on the first floor along the walls.

Tampa, of course, is a very damp place, a very humid place, and if you don't take care and maintain these facilities, it causes very expensive problems down the road. They are doing the best they can, but it is very difficult to keep up.

I raise this issue because this has occurred at other military installations before, with the black mold. There was Hampton Roads in Virginia, in military housing and, most notoriously, the Walter Reed building 18, where we had wounded soldiers.

Now, thankfully, through the efforts of the Congress, many of these have been dealt with, but I think it is very important that the Air Force maintain a critical eye on these establishments, to make sure that they are up to standard for our military families.

So I wanted to raise awareness of this matter to the Air Force, to the committee members, and I do hope that you all will work with me to address this critical issue at MacDill Air Force Base and other substandard military facilities across America.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I would just like to commend the gentlelady for raising a very, very important issue to the health, safety, and welfare of airmen and those who go to MacDill; and I want to assure the gentlelady that the chairman and I will work very closely to make sure that that issue is addressed.

It is our hope that the gentlelady will withdraw her amendment and that we can work on it together, but I assure the gentlelady that we will work together to make sure that that is a safe environment, a healthy environment, so that no one will be exposed to the consequences of black mold.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment be withdrawn, and I thank the committee for their attention.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, $2,021,690,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $122,240,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading for military construction in Europe as identified in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the accompanying report may be obligated or expended until the Department of Defense completes a European Consolidation Study: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, notwithstanding any other provision of law, $37,918,000 shall be available for payments to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for the planning, design, and construction of a new North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. TURNER

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 19, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(reduced by $20,000,000)(increased by $20,000,000)''.

Page 5, line 3, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(increased by $20,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON and

Ranking Member BISHOP for their hard work and dedication to ensure that we have a great bill for our vets and men and women in uniform, but also for their tenacity.

I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON for his efforts and working with me on this amendment and also Ranking Member BISHOP.

Today, I rise in support of an amendment to provide funding for the planning, design, and construction of an additional missile defense site capable of protecting the homeland from a long-range ballistic missile attack.

To date, two Presidents, as well as three Secretaries of Defense have recognized the advantage of an additional missile defense site in order to provide additional protection against a long-range ballistic missile threat from regions like the Middle East.

As you may be aware, we currently possess only two sites, both located on the west coast, limiting our ability to target and intercept incoming ICBMs.

Since 2007, the United States Northern Command, the combatant command in charge of defending the homeland, has, on numerous occasions, recommended the construction of an east coast site for this purpose.

Just last year, in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee—and, again, in testimony this year—General Jacoby, the U.S. Northern commander stated, ''The third site, if you built it, would give us better weapons access, it would give us increased inventory and increased battle space with regards to a threat coming from the direction of the Middle East.''

As China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea push for more advance launch vehicles, the construction of an east coast site will dramatically improve the ability of our military to intercept incoming threats by increasing the opportunity to engage and defeat those threats.

With the 2009 cancellation of the missile defense site in Poland, coupled with an increased threat environment, it is imperative that we continue to act to protect the homeland from the long-range ballistic missile threat.

Thank you for your consideration to this amendment. I want to, again, thank Chairman CULBERSON for his leadership in protecting our men and women in uniform, our national security, and our veterans.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I want to rise in strong support of this amendment, and I thank my colleague from Georgia for working with us and making sure that we get this done.

We are long overdue for an anti-ballistic missile site in the continental United States, here on the east coast in particular.

My good friend from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) is absolutely right. We face an increased threat environment. That is putting it mildly.

The North Koreans, who are still at war with us—we are only under an armistice in North Korea. The North Koreans have demonstrated that they actually have a nuclear weapon in hand.

Visual satellite observers—I am an amateur astronomer, and as a member of a group of amateur observers of artificial satellites, one of the members of our network actually observed and tracked the North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile overflying the United States December 12 of 2012.

□ 1445

That is the first time the North Koreans had demonstrated the ability to actually fly an intercontinental ballistic missile payload over the United States. That missile flew over Pensacola, Florida, Mr. Chairman. It came up from the south and flew over the southeastern United States and exited the United States over Michigan. So the North Koreans have already demonstrated they have got the ability to deliver a nuclear weapon to the United States. So it is imperative that we move immediately to design and build an antiballistic missile site on the east coast of the United States.

I want to compliment my good friend from Ohio for bringing us this amendment, and it is my privilege to support it. I urge the adoption of the amendment and urge the Department of Defense to build this antiballistic missile site as fast as humanly possible.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I join the chairman in accepting this amendment. I commend the gentleman for offering it, and I think that our national defense will certainly be enhanced by the adoption of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $126,920,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $17,600,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $94,663,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $7,700,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $103,946,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $8,337,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I would ask if the chair of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee would rise and engage in a colloquy.

Mr. CULBERSON. It would be my privilege.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, sir.

First of all, I would like to commend you, Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP and the Appropriations Committee staff, for their efforts in bringing this important measure for our veterans and our military to the floor.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight a vital need of our central Florida veterans population. This year, as we approach the completion of construction of the new veterans hospital and medical complex at Lake Nona in Orlando, I would like to request your assistance in helping to keep the existing and valuable medical facilities and clinic at Baldwin Park in service to our veterans. This medical resource is an important Federal asset that must not sit idle even before the new medical center opens. It is critical

that the VA make a positive determination on the future use of this property and medical treatment center.

With Florida's growing veteran population that is already the second largest in the Nation, it is important that we plan now for the future medical care of our veterans. Additionally, with those service men and women now returning from overseas conflicts, we must prepare for the future demand for medical services.

Two years ago, I wrote a letter to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to plan for this day in anticipation of keeping this medical facility open and using it for the benefit of our veterans. Most recently, a joint letter from the central Florida congressional delegation, both Democrats and Republicans, has been sent to the Secretary asking for his consideration of this request. I am now hoping, Mr. Chairman, that you will join us in our effort to ensure that the VA takes steps to preserve and utilize this much-needed medical center that we have there. The recently opened Lake Nona veterans 120-bed nursing facility and 60-bed domiciliary care unit are already at capacity, confirming the need to maintain the Baldwin Park complex.

Mr. Chairman, finally I would just ask for your support of these current efforts to ensure that the existing VA medical facilities in Baldwin Park remain open and continue to provide world-class treatment for our veteran population.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MICA. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. I want to assure my good friend from Florida, Chairman MICA, that I look forward to working with you to ensure that the VA does complete its independent study of this facility, and I hope that report is going to come back and show the continued need for the Baldwin Park facility.

I will work closely with you, sir, to make certain that the Veterans Administration does everything in its power to support the results of the independent study and work to keep that facility open.

Mr. MICA. Well, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your past work. And I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) and the staff for working with us. We look forward to ensuring that the VA medical complex at Baldwin Park remains open and continues to be used to provide medical services for our veterans.

Finally, Mr. Chair, I would like to insert into the RECORD two letters to Veterans Affairs Secretary Shinseki, one from myself and another from the central Florida congressional delegation.

CONGRESSS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 13, 2012.

Hon. ERIC SHINSEKI,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SHINSEKI: As we complete the Lake Nona Veterans' Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), I would like to request that the Baldwin Park Clinic and building it occupies continue to be utilized for primary, inpatient and domiciliary care for our returning veterans and those other veterans who require this type of care.

Under this plan, the Baldwin Park clinic would continue to provide essential medical and clinical services for the new VAMC including clinical and primary care assistance, lab work, and pharmacy and outpatient services, including mental health care. Because Florida's veteran population continues to expand, it is important to continue these veteran medical services at this facility for those veterans on the north side of the community so that they can continue to have access to these essential services. I respectfully ask that you give this proposal your full consideration.

The second proposal I am writing to you about is my strong support for maintaining a domiciliary care unit in the remaining portion of the hospital, either by the VA or contract services that would provide inpatient and domiciliary care for both our returning veterans and those others who are in need of this type of care. According to an August, 1995 GAO report, ''The former Naval Hospital's 153 beds could be used to meet the VA's service goals for veterans in East Central Florida.'' If implemented, this action would also provide transitional care for our returning veterans and ensure the maximum utilization of space at the Baldwin Park facility. I respectfully request that this proposal be part of your final decision in the space utilization of the Baldwin Park VA site after the Lake Nona complex is complete.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that our veterans receive the best medical care possible and once again respectfully request that you consider these proposals.

Sincerely,

JOHN L. MICA,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2014.

Hon. ERIC SHINSEKI,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SHINSEKI: This year, as we approach the completion of construction of the new veterans' hospital and medical complex at Lake Nona, we would like to request that you consider keeping the existing clinic and medical facilities at Baldwin Park in service to our veterans. This complex is a valuable federal asset that must not sit idle once the new medical center opens.

With an increasing veteran population that is already the second largest in the nation, including those service men and women now returning from overseas conflicts, it is important that we plan now for their future medical care.

In the past, we have encouraged you to consider keeping this medical care facility open. We are now asking that you act soon to ensure that the VA will preserve and utilize this much needed VA property as Florida's veteran population continues to expand.

The recently opened Lake Nona veterans' 120-bed nursing facility and 60 bed domiciliary care unit are already at capacity and the demand for VA services will continue to grow in the Sunshine State.

These men and women who have faithfully served our nation deserve the very best medical care and the taxpayers valuable assets must not sit idle.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

JOHN L. MICA.
ALAN GRAYSON.
DANIEL WEBSTER.
CORRINE BROWN.

Mr. MICA. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $51,528,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $2,123,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $49,492,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $6,892,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $199,700,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $78,609,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $350,976,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $16,412,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $354,029,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $327,747,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, $61,100,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, $1,662,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of construction, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the destruction of the United States stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions in accordance with section 1412 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (50 U.S.C. 1521), and for the destruction of other chemical warfare materials that are not in the chemical weapon stockpile, as currently authorized by law, $38,715,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, which shall be only for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), as amended by section 2711 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239), $270,085,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed $25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than $25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed $500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Sea, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries within the United States Central Command Area of Responsibility, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed $1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed $100,000.

SEC. 114. Not more than 20 percent of the funds made available in this title which are limited for obligation during the current fiscal year shall be obligated during the last 2 months of the fiscal year.

SEC. 115. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 116. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, proceeds deposited to the Department of Defense Base Closure Account established by section 207(a)(1) of the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act (10 U.S.C. 2687 note) pursuant to section 207(a)(2)(C) of such Act, may be transferred to the account established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), to be merged with, and to be available for the same purposes and the same time period as that account.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 119. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in ''Family Housing'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same

period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in ''Military Construction'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 120. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than $15,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 122. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 123. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation ''Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense'', to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 124. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Army to relocate a unit in the Army that—

(1) performs a testing mission or function that is not performed by any other unit in the Army and is specifically stipulated in title 10, United States Code; and

(2) is located at a military installation at which the total number of civilian employees of the Department of the Army and Army contractor personnel employed exceeds 10 percent of the total number of members of the regular and reserve components of the Army assigned to the installation.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Army certifies to the congressional defense committees that in proposing the relocation of the unit of the Army, the Secretary complied with Army Regulation 5-10 relating to the policy, procedures, and responsibilities for Army stationing actions.

SEC. 125. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14–R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of February 2009, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 126. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 127. For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', ''Military Construction, Air Force'', ''Military Construction, Army Reserve'', and ''Military Construction, Navy Reserve'', $125,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, such funds may be obligated and expended to carry out construction of projects, excluding in Europe, as authorized in division B of Public Law 113-66: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading.

SEC. 128. For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Army'' , ''Military Construction, Army National Guard'', and ''Military Construction, Army Reserve'', $245,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction of projects as authorized in division B of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense (relating to Military Construction Authorizations): *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading.

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 129. Of the unobligated balances available for ''Military Construction, Army'', from prior appropriations Acts (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), $79,577,000 are hereby rescinded.

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 130. Of the unobligated balances available for ''NATO Security Investment Program'', from prior appropriations Acts (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), $25,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 131. Of the unobligated balances made available in prior appropriation Acts for the fund established in section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), $100,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 132. For the purposes of this Act, the term ''congressional defense committees'' means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $78,687,709,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed $15,430,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be reimbursed to ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' and ''Information Technology Systems'' for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the ''Compensation and Pensions'' appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to ''Medical Care Collections Fund'' to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35,

36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $14,761,862,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21, title 38, United States Code, $63,257,000, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2015, within the resources available, not to exceed $500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $160,881,000.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1500

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to bring the House's attention to an important issue.

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, also known as VRAP, which has helped our veterans retrain to develop the skills they need for jobs of today, expired on March 31. I had planned to offer an amendment today to reauthorize the program and provide funding for the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program. However, I understand the amendment would have been subject to a point of order. Nevertheless, this critical issue is deserving of the House's attention.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, I know well the struggles our unemployed veterans face on a daily basis to reenter the workforce. In my home district in Ventura County, where I am proud to represent Naval Base Ventura County, we have a large community of veterans who have sacrificed for our country and who deserve every effort we can to ensure they receive the training they need to find the jobs they deserve, especially after the recent recession.

It is deeply disappointing that the 113th Congress has allowed this critical job training program to expire. VRAP helps veterans who are no longer eligible for the GI Bill to get the training they need at community colleges and technical schools in high-demand occupations. One such veteran who is being helped by VRAP is my constituent, Jonathan Pascua. Jonathan is a first-generation Filipino American from Oxnard who served in the United States Marine Corps from 1995 to 2013.

As an Active Duty marine, he handled telecommunications on a vessel in theater during the Iraq war supporting his brothers and sisters who landed ashore. When Jonathan was preparing to retire from the Marine Corps, he learned about VRAP through their education benefits class and signed up for the program. He is currently a full-time student in Oxnard majoring in business management and is scheduled to graduate in 2015.

As a result of VRAP's expiration, Jonathan may not be able to afford to continue. That would be devastating for Jonathan and a tragedy for our country. That is why I introduced H.R. 4149, the bipartisan Help Hire Our Heroes Act, which has gained support from the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Association of the United States Navy.

Despite the obvious need for reauthorization of this important program and this body's solemn obligation to serve our veterans as they have served our Nation, my bill has still not been brought forward for a vote. My amendment would have ensured that this critical program continue, and I am disappointed that I was unable to offer it here today.

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program has succeeded in helping many veterans retrain and find employment, and it should not have been allowed to lapse. Because our veterans, like Jonathan, were there for us, it is our duty to be there for them. Therefore, I urge the leadership of this Chamber to quickly bring forward legislation that will extend the VRAP program and help our unemployed veterans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, $10,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $2,877,000.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak in support of Project Labor Agreements.

As the House begins consideration of the annual Department of Veterans Affairs-Military Construction Appropriations bill later today, I urge my colleagues to continue to support Project Labor Agreements.

We have a great example of just how effective and efficient PLA projects can be with the Navy's largest ongoing military construction project—the construction for the second Explosives Handling Wharf at Naval Base Kitsap. The Explosive Handling Wharf is a critical component of our Nation's nuclear deterrent capability. The use of a PLA at a site of this significance is telling.

The Navy recently shared with me that:

> To date, the PLA has performed its primary function by ensuring no labor disputes interfered with the progress of work on the project and that the project is on schedule and the PLA is operating as intended.

Mr. Chairman, why would we remove such a useful tool for military construction, especially at a time when budgets are tight and milestones are tighter? Let's stay on the path to success and maintain the continued use of Project Labor Agreements.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I rise for the purpose of engaging in a colloquy with the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we can all agree that honoring our Nation's veterans is of vital importance. They sacrifice so much for us and ask for so little in return. One thing that means so much to so many veterans in the Fifth Congressional District of Colorado is the establishment of a Southern Colorado National VA Cemetery.

Would the chairman agree that it is critical to provide dignified final resting places for our heroes and that it is important to conveniently locate them near large veterans populations?

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LAMBORN. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Yes, of course, I completely agree with you that one of the fundamental obligations of the United States of America is to ensure that these men and women who have served their country have earned that piece of earth as a convenient and dignified final resting place.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the chairman for his words of agreement. Given the advanced stage of the project and the amount of work that has already taken place on the Southern Colorado National VA Cemetery, including land being purchased in southeast Colorado Springs and master planning due to start in mere months, would the chairman also agree that it is vital that we

work together to ensure that construction is fully funded in the appropriations process for upcoming fiscal years?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. CULBERSON. I completely agree with you, Mr. LAMBORN, that this project is too far along, and it is important that we fund it in fiscal year 2016, and I will work with you and your colleagues from Colorado to ensure it is funded.

Mr. LAMBORN. Well, I thank the chairman, and I look forward to working with him. I appreciate the hard work he does for our military and for our veterans, including this particular important project. I pledge to work with him on these and other matters as we seek to honor our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, $361,000, which may be paid to the appropriation for ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration''.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, $1,130,000.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code, $47,603,202,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2015, and shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), $6,144,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2015, and shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services, $4,915,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2015, and shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, $588,922,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, $256,800,000, of which not to exceed $25,600,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-Wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed $25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, $321,591,000, of which not to exceed $16,080,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration''.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SINEMA

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 31, line 12, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 36, line 5, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Chairman, the Sinema-Salmon amendment is a commonsense, budget-neutral fix that helps restore our veterans' trust in the VA by transferring additional resources to the VA Office of Inspector General so that it can carry out its mission to provide oversight and accountability.

Our amendment increases funding for the VA OIG by $1 million and offsets this increase by reducing VA General Administration funding by the same amount.

I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Military Construction and VA appropriations subcommittee, Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. BISHOP, for supporting this amendment and for working with us on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, we offer this amendment because the recent allegations of secret lists and long wait times at the Phoenix VA, which may have caused some 40 veteran deaths, require answers and action. This is immoral, unconscionable, irresponsible, and un-American.

We need answers in Phoenix. But this is not an isolated incident. A December 2012 GAO report found that Veterans Health Administration wait times are unreliable. Stories of health complications and deaths because of wait times have surfaced in other parts of the country, including South Carolina and Texas. That this is happening to the good people who have defended our flag and our freedoms is beyond the pale.

I have worked on veterans' issues for a long time, and it is wrong that it took deaths to get action—but there had better be action now. I vow to help veterans and veteran families in any way I can, and I urge families to reach out to my office so we can help.

The morning after the story was reported in Arizona, the parents of Daniel Somers, a veteran who committed suicide in my district last summer, called me, and they told me that they believe Daniel may have been one of the 40 on that list.

Our veterans and their families—families like the Somers—need answers, and we must hold accountable those responsible. That is the only way that we can restore veterans' trust and the public trust in the VA health care system.

The Sinema-Salmon amendment, which will improve oversight and accountability at the VA, is a step towards restoring that trust.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the gentlewoman from the Ninth Congressional District of Arizona, which is right adjacent to mine. She is my neighbor, and I am proud to cosponsor this with her to show a strong unity of bipartisanship for our veterans. And if there isn't a better cause here in Washington, D.C., to stand bipartisan with, I don't know what it is.

I want to echo some of the things that Congresswoman SINEMA has said. This is unconscionable. And since these allegations have come to light, we have received numerous phone calls in our district from other like-minded people that have said, I had a similar circumstance happen to me.

So when Representative SINEMA approached me about cosponsoring this amendment to allocate $1 million from the general fund of the Veterans Administration and appropriate it to the IG so that we can get a thorough investigation, it seems to me that this is the least we can do.

Why is this important? You might remember just a few years ago that a gentleman named—I call him gentleman, I think that is a loose term—Ken Lay, the CEO of Enron, went to prison for cooking the books. Now we have got some serious allegations about those that are entrusted with a sacred trust—our veterans' very livelihood—at stake. And I believe that this group of folks in the Veterans Administration has betrayed that trust. But we have got to get to the bottom of it.

Why is it important? Because it is the integrity of the system. A lot of the folks in my district, the veterans, have said that they don't have the confidence to even be utilizing that system anymore, and so they are right now going out of network. They are paying out of their pocket. I have heard many of them say that, as well.

So we, as a Congress, are required to provide oversight for these kinds of programs and ensure that they are getting the best—not the mediocre, and certainly not the worst, which I believe is happening right now in our own State in Arizona—and we demand justice. We demand some sunshine. Sunshine is the best disinfectant, and we demand some sunshine on this process. That is why we want to investigate it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment and urge my colleagues to adopt it. I am, as we all are, appalled, mortified, and heartsick over these reports out of the Phoenix VA. It is appalling to think that any veteran who has served our country would be denied access to medical care, much less lose their life or have permanent damage to their health.

I cannot imagine the agony these families are going through, so therefore the amendment is a good idea to give an additional $1 million to the inspector general, who is capable of conducting the type of investigation necessary to determine what actually happened here. In the instant, if there does, indeed, appear to be deliberate, intentional refusal to put these folks into the VA system, there will be criminal charges, and we will make sure of that. We will make sure that if anyone has been denied service, they are held accountable for it.

It is an appalling set of circumstances genuinely. It is a terrible reflection on all the good men and women, the doctors, and the health care professionals that work throughout the VA system do, do their best to provide top quality medical care to our veterans as they come out of Active Duty service to the country.

□ 1515

So we are anxious to see what the facts are and criminal charges be pressed if, indeed, it turns out to be as we have seen in the press, so I strongly support the amendment and urge Members to adopt it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, when I learned of the allegations of intentional misrepresentation of wait times, which may have caused some 40 deaths at the Phoenix VA, I was deeply disappointed and downright disgusted.

I am pleased to see a bipartisan approach, and I believe this amendment will provide additional resources to the VA Office of Inspector General to improve oversight and accountability at the VA.

I agree with my colleagues from Arizona that this situation requires answers and a thorough investigation. I believe Congress should allow the VA IG to complete its investigation, so the Congress can take appropriate action, if needed. The last thing I want is a knee-jerk reaction that could cause additional problems.

I believe this amendment is the right approach, and I fully support it, and I urge all Members to do the same. I believe that a thorough investigation of the matter is the only way to restore our veterans' trust and the public trust in the VA health care system.

We owe it to our veterans to ensure that the VA is providing the best possible care and that care is timely and accessible. I think this amendment will help achieve that goal.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this amendment, which seeks to redirect funds from the general administration account to the Department of Veterans Affairs inspector general's office.

As a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I am a firm believer in oversight of the Federal Government. The more sunlight on Federal activity, the more honest and efficient it will be. I am also a strong proponent of the inspector general community.

Since the Inspector General Act was passed into law, the IG community has saved taxpayers billions of dollars and has uncovered countless examples of wrongdoing in the Federal Government.

These allegations about the Phoenix VA health care system are troubling, but I am also a firm believer of the rule of law. These investigations must be completed in order for us to have these answers. The answers from the IG report will yield both improvements to the VA process and hold accountable anyone who has done any harm.

I support this amendment because I support a timely, but thorough resolution to the investigation. Let us give the IG's office the resources it needs. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support passage of this commonsense amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support as the chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

I rise in support of the Sinema-Salmon bipartisan amendment to transfer funds from the general administration line item within the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Office of Inspector General for the purpose of really looking into this issue, the issue of veterans dying from preventable illnesses because, in fact, the VA was playing a game in the Phoenix VA hospital with appointment times.

My office—my investigators last Monday turned over this ''secret list'' that the VA was using that they, in fact, are denying today to the VA Office of Inspector General.

In that list, it will demonstrate that there are veterans with preventable illnesses that died waiting for an appointment, and we also know that there

were administrators who received bonuses for supposedly bringing down these wait times for appointments.

My greatest fear is not only that this act which has criminal implications, this alleged act which has criminal implications, occurred in the Phoenix VA hospital, but also my concern is that it is more widespread, it is more systematic, that it is something that the leadership in the VA has knowingly or unwittingly allowed to occur, and so I think it is important for us to get down to the bottom of it.

It is a great tragedy that we don't have confidence—certainly, I don't have confidence in the leadership of the Veterans Administration in and of themselves to get down to the bottom of it, and it takes the Office of the Inspector General and that it takes my investigators in the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to uncover these things, bring these things to light, and move them forward.

So, again, I rise in support of the Sinema-Salmon bipartisan amendment to transfer moneys from the administration of the Veterans Administration to the Office of Inspector General to move these investigations forward; and if, in fact, they are found to be true, I certainly hope that they are referred to criminal prosecution.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Salmon-Sinema amendment to increase funding for the VA Office of the Inspector General in order to provide accountability at the VA and increase quality of care.

It has been recently reported that veterans are dying while waiting for treatment, including at the West Palm Beach VA facility that serves my district. Following this news, allegations have surfaced that 40 veterans in the Phoenix VA health care system died while being placed on a secret wait list. This is beyond unacceptable.

Mr. Chairman, it is vital that the inspector general get to the bottom of these claims as soon as possible so that veterans of the Palm Beaches, Treasure Coast, and around the country who fought for our freedoms get the timely and high-quality care they deserve.

I thank my colleagues from Arizona, Congresswoman SINEMA and Congressman SALMON, for their leadership on this pressing issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment. It is my job as ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee to ensure that we get to the bottom of the allegations that patients died at the Phoenix VA due to delayed care.

I want to ensure that the inspector general has the resources it needs to conduct a swift and thorough investigation of the Phoenix VA and at other facilities where treatment delays are reported.

We need to ensure there is accountability and that veterans will never again wait for the care they deserve. Delayed care is denied care, and veterans should never have to fight to receive care when they have already served and sacrificed for our country.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this important bipartisan amendment that will provide additional funding to support the VA Office of Inspector General. This will help provide the oversight and accountability that is currently needed in the VA. As we all know, recently, allegations of a secret waiting list at the Phoenix VA health care system may well have led to the preventable deaths of up to 40 veterans.

I am appalled and infuriated to think that the VA ignored the needs of those who served our country and forced them to wait months to see a doctor.

We have demanded that the VA Secretary address these allegations of falsified records, preventable or premature deaths, mismanagement, and other systematic problems in the VA; but more must be done. We must quickly get to the bottom of this and bring about swift action to prevent a reoccurrence, so that our veterans get prompt access to the best possible care that they so richly deserve.

The amendment we are introducing will provide the necessary resources to the VA inspector general that he or she will need to investigate these horrendous allegations and provide the public and the grieving families the answers they deserve.

Once the investigation is completed, those who are found responsible should be quickly held accountable. We must restore our veterans' trust in the VA health care system, so that our men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country can finally get the care they have earned.

As the son of a veteran and a Member of Congress representing 85,000 veterans, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment, so we can find the answers and take action to hold the VA accountable.

Ms. SINEMA. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BARBER. I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Chair, I just want to thank the chair of the committee, Mr. CULBERSON; our ranking member, Mr. BISHOP; and Mr. SALMON for cosponsoring the amendment, as well as all of my colleagues from Arizona and around the country for joining together on this bipartisan amendment.

Mr. BARBER. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COSTA

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 4486.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 31, line 12, after the first dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $10,500,000)''.

Page 32, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chairman, this bill makes critical investments in our military and upholds a sacred promise we make to our men and women in uniform that we will stand by them when they return home, but we can do more.

My amendment provides additional funding to end what has been a shameful backlog of disability claims that, for too long, has delayed benefits for veterans throughout the west coast, especially in the San Joaquin Valley that I represent.

The Oakland regional office services the majority of veterans throughout the west coast and in my district. Sadly, it has one of the largest loads of backlogged casework. Currently, more than 10,000 entitlement claims are stuck in this backlog, and the average claim is left pending for nearly 400 days, which is over a year. This is unacceptable. It is immoral.

Yesterday, the Central Valley Honor Flight brought 68 World War II veterans from California to see the World War II Memorial and other important monuments in our Nation's capital. These men and women raised their right hand over 70 years ago and took an oath that they would defend our Nation and our freedom for the future of democracy throughout the world.

Their efforts and their honor is without question. This is a depth that we can never repay. Therefore, it is our obligation to provide them with the care that they earned for their service to our country.

This amendment I am offering today honors the service of these World War II veterans and veterans of all the wars who have served our Nation. Specifically, this amendment provides $10

million to the Veterans Benefit Administration to pay for programs like the veterans' claims intake program, the centralized mail initiative, and staff overtime.

□ 1530

No one can deny that the Veterans Administration recently has taken strong and meaningful steps to end the backlog, but we can do more. They have gone from 2½ years now to over 400 days. Well, that is progress, but it is not good enough.

Our work is not complete until we are able to strip every bit of red tape separating a veteran from the benefits that they have earned and should receive.

I want to thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this amendment: Congressman LAMALFA, Congressman THOMPSON, Congressman DENHAM, and Congressman LOWENTHAL; and I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON, as well as Ranking Member BISHOP for their efforts and good work on this important bill.

I hope that we will adopt this amendment, so that we can do the right thing, which is end this backlog once and for all, so veterans who have served their country can receive the benefits that they so richly deserve.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my colleague Mr. COSTA and my other California colleagues, as well as everybody in this body that seeks to make things right with our veterans and the VA.

While I always support reasonable spending, I would rather direct appropriate funding from the general fund towards the issue that is causing all the other horrendous issues at the VA. It is the backlog of veterans' claims.

All the illegal and unthinkable activities that have been uncovered in the last year, much of it, I believe, stems from the backlog that is only going to increase if the VA does not get things right and quickly.

I have veterans in my district that have claims that have been pending for over a year. This is simply unacceptable—in many cases, well over a year; in some cases, decades.

Much like Mr. COSTA, my veterans feed into the Oakland VA. This facility has the longest wait time for claims to be finished in all of the U.S. Our veterans do not deserve this. Something has to change, and it has to happen now. Today, we are drawing a line in the sand that this backlog is unacceptable.

My hope is that this amendment offered by Mr. COSTA, Mr. THOMPSON, myself, and several others will be a step in the right direction in getting these claims closed in a fair and timely manner. We are giving the VA the necessary resources to get this done. We expect them to actually get it done.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment. Along with the electronic medical records, there is no more important thing this committee and this Congress can do to help our veterans to ensure the rapid disposal of this terrible backlog in disability claims.

I fully support the amendment. It builds on the $20 million increase we have already provided in the bill. I assure my colleagues that Mr. BISHOP and I will continue to exercise aggressive oversight to ensure the money is spent wisely and carefully to reduce the backlog and that the VA meet their deadlines to get the backlog disposed of as quickly as humanly possible.

I support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, first, I rise in support of the Costa amendment.

I also want to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP and also Representative COSTA for the time that they have given me to speak about this. My congressional district is home to the Long Beach VA, which is one of the largest institutions for veterans in southern California.

In California, there is currently one congressional affairs analyst to assist 33 congressional offices that have questions about casework. There are delays in responses to congressional caseworkers and an even longer delay in aid and attendance claims, particularly when those claims regard elderly frail veterans with rapidly declining health issues and sometimes, unfortunately, approval comes too late.

While it is critically important that we provide overtime pay for workers who are already stretched thin—and I think that is critically important—I also encourage the department to use some of these funds to hire additional staff.

I urge my colleagues to support the Costa amendment to H.R. 4486 and encourage the Veterans Benefits Administration to hire more staff to address the VA backlog and to help our Nation's veterans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, $94,294,000, of which not to exceed $9,429,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, $2,514,254,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed $125,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 32, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 4486, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

This amendment is for the brave men and women who have served our country, our veterans. Right now, in my district and across the Nation, thousands of veterans who have sacrificed for our country are struggling to receive access to benefits that they have earned. This is due to the enormous claims backlog at the Veterans Affairs Administration.

Currently, California is home to almost 2 million veterans, almost 140,000 in Riverside County alone. There is an additional 40,000 veterans expected to return to the State every year for the next several years.

As our troops continue to return home and assimilate back into civilian life, it is critical we are able to keep faith with our veterans and ensure they have timely access to critical benefits.

Too often, Washington becomes bogged down with statistics on a page or numbers on a screen that show how this backlog is affecting veterans, but the people this is affecting are not just a statistic. They are men and women, like retired Air Force Master Sergeant Andrew Walker and his family from Beaumont, California, who I represent.

Mr. Walker and his family struggled with the VA, waiting years on end,

without receiving the critical health benefits he earned and needed. Due to what seemed like an insurmountable claims backlog, Mr. Walker told me that he suffered pain and frustration, leading to hopelessness and despair. He felt dejected and lost. This is unconscionable and no way to treat a veteran and his family.

I am thankful I was able to help resolve Mr. Walker's claim, but the reality is there are many more stories just like this one that continue every day across the country. It is critical that we as a Nation work urgently to address the claims backlog.

That is why I am offering this amendment to advocate for an additional $5 million to fund the digital scanning of health and benefits files to reduce the backlog by redirecting funding within the general operating expenses account of the Veterans Benefits Administration.

This amendment simply directs funds towards the digital scanning of health and benefit files that will reduce the claims backlog without any new spending. As an emergency medicine physician, I understand the importance of efficiency in health care.

By committing resources to digitizing health and benefit files, we will further increase VA's capacity to tackle the claims backlog, ensuring veterans receive the benefits that they have earned in a timely manner.

Let us continue to bear in mind that these men and women have served this country and they have put their lives on the line. We must serve them by making certain that Congress focuses on eliminating the claims backlog for good.

I encourage my colleagues to stand up for veterans and support my pragmatic amendment to reduce the veterans' claims processing time.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment.

This is something that we have all worked together arm in arm and welcome the additional resources with the assurance to our employers—the taxpayers—that we will provide aggressive oversight and ensure that the money is actually used to reduce the backlog as fast as humanly possible and, above all, to enforce the law because the greatest check and balance we have as guardians of the Treasury and good stewards of our taxpayers' hard-earned tax dollars is the power of the purse.

I welcome the gentleman's amendment and look forward to supporting it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I would like to engage in a colloquy of the subcommittee leadership.

First off, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for agreeing to work with me on an issue that is very important to former servicemembers.

After a decade at war, many women servicemembers, for instance, are at risk for reproductive and urinary tract problems. This risk results from deployment conditions and a lack of predeployment women's health information.

In addition, the nature of the current conflict and increasing use of improvised explosive devices have left servicemembers with blast injuries that include spinal cord injury and trauma to the reproductive and urinary tracts.

The result is a severe impact to these servicemembers and their ability to create and raise a family upon their return from the battlefield.

According to the Department of Defense, between 2003 and 2011, nearly 2,000 women and men suffered these life-changing battle injuries during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Disabled veterans have already paid much too high a price in service to our country. They should not have to pay a higher cost when they come home to try to start a family. The Department of Veterans Affairs cannot provide the care that they need.

While the Department of Defense and TRICARE are already able to provide the necessary treatment to servicemembers with these injuries, the VA services are not able to meet the complex needs of severely injured veterans.

I hope I can continue to call up on the able leadership of the subcommittee to help resolve this issue as we move forward on this bill and move it to conference.

With that, I yield to the ranking member.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I would like to thank the gentleman from Washington for bringing this issue to our attention. I will certainly work with you, as well I am sure the chairman will and the members of our subcommittee, as we go forward to find a meaningful solution to this problem.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. I want to thank the ranking member and the leadership of the subcommittee, Mr. Chairman.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $3,870,552,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided*, That $1,039,000,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed $31,170,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That $2,283,217,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed $160,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That $548,335,000 shall be for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, and shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a certification of the amounts, in parts or in full, to be obligated and expended for each development project: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for the ''Information Technology Systems'' account for development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: *Provided further*, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than $1,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That funds under this heading may be used by the Interagency Program Office through the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a standard data reference terminology model: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement for VistA Evolution, not more than 25 percent may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, a report that describes: (1) the status of VistA Evolution project development and any corrective actions taken where the plan established in the VistA Evolution program plan (hereinafter referred to as the ''Plan''), VistA 4 product roadmap (Roadmap), or the VistA Evolution cost estimate, dated March 24, 2014 may have fallen short; (2) any changes to the scope of the VistA Evolution program as established in the Plan; (3) actual program costs incurred and any refinements to the cost estimate presented in the Plan based on actual costs incurred; (4) progress in meeting the schedule milestones that have been established in the Plan; (5) program performance

relative to the performance measures that have been identified in the Plan and the Roadmap; (6) plans for testing the VistA system and test results; (7) VistA Evolution program risks and issues that have been identified and any agency responses to such risks and issues; (8) the effort to achieve interoperability between the electronic health record systems of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the scope, cost, schedule, and performance benchmarks of the interoperable record; and (9) progress toward developing and implementing the interoperable electronic health record throughout the two Departments' medical facilities: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified under this heading in the report accompanying this Act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), $121,411,000, of which $10,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, $561,800,000, of which $527,800,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019, and of which $34,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and salaries and associated costs of the resident engineers who oversee those capital investments funded through this account, and funds provided for the purchase of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project which has not been approved by the Congress in the budgetary process: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2015, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2015; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, $495,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, along with unobligated balances of previous ''Construction, Minor Projects'' appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, $80,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, $45,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2015 for ''Compensation and Pensions'', ''Readjustment Benefits'', and ''Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015, in this Act or any other Act, under the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'' accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers between the ''Medical Services'' and ''Medical Support and Compliance'' accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers between the ''Medical Services'' and ''Medical Support and Compliance'' accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That any transfers to or from the ''Medical Facilities'' account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'') shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the ''Medical Services'' account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for ''Compensation and Pensions'', ''Readjustment Benefits'', and ''Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2014.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from ''Compensation and Pensions''.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' and ''Information Technology Systems'' accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from

the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2015 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2015 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication under section 319 of title 38, United States Code, for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed $42,904,000 for the Office of Resolution Management and $3,400,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the ''General Administration'' and ''Information Technology Systems'' accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No appropriations in this title shall be available to enter into any new lease of real property if the estimated annual rental cost is more than $1,000,000, unless the Secretary submits a report which the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress approve within 30 days following the date on which the report is received.

SEC. 212. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 213. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects''.

SEC. 214. Amounts made available under ''Medical Services'' are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 215. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to ''Medical Services'', to remain available until expended for the purposes of that account.

SEC. 216. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Indian tribes and tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, and Indian tribes and tribal organizations serving rural Alaska which have entered into contracts with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self Determination and Educational Assistance Act, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term ''rural Alaska'' shall mean those lands sited within the external boundaries of the Alaska Native regions specified in sections 7(a)(1)–(4) and (7)–(12) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1606), and those lands within the Alaska Native regions specified in sections 7(a)(5) and 7(a)(6) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1606), which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough or the Matanuska Susitna Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 217. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 218. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to implement any policy prohibiting the Directors of the Veterans Integrated Services Networks from conducting outreach or marketing to enroll new veterans within their respective Networks.

SEC. 219. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report on the financial status of the Veterans Health Administration.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Amounts made available under the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', ''General Administration'', and ''National Cemetery Administration'' accounts for fiscal year 2015 may be transferred to or from the ''Information Technology Systems'' account: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 221. Of the amounts made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015, in this Act or any other Act, under the ''Medical Facilities'' account for nonrecurring maintenance, not more than 20 percent of the funds made available shall be obligated during the last 2 months of that fiscal year: *Provided*, That the Secretary may waive this requirement after providing written notice to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015 for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''Construction, Minor Projects'', and ''Information Technology Systems'', up to $252,366,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 223. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 3571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500).

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 224. Of the amounts available in this title for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'', a minimum of $15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 225. (a) Of the funds appropriated in title II of division J of Public Law 113–76, the following amounts which become available on October 1, 2014, are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

(1) ''Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Services'', $1,400,000,000.

(2) ''Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Support and Compliance'', $100,000,000.

(3) ''Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Facilities'', $250,000,000.

(b) In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, an additional amount is appropriated to the following accounts in the amounts specified to remain available until September 30, 2016:

(1) ''Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Services'', $1,400,000,000.

(2) ''Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Support and Compliance'', $100,000,000.

(3) ''Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Facilities'', $250,000,000.

SEC. 226. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in major construction projects that total at least $5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: *Provided*, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 227. The scope of work for a project included in ''Construction, Major Projects'' may not be increased above the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations.

SEC. 228. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed $2,000,000.

SEC. 229. The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a reprogramming request if at any point during fiscal year 2015, the funding allocated for a medical care initiative identified in the fiscal year 2015 expenditure plan is adjusted by more than $25,000,000 from the allocation shown in the corresponding congressional budget justification. Such a reprogramming request may go forward only if the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress approve the request or if a period of 14 days has elapsed.

SEC. 230. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015 for ''Medical Services'' and ''Medical Support and Compliance'', a maximum of $8,371,000 may be obligated from the ''Medical Services'' account and a maximum of $114,703,000 may be obligated from the ''Medical Support and Compliance'' account for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects: *Provided*, That funds in addition to these amounts may be obligated for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 231. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

Mr. CULBERSON (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 53, line 25, be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point in order to expedite the process.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 232. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to award a contract to any contractor if the past performance of the contractor resulted in the completion of a construction project at a facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs more than 24 months after the original agreed-upon completion date for the project.

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 233. Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Veterans Affairs from prior year discretionary appropriations (other than appropriations designated by law as being for an emergency requirement) $38,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TERRY

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 54, after line 12, insert the following:

SEC. 224. None of the funds made available in this Act for ''Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Administration'' for administrative expenses of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs meets with the Nebraska delegation to discuss alternative options for the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital planned for construction in Omaha, Nebraska.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I first want to thank my colleagues on the VA-MilCon Subcommittee—in particular, Mr. FORTENBERRY and Mr. CULBERSON and their staff—for their excellent work on this legislation in helping me facilitate this amendment and discussion.

I also want to thank, of course, the committee staff, who has just been wonderful.

□ 1545

My amendment would require that no funds in this appropriations bill shall be used for the administrative expenses until the Secretary meets with the Nebraska delegation. The Secretary's calendar should never be so busy that he cannot meet with an entire delegation.

Mr. Chairman, on June 6 of 2013—almost 11 months ago—our delegation asked for a meeting with Secretary Shinseki. When I say ''delegation,'' I mean all of the House Members and both Senators signed on to this letter, which I will submit for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2013.

Hon. ERIC K. SHINSEKI,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SHINSEKI: We respectfully ask for a personal meeting with you to discuss the current state of the Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital in Omaha, Nebraska.

We are pleased that Omaha is on the VA's construction list and as such will someday have a new facility built. However, as number 18 out of 20 on the VA's major construction projects list, the reality seems to indicate that there is a small chance a new facility will be built by the end of the decade. As the condition of the current facility continues to deteriorate and the new hospital's timeline continues to slide, veterans in the Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System will be placed at risk of not receiving the proper health care that they have come to know and deserve.

The situation with the Omaha VA hospital is dire. The management and staff are doing their best, but unforeseen circumstances have provided obstacles to ensuring our veterans receive quality care. For example, operating rooms were closed in March 2013 due to failing humidifiers. Though the situation is being addressed, we are concerned that the aging facility will only continue to face operational challenges and will continue to require significant maintenance in order to keep it functioning until a new facility can be built. Another major issue is the condition of the boilers, air conditioners, and emergency generators. Without replacement soon the Omaha VA Hospital could face major shutdowns for complex and costly replacements of this equipment.

The veterans of Nebraska and western Iowa, who rely on this declining facility, need to know that the VA has valid and viable plans in place to continue the excellent care they receive without avoidable interruptions or endangerment to their health and welfare. We ask that you meet with us to discuss these items so we, as the Nebraska delegation, can communicate to and alleviate the concerns of our veteran constituents.

Several questions we would like to discuss with you include:

How does the VA establish funding priorities for construction of new VA hospitals and whether or not the major construction list will be re-evaluated based on the current status of existing facilities?

When is Omaha's facility reasonably expected to begin physical construction?

What is the VA's plan to fund unexpected and required repairs to continue Omaha's operations until a new facility is completed?

What is preventing the VA from placing higher priority on seriously degrading facilities such as the Omaha VA hospital?

What are other possible solutions/options for a new hospital and is the VA open to exploring these possibilities?

Please let us know as soon as possible as to your availability to meet in June. Time is of the essence. Please ask your staff to coordinate with Katie Amacio, scheduler for Senator Johanns, at kathleen_amacio@johanns.senate.gov. Ms. Amacio will coordinate with the rest of the delegation.

We look forward to working with you to best serve our nation's cherished heroes, our veterans.

Sincerely,

LEE TERRY,
Member of Congress,
ADRIAN SMITH,
Member of Congress,

JEFF FORTENBERRY,
Member of Congress,
MIKE JOHANNS,
United States Senator,
DEB FISCHER,
United States Senator.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, November 1, 2013.

Hon. ERIC K. SHINSEKI,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SHINSEKI: On June 6, 2013, we wrote you a letter requesting a meeting to discuss the Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital in Omaha, Nebraska and to discuss options regarding the current hospital situation, as well as a timeline and options for the new facility. We would like to meet with you as soon as possible to talk with you about our concerns.

We appreciate that your staff offered to meet with us. However, the situation at our VA hospital is so grave that this meeting requires your personal attention. As noted in our letter of June 6th, the condition of the current facility is problematic, while the new hospital's timeline continues to slide. Veterans in the Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System may be placed at risk of not receiving the proper health care that they have come to know and deserve if something is not done very soon to rectify the current situation.

Our communications with your congressional affairs staff have been numerous in the hopes that we could work to find a mutually agreeable time to meet. It is now the beginning of November and we are still anxiously awaiting the opportunity to meet. In the meantime, our veterans continue to seek treatment at a facility that has outlived its usefulness. Given your longstanding service to our country, we know that you share the goal of giving the best possible care to those who have served our nation so bravely. We respectfully request that a meeting be scheduled as early as possible.

Please contact Congressman Terry's Chief of Staff, Mark Anderson, to arrange a meeting. He can be reached via email at Mark.Anderson@mail.house.gov. He will coordinate a date and time for our meeting with you.

We believe that you are as interested as we are in serving those who deserve it most, our nation's veterans who depend upon the Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System. We know that we can work together to solve the problems at the Omaha facility and begin making the dreams of a new hospital a reality.

We look forward to hearing from your office in the coming days.

Sincerely,

LEE TERRY,
Member of Congress,
JEFF FORTENBERRY,
Member of Congress,
ADRIAN SMITH,
Member of Congress,
MIKE JOHANNS,
United States Senate,
DEB FISCHER,
United States Senate.

Mr. TERRY. Now, the purpose of this inquiry was to discuss some health care alternatives for the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System. Our hospital for 170,000 area veterans is in serious disrepair—boilers, HVAC, emergency generators. The very sewer and water pipes are literally duct-taped together. We have heard that it is the second worst hospital infrastructure in all of their hospital inventory. Even last March, the operating rooms had to be closed down due to failing humidifiers. We are talking about the basic functioning of this hospital that is out of date.

Without replacement soon, the hospital could face additional major shutdowns for the complex and costly replacements of this infrastructure. Currently, we are on the list to be built somewhere around '18-'20, but the reality is, for years now, the list hasn't moved. Now our VA employees are being told that it will be somewhere in the 2021–2022 range. I fear it will be even later than that before the new inpatient tower can be built.

Why do we need to talk to the general, or to Secretary Shinseki, about this hospital?

It is that there are alternatives available in our community that we need to discuss with the decision maker.

I will tell you that, even though we made the request in June of 2013—as we head into May of 2014 now—they did get back to us in November of '13 when they said that we could meet with a low-level employee. So the entire delegation rewrote a letter in November, rejecting a meeting with the low-level employee. We need to meet with the Secretary, the decision maker, on these types of alternatives that would be available and that are, frankly, much cheaper than the $600 million budgeted.

The Secretary then did call back in December when the House was out of session and when the Senate was wrapping up, I think it was, the debt resolution issue for Friday, but even the Senators left on Wednesday. They at late notice scheduled a meeting, but that was when no one was here. We have made numerous requests for additional meetings to discuss these great options that would be available. Some of them would involve a leaseback type of provision by which people would put up the money, build the hospital, and then lease it back, reducing the burdens on the VA's budget, but we have no one to talk to. That is why I am saying let's hold back the administrative budget until the head of the administration for the VA meets with the Nebraska delegation on this really important safety and health issue for our veterans.

I yield to my colleague, JEFF FORTENBERRY, from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I thank my friend and colleague, Congressman TERRY, for his steadfast commitment in trying to find some creative resolution for this problem.

Mr. Chairman, he is very right in outlining this timeline of frustrations that we have had in dealing with the VA and in simply trying to get a hearing to discuss innovative ideas that are potentially out there to resolve this very difficult situation that we have in giving veterans the highest service that they deserve.

I did want to mention to my colleague and thank Chairman CULBERSON as well for working with me on getting some language in the current bill that, hopefully, gets us out of this dilemma and reframes it.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to read the language that is in this bill.

It reads:

Alternative Financing:

The committee is concerned about meeting the need for access to high-quality veterans' health care facilities, including in rural areas where access to facilities, including clinics and hospitals, is more limited. The committee directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to work collaboratively with other executive branch agencies with substantial construction portfolios, private sector contractors and other nongovernmental experts, together with the appropriate congressional committees, to explore the feasibility of employing new funding mechanisms to meet the need for such facilities, including but not limited to private development leaseback arrangements, and to provide a report on their conclusions to the committee no later than September 30 of this year.

So it is right around the corner. We did not want this to linger any longer.

A bit of a new development I should bring up as well is that the VA Secretary did appear before our committee. I laid out some of these concerns. He appeared to be open to new ideas and suggestions, but we wanted to fortify this by putting this language in the underlying bill. Hopefully, this gets us some resolution quickly. If we don't resolve this, there is something called ''opportunity cost.'' Veterans who deserve the highest quality care may not be getting that care over the longer term when we could be doing something creative right now and innovative to build out, potentially, a new facility or rehab older ones to modern standards so that we can ensure they get the best and highest quality care. This puts us, hopefully, on a pathway to creating new and innovative ideas to simply move past the old way of doing things, which makes us wait and wait and wait for who knows how long.

I want to thank my colleague for, again, bringing awareness to this issue.

Mr. TERRY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. TERRY. Thank you, Mr. FORTENBERRY.

I think the language is innovative and absolutely necessary, and I compliment you on your perseverance on

this issue as well and on the insertion of this language into the bill.

Mr. Chairman, the lend-lease or the leaseback provisions could be helpful. There are at least two community options that, I think, are highly credible options. One of them would be a leaseback type of option. The VA does that on clinics, but they refuse to do it on hospitals.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. And, by the way, on housing. As the Secretary pointed out, the VA does this on housing as well.

Mr. Chairman, there are creative options out there that do not give the government a longer term budgetary risk, but they nonetheless help us move past a process that seems to be very stuck—simply putting money under the mattress until we finally get enough someday way into the future when we can get the veterans the services that they need.

Mr. TERRY. The Secretary mentioned he was open to the language that you have inserted, which is a great step forward. Was he open to actually meeting with the delegation on the options that our community is putting forward?

Mr. FORTENBERRY. We discussed not necessarily the specific language. We, in working with the committee, came up with this. Again, I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON for his leadership in helping craft this. The Secretary expressed a general openness toward creative thinking about alternative models that are already being deployed, as you rightly recognized, in clinics as well as in veterans' housing. I did not raise the issue about meeting with us, but hopefully, again, this conversation and this language will help further that cause.

Mr. TERRY. I am intending, Mr. Chairman, to withdraw this amendment at the end of the gentleman's 5 minutes; but I do want to encourage General, Secretary Shinseki to actually sit down and listen to these options. We are not there to berate him or the VA but to simply say that our community is serious about finding solutions in working with the VA, and Mr. FORTENBERRY has now inserted language that would encourage that.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Again, I want to thank my colleague, LEE TERRY, for his steadfast commitment to this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, I think we should all be on the same page. Everybody shares the general goal and mission as to how to get this new hospital potentially in a much better situation either with a new facility or with something that is rehabilitated to modern standards. We have got some innovative ways to do this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) withdraws his amendment.

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LAMALFA

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 54, after line 12, insert the following:

SEC. ____. If Department of Veterans Affairs casework is brokered out to another office of the Department from its original submission site, a caseworker in a congressional office may contact the brokered office to receive an update on the constituent's case, and that office of the Department is required to update the congressional staffer regardless of their thoughts on jurisdiction.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved on the amendment.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. I appreciate Chairman CULBERSON for allowing the time here today on this important topic.

Mr. Chairman, the VA continues to broker cases as a means to lessen the backlog that many Members are clamoring about. This amendment I am offering with my colleague, Mr. HUFFMAN, who wished to speak today, is very important to both of us and to many of my other colleagues.

When a case is brokered out of the Oakland VA office to the San Diego VA office, for example, San Diego will tell my staff that they are not allowed to update them on the status of a case because it is not in San Diego's jurisdiction to do so, they basically claim. We know there are no VA rules in law that state that caseworkers cannot be updated on a veteran's case.

This amendment simply states, if a congressional office is looking for an update on a veteran's case that has been brokered to another VA office, that the staff will be given a status update with no jurisdictional concerns.

As Members, we serve our constituents. It is a reasonable request that caseworkers in our offices should be allowed to receive an update on a case regardless of where that case has been sent so that this VA backlog can be solved. Our veterans should not suffer because of this backlog. This issue of jurisdiction needs to be clear to all VA facilities across the U.S. so that our veterans are getting the answers they need through our casework staff. If we are going to continue to broker cases, then the brokered office must be communicating with our staff members, who are trying to get the answers that they need to the veterans.

Mr. Chairman, at this time, I would like to yield to my colleague from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, let's see. There are 435 of us in this House and maybe another 100 over on the other side, give or take a few who may be retiring or who are on their way to other jobs. Each and every one of us has constituents come to us, seeking help and seeking our assistance in solving a problem. It is our work. That is what a Representative is. We represent the people in our districts, and we help solve their problems.

The veterans have a very special place in our offices, in my own notion of what I am supposed to do as a Representative. I know they have in Mr. LAMALFA's and, quite probably, in the offices of every other Member of this House. We have over 130 active cases with veterans in our districts, working through the problems that they have with the Veterans Administration. I must tell you that one thing that sets me off is when my staff tells me that we are not able to contact the Veterans Administration because they have sent the case to another office and that that office won't respond to us.

□ 1600

We talked about this amongst ourselves, Mr. LAMALFA and I and other Representatives in our area, and, frankly, we have had enough. We are the legislature of the United States Government. And the Veterans Administration has a task, and they had better be responsible and responsive to veterans and to those who represent veterans, namely the 435 Members of this House. It is part of our job.

When the Veterans Administration office in some far-off land or county or other State has been given a file from our district to handle and to work through because of an overload in our area and then they don't respond to us, then they get this piece of legislation.

Mr. LAMALFA, thank you very much. This ought to become law, notwithstanding the objection. We thank you for carrying this bill. Let's make this part of a law, and let's make this organization responsive to us and to our constituents.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my colleagues. This has been a bipartisan effort on a lot of VA issues here today we are seeing, which is a really good sign.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me some time to speak on this subject. I will be withdrawing this amendment at this time, but we will be following up on this issue via other means soon, because it is very key that we have the ability as the elected officials and our staff to communicate fully with all aspects of the VA, especially since there is, as I mentioned earlier, no law or no rule stating that we cannot have this but more, maybe, roadblocks put in place by certain staff.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment at this time.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Nevada is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. TITUS. As the ranking member of the Disability Assistance Memorial Affairs Subcommittee of the Veterans' Affairs authorizing committee, I rise today in support of this appropriations bill, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member for the hard work that they put into this bill.

One of the main reasons that I support it is because it furthers our goal of eliminating the VA benefits backlog, which is an issue our committee has worked on daily for the last year and a half. One of my top priorities is ensuring that our Nation's heroes receive all the benefits they have earned in a timely fashion.

While I support this bill, I would like to take just a minute or two to raise an issue that is troubling to me and hope to bring it to the attention of the other Members of the House.

I know many of my colleagues will be deeply saddened to learn that some veterans and their families across the country are being denied the benefits that they earned while serving our Nation. A recent example of this discrimination against some of our Nation's veterans was highlighted in a report by CBS News just last week.

Seventy-four-year-old Madelynn Taylor of Boise, Idaho, proudly served her country in the United States Navy for 6 years. She lost her spouse in 2012 and soon after began the task of making arrangements to ensure that the two of them would be together in death just as they were in life. Being a veteran, Madelynn had the right to be interred at a State or national veterans cemetery. Since the closest national cemetery to Boise was nearly 8 hours away in western Oregon, Madelynn decided to inquire about a joint spot and memorial wall with her and her spouse's ashes to lay in rest together, just as hundreds of other couples have done, at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in her hometown of Boise.

The Idaho State Veterans Cemetery was opened a decade ago with 100 percent of the funding for the design, construction, and equipment costs coming from a Federal grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' State Cemetery Grants Program, and the cemetery continues to receive Federal funding for operations.

When Madelynn brought the necessary paperwork, including her discharge papers and marriage certificate, she was told that she and her spouse would not be allowed to be buried together.

Why, you ask, was she denied this right? The answer is that Madelynn is a lesbian. Idaho State law does not recognize the legality of a marriage between Madelynn and her wife, Jean, and therefore is denying the couple the honor and dignity earned through Madelynn's service as a member of the United States Navy.

Madelynn said this of her situation:

I just feel that it's the right place for me. I am a veteran, so they should let me . . . in fact, they would let me alone be in that crypt, but I don't want to be alone. I want Jean with me.

We rightfully elevate our veterans and their families because of their service and sacrifice, yet today some veterans across the country face discrimination by the States and the Federal Government they sought to defend. No veteran or their family should be treated as second-class citizens.

Nearly a year after the landmark Supreme Court decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act, which effectively extended Federal benefits to legally married couples, we see the Nation's gay and lesbian veterans face obstacles accessing the benefits that they have earned and rightfully deserve.

While in uniform, our LGBT soldiers have access to the full complement of benefits available to members of the armed services. The second they transition out of the military, they are forced to leave these benefits behind.

I have introduced legislation to end this disservice, and I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this important effort.

Mr. Chairman, today we debate legislation to fund the critical work of the VA and the earned benefits of our Nation's heroes and their families. My hope is that this body will give equal attention to all our veterans and their families and end the discrimination they experience when seeking benefits, including the right to be buried with their legally married, same-sex spouses.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word in order to engage in a colloquy.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, we are all aware of the tragic backlog that deeply affects so many of our Nation's heroes all across this country, and particularly in my district back home in North Carolina. Fixing this issue needs to be one of the highest priorities of Congress and this administration. We owe it to our veterans, and I know that many of my colleagues agree that we owe them to do this.

However, the solution is not necessarily to continually throw money at the problem. We have done that for years without the results we are looking for. The reality is the fiscal situation we find ourselves in today means that we can no longer afford to be so shortsighted in our approach.

In order to reform the VA—or any other department, for that matter—we need to have a clear understanding of what costs are associated with running their programs so we can evaluate their effectiveness and root out those that are wasteful, duplicitous, and are underperforming.

Mr. Chairman, I know you have been a leader on this issue and have tried for years to get from the VA a clear breakdown of what their administrative costs are. Is that correct?

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HUDSON. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Yes, I have. It is an ongoing problem trying to get any of the agencies to tell you what their administrative costs are. It is extraordinarily important. I really appreciate you bringing it to our attention. We are going to continue to work on this with you and other Members to ensure that our constituents' hard-earned tax dollars are spent wisely.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for his hard work and commitment, and I share his frustration. I have had a very difficult time, as well, trying to understand how the VA deals with its overhead. In fact, I have got a story I just heard from a veteran in my district that is probably not unique.

This gentleman went to the VA center in Winston-Salem for an appeals hearing. A veterans service officer, one of the very hardworking veterans service officers around the country, accompanied him to this meeting. He sat down with the VA employee, and he asked the employee: Do you have my file? I don't see it sitting on your desk. The employee said: Well, we computerized all the files, so I have got it all here in the computer. The veteran said: Well, just so I know where you are, which page are you looking at? Somewhat sheepishly, the VA employee said: Well, actually, I don't know how to access the files in the computer.

It is outrageous. It got worse from there.

They went forward with the hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the employee turned off a tape recorder and popped out the cassette. The veteran said: Well, what do you do with that cassette? He said: Well, we send that to San Diego so they can transcribe it. In about 6 weeks, we will get the transcription back and then we can start processing your claim.

Mr. Chairman, this is not what we intended when we asked that we go to a computerized VA system, and it is outrageous that our veterans are having to see these kind of delays. I would just ask that you work with us to try to resolve this problem.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chair, if the gentleman will yield, I would point out I have a software application on here called Dragon Naturally Speaking. You

just talk into it and it transcribes it instantly. As we used to say, ''Get with the nineties,'' get with the modern era and just download a few apps on the computers.

We will bird-dog them relentlessly. That is absurd.

Mr. HUDSON. It is absurd.

I appreciate your commitment to this, the time you put into it. Our veterans deserve the best we can give them. They deserve to be treated with the highest respect, and they deserve to not have to wait these extraordinary amounts of time just to be heard.

Mr. Chairman, I commit to working with you to continue to deal with this issue, to take care of our veterans not just in North Carolina's Eighth District, but around the country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, and I will commend the chairman of the committee for his efforts on this.

This legislation not only provides the necessary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs' operation, but it also sets a clear priority of addressing the massive problems at hand at the VA. We have read the recent news article saying we are aware as a Congress of all the problems that we are seeing in the VA. For too long, the heroes that have served this country have been mistreated, overlooked, or flat-out ignored by the VA. When these brave men and women signed up to defend our Nation, they were promised to be taken care of when they returned home. However, today we see less than adequate care—doctor's visit wait times stretching months and, in some cases, years, and hundreds of thousands of backlog benefit cases.

The incident the gentleman from North Carolina just talked about is prevalent all across this land in every congressional district, including mine. Mr. Chairman, when I talk to the veterans back home in my district, I hear loss of confidence in a government that promised to be there for them. I hear from war veterans who are just plain giving up on the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The latest report on VA claims from April 28, 2014, shows there are almost 600,000 pending claims with over 300,000 considered backlogged that have been pending for over 125 days. Mr. Chairman, that is 125 days without an answer or resolution that these veterans will never get back.

Just in my office, we have seen a multitude of cases that demonstrate the current ongoing crisis at the VA. One Korean war veteran has been working with my office on a Decision Review Officer review for over 18 months now. This is a decision process that was supposed to be quicker than a Board of Veterans' Appeal in Washington. After waiting for more than a year for a meeting before his appeal, he couldn't wait any longer and just asked for the decision to be with the information that was at hand. While he is still waiting for an answer, I am praying for a resolution for that veteran.

We have seen other instances where we were able to send documentation on behalf of constituents to various Veterans Administration offices, for the very same offices to turn around months later and ask for the same information again. Is this any way to treat the men and women who sacrificed their lives to defend the very freedoms our country enjoys?

Thankfully, this legislation we are considering today makes a stride in the right direction by concentrating efforts to end the current backlog; holding the VA offices accountable through office performance measurements, not just awarding bonuses for someone when the facilities are in need of some attention, we will say; and increasing medical services for veterans, and that is the most important part.

This bill prioritizes the timely and accurate exchange of medical data, updating the VA health records system, and ensuring the system is operable with the Department of Defense.

This is not a silver bullet, Mr. Chairman, and we still have a long way to go to get the VA clicking and ticking again, but I hope we can use that momentum to continue working towards fulfilling the promises made to our veterans and improving the lives of our Nation's heroes. They deserve it.

May God bless our Nation's troops and veterans, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $7,500 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, $75,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, $31,386,000: *Provided*, That $2,500,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described, and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth, under this heading in Public Law 102–229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed $1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $61,881,000, of which not to exceed $7,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the ''Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies'' account.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $63,400,000, of which $1,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 301. Funds appropriated in this Act under the heading ''Department of Defense—Civil, Cemeterial Expenses, Army'', may be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of the federally owned water main at Arlington National Cemetery, making additional land available for ground burials.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 403. No part of any funds appropriated in this Act shall be used by an agency of the executive branch, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, and for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication,

radio, television, or film presentation designed to support or defeat legislation pending before Congress, except in presentation to Congress itself.

SEC. 404. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of ''E-Commerce'' technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 405. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 406. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 407. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 408. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 409. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 410. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 411. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

□ 1615

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. MORAN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 60, beginning on line 10, strike section 411.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would strike section 411, which specifically restricts the Defense Department from transferring Guantanamo detainees to the United States.

Striking section 411 would enable the U.S. military to be able to make the most responsible decisions on transferring the 77 detainees who have been cleared by our intelligence community and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be able to go to their home countries and bring those not cleared for release to the United States to be charged, tried, and sentenced.

The Obama administration has made some real progress on this issue over the last year, but it is still the case that Guantanamo is a rallying cry for extremists around the world, and until we transfer and try these detainees, there is no denying that Guantanamo is in fact hurting our national security.

We need to reevaluate our response to the long-term threat of terrorism and realize that policies that mock the rule of law make it more likely, rather than less likely, that we will be attacked again.

How can we expect Americans who are captured abroad to be accorded the right to be sentenced and brought to trial when we hold 154 prisoners in Guantanamo without charge and without trial?

Some of my colleagues are going to argue that detaining or trying suspected terrorists in the United States would endanger national security, but it is not the case. More than 400 defendants charged with crimes related to international terrorism have been successfully convicted in the United States since 9/11. That includes the Times Square bomber; the shoe bomber; and Zacarias Moussaoui, who was tried and convicted in my congressional district for his role in the 9/11 attack.

All of them are in our prisons here in the United States. Most Americans don't know that because there haven't been any security incidents. In fact, more than 300 individuals convicted of crimes related to international terrorism are currently incarcerated in 98 Federal prisons within the United States, with no escapes and no attempts to free them.

There are six Defense Department facilities less than half full where Guantanamo detainees could be held here in the United States.

The current approach of military commissions has proven unworkable because many of these prisoners merit a trial, but they are not getting the kind of trial that can withstand scrutiny. In fact, the only two guilty verdicts these commissions issued were both overturned.

Keeping Guantanamo open is expensive. We are currently spending $2.67 million per detainee each year at Guantanamo, compared to $34,046 per inmate at a high security Federal prison here in the United States.

This year alone, the Defense Department estimates that it will spend $443 million in operations and personnel costs to operate this detention facility.

When we are facing the negative effects of sequestration, it just does not make sense to continue what is in effect a permanent scar on our judicial system.

In conclusion, the political and legal expediency of the detention center at Guantanamo has not been worth the cost to America's reputation around the world, nor to the erosion of our own legal and ethical standards here at home.

I support the President in his recent statements, and I encourage the Members of this body to support this amendment. It is the right thing to do morally, ethically, and legally.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

We have presented this piece of legislation to the House in a bipartisan fashion. We have got unanimous support for it. This is one of those areas where we have an honest but earnest philosophical disagreement.

This is something my good friend from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), has been pursuing over the years, but it is, again, something the constituents I represent, the folks of Texas, I know oppose the idea of giving constitutional rights to enemy soldiers captured on foreign battlefields, especially these cowardly terrorists who hide behind women and children and launch sneak attacks against our men and women in uniform.

We have asked the Congressional Research Service to attempt to tell us when, if ever, constitutional rights have been granted to enemy soldiers captured on foreign battlefields. The Congressional Research Service tells us the only example they can find is Manuel Noriega, the dictator of Panama, who was captured during the Bush 41 administration and brought to trial in Florida.

The individuals at Guantanamo Bay are the most dangerous, radical individuals that have been captured during the war on terror. These folks are extremely dangerous.

Any evidence that has been gathered, for example, even if they were to be transferred to the United States and given a criminal trial under the Constitution, which I strenuously object to, but even if they were brought to the United States and put on trial, how would any of the evidence gathered against them in Guantanamo be used to convict them?

So this presents unsurmountable problems and is a divisive issue that is going to cause a tremendous amount of disagreement among the Members of Congress on a bill that has enjoyed unanimous and enthusiastic support from everyone in this body to make sure that our veterans and our men and women in uniform are taken care of.

It is essential that this amendment be defeated in order to make sure that enemy soldiers are not given the protections of the United States Constitution. It is fundamentally something I strenuously disagree with, as do my constituents, and I urge the Members of this House to reject this amendment. And I hope to also have the support of the people of Georgia in opposing this amendment as well.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment.

I believe we need to set the conditions for the closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo. It is in the United States' national security interest to do so.

Guantanamo has become a rallying cry. It serves as a recruitment tool for terrorists and increases the will of our enemies to fight, while reducing the will of others to work with America.

Part of the rationale for establishing Guantanamo in the first place was the misplaced idea that the facility would be beyond the law—a proposition that has been soundly rejected by the Supreme Court. As a result, continued operation of this facility creates the impression in the eyes of our allies and our enemies that the United States selectively observes the rule of law.

There is no reason that we should impose on ourselves the legal and moral problems arising from the prospects of indefinite detentions at Guantanamo.

Working through civil courts since 9/11, hundreds of individuals have been convicted of terrorism or terrorism-related offenses and are now serving long sentences in Federal prison. Not one single person has ever escaped custody.

For these reasons, I believe that the time has come to take the actions needed to initiate closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo. I think this amendment sends that strong message.

I support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Moran-Smith-Nadler amendment.

We are told by some in the majority that enemy soldiers should not have constitutional rights. But, Mr. Chairman, a majority, concededly, of those at Guantanamo, were never involved in a hostile act against the United States, and 86 percent were turned in for bounties.

We don't know whether these people are enemy soldiers. Some of them may be and some of them are probably not. And we don't know that they are terrorists.

Those facts must be determined in a fair proceeding of some sort, but at Guantanamo there are no proceedings. They haven't managed to hold military trials. And we can't hold civilian trials there.

So we are holding people for no purpose, with no proceedings, no hearings, no opportunity, for essentially forever.

The time to close Guantanamo is now. Guantanamo is a stain on our national honor. Never mind all the foreign policy reasons why it is poisoning our relations with foreign countries and instigating terrorism against it. The fact is, it is wrong.

We are holding 154 people at Guantanamo, 77 of whom have been cleared for release. That is to say, they have been found guilty of nothing, are thought to be guilty of nothing, and have been judged not to pose any danger. Nonetheless, they are not released.

There is no reason and there is no right for us to hold them further. The others should be brought to the United States and tried for their offenses.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder which of our colleagues does not believe in the American system of justice. I wonder which one of us does not trust our own American courts. I wonder who among us does not believe in the Bill of Rights, who does not believe in the right to counsel or that people should have an opportunity to have their guilt or innocence established in court.

What we have at Guantanamo is a system that is an affront to those beliefs and to the United States.

In the last decade, we have begun to let go of our freedoms bit by bit with each new executive order, each new court decision, and yes, each new act of Congress. We have begun giving away our rights to privacy, our right to our day in court when the government harms us, and with this legislation we are continuing down the path of destroying the right to be free from imprisonment without due process of law.

Indeed, I wonder if some of the people in Guantanamo broke out of jail, inflicted injuries on American personnel in so doing, and were caught, how we would defend ourselves when they said, We were just victims of kidnapping. The United States Government kidnapped us, with no claim of right. We had every right to use force to escape an illegal kidnapping by a government acting, essentially, under no law.

I want to commend the gentleman from Virginia and the gentleman from Washington for fighting to close the detention facility at Guantanamo.

The language in this bill, without our amendment, prohibits moving any detainees into the United States and guarantees that we will continue holding people indefinitely—people who may not be terrorists, some of whom we may suspect to be terrorists, none of whom have had a day in court to prove they are or are not terrorists. We will continue to hold them indefinitely without charge, contrary to every tradition this country stands for, contrary to any notion of due process.

Because of this momentous challenge to the founding principles of the United States that no person may be deprived of liberty without due process of law—and certainly may not be deprived of liberty indefinitely without due process of law—we must close the detention facility at Guantanamo now in order to restore our national honor. This will afford the detainees no additional constitutional rights. The Supreme Court has already ruled detainees at Guantanamo have the same constitutional rights as they would if they were brought here.

We must close this facility, try these people or let them go, and restore our national honor. Support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I have listened over the years to my good friend from Virginia, my friend from New York, and Mr. SMITH from Washington advance this issue. I think maybe now is the time for us to address this, if only as a going-away present. Because this is the last time Mr. MORAN is going to be able to offer this. Since he has decided to leave us for greener pastures someplace else, I

think it would be fitting for us to address this directly.

□ 1630

I have great respect for my dear friend from the State of Texas who talks about what the people he represents feel about this issue; and I, with all due respect, wonder if the conversations with his constituents in Texas were like the conversations I have with my constituents in Oregon, if people knew that we are spending eight times as much to incarcerate these people as if they were in other Federal facilities.

The gentleman from Virginia talks about the space that is available now in terms of Federal facilities. Do people know that we have convicted hundreds of people suspected of terrorists acts and, under the provisions of the military tribunal, none? What do our constituents really want if they knew that fact?

The sad truth is that Americans are at greater risk because of our reckless behavior failing to close this sad chapter. The vast majority of these people probably don't pose a risk, and they certainly wouldn't pose a risk incarcerated in our maximum security facilities in the United States.

It is time to close this facility, to honor the rule of law. It strengthens our position internationally, it saves money, and it allows us to actually get some of these people who may be bad guys actually convicted.

Military tribunal doesn't work. Our courts do.

I hope that we will step up, do the right thing, approve this amendment, and give Mr. MORAN a going-away present as he leaves Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 412. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 413. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 414. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 415. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 416. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Apppropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is $0.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. ROTHFUS

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk printed as No. 1 in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to stand with our Nation's veterans and their families.

This morning, I had an opportunity to honor and thank Sergeant George Thursby. Sergeant Thursby served in the Army Air Force during World War II and was held as a prisoner of war.

Today, decades after his release, he finally received his long-overdue recognition. You should have heard the rapturous applause he received from the families, servicemembers, and citizens.

We owe veterans like Sergeant Thursby a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. That is why I rise in strong support of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act under consideration today. It is also why this amendment I am offering today is so important.

As public servants, employees of the VA have a solemn obligation to ensure that veterans receive the respect, support, and care they have earned and rightly expect.

Unfortunately, the VA has failed veterans in western Pennsylvania and across the country. At least six veterans contracted Legionnaires' disease and died because of mismanagement, mistakes, and systemic failures at the Pittsburgh VA.

William Nicklas, one of these veterans, was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Nicklas was known for his practical jokes, his love of sports, and being the first and last person on the dance floor.

He started an auto body shop when he returned to civilian life and helped two of his sons begin their own business as contractors. More than anything, he was uncommonly dedicated to his family, his fellow servicemembers, veterans, and his country.

A proud and loyal veteran from Hampton Township in Pennsylvania's 12th District, Mr. Nicklas was a tail gunner in the Navy air-sea rescue force during World War II. Mr. Nicklas survived Guam, Saipan, and Okinawa, but fell victim to Legionnaires' disease in Pittsburgh.

Over the last year, I have worked with my colleagues to find answers and demand accountability for the families of Bill Nicklas, John Ciarolla, Clark Compston, John McChesney, Lloyd Wanstreet, and Frank ''Sonny'' Calcagno.

John Ciarolla, the first of these veterans to fall to Legionnaires' disease, died in July 2011. Bill Nicklas, the last, died in November 2012. It has been almost 1½ years since Mr. Nicklas died and almost 3 years since Mr. Ciarolla died.

Where is the accountability? Where is the transparency?

My colleagues and I have asked VA Secretary Shinseki and Under Secretary for Health Petzel what actions they will take to hold accountable those responsible for these deaths. Officials at the VA owe the families answers, but they have provided none.

Even more outrageous, the regional director responsible for leading the Pittsburgh VA at the time of these deaths—he is now retired—was awarded and accepted the government's highest award for civil servants and a $63,000 bonus only 3 days after the inspector general found that systemic failures resulted in these deaths.

Across the Nation, the VA has demonstrated a widespread and systemic lack of accountability, according to a recent investigation by the Veterans' Affairs Committee. This has manifested itself in not just infectious disease outbreaks and preventable deaths, but also in wasteful spending and backlogged disability claims.

I thank the Veterans' Affairs Committee and Chairman JEFF MILLER for their tremendous work fighting for our

Nation's veterans and promoting accountability and transparency at the VA.

Paying bonuses to senior executives of an organization with an abysmal performance record is ridiculous; yet the VA gave its senior executives bonuses totaling $2.8 million in 2011 and $2.3 million in 2012. These valuable resources should be used to ensure that our veterans receive the first-rate service and care they rightly deserve.

VA executives need to take responsibility, fix the problems, and do their jobs. Last year, I offered an amendment directing that none of the funds appropriated may be used to pay for senior executive bonuses. The amendment was adopted by voice vote and was included in last year's MilCon-VA bill, which passed the House by a vote of 421–4.

The Senate did not consider a MilCon bill last year, and the measure was not included in the omnibus. Unfortunately, 1 year has passed, and this measure is still needed.

I thank Chairman MILLER and Congressmen GOSAR, OLSON, BENISHEK, MCKINLEY, TIPTON, HUELSKAMP, CRAWFORD, KELLY, LANCE, COLLINS, LAMALFA, GOODLATTE, and MEADOWS for their support of our Nation's veterans and this amendment.

I urge my other colleagues to stand with our Nation's veterans and support increased transparency and accountability at the VA by voting ''yea'' on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment. Many Members have also requested language that would ban performance bonuses for senior-level executives at the VA in response to the concerns Mr. ROTHFUS has just mentioned.

I join him in grieving for those veterans who lost their lives as a result of the Legionnaires' disease outbreak. My heart goes out to them and their families.

The authorizing committees have, indeed, as Mr. ROTHFUS says, taken action on this issue. The GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013 that passed in February contains a 5-year ban on performance bonuses for VA Senior Executive Service employees.

In February, the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee introduced legislation that would give the VA Secretary complete authority to fire or demote Veterans Affairs senior executive employees based on performance. That is a sorely needed performance tool that the VA Secretary, I know, will use.

Mr. Chairman, we have also included language in our report reiterating that the Secretary of the VA already has all the authority they need to reward employees for good performance and withhold rewards for poor performance, just like the private sector.

That is a question I specifically asked during our hearing with the VA Secretary, and we have established that from the Secretary's own testimony, reaffirmed that in our bill itself.

The Secretary demonstrated his commitment to linking awards to performance when he withheld awards for everyone in the Veterans Benefit Administration last year because the claims backlog targets have not been met.

This is, I believe, an important amendment. I support it and urge the Members of the House to support it to send a clear signal to the VA that the Members of the United States Congress are unhappy with their performance, and they need to step it up.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, we are all outraged in regards to the claims backlog and the incidences of poor quality health services and safety. The current claims backlog is, indeed, unacceptable.

There is no question that the VA has struggled to successfully deliver one of its key missions: to provide timely ratings of disability. However, the VA has reduced the backlog by 44 percent. Should we ignore that?

It is also clear that some VA health facilities have had serious issues that put the health, safety, and well-being of our veterans at risk. This too is unacceptable. Where have these failures occurred?

It is hard to imagine how the VA leaders of these facilities could have received high performance ratings and substantial bonuses.

However, this amendment will not provide any solution in the short term and, in fact, may have the long-term consequences and compound the very problems that it attempts to address.

This amendment would make the VA a less attractive option than other agencies when it comes to recruiting and retaining quality executive leaders, and it will not have the very talent it needs to solve the problems it faces today, like the claims backlog and the health care deficiencies.

Furthermore, SES pay and bonuses are governed by title 5 of the United States Code and administered by the Office of Personnel Management. Any change to title 5 to address the VA would then also apply to all other Federal agencies.

Attempting an across-the-board, one-size-fits-all fix will penalize those who are dedicated VA executives who are working hard and doing a good job to find solutions to the VA problems.

I urge all Members to vote ''no'' on this amendment. We are throwing out the baby with the bathwater. This is not a good amendment, and I urge this House to defeat it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment.

I would first like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) for offering this amendment. Our offices have worked closely on this issue.

To reiterate, this amendment to the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act is a simple one. Senior leadership at the VA has repeatedly failed the very veterans they are meant to support.

Initial responses for benefit claims hover close to a year in many cases, with appeals responses taking significantly longer. In too many instances, these matters even require Congressional intervention.

My staff, though happy to do so, has far too many cases open on behalf of the veterans trying to receive their earned benefits with the Veterans Administration.

With so many of our veterans being let down by their government, those in charge of the administration of benefits should not be rewarded. This should be common sense.

I would also like to take a quick moment to thank Congressman JEFF MILLER, chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, for introducing similar legislation that would allow the Secretary of the VA to fire senior executives or cut their pay for lack of performance.

There are many Members on both sides of the aisle interested in shaking things up at the VA. I suggest we start here today by adopting these relevant amendments that will hold these government employees accountable.

Again, I urge passage of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment introduced my friend, Mr. ROTHFUS, to deny bonuses to members of the VA Senior Executive Service.

Bonuses are paid for a job well done, but at the VA, the job is very clearly not getting done. The tragic story out of Phoenix is only the latest example.

□ 1645

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and a doctor who served at the Iron Mountain VA for 20 years, I have watched in disgust as the stories keep rolling in. Pittsburgh; Atlanta; Memphis; Colombia, South Carolina; and Augusta, Georgia, have all seen preventable veteran deaths linked to severe mismanagement. Make no mistake, these are not isolated incidents. This is a national crisis, and it must be treated with the significance it deserves.

We can keep dragging VA leaders in front of the committee, but I, for one, am sick and tired of hearing their excuses. We are well past the time when explanations and apologies would be enough. It is time to hold the people that have repeatedly and egregiously failed our veterans accountable for their actions.

This amendment is a good, commonsense first step, and I am proud to support it. However, it alone is not enough. The problem goes deeper than the Senior Executive Service, and our veterans are demanding real accountability. That is why I have introduced the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act, to provide a permanent solution to getting the VA to provide the care our veterans need. I am pleased this bill was passed unanimously by the VA Committee, and I look forward to its consideration on the floor. We can't wait any longer to make the essential changes to the VA that our veterans deserve.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, the amendment before us reflects the concerns that Congress has had over senior executives at the Department of Veterans Affairs receiving performance bonuses when VA hospital standards were not up to par and when we continue to see a backlog of disability claims.

I share those concerns that VA truly does need to tackle. But recent actions taken by this Congress through the good work of the MilCon Appropriations Subcommittee and the Veterans Administration have, in fact, improved the operational efficiency of those hospitals and reduced the backlog.

The VA has also instituted much greater transparency in the process of awarding bonuses for its Senior Executive Service. In fact, VA has centralized senior executive award decisions. They have added an additional level of review in consideration of those awards. And the VA has significantly reduced the value of those awards compared to prior years. Most importantly, the Secretary has already demonstrated his willingness to use the bonus system as a way to reward and penalize staff based on their performance. As it stands, the Secretary has all the authority he needs to use bonuses to influence performance.

I think this amendment is something of a political ploy, Mr. Chairman. It is designed to misdirect our frustrations to the good men and women who have chosen to serve their government in the civilian workforce. I take serious issue with this very popular practice of continuing to punish a workforce that is predominantly composed of hard-working Federal servants that have already suffered a disproportionate amount.

If we want to retain the individuals that make up what is, in fact, the best large Federal civil service in the world, we need to change this culture very quickly. After 3 years of pay freezes, pension cuts, pay cuts, and furloughs, our Senior Executive Service, which is largely composed of the best of the best in the Federal workforce, has, at the very least, earned these bonuses.

The Congressional Budget Office has confirmed that Federal employees in highly skilled professions could be earning much more in the private sector. Why do they choose public service? Not for monetary gain but for love of country and the opportunity to make people's lives better, particularly our veterans. But they have families to feed and mortgages to pay and children to send to college. Where does it end?

No matter how many times this House majority says the government can't solve problems, can't create jobs, can't help the American people, it will never be the case. The fact is this government does help the American people. We should be proud of our government, not punish our civil servants. And the fact is that you can find far more veterans who are appreciative of the good work that the people in the Veterans Administration do than those who disparage it.

So I would urge rejection of this amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today as a cosponsor of the amendment offered by my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS). I appreciate his effort on that.

It is hard to believe what I am here hearing in here today. When you look at the backlog, when you look at how veterans are being treated in this country, in northern California, it is amazing that we are on complete different wavelengths here.

The lack of accountability and transparency within the VA is nothing short of shameful. Yet again and again I have heard from many veterans in the north State concerned about the timeliness and the frustrating claims process at VA facilities in California, namely, the Oakland office, which is one of the slowest regional offices in the Nation. Despite past promises from the VA to improve the backlog, service to our veterans has continued to deteriorate. This negligence and mismanagement is completely unacceptable.

When veterans are being denied access to the care and services they rightly deserve and expect, reform is necessary, certainly not bonuses to senior executives. When a program funded by taxpayers is failing to provide the level of services expected, accountability, not compensation, should be demanded.

Rewarding incompetency not only exacerbates the most pressing issues within the VA, but also serves as an insult to the men and women who have given so much for our country, as well as the very many good caseworkers on the VA staff who see no bonus but yet still try to do their jobs underneath that regime.

This amendment is about fairness and doing what is right by fulfilling the promise to our veterans. It ensures our veterans receive the benefits and services they were promised and restores accountability within the VA to make certain taxpayer money is rightfully spent, fixing the backlog and incompetency that is harming our veterans' health and insulting them, as well as the American taxpayer.

This amendment isn't about throwing the baby out with the bathwater. This is about throwing the bonuses out with the bathwater.

I applaud Congressman ROTHFUS for his leadership in standing up for our Nation's veterans. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Kansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Chairman, I am glad to join my colleague from Pennsylvania in cosponsoring this important amendment. But I must admit, it is regrettable—actually, no. It is actually shameful we actually have to be here today discussing this topic.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have heard over and over and over again stories of abuse, neglect, and mismanagement within the VA, but the one thing I never hear about is accountability. In fact, under the leadership of the current Secretary, a Senior Executive Service employee who has presided over mismanagement at the VA is more likely to receive a sizable bonus than to be disciplined or fired.

This culture of anything goes has got to stop, and the best way to stop this is to send a strong signal across the Department of VA that Congress means

business. It is obvious from the headlines about the sizable bonuses received by VA administrators at facilities in Georgia, South Carolina, Pittsburgh, and Phoenix that the performance award system at the VA is a failure.

I have asked the VA in congressional hearing after hearing after hearing for a specific list of disciplinary actions that the Department has imposed on employees and executives who have presided over these delays and preventable veteran deaths. Instead of giving answers, they have only pointed to retirements, transfers, or bureaucratic slaps on the wrist, but not a single undeserved performance bonus has been returned to the taxpayers. These smokescreen attempts to create the appearance of accountability are unacceptable.

Unfortunately, the story last week from Phoenix is not an isolated event. Just 3 weeks ago, in our committee, the VA admitted to another 23 preventable deaths occurring within their facilities. The senior VA bureaucrats responsible for the management of the facilities consistently received sizable bonuses from hardworking taxpayers. These administrators have been given a sacred trust to care for and serve our Nation's veterans. And, quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, they have broken that trust; and its time for accountability.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, to defund these VA bonuses, and to return some accountability to the VA.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to appeal to those on both sides of the aisle to hold the executives in the Department of Veterans Affairs accountable.

I think what has been interesting in what we have heard a little bit is really a tale of not the two cities, as Dickens would have it, but a tale of two opinions. And one opinion is the preponderance of evidence we see in our district offices and our Washington offices of problems in the VA; and then on the other side, it is basically a, yes, it is bad, but let's still do business the same way. And I think that is where the American people get frustrated.

I believe by now, everyone is already aware of the lapse in ethical and moral judgment in many of these areas, from Atlanta and South Carolina, others, but also at the Phoenix veterans hospital. You know, the decision there to cook the books that denied care to needy veterans is simply unconscionable. That fact alone should anger every Member of this body, and it certainly angers the 62,000 veterans and their family members in the Ninth District of Georgia.

Sadly, though, it doesn't end there. One has to question our civil service compensation system. The executive at the Phoenix VA facility there received a $170,000 salary plus $9,000 in bonuses. For what? Saving taxpayer money? Mr. Chairman, $9,000 is unbelievable. We rewarded an executive who, in reality, was failing our fellow Americans.

As a member of the United States Air Force Reserve, we instill in our members the universal core value of ''integrity first.'' In the case of the hospitals in the VA system, some put getting accolades over integrity. This angers me, and I will not tolerate this kind of behavior in our government.

The vast majority of Americans and the vast majority of the VA employees work sacrificially and for their fellow Americans—the vast number of them. Except for a select few, those at the Veterans Administration have answered a call to provide care and compensation to those that gave the most of themselves and for our country. To them, I want to pass along a sincere thank-you. It is disheartening that your reputation could be tarnished by association of the few at the top of your organization.

This scandal is really two problems: One is the outrageous use of secret lists to manage care so a few could thicken their wallets; the other is how we awarded bonuses to senior executives. These individuals wouldn't have received bonuses if we had known the metrics on patient appointments were exaggerated. They apparently didn't think of the consequences of their actions. And I would like to think the issue was isolated to certain areas, but my fear is that this may be a systematic problem, a problem that needs to be corrected immediately.

I want to applaud Chairman MILLER's efforts to investigate the potential secret lists at all VA hospitals.

Honorably discharged veterans don't earn the label ''honorable'' by doing what is right some of the time; they earn it by doing what is right all the time. Should we allow the hospital administrators to receive bonuses for doing what is right only some of the time?

We have an opportunity here to demonstrate that the U.S. Congress is good stewards of taxpayer money, and unethical and un-American behavior in our government will not be condoned. On behalf of the veterans that I proudly represent, I support the chairman's investigation, I support Mr. ROTHFUS' amendment, and I support the underlying appropriations measure here so that these things will not happen again.

In looking at this, it was stated just a few moments ago on the floor, it was insinuated on this floor that this was a political ploy. I don't think it is a political ploy to do what is right. I don't think it is a political ploy to take care of those who took care of us. And if that is where this debate has really taken center on—and I will say for a fact, as I said just a moment ago, that the vast majority of VA employees do a great job with what they are working with, but they are being betrayed at the top, and it is not time to award these kinds of behaviors with taxpayer dollars.

This is what we are here for, not a political ploy, but to do what the Congress is supposed to do, and that is to keep our money going where it is supposed to go in order to provide the benefits that these veterans deserve.

With that, I will support the amendment, I support the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Rothfus amendment, of which I am a cosponsor.

I want to thank Representative ROTHFUS for his leadership on this issue. I also want to recognize the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for his leadership on legislation to ensure that no member of the Senior Executive Service can abuse their power and, in fact, that they will be held accountable and promoted and fired based on performance.

Unfortunately, our Veterans Affairs has failed to take appropriate action to increase transparency and hold Senior Executive Service employees accountable for their actions and their performance. Recent critical reports by the VA inspector general and the GAO have shown that some VA executives have continued to receive praise in their performance reviews and collected generous cash bonuses up to $63,000. Let me be clear, though. Most VA employees are hardworking, dedicated public servants, but there are a few at the top who need to be held accountable.

□ 1700

The Veterans Affairs Department began the month of April proudly proclaiming success in reducing the stubborn backlog of disability claims, however, they improved that number by denying incomplete claims and creating a huge appeals backlog. The backlog is causing our veterans to be denied disability compensation and access to health care, and we shouldn't allow these executives to take bonuses for false success. The VA is clearly not fulfilling its commitment to our veterans.

This amendment is simple. It ensures that senior VA officials are held accountable for their performance and cannot be rewarded for false performance.

In addition to our backlog problem, Congress passed in 2012 in the consolidated appropriations an amendment

that required the VA to share prescription information with State Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs. As many of my colleagues know, our veteran population is facing a huge epidemic of opioid addiction, and it is leading to a high number of our veterans committing suicide and overdosing.

The VA finalized the rule in April, but it has not been fully implemented to share information with these Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs. We can't wait any longer for this program. Participation in Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs will ensure that our VA hospitals, civilian hospitals, and doctors no longer overprescribe opioids to our veterans. Not having this rule fully implemented and in use by our States is just another reason to prohibit performance benefits for our senior VA officials.

I urge all Members to support this amendment and the entire Milcon-VA Appropriations bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of Mr. ROTHFUS' amendment to restrict funds from being used to pay for bonuses for all employees of the Senior Executive Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This amendment is consistent with Section 11 of my legislation, H.R. 357, which passed the House earlier this year by a vote of 390–0. My bill would require a five year moratorium on bonuses for SES employees and I am glad to see that this amendment satisfies the intention of the first year of my legislation for FY 2015.

Mr. Chair, over the past three years the Veterans' Committee has uncovered, and continues to uncover, numerous instances of gross negligence and incompetence by senior VA officials. Regrettably, some of these instances have resulted in preventable deaths, yet senior VA officials have continued to receive performance awards.

The most recent stories from whistleblowers in Phoenix allege that over 40 veterans could have died due to delays in consult times and alleged secret wait lists. Yet the director received a bonus in 2013 of more than $9000.

If these allegations are proven to be true, it only further shows what we have seen in other locations that when a senior executive fails they are more likely to receive a bonus than any type of meaningful punishment.

It is well past time for VA leaders to realize that rewarding failure only breeds more failure, and that is why I believe this amendment and my legislation to end all bonuses for senior executives at VA is not only necessary, it is what our veterans and their families deserve.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

I rise today in support of my friend Mr. ROTHFUS's commonsense amendment to H.R. 4486. I also want to thank Chairman CULBERSON for his hard work on this legislation on behalf of our nation's veterans.

This amendment would prohibit senior VA officials from collecting bonuses. According to several reports by the Inspector General at the Department of Veterans Affairs, there have been a series of tragic—and preventable—deaths at VA facilities across the country. The preventable deaths in the VA healthcare system have been attributed to mismanagement, improper oversight, and failure to schedule timely medical appointments, among other errors.

Yet, despite the fact that more than 20 deaths have been attributed to mismanagement and lack of oversight, tens of thousands of dollars in bonuses were awarded to top level executives at the VA.

This practice has been evident at the Atlanta VA Medical Center, where Inspector General reports highlighted widespread mismanagement, delays in care, and a lack of uniform and acceptable policies. At least three deaths—and possibly a fourth—have been attributed to this lack of oversight, including a suicidal patient who was supposed to be closely monitored by staff in the hospital's mental health ward but died of a drug overdose after staff members lost track of him for hours. Despite the fact that as many as four unexpected deaths were attributed to mismanagement and lack of oversight, thousands of dollars in bonuses were awarded to top level executives at the facility.

At the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta, thousands of patients sat on a backlogged list for endoscopy consultations after management failed to act in a timely manner to schedule appointments for checkups in the gastrointestinal clinic. These delays contributed to the deaths of three patients, who died waiting for care in what could otherwise have been a treatable illness. No one has been fired at this facility—to the contrary, VA refuses to say whether or not officials there are eligible for bonuses despite the deaths. Simply put, our veterans deserve better.

It is past time that we stop rewarding people for simply showing up to work—bonuses should be the exception, not the norm. It should never be easier to get a bonus than to get fired, but that is what we have seen at the VA.

Top officials at facilities from Atlanta to Pittsburgh have received "performance awards," even while veterans died. Veterans deserve to know that in return for serving their country, they will not be endangered in the very place they go to seek care. They deserve the peace of mind that would come from knowing that those responsible for the tragic deaths received more than a slap on the wrist one day and a bonus the next. Our veterans deserve to know that deaths in the system are taken seriously and met with consequences. It is incomprehensible that management officials could simultaneously be complicit in mismanagement that led to a preventable death and also rewarded with a hefty bonus.

Furthermore, at a time when so many of our soldiers are returning from war, and in light of the deaths in Georgia and across the country, I believe the VA should prioritize veterans' health and well-being above all else.

Mr. Chair, I believe we should reward our veterans with quality care and services in exchange for their commitment to our country and our freedoms. Money spent on executive bonuses would be better spent on ensuring our nation's men and women in uniform receive the best possible care when they come home.

I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing support for our nation's veterans by supporting this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF FLORIDA

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to maintain or improve Department of Defense real property with a zero percent utilization rate according to the Department's real property inventory database, except in the case of maintenance of an historic property as required by the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) or in the case of maintenance to prevent a negative environmental impact as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer an amendment to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill that would eliminate wasteful spending on unused facilities, which would save tens of millions of dollars for fiscal year 2015 alone.

The Defense Department has hundreds, possibly thousands, of buildings and structures that it has rated at zero percent utilization. This is an incredible number of useless facilities the DOD is paying to maintain.

Federal agencies, as a whole, must do a better job at managing their facilities. Taxpayers cannot continue paying for unused and underused buildings while the Nation is at record debt levels. That is not good government, and that is not smart spending.

That is why I joined with Representatives DAVID JOYCE of Ohio and MIKE COFFMAN of Colorado to introduce the SAVE Act to root out about $230 billion in wasteful and duplicative government spending over the next 10 years. This amendment is an extension of one of those commonsense solutions included in the bipartisan SAVE Act preventing the Department of Defense from spending money on facilities that the Department itself has rated at zero percent utilization.

I offered the same amendment last year, which this Chamber accepted by voice vote, and I ask for your same support today.

I understand the Department of Defense may be concerned that this

amendment would prevent them from carrying out BRAC work. I believe BRAC is an essential process, and I have no intention of disrupting it. After investigating the Department's concerns, my understanding is that no additional BRAC work will happen before 2017 at the earliest, long after this appropriations bill has expired. Any ongoing environmental remediation from previous BRACs is exempted from my amendment, which gives the Department the flexibility to properly address any environmental threats at unused facilities, as well as maintain historic military sites.

With that said, I would welcome the opportunity to work with the committee to address any BRAC-related issues in conference.

Mr. Chairman, we all agree that we must rein in wasteful government spending. My amendment is a commonsense solution to do just that, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there further discussion on the amendment? Seeing none, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROSS

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Defense to close a commissary store.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an important amendment to this year's Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.

My amendment would protect access to commissaries for our Active Duty servicemembers, our veterans, and their families. As a representative of a community with such a strong military presence, I have had the honor to be advised by a number of active veterans and military leaders. The requests have always been consistent. We must not balance our Nation's fiscal problems on the backs of our veterans and Active Duty personnel.

Unfortunately, the Secretary of Defense released his fiscal year 2015 budget request for the Department of Defense, which included the proposed closure of commissaries. Just last night, I held a town hall meeting, and a retired chief master sergeant, Richard Redhill, voiced his concern over the closure of commissaries. Now, look, there are already attempts out there to gut their health care by way of cutting TRICARE, and there are attempts out there to gut their cost-of-living adjustments. Let's at least leave their commissaries alone. Let us respect the obligations that we owe to those who raised their right hands to give the ultimate sacrifice of their life in the defense of this country.

Our military is the most advanced and well trained the world has ever seen, not just because we are the best in technology and weapons systems, but also because of those men and women who volunteer to stand in defense of their country.

I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP for their hard work on this important funding measure and hope that my colleagues will join me in adopting this important amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there further discussion on the amendment? Seeing none, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer amendment No. 3.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act for the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program under chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code, or the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program under chapter 33 of such title may be used for career education programs at proprietary institutions unless the successful completion of the curriculum fully qualifies a student—

(1) to take an examination required for entry into an occupation or profession, including satisfying all State-mandated programmatic and specialized accreditation requirements; and

(2) to be certified or licensed or to meet other academically-related pre-conditions of employment in the State in which the institution is located.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order against the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, career education programs—programs of less than 2 years that are designed to prepare students for direct entry into a specific profession—too often fail our student veterans. Many of these programs at for-profit schools leave our student veterans with unsustainable debt and worthless credentials.

My amendment would ensure that veterans' education benefits are only used for career education programs that qualify students to take an examination required for entry into an occupation or profession or provide them with certificates or licenses that meet State and industry requirements.

I have heard time and time again that a key for successful transition from Active Duty to veteran status is gainful employment. And that is why we must make sure that the education our veterans receive is truly helping them enter the workforce. Again, I urge all my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriations bill and therefore violates clause 2 of rule XXI. The rule states in pertinent part, Mr. Chairman, that an amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law, and the amendment in this case requires a new determination.

I would ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any Member wish to address the point of order? Seeing none, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination as to whether curricula at proprietary institutions satisfy various requirements.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement Veterans Health Administration directive 2011-004 with respect to the prohibition on ''VA providers from completing forms seeking recommendations or opinions regarding a Veteran's participation in a State marijuana program.''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I deeply appreciate the hard work of the committee to make sure that our veterans are properly cared for. They deserve our best.

Too many are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with obvious wounds—missing limbs. But over 2.3 million are returning suffering from wounds that are not visible. They are suffering from depression and PTSD. That is why we lose 22 veterans per day who take their lives, long since outnumbering the battlefield deaths. They deserve our best.

Over 100 million people reside in the 21 States, including your home State of California, which was the first to legalize medical marijuana. Twenty-one States and the District of Columbia passed laws that provide for legal access to medical marijuana. As a result, as I say, over 1 million people now have access to it, including many of our veterans who use medical marijuana at the recommendation of their physician to treat conditions ranging from seizures, glaucoma, anxiety, chronic pain, and the symptoms associated with chemotherapy. There are also nine States, including my home State of Oregon, that now allow physicians to recommend medical marijuana for the symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder.

I have heard those stories myself. I will enter into the RECORD one story that was in the NBC News on April 1 about Marine veteran Logan Edwards, who describes how access to medical marijuana may have saved his life.

'OUT OF OPTIONS': VETERANS WITH PTSD HIT POT UNDERGROUND

(By Bill Briggs)

[From NBC News, Apr. 1, 2014]

Marine veteran Logan Edwards worried he could become one of the 22 former members of the armed services who, on average, commit suicide every day.

Then, he says, he tried marijuana.

Edwards, who served eight months in Iraq, is one of an unknown number of veterans who have turned to marijuana to manage Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, which may afflict as much as 20 percent of veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to experts. The Department of Veterans Affairs doesn't let its doctors prescribe weed, so the former service members buy it illegally, fib to their doctors, accept it as a gift, or grow it themselves.

In Edwards' case, he says the drug may have saved his life.

''The first time I used it, I wanted to cry. Because it took away my anxiety. Because it did everything for me that the Oxycontin, benzodiazepines and anti-depressants the VA prescribed me for three years did not do,'' said Edwards, 26, a resident of Davenport, Iowa. His symptoms—an unrelenting ''hypervigilance,'' insomnia and nightmares—emerged ''the moment we walked off the plane'' in 2008.

''I can function completely fine all day just by using cannabis. I'm back in school. My attendance is good. My grades are good. My relationships have healed,'' added the former Marine. ''It allowed me to get my life back.''

In a March 12 letter, federal health officials approved a long-delayed study to explore if pot relieves PTSD. But doctors employed by the VA are banned from prescribing medical marijuana—and from completing forms that allow veterans to enroll in medical-marijuana programs. While medical weed is legal in 20 states, only eight states recognize PTSD as a qualifying condition for which physicians can write cannabis prescriptions.

''. . . Due to the way the federal government and the state want to handle this medical marijuana issue, I still am forced to spend time away from family, treating these wounds of war.''

Across that tangled post-war legal landscape, thousands of combat veterans are tapping underground sources to buy bootleg marijuana to self-treat PTSD. And in 12 states where the drug is legal but prohibited for PTSD, many are lying to doctors that they need medical weed for allowable conditions like chronic pain, advocates assert. Meantime, vast numbers of other veterans can't find it, can't afford it, abuse alcohol to self-medicate, or rely on conventional VA drugs.

''My brothers are killing themselves because they're out of options,'' Edwards said. ''These VA pharmaceuticals only exacerbate the problem. The listed side effects on (some) of the bottles say: 'Will increase suicidal ideation.' So the suicide rate is really what this comes down to.''

U.S. Army veteran Tom Studley, 28, served as a machine gunner in Iraq for 15-months. He returned to civilian life with chronic back pain and was diagnosed with PTSD. Studley was prescribed numerous pharmaceuticals, but he said that by inhaling marijuana with a vaporizer, he's been able to stop using those drugs. Here, Studley stands in the shed where he grows some of the 15 plants he's legally allowed as a medical marijuana patient in Washington state in Nov. 2011.

With marijuana federally classified as a Schedule I controlled substance (like heroin and LSD), VA physicians ''will not provide for use,'' said Gina Jackson, a VA public affairs officer. At the same time, veterans who participate in legal, medical-marijuana programs ''will not be denied access to care for VA clinical programs but should be assessed for misuse, adverse effects, and withdrawal.''

The possibility of federal drug monitoring—plus fears of losing VA benefits and the threat of legal trouble—has driven scores of veterans to secretly use marijuana for decades to address their PTSD symptoms, several veterans said.

''Us veterans have already conducted tests on pot and PTSD—and it works!'' said Vietnam veteran Bob Walker, 69. ''It's nice to see the feds playing catch up.''

PTSD expert Dr. Harry Croft, a San Antonio-based psychiatrist who has treated veterans for combat-related anxiety and substance abuse, applauds the federally approved investigation.

''We owe it to our veterans with this condition,'' Croft said. ''Unfortunately, present treatment options are not helpful to many veterans and, therefore, other newer options should be scientifically explored, including medical marijuana.''

At Walker's home in Northern California, he ingests pot via a vaporizer each night before bed. A Marine veteran grows that marijuana and supplies it free to Walker and a local network of other Vietnam vets. Diagnosed with PTSD, Walker tried VA-prescribed Xanax and anti-depressants but found he could not function on the pharmaceuticals. About 15 years ago, he said, a VA counselor quietly suggested Walker use cannabis to relieve his insomnia, anxiety, stuttering and cold sweats.

''It solved a big problem for me. You feel, well, lighter,'' said Walker, a former Army aircraft mechanic who served in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966, watching his best friend die in a chopper crash. ''Probably 60 to 70 percent of the vets I know use marijuana for stress reduction and sleep. It's their baseline medication.''

''I'm back in school. My attendance is good. My grades are good. My relationships have healed. It allowed me to get my life back.''

Near Denver, retired Marine and Iraq veteran Sean Azzariti, 32, sees roughly the same rate of pot use among ex-service members with PTSD. He, too, was diagnosed with the disorder. But in Colorado, PTSD is not a qualifying condition under which private doctors can prescribe cannabis to veterans. So, for four years, Azzariti could not tell his physician the real reason he needed cannabis and instead said the prescription would help treat chronic nausea.

Simply because of that forced ruse, pro-marijuana advocates ensured Azzarti was the first customer in Colorado to buy legal weed on Jan. 1 when the state began allowing anyone 21 and older to purchase pot. He paid $70 for a strain called Bubba Kush and pot-infused candy truffles.

''If veterans had another avenue (to treat PTSD), most would take that and it would save lives. I wouldn't be talking to you if I didn't have cannabis,'' said Azzariti, who smokes daily to manage his symptoms. ''Veterans have been ignored for 30 years, denied what they truly need to heal. Vietnam veterans could have told us this stuff works.

''That's why I'm open about using it. Sure, there's a chance I'll lose my $120-a-month (VA) disability benefits. But that's a small sacrifice to save one life and potentially change the world,'' Azzariti said. ''With all of these people coming home from war, (the PTSD and veteran-suicide crises) are only going to get worse. How are we going to treat that? We can't just keep throwing pills at people.''

Near Seattle, Iraq veteran Tom Studley, 28, stopped swallowing pharmaceuticals for his PTSD symptoms four years ago and instead, he said, gained inner peace by smoking, vaporizing and eating marijuana.

'The anxiety begins to go away pretty quick and stays away for a while,'' said Studley, who served as an Army machine gunner.

After returning, he was prescribed muscle relaxants, Percocet and methadone for chronic back pain plus Trazodone, Celexa and hydroxyzine pamoate for sleep and anxiety. On his property, Studley now grows, harvests and uses cannabis from his 15 marijuana plants—a legal crop in Washington State.

''I feel,'' he said, ''less out of control.''

In Iowa, Marine veteran Edwards is taking control—but with a painful plan.

In May, he will move to Colorado, away from his girlfriend and 3-year-old daughter. He's relocating and transferring colleges, he said, for one reason: to legally access medical marijuana to continue managing his PTSD. He's tired of breaking the law.

''I thought my deployment days, being away from my family, ended when I got out of the Marine Corps. But due to the way the federal government and the state want to handle this medical marijuana issue, I still am forced to spend time away from family, treating these wounds of war,'' Edwards said.

''I never thought I would have to leave the state and community I grew up in to get access to medicine that's working and is better for me than the FDA-approved stuff. I never thought I would end up being a medical refugee.''

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, any of my colleagues, whether they are in the State that has legalized medical marijuana or not, can find examples of veterans who are benefiting from this treatment, yet the Veterans Administration specifically prohibits its medical providers from completing forms brought by their patients seeking recommendations or opinions regarding a

veteran's participation in a legal State marijuana program.

The amendment which I am offering today with Representatives FARR, ROHRABACHER, and POLIS is simple. It ensures that no funds be made available to the VA to implement this prohibition. The amendment would not authorize the possession or use of marijuana at VA facilities. It would simply free up VA providers to recommend medical marijuana or to provide advice upon it in accordance with State laws if they choose.

Over 20 percent of those 2.3 million American veterans suffer from PTSD or depression. While there is no single approach to aiding our veterans with PTSD, we should not use an outmoded policy to serve as a roadblock to the path to recovery. We found that there are nearly 1 million veterans who receive opiates to treat chronic painful conditions. More than half of them continue to use it chronically after the treatment regimen.

Another study found that the death rate from opiate overdoses among VA patients is twice the national average. In States where patients can legally access medical marijuana for painful conditions as an alternative, we shouldn't tie the hands of that primary provider or prevent our veterans from talking to their primary care physicians. They should not be forced outside the VA system to seek a simple recommendation or to get information about these conditions or eligible conditions granted to them by State law. Our VA physicians should not be denied the ability to offer recommendations and advice that they think meets the needs of their patients.

□ 1715

This shouldn't be controversial. According to a poll published in the New England Journal of Medicine, over 70 percent of physicians said they would, when appropriate, recommend the use of medical marijuana to their patients.

We all know of people with violent nausea as a result of chemotherapy. Why would you deny that to our veterans or at least being able to discuss it? Physicians who support legalizing medical marijuana nationally have exceeded 70 percent in major national polls.

This amendment simply allows veterans to consult with their primary provider, the same right enjoyed by over 100 million Americans today. I urge you to treat our veterans fairly and approve this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment because, even though I am a strong believer in the 10th Amendment and public health and public safety is reserved to the States under the 10th Amendment, here we are talking about Federal facilities.

Marijuana is prohibited under Federal law. Any Federal facility funded with Federal dollars—I think it is entirely appropriate that it continue to be prohibited on a Federal facility. This is an issue that should be left to the States.

Nothing is prohibiting a veteran from seeking medical attention in a State where this is legal or where medical marijuana is permitted. They can certainly go to a private physician. Frankly, in the States where it is legal, in some of these States, I think they are even working on vending machines for them.

I understand the gentleman's position, but again, these are Federal facilities funded with Federal dollars. It is prohibited under Federal law, and it is an issue best left to the States.

I think we would all do better as a Congress to honor the 10th Amendment and leave those issues involving public health and public safety to the States. We ought to focus on the issues specifically delegated to the Federal Government by the Constitution and leave the vast majority of issues in the hands of voters, their local elected officials, and State officials. This is certainly one of them.

When it comes to a federally funded facility, I think it is appropriate that the VA has a policy against their doctors prescribing or recommending the use of a substance that is prohibited under Federal law. If they need it, they can go to States where it is permitted. I urge Members to oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I couldn't disagree more with my respected chairman. This is really a medical issue that ought to be in the hands of medical doctors. It does not allow them to prescribe marijuana. They can prescribe Oxycontin.

What this amendment does, it says if your State has legalized for medical purposes, as a doctor in a VA facility, you can have a discussion with a vet seeking medical advice on whether you ought to have access to—he can't write out the prescription, he doesn't have authority to do that. It is a conversation. It is a discussion. It is a medical conversation.

I don't care whether you are for or against marijuana. That is not the issue here. The issue is—and Mr. Chairman, you know this issue from Eric Seastrand in our California State Legislature who happened to be a Republican assemblyman dying of cancer, he got up and made the most impassioned plea I have ever heard in my life on a legislative floor, saying members—and he was a pretty conservative guy. He said: you know, when you are dying, don't deny us access to hope.

The issue was about getting access to a prescription drug that hadn't yet been licensed. So I think we are in this debate now in this country whether we like it or not. The voters of California overwhelmingly passed—and I think it is pretty much a senior citizen issue—that if we are having chronic pain and if we think medical marijuana can help alleviate that pain, don't deny us access to it.

All this amendment says is that if you are in a VA clinic and you want to have a discussion with your doctor about relieving pain or other things, you can have that conversation.

As a medical adviser, I think they want to have that authority. They can't do it in every State, they can't do it in every VA building, only in those States where the dialogue is going to be on the streets anyway; but they are not going to be professional dialogues unless you allow doctors to do this.

This is a very simple amendment. Let doctors be doctors. Let them advise patients accordingly. Pass this amendment, regardless of how you feel about marijuana.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FARR. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I listened to my good friend from Texas. I am troubled here. Why would we force veterans who are entitled to veterans' health and have a primary physician that meets their needs say, sorry, you don't get it in this case, go out on your own nickel, go out and find a new doctor?

We are not talking about prescribing it. We are not talking about using it on Federal facilities. We are talking about giving access to information and having that conversation.

I dare say there is no other medical condition, if it were polio or cancer, that you would say: nope, go someplace else. Go on your own dime. Find somebody—build a relationship with someone who doesn't know your history, who hasn't seen you regularly. You are out of here.

I think that is a disservice to our veterans. I don't think it is anything that—if you talk to veterans' groups, if you talk to the people who benefit from it, that they think that they ought to be denied the ability to consult with their trusted medical provider.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FARR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Very quickly, we are talking about those States where it is already permitted—either medical

marijuana is in Colorado, and I think Washington State has already permitted it.

It is a 10th Amendment issue. It is something that is left up to the States, but we are talking about federally funded facilities, and that is the concern here, in a federally funded facility, where it is illegal under Federal law, that is the problem.

Mr. FARR. No, it isn't.

Mr. CULBERSON. This is a federally funded facility.

Mr. FARR. Yes. And so you are going to have the doctor say: I am sorry, you are in a Federal facility. I can't talk to you about a prescription of medical marijuana, even though you have asked the question. I can answer your question about abortions. I can answer your question about Oxycontin. I can answer your question about alcohol. I can talk about any other kind of evil that may be in your mind or benefit that may be in your mind, but I am prohibited by Federal law because I am a doctor in this State working for the Veterans Administration, from having a conversation with you about medical marijuana.

That just doesn't make sense. It is not good medical practice.

Mr. CULBERSON. Because it is prohibited by Federal law.

Mr. FARR. Because it is prohibited by Federal law and I happen to be in a State where Federal law ignores this because law enforcement, medical folks, it is part of our system. We have worked out the regulations.

You don't see the Feds coming in and busting clinics in California or people using medical marijuana. You would be busting a lot of senior citizens. Look, we have a hypocrisy in the law. That is what this amendment is trying to clear up. I ask for an ''aye'' vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. To my friends from Texas and Oregon, I would say to the gentleman from Texas: you are absolutely right, it is against Federal law, and that is something that we as a legislature need to look at very closely.

We are dealing with issues right now in Colorado where we have legalized the use of marijuana. In respect to certain banking laws, there may be a question of whether banks can provide financial services to marijuana businesses, and as a consequence, cash is building up.

So you may be absolutely right, I say to my friend from Texas; but the gentleman from Oregon does, as does the gentleman from California, state a valid case from a medical point of view. I would just say that I had a brother-in-law who had melanoma, and the only thing that gave him any relief was marijuana.

Now, subsequently, he has passed away, but from a medical standpoint, there ought to be an opportunity for a doctor to consult with a patient to prescribe something that gives that kind of relief.

So you are correct, Mr. Chairman, but I think we need to really take a good look at this. In Colorado, we see a lot of people coming to Colorado to help treat epilepsy because marijuana may have some positive effects on epilepsy. We need to take a look at that in a whole variety of ways.

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

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

Mr. CULBERSON. That is absolutely a valid issue for the States to take up. We should all honor the 10th Amendment. The Constitution delegates limited powers to the Congress. If it crosses State lines, interstate commerce, that is a valid Federal concern. If it is using Federal dollars, that is a valid Federal concern.

But that debate, you are exactly right, should be held at the State level. When it comes to police powers, public health, public safety, that is reserved to the States under the 10th Amendment, and I would absolutely agree; but in a Federal facility, that is different.

That is using Federal dollars to talk about a substance that is prohibited under Federal law. I have a problem with that.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to hear my good friend from Texas supporting the other legislation that we have that leaves it up to the States to make sure that they can declare marijuana legal or illegal. I am very happy to have you on board.

I rise in strong support today, however, of the Blumenauer-Farr-Rohrabacher-Polis amendment to the MilCon-VA Appropriations bill, which would essentially remove an unreasonable barrier that prevents VA physicians from recommending that our veterans have the benefit of State medical marijuana programs.

The idea that VA physicians, totally legitimate doctors who treat veterans and their illnesses, cannot recommend marijuana—or, by the way, any other drug to their patients—and to treat things especially when they are going to recommend a drug that might be used in treatment for posttraumatic stress disorder, this is extremely troubling.

Our veterans have benefited from using medical cannabis to treat PTSD and other ailments, so why are we denying our veterans the ability to access something through their health care provider that is available to the general public through access to their providers?

The fact that our veterans cannot receive recommendations from VA physicians means that they are forced to go outside the VA system just to get a simple recommendation on a drug.

Restricting the freedom and ability of our Nation's heroes, individuals who have sacrificed so much for our freedom, to obtain medicine that their doctor believes would alleviate their problem and would be a treatment to an ailment that may be as a result of a war that we sent them off to fight, but now to deny them the right to actually have their doctor give the recommendation that he thinks would help them is just simply not right.

There are numerous physicians who believe that medical marijuana can have a great impact on these patients, on these veterans, on these people who are perhaps suffering as a result of the battles that we put them through. To fence off our veterans from such benefits is simply not acceptable.

I sincerely hope that all of my colleagues will stand up for patients and veterans by rejecting this heavy-handed government intervention into the doctor-patient relationship.

Vote for this amendment and get out of the way of the medical judgment of VA physicians who are treating our veterans. Get out of the way. Let our VA physicians do what they believe is right for our veterans. That is what the issue is today.

We are talking about medical marijuana or other treatments, and certainly, our VA physicians would know more about that and have more concern for their patients than we here in Congress and those people who set up national rules have.

So let's get out of the way, make sure we give the power and empower the VA physicians to do their job. Our veterans deserve that from us. They don't deserve obstructionism between the United States Congress and the veterans' physicians. I call on my colleagues to join me in support of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1730

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Nevada is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment by Messrs. BLUMENAUER, ROHRABACHER, and FARR. I am strongly in favor of it.

The people of Nevada voted overwhelmingly to legalize medical marijuana. In the coming months, the first medical marijuana depositories will go

online throughout the State. At the same time, we also have a brandnew VA hospital, which will be serving the veterans of my district and all across southern Nevada.

Unfortunately, due to VA's current restrictions, the more than 250,000 veterans who call Nevada home will be unable to receive a prescription for medical marijuana through their VA doctors, and so they will not have the opportunity to take advantage of this available in Nevada medical option.

This is just not fair. I believe that the VA should have the flexibility. It has been said much more eloquently than I can by the sponsors of this amendment; but the VA should have the flexibility to recommend the best medical treatments available to our Nation's veterans, especially if that treatment is approved under the State laws where the veteran lives.

As a Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I regularly speak with both VA doctors and patients about advances in care for our Nation's heroes. Forcing those people—those brave men and women who have sacrificed so much—now to seek outside medical evaluation to access legal medical treatment from doctors who have little or no understanding of the unique challenges that our veterans face is simply bad policy—bad political policy and bad medical policy.

We have already seen the positive results that medical marijuana can have for patients suffering from PTSD and other ailments associated with traumatic experiences, such as combat. More studies are underway—including by the VA itself—that are anticipated to show these same kinds of results, and we have heard numerous stories firsthand.

I support this. I think it is common sense, it is bipartisan, we should move forward, and I urge my colleagues to join.

At this time, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlelady's courtesy and the points that she made.

I heard my friend, the chair of the committee, talk about it being against the law. I am not aware of any place—and I would direct this to Mr. CULBERSON—I am not aware of any place in the statutes where it is illegal for our VA doctors to give advice to our veterans about a treatment that is legal in a State.

What we are talking about is a prohibition that is a directive, so if there is a statute, I would be interested in knowing about it; but even if it is, what if the advice that the VA doctor wants to give is don't use medical marijuana?

They know their patient. Even if it is legal in their State, they think it is not in the best interest of the patient. Your policy would prohibit that doctor from telling that patient: I think it is wrong for you, I don't think it works.

What is the wisdom of prohibiting? You are prejudging what the doctor would say. I think the doctor ought to be able to give whatever advice he or she wants to give.

I would yield to you, if the gentlelady would permit, where is it illegal under Federal law for a doctor to talk about medical marijuana or any other legal treatment?

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. I would simply point out that a Federal employee who is paid with Federal tax dollars is obligated to follow Federal law.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Right. Where is it in the Federal law that it is illegal?

Mr. CULBERSON. It is prohibited under Federal law.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Where in Federal law? I haven't been able to find that. Where is it prohibited for a doctor to give advice to a patient for a treatment that is legal in their State, pro or con? Where is that illegal?

Mr. CULBERSON. My point is simply that a Federal employee drawing his paycheck from Federal tax dollars obviously is obligated to follow Federal law.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Right. Where is that illegal under Federal law?

Mr. CULBERSON. Marijuana is prohibited under Federal law, and that is my point.

I urge Members to oppose the amendment for that reason.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I would like to make the point that the gentleman is wrong. I am happy for him to show us where it is prohibited for a doctor to talk about a legal State treatment. There is no Federal prohibition that we have been able to find because, if I could find it, I would introduce legislation to repeal it.

But my point obtained, what if the advice of the doctor is don't use medical marijuana, which is legal, because it is not right for you, I am your primary physician, why would you prohibit that?

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, today, in this very interesting discussion, I am talking on this subject coming from the perspective of a physician and a military veteran himself, someone who is very acquainted with addiction disorders, someone who has been a medical director for addiction centers, even involved with methadone treatment over the years.

I can tell you that we all honor our veterans. We love our veterans. We are so glad that they have sacrificed what they have and what they go through. We know about PTSD and traumatic brain syndrome and all of these things which are a big problem.

However, I would say to you, Mr. Chairman, that the last thing in the world we should be doing is giving medical marijuana to people with these disorders.

What have we learned just in recent days? This month, the American Heart Association came out and said that marijuana, through their studies, both in young adults and middle-aged adults, has been shown to be very damaging to the cardiovascular system, leading to heart disease and congestive heart failure. I have a study right here.

Also, in this month, Northwestern came out with a study where they found that there were profound changes in the brain just among young adults who were using only casual exposure to marijuana. We know, on a biochemical level, that addictive substances such as marijuana cause changes in the microscopic neurotransmitters. I wrote a book on that in 2007.

So I would say to you today that one of the last things we should do is to damage the brains and the hearts of our beloved veterans. Why should we be hurting them?

As far as the claim that there is medical use for marijuana, where is the proof of that? What disease or disorder can be treated by marijuana and nothing else just as well, if not better? There is no proof out there. Trust me, I have been looking for it.

There is a mention of treating seizures. Yes, the University of Mississippi is doing a study extracting the oil, not the THC, but the oil for the use for some seizure disorders. It is under experimentation. There is no proof that it does any good.

Is medicinal marijuana anything other than recreational marijuana? Well, we have more dispensaries in California and Colorado than we do Starbucks. Do we have that many sick people in these States? I don't think so.

So I come to you today as a physician telling you that, having treated veterans in VA hospitals, one of the last things in the world we should do is give addicting substances to people with PTSD and other brain disorders. Any good physician would tell you that. We have other anxiety-reducing medications that are nonaddicting and work very well. Antidepressants do a very good job.

But we know that if we compound a brain disorder or disease with an addicting substance that alters the brain itself, we are just going to see even higher rates of disorders, especially suicides.

I would challenge you today that we back away from this. Fine, if we want to do some more studies, but medical marijuana—medicinal marijuana—in fact, we even have something called Marinol, which is prescribed sometimes under a physician's supervision—but medicinal marijuana is not under a physician's supervision.

There is a scrip written out, and somebody goes and gets high. The smoke from marijuana has more tar in it than cigarettes. Why do we want to have another epidemic of lung cancer and heart disease, for heaven's sake, especially among our veterans?

I would say to you today that you can argue about the law. I would say to the gentleman that, yes, it would be improper to recommend to a patient to break the law by using a schedule I drug. It is against the law to use that, at least the Federal law. I wouldn't advise a patient to go break the law. I don't think that would be proper for me as a physician to do that.

I would say to you today that we have a number of medical and health reasons that we don't want to hurt and damage the vital organs of our wonderful and beloved veterans.

Again, if somebody has a claim that marijuana helps people medically, if it is so necessary and better than any other drug that we have on the market, well, then come forward with the proof.

The fact that there are doctors out there who say: yeah, I prescribe it for my patients, fine. But we have doctors who do a lot of things that I don't advise and many other doctors don't advise. It doesn't make it right. It only makes it right if we have proof out there, scientific evidence, that supports its use and benefits.

I think this is a good debate to have. I know we are going to be talking about this more, but this does not belong in this bill. Let's protect our veterans, not damage them.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, what the gentleman said was a one-size-fits-all answer.

The fact is, when I first spoke on a similar amendment about the DEA and marijuana, it was about a gentleman named Oral James Mitchell, Jr., a Navy SEAL who served this country in Vietnam and died in 1996 of pancreatic cancer.

He violated the law in 1996 in the State of Maryland because he used marijuana to ease his nausea. Also, as his mother said:

> It is the only thing that allows Oral to smile and to eat. He didn't like the Marinol. He said it didn't do as much good as smoking marijuana.

When we are talking about somebody who has cancer and wants to use marijuana to improve the condition they are in and suffering from the nausea—and there is a lot of evidence that it is better than Marinol—then we don't have to worry about the situations that the doctor mentioned about possibly causing somebody heart disease over a period of years, which we know tobacco does and it is sold all around and legal.

We are talking about saving people pain, and we are talking about a VA doctor being able to distinguish between allowing somebody who might be in the last months or years of life and alleviating their pain with one of the best agents known to man to do that, rather than a situation where somebody might be young.

We don't have that many veterans who are as young as the AMA study discussed and their ability to think. That was talking about kids who were teenagers. They are not veterans.

I would submit that there are times the doctor should have discretion. We are not talking about the doctor dispensing marijuana. We are talking about a directive from the Federal Government prohibiting the doctor from saying: I think like Dr. FLEMING, and I don't think that you should use marijuana, I don't think you should go to another physician if you could afford it outside the VA system and try to get him to give you a directive to where you can go and get marijuana.

This prohibits the VA doctor from allowing Dr. FLEMING, if he worked at the VA, to tell his patient not to do it. The VA doctor should be able to speak the truth.

This is censorship by our Federal Government—a directive—which I think most of the people on the other side of the aisle have certainly been against Federal Government influence in medical policies and have done all they can to stop the Federal Government from influencing medical decisions. Here is a situation where you are saying the doctor should be censored.

There is a lot of evidence that medical cannabis helps, but particularly with nausea. I know the Chair knows people in east Tennessee, as I know in Memphis, who have contacted me and asked me to allow them to be able to get medical marijuana.

They can't do it in Tennessee yet. They would like to do it in Tennessee at the veterans' hospitals, but where it is legal in the State, the doctor should not be muzzled and censored.

This Congress should be in favor of the freedom of speech and in favor of the doctor being able to use their best efforts to help their patients and exercise their Hippocratic oath to do what they think is best, which may be to say no.

I yield to Mr. BLUMENAUER to add to this discussion because he was exactly right. This doesn't say anything about dispensing marijuana. It doesn't say you are for marijuana. It simply says you allow the VA doctor to exercise their judgment.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate it. It is hard to improve upon your eloquence because you are speaking in favor of Dr. FLEMING being able to advise a veteran, if he was back at the VA, to say don't use medical marijuana.

This directive would prohibit him from saying to his patient, no, don't do it, and reciting all the facts and figures. Why would we muzzle Dr. FLEMING from his professional responsibilities, one way or another, in terms of medical marijuana?

□ 1745

The literature is being built. I just visited with dozens of medical professionals who want to do more research, who want to deal with this in a clinical, thoughtful way. We have got stupid Federal policies that prohibit the research. I have met with parents who have children with violent epileptic seizures, and they are moving to States in which they can get medical marijuana, because they can get it. The physicians cannot get medical marijuana to study, but it is making a difference for these families.

We just ought not to confuse what we are talking about here. We are talking about VA hospital doctors being able to do something that is not prohibited under Federal law, which is talking about the pros and cons of treatment. That ought to be our objective, and that is why this amendment should be approved.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Tennessee has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. RUNYAN

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

> At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:
>
> SEC. 417. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, plan for, or execute a new or additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment, which is cosponsored by Representative BARBER, states that

none of the funds made available by this act may be used to propose, to plan for, or to execute a new or an additional round of BRAC.

There is no doubt that we recognize the defense budget pressures that we face today in this fiscal environment, and we should direct our limited dollars to addressing the current mission, infrastructure, and readiness needs in support of our warfighters. Based on the cost of previous Base Realignment and Closure, a new round of base closures will likely entail large up-front costs and will end up costing much more than originally estimated. For example, the GAO says that the last BRAC in 2005 had an actual cost of $35.1 billion. That is an approximately 67 percent increase from the September 2005 BRAC Commission's original cost estimate of $21 billion.

I know many Members of this Chamber want Congress to continue to have the close oversight of our military installations and infrastructure. This bipartisan amendment ensures that we can do that. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, which helps ensure that the funds in this bill address current needs, rather than to support a new round of BRAC.

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative BARBER, for offering this amendment with me, and I thank the chairman and the members of the subcommittee for working with me on this important issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARBER. I want to thank my colleague for cosponsoring this important bipartisan amendment. Congressman RUNYAN understands very well, I think, that we have to have a commitment in order to make sure that we do the right thing by our military.

Mr. Chairman, we are in difficult times. There is no question we are in times when the budgets are constrained, but as we draw down our forces from war in Afghanistan and shift our strategic focus to the Pacific, reducing Active Duty personnel and equipment across the services, there is absolutely no doubt that we must reevaluate where we are in terms of the Department of Defense's infrastructure. However, this does not mean that we should take on another round of Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC.

Our military installations across the Nation have a profound impact on the families of the communities that support these installations. In my district, for example, we have two installations—the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Fort Huachuca. Both the communities of Tucson and Sierra Vista have storied histories that go back over eight decades in support of these installations. They have become inextricably linked, with the bases and the cities growing and prospering together.

Mr. Chairman, while sequestration and the current fiscal outlook demand that we make prudent decisions about spending across the government, now is not the time for another costly round of BRAC. The 2005 round of BRAC cost our taxpayers money, and we have yet to see any savings from it. It doesn't seem prudent to start another one while we are still looking for savings. Our military communities, including those in southern Arizona, cannot afford the uncertainty of another round of BRAC.

Again, I want to thank Congressman RUNYAN for his leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to talk about two issues of great importance to veterans in Colorado and throughout the Rocky Mountain West.

First, I want to talk about the new stand-alone hospital, the U.S. Department of VA's replacement medical center in Aurora, Colorado. This hospital has been one of my top priorities for 7 years, which is when I arrived in Congress. This hospital has been promised to our veterans for nearly 15 to almost 20 years. The project has gone through a number of iterations over the years under two Presidents and four Secretaries of the VA. Once completed, this medical facility will serve hundreds of thousands of veterans across the Rocky Mountain West. The 182-bed facility will include a full range of medical, laboratory, research, and counseling services, a 30-bed spinal cord injury unit, a 30-bed community living center, and a PTSD rehabilitation clinic.

The hospital is well underway, but, unfortunately, the VA is involved in an ongoing contract dispute with the prime contractor, putting the cost and schedule for completing this project in jeopardy. At the heart of the dispute is the cost of the final design, which is leading to hundreds of change orders submitted to the VA by the contractor with very few approved and paid. The original design called for an approximately $1.1 billion state-of-the-art medical center, but Congress authorized and appropriated $800 million for the acquisition of approximately 40 acres of land and several buildings as well as design and construction. The original design appears not to have significantly changed and, consequently, a funding gap exists between the authorized amount for the contract and the overall cost of the project. This contract dispute will be heard next month by the U.S. Civilian Board of Contract Appeals.

I am working constantly with the VA and with other members of the Colorado congressional delegation to find solutions to improve the construction process of this medical center and finish the project. Unfortunately, it is becoming clear to me that the VA and Congress have underestimated the cost to build this facility, and in the coming months, our delegation will be asking for additional appropriations. I am not happy about this, but we have promised this hospital to our veterans for more than a decade, and we must finish the facility.

I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP for continuing a dialogue with our delegation and the VA to ensure we will have the resources necessary to finish this hospital as quickly as possible.

I also want to talk today about an important issue about our veterans who are returning home. During the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, we saw a dramatic increase in traumatic brain injuries among our veterans. One of the common neurological disorders due to TBI is the development of epilepsy. Data from prior wars indicate that as many as 50 percent of individuals experiencing penetrating brain trauma will develop epilepsy.

Because of this increase, I worked with Senator PATTY MURRAY and the Bush administration in 2008 to establish Epilepsy Centers of Excellence within the VA Health Administration. These centers have done an excellent job in dealing with people in our veterans' community who have developed seizure disorders. The VA currently has 16 centers across the country, creating a national network of facilities prepared to diagnose and treat veterans with epilepsy.

These centers need to be fully funded. I ask that the committee continue to work with the VA to make sure that the funding for those 16 centers continues unabated.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I am doing this, actually, to try to be efficient because we are moving on a bit.

May I request that the gentleman from Texas enter into a quick colloquy with me.

Mr. CULBERSON. Certainly.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. We attached the Rothfus amendment earlier, and I believe the amendment I was going to be

offering in a couple of moments would have probably been a little duplicative, but I want to make a specific point.

We have had a series of amendments here and discussions in regards to bonuses for VA leadership. There are frustrations and concerns particularly when we look at previous GAO reports which say the matrix—some of the data, some of the collection—on wait times and other things that substantially the bonuses are based on, as this GAO report says, may actually be very inaccurate.

If the performance bonuses continue to exist, Mr. Chairman, would you be willing to work with someone like me and my office to try to find a better way? My fear is that right now, in the way it is designed, we incentivize playing games with the wait times. The world works on incentives and disincentives.

Can we work together to come up with a better methodology of how we incentivize good acts so that we are all comfortable that we are moving towards, shall we say, a proper analysis of the outcomes, and, therefore, we reward those?

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Absolutely. Of course. I look forward to working with you and your office.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. That is all I wanted to accomplish here.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act for the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program under chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code, or the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program under chapter 33 of such title and provided to an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) may be used for recruiting or marketing activities.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would prevent Federal student aid for veterans, including post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, from being used by colleges for marketing and recruiting purposes.

A Senate Health Committee report showed that many for-profits used more than 22 percent of their revenue on marketing and recruiting but less than 18 percent on academic instruction. At the same time, many of these schools received more than 80 percent of their revenue from Federal student aid, including post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and other veterans' education benefits.

□ 1800

That's a lot of veteran's education assistance and taxpayer money going to for-profit schools to market to and recruit students. It has been well documented that some of these schools use overly aggressive, deceptive, and fraudulent practices to get students to attend their schools. Thirty-eight State attorneys general, the CFPB, the SEC, FDIC, and DOJ are all investigating the practices of for-profit colleges. We need to address this abuse of student veterans' and taxpayer dollars. I urge you all to support my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chair, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and, therefore, constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rules states in pertinent part that an amendment to a general appropriations bill shall not be in order if it changes existing law.

This amendment, Mr. Chairman, requires a new determination, and I would ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does anyone else wish to speak on the point of order? If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

In pertinent part, the amendment restricts funds for marketing activities.

Absent a showing of a statutory or regulatory definition of marketing activities, the amendment would require a Federal official to define what activities constitute marketing activities. Such a requirement constitutes a new duty in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have my first amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to create or maintain any patient record-keeping system other than those currently approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office in Washington, D.C.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I rise to stand with veterans throughout the country and offer a simple amendment that seeks to prohibit funds in this bill from being used to create or maintain any unofficial recordkeeping system at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

As many of you know, numerous news reports have surfaced that assert that the Phoenix Veterans Affairs Health Care System has been using secondary, unofficial records of veterans' claims and appointment requests. These allegations claim that the reasoning behind these actions was to misrepresent the actual wait times the veterans faced as they sought health care.

A whistleblower has come forward and alleged the facility was taking the vets' application information, transcribing that information to an unofficial shared document, and only putting veterans' information and requests into the real system when they knew that the veterans were likely to receive an appointment within a 2-week timeframe. If true, on paper, the VA central office here in Washington would be under the impression that the wait time goals for appointments were being met. According to reports, veterans were waiting for months and months on end.

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee is conducting an investigation into the matter and so far has said as many as 40 veterans suffered and died while waiting for appointments through the Phoenix VA system. Their investigation is ongoing, and they fear there could be many more deaths as a result of this negligence.

I would like to thank the full committee chairman, Chairman MILLER, and Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee Chairman COFFMAN for their efforts on this front.

The inspector general's office at the VA is also conducting investigations into these allegations. It is my hope that we get to the full truth soon and that those responsible are held accountable. Depending on the findings, criminal charges may even be in order. In the meantime, my goal is to ensure that such recordkeeping practices are not allowed to take place.

I have said this before, it is sad that we have to legislate in this way. When government bureaucrats don't use good judgment and common sense, regulations and laws must be changed to prevent bad behavior. No matter what the investigation shows and no matter who was involved, this practice must be prevented in the future. My amendment seeks to do just that.

Only the official systems approved by the Veterans Administration's Central Office should be used. This way, we have oversight, accountability, and uniformity. It is my hope that one day we also have a little more efficiency in these processes.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the passage of my commonsense amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Seeing no additional speakers, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds $3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

Mr. GRAYSON (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that it be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is identical to language that was inserted by voice vote into this bill last year, as well as every other appropriations bill that was considered by an open rule.

This amendment would expand the list of wrongdoing parties with whom the Federal Government is prohibited from contracting. That list should contractors who have been convicted of fraud, who have violated Federal or State antitrust laws, who have been convicted of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, violation of Federal tax laws and other items outlined in section 52.209–5 of title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

These are all offenses which any contractor doing business with the Federal Government must disclose to the contracting officer in every offer. Oddly enough however, without this amendment, the contracting officer is then free to ignore these transgressions and award contracts to the offending offeror.

I commend the authors of this bill for their inclusion of sections 413 and 414, which are relevant to this issue. I submit, however, that we can improve this bill by prohibiting agencies from contracting with those entities who have engaged in the criminal and fraudulent activities that I have described.

It is my hope that this amendment will be noncontroversial, as it was last year, and again be passed unanimously by voice vote by the House.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Seeing no additional speakers, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I have my second amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for ''Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Administration'', and increasing the amount made available for ''Department of Veterans Affairs Departmental Administration—Information Technology Systems'', by $3,215,910.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment that seeks to redirect funds that would otherwise be spent on Department of Veterans Affairs bureaucrats and administrative expenses and puts those monies towards timely service for our veterans.

Although this amendment is a dollar-for-dollar transfer within this bill, which will result in a neutral impact on the bill's budget authority, the amendment will actually decrease budget outlays for 2015 by $1 million according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The general administration account for the Department of Veterans Affairs is funded at $321,591,000. Funds to this account can be spent on things that have nothing to do with administrating critical services for our veterans. Examples include things like receptions, conferences, uniforms, and excessive travel for bureaucrats.

It is no secret that the VA, like other Federal agencies like the GSA and the IRS, has in recent years abused the trust of the American people by spending exorbitant amounts of money on conferences and travel expenses. I think we all know that the VA has had its share of problems in the past few years. Meanwhile, wait times for claims processing and appeals processing are horrendous.

The most recent report put forth by the VA indicates there are more than 600,000 veterans' claims pending with the VA. Even more troubling is the fact that 319,363 claims have been pending for more than 125 days.

Many of our veterans are simply giving up. They are either giving up on trying to obtain the benefits they deserve, or worse, some of them are giving up on life altogether. It is a travesty, and this appalling trend must by reversed.

It is disheartening to me that such wasteful spending occurs while veterans are crying out for help. It is distressing that it occurs while veterans are taking their own lives. It is truly disturbing that it occurs when we have veterans dying as they wait for care.

I appreciate the committee's hard work and its acknowledgment of the importance of reducing the backlog in this bill. Having said that, I think we can do more and should focus on prioritizing funding for efforts that will lead to timelier care for our Nation's heroes as opposed to administrative expenses. That is why I proposed redirecting a mere 1 percent of the funds in the general administration account away from the funding for conference expenses and bureaucrats and shifting those funds towards reducing the VA backlog.

It is unfair to say that all VA employees and officials have abused the trust of the American people and the veterans that they are meant to serve. There are many within this Department who work tirelessly to get through their claims and streamline processes. To those people, I say ''thank you.''

Our veterans and the American taxpayers are not pleased with the overall production level at the VA. It is time to remember and act on the mission at hand: serving our veterans who have given so much for this Nation.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the passage of my commonsense amendment.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Seeing no additional speakers, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act for benefits for homeless veterans and training and outreach programs may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in contravention of subchapter III of chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Mr. CULBERSON and Mr.

BISHOP for doing an outstanding job as they have done and make a bipartisan statement that as the first bill of the appropriations season comes forward we stand in solidarity against veterans waiting, against veterans' claims not being processed, and against veterans dying because they have not been treated.

I don't think any Member of Congress would adhere to that kind of abuse of our veterans, and I hope that we find solutions in a bipartisan way. I also believe the administration and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, a military retiree himself, would stand in solidarity to stop this kind of treatment of our veterans.

One of the groups that we have a solidarity and commitment to are the Nation's homeless veterans. We know that there are over 100,000 homeless veterans and 1,000-plus homeless veterans in Houston, Texas.

My amendment reinforces and reaffirms our commitment in looking to ensure that funds are not cut in subchapter 3, dealing with homeless matters, enhancement of comprehensive services, in particular, hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary care, which used to be only for homeless veterans who were suffering from mental health issues, now access to all veterans. So the Jackson Lee amendment is here to ensure that reducing, eliminating homelessness among veterans is of paramount responsibility and commitment to those who risk their lives to protect our freedom.

My amendment will remind us of our obligation to provide our veterans the assistance needed to avoid homelessness, which includes adequately funding for programs, Veterans Administration's support of housing that provides case management services, adequate housing facilities, mental health support, and address other areas that contribute to veterans' homelessness, such as the homeless matters, enhancement of comprehensive services.

Mr. Chairman, our veterans deserve the best service available, and I believe that we could do much for them. I know that in this particular appropriations bill there has been a standard of excellence to put our veterans first. Many other veterans are considered homeless or at-risk because of their poverty, lack of support from family and friends, and dismal living conditions. So that means the number of 107,000 goes up.

Contrary to popular belief, ending homelessness among veterans remains a big challenge. My own city of Houston has its own share of homelessness.

Let me take note of the homeless centers in my community: Salvation Army, Joshua House for Men, Magnificent House, Modest Family Health Care, Open Door Mission, Salvation Army, Harbor Light—of which I participate in their Thanksgiving ceremonies or Thanksgiving dinner almost every year that I have served in the United States Congress—Star of Hope, Ultimate Changes, and my good friend Mr. Jones who is on Lyons Avenue who has a facility that opens its doors to anyone who will knock, a man who needs the resources that have been cut over the years.

My amendment is to reinforce that, as this bill is passed, we will ensure that the provisions given to us under title III, section 301 that emphasizes the utilization of facilities for veterans who happen to be homeless, all veterans, would not be diminished. That is at least our minimal responsibility—minimal responsibility.

But as we approach this Memorial Day where we honor those who lost their lives, let us not leave their fellow brothers and sisters along the highway of despair.

□ 1815

On a personal note, let me indicate that as a member of the local elected government, for many years I used to participate in the standdown, where you got to talk and interact with our veterans. I can tell you firsthand the experience.

Our veterans welcome our help and need our help, for they have helped this Nation.

Mr. Chair, Thank you for this opportunity to describe my amendment, which simply provides that: "None of the funds made available by this Act for the Department of Veteran Affairs—Benefits for Homeless Veterans and Training and Outreach Programs may be used in contravention of the title 38, Part II, Chapter 20, III of the U.S. Code.

This amendment will help ensure that the rate of homelessness among veterans in the United States does not increase.

I thank Subcommittee Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP for their hard work in shepherding this important legislation to the floor.

I offer the Jackson Lee Amendment because I believe reducing and eliminating homelessness among veterans, those who risked their lives to protect our freedom, should also be one of the nation's highest priorities.

Homelessness among the American veteran population is on the rise in the United States and we must be proactive in giving back to those who have given so much to us.

My amendment will help remind us of our obligation to provide our veterans the assistance needed to avoid homelessness, which includes adequately funding for programs Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) that provide case-management services, adequate housing facilities, mental health support, and address other areas that contribute to veteran homelessness.

VASH is a jointly-administered permanent supportive housing program for disabled Veterans experiencing homelessness in which VA medical Centers provide referrals and case management while Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) administer the Section 8 housing vouchers.

Mr. Chair, our veterans deserve the best services available, and I believe that we could be doing much more for them.

Today, in our country, there are approximately 107,000 veterans (male and female) who are homeless on any given night. And perhaps twice as many (200,000) experience homelessness at some point during the course of a year.

Many other veterans are considered near homeless or at risk because of their poverty, lack of support from family and friends, and dismal living conditions in cheap hotels or in overcrowded or substandard housing.

Contrary to popular belief, ending homelessness among veterans remains a big challenge.

In my hometown of Houston for example, between the years 2010 and 2012, the number of homeless veterans increased from 771 to 1,162.

We must be vigilant and continue to fight for those who put on the uniform and fought for us.

Providing a home for veterans to come home to every night is the very least we can do.

Mr. Chair, you should know that programs like VASH have succeeded in changing lives. In 2012 alone, 35,905 veterans lived in the public housing provided by VASH.

I have seen the impact of such grants in my home state of Texas, and within my congressional district in Houston, and I am sure that this funding has positively impacted many communities across this country.

In Texas, there are committed groups in Houston, working to eradicate the issue of homelessness.

For example, the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center has been involved in changing veterans' lives in a mighty way by providing Veterans and their families with access to affordable housing and medical services that will help them get back on their feet.

Mr. Chair, we cannot let this issue of homelessness continue. I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment and commit ourselves to the hard but necessary work of ending veteran homelessness in America.

NATIONAL COALITION
FOR HOMELESS VETERANS,
Washington, DC, August 7, 2012.

BILL TO REAUTHORIZE, IMPROVE CRITICAL HOMELESS VETERAN PROGRAMS SIGNED INTO LAW

WASHINGTON.—In mid-July 2012, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed H.R. 1627, the ''Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.'' As reported by NCHV, (http://nchv.org/index.php/news/headlinearticle/senate__unanimously passes__ bill__ to__ reauthorize__ improve__ critical__ homeless__ Vet/). This bill would reauthorize and improve several homeless veteran programs that are critical to the success of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)'s Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness. On July 31, the U.S. House of Representatives proceeded to pass H.R. 1627, and less than one week later, the bill was signed into law by President Barack Obama.

This bill represents a comprehensive agreement between both parties in both the House and the Senate. NCHV's most recent Congressional Leadership Award recipients

(http://nchv.org/index.php/news/headline__article/highlights__from__the__2012__annual__conference/)—Rep. Jeff Miller (R–FL), Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and Sen. Patty Murray (D–WA), Chairman of the Senate of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs—were at the center of this compromise.

Throughout the 112th Congress, NCHV has regularly advised the congressional committees of jurisdiction on the provisions in H.R. 1627 that would greatly impact homeless veteran assistance. Descriptions of these individual provisions are provided below.

For more information on H.R. 1627, visit the following links:

The full text of the bill can be downloaded here (http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr1627eas/pdf/BILLS-112hr1627eas.pdf) (PDF).

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has set up a webpage with a title-by-title overview of the bill and supplementary information. This page can be accessed here (http:// veterans.house.gov/HR1627).

H.R. 1627, ''HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS AND CARING FOR CAMP LEJEUNE FAMILIES ACT OF 2012''

Title II—Housing Matters

Sec. 211. Modification of authorities for enhanced-use leases of real property

Authority for VA's Enhanced-Use Lease (EUL) program expired on Dec. 31, 2011. This section provides a modified reauthorization for the program. The VA Secretary may now enter into a EUL ''only for the provision of supportive housing,'' which is defined in the bill as ''housing that engages tenants in on-site and community-based support services for veterans or their families that are at risk of homelessness or are homeless.''

Title III—Homeless Matters

Sec. 301. Enhancement of comprehensive service programs

This section would allow Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program capital grants to be used for the new construction of facilities. Additionally, these applicants would be able to use funding from other private or public sources, so long as the applicant ''demonstrates that a private nonprofit organization will provide oversight and site control for the project.''

Within one year, VA must also ''complete a study of all matters relating to'' the GPD per diem payment method, as well as develop a more effective and efficient method for adequately reimbursing GPD capital grant recipients.

Sec. 302. Modification of authority for provision of treatment and rehabilitation to certain veterans to include provision of treatment and rehabilitation to homeless veterans who are not seriously mentally ill

This section expands VA's authority to provide ''hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary care'' (Title 38, section 1710, U.S. Code). Current law only allows homeless veterans who are suffering from serious mental illness to receive this care—H.R. 1627 will allow all homeless veterans to access these services.

Sec. 303. Modification of grant program for homeless veterans with special needs

This section expands the VA's Special Needs Grant Program to organizations that are eligible for GPD funds. Current law only allows existing GPD providers to receive Special Needs grants.

Additionally, male homeless veterans with minor dependents would become eligible for services through the Special Needs Grant Program. Current law restricts these services to women veterans with minor dependents. H.R. 1627 authorizes these dependents to directly receive services through the program.

Sec. 304. Collaboration in provision of case management services to homeless veterans in supported housing program

This section states that the VA Secretary ''shall consider entering into contracts or agreements'' with eligible organizations to help provide case management through the HUD–VA Supportive Housing (HUD–VASH) Program. Training and technical assistance may be provided to help facilitate these efforts.

Within a year and a half of H.R. 1627's enactment, VA must report to Congress on this collaboration.

Sec. 305. Extensions of previously fully funded authorities affecting homeless veterans

This section reauthorizes programs that are critical to the success of the Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness:

The Grant and Per Diem Program is reauthorized at $250 million for FY 2013—the same level at which it is currently authorized.

The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP), administered by the Department of Labor-Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL–VETS), is reauthorized at $50 million for FY 2013—the same level at which it is currently authorized.

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program is reauthorized at $300 million for FY 2013—$200 million above the level at which it is currently authorized.

The Special Needs Grant Program is reauthorized at $5 million for FY 2013—the same level at which it is currently authorized.

For more information on policy and legislative issues that affect homeless veteran service providers, visit http://nchv.org/index.php/policy/ (http://nchv.org/ index.php/policy/).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Seeing no other speakers, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FARENTHOLD

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ___. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salary of any officer or employee of the Federal Government with respect to whom the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives has certified a statement of facts to a United States attorney under section 104 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 194).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. This amendment actually implements what I have proposed in H.R. 4447, which is that any employee of the Federal Government—in this case, we are limiting it to the subject of this appropriations bill—not be paid if they have been held in contempt of Congress.

We have seen, unfortunately, that even though we have held Eric Holder in contempt of Congress, the Justice Department has failed to pursue that, and we are delayed on the civil contempt in the court system.

What I am trying to do here is put a little teeth into contempt of Congress, using the power of the purse.

The Constitution gives this body the power to decide how the Federal Government spends their money. And if somebody is in contempt of this body, they should not be paid. If you are in contempt of your employer in the private sector, most likely you are going to be unemployed and not get your paycheck.

I intend to offer this amendment for all the appropriations bills as a way to possibly get it through the Senate, where nothing is happening.

It is critically important that we do this in the Veterans Affairs appropriations bill because as we begin to investigate the horrifying allegations of secret waiting lists and folks dying because they are not getting timely treatment in the VA, it is certain there is going to be a congressional investigation. We need all the tools we have in our tool chest to get to the bottom of this and make sure people cooperate and make sure people testify.

We have seen time and time again where various investigations, be it Lois Lerner, whatever, that we are not getting cooperation from this administration. The contempt power and putting some teeth into it is one way we can do that.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense amendment that doesn't pay people who don't cooperate with Congress. We have the power of the purse. We need to use it. We very possibly may need to use it for the Department of Veterans Affairs as a result of some of the things that they appear to be up to.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states, in pertinent part:

''An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment imposes additional duties or requires a new determination.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I would like to address the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chair, it is my belief that this puts no other duty on anyone. Someone being found in contempt of Congress is something that is widely publicized. And as all people are charged with knowing what the law is, it seems common sense that the Department of Veterans Affairs, if it had a member subject to contempt, would know that that person is in contempt.

We are not asking anybody to do anything else, other than not pay somebody who is in contempt of Congress.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment imposes new duties on the Department of Veterans Affairs to track the status of certain certifications.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. PETERS OF MICHIGAN

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for a contract that includes first-class travel by the contractor.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, as of Monday, there were 596,061 veterans waiting for their claims to be processed by the Veterans Administration. More than half of these claims have been pending for more than 125 days.

This is outrageous and simply unacceptable. We are failing our veterans who have put their lives on the line for this Nation and rely on services at the VA for their health care and other benefits upon retirement.

As a former lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, I am extremely disappointed with the inability to eliminate the paperwork backlog at the Veterans Administration. The men and women who have served our country honorably, and their families, deserve so much better.

In my home State of Michigan at the Detroit Regional Veterans Administration Office almost 49 percent of claims have been pending for more than 125 days. While this number may seem high, it is actually lower than the combined national average, where 53 percent of claims have been pending for more than 125 days.

It is unacceptable that, as hundreds and thousands of veterans wait months to have these essential benefits processed, government contractors are able to use taxpayer dollars to purchase first-class travel. There is no way to justify spending on luxury travel for contractors while the VA is dealing with months-long backlogs. It just doesn't make sense.

Mr. Chairman, this is why I am putting forward a simple amendment barring the use of funds in this bill to be spent on first-class travel for government contractors.

I believe this amendment sends an important message that Congress, the administration, and contractors are accountable to American taxpayers. This amendment is about making efficient use of taxpayer dollars and reducing wasteful government spending. Federal contractors simply should not be using Federal tax dollars on first-class flights.

I ask my colleagues to stand with me and support this commonsense amendment. Let us send a strong message to our veterans and other constituents about our priorities as we work on behalf of them here in Washington.

Please support this amendment which will bring further accountability and fiscal sensibility to our government.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NUNES

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the closure or abandonment of any facility located at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Chairman, first, I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member for their support of this amendment. And I will be very quick here.

This base is a very important location for us in the middle of the Atlantic. Over the last decade, we have invested about $150 million into the infrastructure there.

Now the Air Force is talking about actually tearing down facilities there. It is starting to spend money to tear it down.

This doesn't make a lot of sense to me, nor does it to the Congress, because last Congress, both in the NDAA and in the Defense Appropriations bills, the Congress said very specifically that this was a facility that needed to be used. The military needed to figure out a use for it. They were not to draw down the forces there.

Instead, the Air Force continues to ignore the Congress, so much so that now they want to use funds to tear down facilities.

This is a complete rejection of, I think, Congress' prerogative and Congress' intent of the laws from last year. So now we have to go into the Military Construction Appropriations bill to make sure that we hold people accountable.

I would say that this is, I think, just a placeholder. Because when you start to look at the money that has been spent over the last 10 years—as I said, $150 million—if this is something the Air Force didn't want, then I think it is time for to ask for the GAO to come in and really study who it was that did the planning to spend the $150 million in first place, and possibly even an IG investigation.

I look forward to working with the chairman and the ranking member, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Seeing no additional speakers, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. WALORSKI

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement sole source contracting at the national level for the selection of devices and test strips for the self-monitoring of blood glucose.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Thank you, Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP, for your assistance with this amendment.

I rise to offer an amendment that will protect veterans with diabetes.

Specifically, this amendment will ensure the VA continues to offer diabetes patients a variety of glucose monitoring supplies through the competitive bid process.

Mr. Chairman, almost 25 percent of veterans in the VA health care system have diabetes, compared to about 8.3 percent of the general public. As a result, diabetes care places a significant cost burden on the VA's budget, accounting for almost 4 percent of the overall VA health care budget and costing almost $1.5 billion annually.

Presently, each of the 21 Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISNs, competitively bid for monitoring devices and test strips. This competition is good for the patient, and it is good for the marketplace, allowing the VA to utilize significant purchasing power. Because of this competition and the

competition in the non-VA market, vendors are pushed to reduce costs and to innovate.

VA physicians rely upon the patient to be a partner in disease management and treatment. Therefore, it is critical for patients and caregivers to be comfortable with the devices they use so they can best monitor the disease, resulting in better health outcomes.

As a member of the VA Committee, I learned recently the Department of Veterans Affairs is actively considering a national contract with a single provider for diabetic supplies. While this may sound like a good idea initially, both the House and the Senate, under the leadership of both Democrats and Republicans, have consistently agreed this is not prudent.

Sole sourcing could dramatically increase costs and deny patients the ability to use devices they are most comfortable with. The cost to reeducate and retrain patients and caregivers throughout the VA population would be significant.

Finally, because of the size of the VA diabetes population, a sole-source contract would likely reduce the number of vendors for future competitive contracts and also reduce innovation.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this commonsense amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. NOEM

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ___. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prepare an environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to a health care facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs that is—

(1) designated as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service; and

(2) located in a highly rural area.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from South Dakota is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1830

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Chairman, as you may know, the Department of Veterans Affairs manages thousands of historically significant parties, and according to a recently released study and report by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the VA has a track record for neglecting these national treasures.

By neglecting these properties, veterans in South Dakota and across the country have suffered by creating obstacles, so veterans can't gain access to health care. Many of them have to travel many, many hours for just a simple checkup.

My amendment is very simple and straightforward. It protects rural veterans access to health care by ensuring that no funds will go towards closing rural hospitals in high-need areas that are designated as national historic landmarks.

Reports have shown that the VA needs to pay more attention to these national landmarks it is entrusted with and focus on the veterans that these facilities serve. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment.

I want to thank the chairman, ranking member, and the committee staff for helping me offer it today, and I ask for your support.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM).

The amendment was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed in the following order:

Amendment No. 5 by Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

An amendment by Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. MORAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 168, noes 249, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 185]

AYES—168

Amash
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—249

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers

McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—14

Bachmann
Brady (TX)
Enyart
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Gutiérrez
Harper
Hinojosa
Lewis
Nunnelee
Richmond
Schwartz
Stockman
Whitfield

□ 1901

Messrs. RUPPERSBERGER, BRIDENSTINE, COBLE, COFFMAN, RIGELL, AMODEI, and Mrs. CAPITO changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. ISRAEL changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 185, had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

(By unanimous consent, Mr. CRAWFORD was allowed to speak out of order.)

MOMENT OF SILENCE TO HONOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING STORMS

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be joined here by my colleagues from Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Alabama, and the States that have been impacted by the devastating storms that occurred earlier this week.

While we had hoped that the entire Mississippi and Arkansas delegations could join us, Representatives GREGG HARPER and ALAN NUNNELEE from Mississippi, and Representative TIM GRIFFIN from Arkansas are back home today coordinating with Federal, State, and local officials who are organizing disaster assistance efforts. Tomorrow, Representative GRIFFIN will be touring the devastation in Arkansas' Second District with Secretary Johnson from the Department of Homeland Security.

All these delegations have spent hours keeping in close contact with one another and with officials in Arkansas, in particular, regarding the tornado that ripped through Vilonia, Mayflower, El Paso, and Paron, leaving a path of destruction in central Arkansas. And the same is true for other affected States.

The destruction we have witnessed is heartbreaking, and our prayers go out to all those affected by all these devastating storms, especially those who lost loved ones.

Our delegations would like to thank the first responders, volunteers, and neighboring communities for all of their assistance, donations, prayers, and tireless efforts during this difficult time. Their hard work and dedication has saved lives.

We also urge those who can to continue to help in any way they can to assist in the recovery and rebuilding of the neighborhoods and communities that were impacted by these storms.

We also honor and remember those we lost, and Representative GRIFFIN asked that I share a story of one of his constituents, U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Daniel Wassom, who served as a loadmaster instructor with the 189th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base.

Master Sergeant Wassom lived in Vilonia, Arkansas, with his wife, Suzanne, and his two young daughters. According to reports, Master Sergeant Wassom sacrificed his own life to shield his 5-year-old daughter from falling debris. His example of selflessness and bravery during this disaster is one all Americans and Arkansans can admire.

I now ask for a moment of silent prayer to honor all the victims of those recent tragic events.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 195, noes 222, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 186]

AYES—195

Amash
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Hunter
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Rigell
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOES—222

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding

Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schock
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Wasserman Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—14

Bass
Brady (TX)
Enyart
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Gutiérrez
Harper
Hinojosa
Lewis
Nunnelee
Richmond
Schwartz
Stockman
Whitfield

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1912

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read the remainder of the bill.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the ''Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015''.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise and report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments, and with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, directed him to report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under House Resolution 557, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 1, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 187]

YEAS—416

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—1

Labrador

NOT VOTING—14

Braley (IA)
Enyart
Gingrey (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Gutiérrez
Harper
Hinojosa
Larson (CT)

Lewis	Richmond	Stockman
Nunnelee	Schwartz	Whitfield

□ 1921

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

APPROVE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, our friends in the Senate are once again playing games with the future of our country.

Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID has kindly offered to allow Senators to vote on a nonbinding resolution expressing support for building the Keystone XL pipeline. That is right, a nonbinding expression that requires no action and no real solutions.

Well, grand gestures and words alone don't create jobs. The American people deserve real action. Senate Democrats who claim to support approving the Keystone XL pipeline need to stand up and demand that HARRY REID allow a real vote to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, a vote that actually puts words into action and rhetoric into results.

The American people have waited long enough. Montanans are tired of the political games, the endless delays, and politicians who refuse to put job creation ahead of partisanship. The House has acted. It is time for the Senate to step up and do the same.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 63rd annual National Day of Prayer. On this day, we praise God for the many blessings bestowed upon us. During times of great adversity and in times of great prosperity, Americans of all walks of life seek God's guidance.

Today, we face many great challenges, including brave men and women serving in harm's way and an economy that must grow faster and lift more Americans, especially those in need, to greater security. We pray that the families of this Nation may find renewed strength and belief in God's word and grace.

We also seek the Lord as we pray for those who serve in our military. We ask for God to protect them and watch over them.

Mr. Speaker, let us seek God's guidance and pray he will grant us the wisdom to overcome the many trials and tests before our Nation and its people.

On the National Day of Prayer, may God bless this great Nation and all its citizens.

TWELVE DOLLARS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, $12. In Nigeria, $12 is the cost of a bride slave. Recently, around 200 girls went to school and never came home. They were kidnapped and, for $12 apiece, sold to the Islamic militant terrorist group Boko Haram. They were forced into marriage and raped—modern sex slavery.

This inhuman human trafficking crime is a world problem that needs action. Today, the United States took a huge step forward in the battle against this scourge. The Judiciary Committee passed three bills fighting this growing problem here in America.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act that I sponsored, along with CAROLYN MALONEY of New York, was passed and supports and protects victims of this horrible crime. It punishes the sex trafficker and now punishes the buyer, the child rapist. It helps rescue child victims and treats them as victims, rather than child prostitutes.

No life deserves to be stolen and sold for $12. Children should not be for sale anywhere, at any time, for any reason.

And that's just the way it is.

AMERICA'S CREDIBILITY AROUND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAINES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot going on in the world right now, and America seems to continue to lose credibility around the world when we travel abroad, and we have leaders from other countries, especially moderate Muslim allies and friends, who wonder why we are not helping in the war against terrorism, the war against radical Islam.

□ 1930

Moderate Muslims realize what it is. It is radical Islam. It is exactly what the wonderful people of Egypt rose up and rebelled against by the millions. In fact, there were more millions of Egyptians that signed a petition in support of removing Morsi than even he ever claimed voted for him.

The Muslim Brotherhood responded, and they have burned churches, and they have persecuted Christians and Jews. The Coptic Christian Pope has told us of his concern about his support for radical Islam because the United States and even a couple of Republican Senators down the hall had supported, seemed to support, went over and said: let's release Morsi. They seemed to want Muslim Brotherhood back in charge.

So it was shocking for this administration to say we are not going to supply the military equipment to those who are against radical Islam that we had agreed to provide to those who represent radical Islam—the Muslim Brotherhood.

Yes, their party—their political party in Egypt is called the Freedom and Justice Party because, under their definition, freedom means the freedom to worship only Allah and justice means only justice that comes from shari'a law, so they have a little different definition of freedom and justice.

In their less than 100-year history as an entity, the Muslim Brotherhood has killed so many innocent children, women, and men who had no grievance or gripe with Islam, but it should also be noted that one of the reasons that moderate Muslims are so supportive of our effort to stop radical Islam is because, whenever a moderate Muslim stands up to radical Islam, they immediately go to the front of the line to be killed or persecuted by radical Islamists, so we share that.

That is why the enemy of our enemy can be somebody with whom we just may be able to cooperate.

That is what happened in Afghanistan, when President Bush committed to go after the Taliban in October, November, December of 2001. We put in less than 500 Americans—special operations, Special Forces, intelligence—we gave them air support, we gave them some weapons, and we had to negotiate.

The Bush administration did a phenomenal job of negotiating with Northern Alliance tribal leaders because they knew, to be successful about the Taliban, they were going to have to work together, so we were able to pull that off. There may have been some cash that actually was utilized to grease the skids to make it work, and it worked.

Within 4 months or so, the Taliban was defeated. The legendary General Dostum that this administration wants to classify as a war criminal defeated the Taliban for us as the leader of the Northern Alliance tribes.

In a meeting with him, along with DANA ROHRABACHER, STEVE KING, and a few others were meeting with some of the Northern Alliance leaders, since we knew about that last final battle where the Northern Alliance went after the last stronghold of the Taliban elevated high up a hill or mountain, General Dostum, through an interpreter, explained he knew that, if they sent people on foot, they would never get there.

There would be too many bullets and rocket-propelled grenades. They would never make it to the Taliban stronghold. They knew, if they could get there and rout them there, that that would be the end of the organized Taliban, at least for quite some time.

So General Dostum realized the only way to really have a shot at getting there was for around 1,000 horsemen to go charging up that hill, up toward the stronghold with bullets, rocket-propelled grenades, all kinds of things coming at him, but he knew that if they would move quickly enough, they might get past those and be able to destroy the last stronghold of the Taliban.

It worked. They did lose many of the Northern Alliance tribal soldiers, but they made it and totally routed the Taliban. What an incredible victory.

General Dostum offered to take me next time I came to Afghanistan. He asked if I rode horses. I said: sure, I grew up riding horses. He said: oh, then you need to come up with me, I will take you up that famous ride that is so legendary all over Asia.

After that, the interpreter advised me something I wasn't aware, that they don't have leather saddles in Afghanistan. I inquired: What kind of saddles do you have? And he said: they are made of wood.

That changed greatly my desire to go riding uphill on a wooden saddle, but it still is amazing what they did. They did it with our encouragement, our support, our logistical support, our aerial support.

There are other occasions when, with someone embedded with the Northern Alliance, the Northern Alliance leaders could say: Do you see over there on that ridge that little hump? That is a bunker that contains many, many Taliban.

They get the coordinates, call it in, the bomb would be released. It would go to the target and take it out, and then the Northern Alliance soldiers would finish off those who made it through the bombing.

Some in this administration think that means they are war criminals; whereas the fact is they fought the Taliban in their own country the way they have always fought and the way the Taliban fights, and they defeated them.

Then we did an unfortunate thing. We helped them with a constitution that centralized the government. In a very regional federalist area, tribal area, we should have helped them have a more federalist country where the states, the regions, have the power.

But apparently, our leaders at that time thought it would be easier to deal with one centralized government than potentially many hardheaded leaders of small countries or small states.

But we should have let them have their small states and their tribal areas because as some of the northern leaders very intelligently had pointed out: if you would help us get an amendment to the constitution that you helped push on us, that allowed us to elect our own governors, our mayors, pick our own police chiefs, then we could control Afghanistan better and then the Taliban, when you leave, can't just knock off our President and take over the whole country. Then it would be harder for them to take over the whole country, they might get one region, and then the rest of the regions could rise up and take them out of that one. We can defeat them, but not with the structure that you gave us.

There was no reason for us to lose the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of American military members under the command of Commander Barack Obama, but he had said it was the important war. The war was won by early 2002, and then we became occupiers. That was unnecessary.

Let them run their own country. They defeated the Taliban with less than 500 Americans, and now, we have lost a number of times that original number that went in and were embedded.

That has helped create an image of the United States around the world, as this administration has continued to allow the slaughter of American soldiers in Afghanistan, for what point, we don't know. At the same time, we were allowing our soldiers to be handcuffed with rules of engagement that restricted them or threatened them with court-martial if they were to defend themselves and it turned out somebody got hurt who is not a soldier.

So the world saw the United States beg the Taliban to sit down and negotiate with us. This administration was sending out word: look, you don't even have to agree to anything. If you will just agree to sit down with us, heck, we will buy you a luxurious office complex in Qatar. We may even release some of your murdering thugs that we have confined. Heck, we will release some of them anyway, just to show our good faith. Heck, we will do whatever, if you will just sit down and talk with us.

There is no radical Islamist in the world that respects that kind of talk from an American leader, from any leader. Oh, please, we beg you, please sit down and talk with us. They don't respect that. That projects weakness to them.

There is one thing they respect, and that is power, when used appropriately. They may hate it, they may despise the way it is used, but they respect power when it is used effectively. This administration has not done that at all.

Go back to Iraq. The Bush administration basically had set up a status of forces agreement by the end of 2008. Most of the terms were agreed to. The Bush administration, many of us believe, could have gone ahead and finished, had that signed before President Obama took office.

But as I understand it, it was considered a generous outreach by George W. Bush and his administration to the incoming President. Why? Because not only is he not stupid and he is not crazy and he is witty, but he is a gracious man.

That is why he had Ted Kennedy to the White House so many times, even though Kennedy would go out and bash him almost every time he had been over. He is a gracious man, and he thought it would be a gracious act, from what I understand, to allow the Obama administration to get the credit from finalizing the status of forces agreement with Iraq.

But then the brazen attitude by the new administration not only didn't sign the status of forces agreement that the Bush administration had teed up, they didn't get any status of forces agreement.

Mitt Romney was not very eloquent in the way he pointed it out, not very effective in the way he pointed it out, but he did bring it up in one of the debates—he couldn't even get a status of forces agreement done with Iraq.

It is something that this administration should have been embarrassed about. After all, we had done for Iraq under this President, this administration, we just crept out of Iraq with nothing even in the way of a thank you agreement, a thank you note—in fact, rather left hard feelings when we left.

After we left them the ability to elect their own leaders, their own government, this administration bungled the status of forces agreement to the point there was none. We lost further respect there. We have lost respect around Afghanistan.

When talking with General Dostum and some of the Northern Alliance leaders, they talked about how the United States had lost respect around radical Islam. These are moderate Muslim friends of mine—and, yeah, they do fight ruthlessly, but that is their area—they talked about how the United States had lost respect among radical Islamists among the world.

□ 1945

They see us as a toothless tiger, a paper tiger, someone to be laughed at, not to be concerned about or respected and certainly not feared.

I have met with Baloch people from Pakistan, who are constantly terrorized by the Pakistani Army and by

other military—brutalized, terrorized, kept in fear for their lives so many times. They happen to be in the area where Pakistan's best minerals are located. You would think that the Pakistani leaders would treat them better since they have such a big area of the country and they comprise such a big component of the country that has some of the most valuable land because of the minerals in the whole area. It is the same in Iran. There are Baloch people who are indigenous to south and southeast Iran, and they are mistreated terribly by the Iranians.

But a thought came to mind. In having met with Baloch people previously, in knowing the geography of the area and in having heard American commanders and Northern Alliance individuals as well, all have indicated most of the supplying of the Taliban in Afghanistan is coming through the Baloch area of Pakistan—not because of the Baloch. They don't want the Taliban helped. They certainly don't appreciate radical Islam.

So I asked our Northern Alliance leader friends—former allies before this administration—what if we started suggesting, because of the mistreatment of the Baloch in Pakistan, that it is time to give the Baloch their own independent country?

Let them be independent—to have their own area to which they are indigenous—because, if we did that, the Baloch in charge of southern Pakistan would, indeed, stop any supplying to the Taliban coming from Pakistan or anyone else who went through the Baloch area through which so much of the supplying of the Taliban has been going. Who would benefit? The world would benefit. Our American soldiers would have benefited. We could have done that years ago.

Instead, the last time I looked, there were about twice as many people—American military individuals—who had died in Afghanistan compared to the number who died when Bush went to war in Afghanistan. So, under Bush, he was about 7 years in Afghanistan compared to the years of President Obama's. President Obama has had fewer years, yet more Americans have been killed.

Why?

Because, under this Commander in Chief, the rules of engagement have handicapped our own military. Many of them have been killed by the very people they were supposed to train and because there was just simply not enough respect for the United States under this administration—because we saw what this administration would do. If radical Islamists reared up and killed Americans, we saw what this administration did. They apologized that Korans were burned.

Now, how does apologizing to radical Islamists for burning Korans that their own people had desecrated and passed messages through—prisoners who had been provided these free Korans had sent messages, had used them, and so they had to be destroyed. When they were found burning, the radical Islamists used the occasion to kill innocent Americans, and this administration apologized to the country responsible for the killings.

In civilized countries like the United States has been—and still is in most places—the law has been and continues to be, unless they are under shari'a law, that provoking words are never a defense to a physical assault or a murder. No matter what anyone says to you, does to you—no matter what it is, no matter how vile—it does not justify a physical response no matter what is said. Under shari'a, it is different, but our Constitution is supposed to be the law of the land in this country, not shari'a law.

Our fellow Texan, Mohamed Elibiary, is a man who was given FBI's high civilian award, a man who is described by the Muslim periodical in Egypt as being one of the six top Muslim Brotherhood leaders in this administration, a man who spoke as a featured speaker at the huge tribute to the Ayatollah Khomeini, Man of Vision, a man who is given a secret security clearance without proper vetting, without proper investigation by Janet Napolitano, as the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Even after he was found and known to have downloaded inappropriate material and tried to shop them, Homeland Security said: Oh, well. We never found any evidence that he tried to shop the documents from the classified sources he downloaded. They didn't even bother to talk to the reporter who stated in print that he talked to a well-known national publication to which Mr. Elibiary had shopped the documents. They didn't investigate that. Janet Napolitano lied about that. It was not properly investigated or they would have checked to try to find out with whom he was supposed to have shopped these documents. They didn't even check.

But he sure has kept his secret security clearance. He is still proud of that FBI award. He still has a foundation called the Freedom and Justice Foundation, which is just like the Muslim Brotherhood, which is the same name as the Muslim Brotherhood political party. Yet this administration continues to count on him as one of their top advisers.

That is why Muslim leaders around the world, especially in the Middle East, have told some of us—and I talked to some other Congressmen who had been on a trip recently to the Middle East, and they encountered the same thing—why are you guys helping radical Islam now instead of helping us fight it? We are wondering which one of your allies you are going to throw away next.

It is not hard to understand why world leaders who have been our allies would wonder such a thing when you see it with our best ally in the Middle East—the one that respects the rights of women, that doesn't kill homosexual, gay, individuals in their country, the one that allows Muslims to vote, to work and to provide them protection—the one country that allows all of those things. That is our ally Israel. Yet we have the Secretary of State out there, previously some months back, talking about: Gee, it may look like they want a new intifada—another murdering spree—accusing Israel of wanting more murdering when they have done everything they can to try to protect themselves.

Nobody in the media—not in this country—talks about the rockets that have never stopped flying into Israel from radical Islamist-controlled areas. Instead, you have liberals in this country—friends of this administration—who are out there, saying: Do you know what? We need to cut off anything we do with Israel. That kind of talk is supported by our own Secretary of State when he says: Gee, they are risking being guilty of apartheid. He tried to walk it back, but he has illustrated so much anti-Semitism that it is time for him to go. It is time for this administration to take a stand even though our mainstream media here in America doesn't like to hold him accountable.

Heaven help those at one of the mainstream media sources if they want to get to the truth of something like Benghazi. Their jobs are going to be gone. First, they are going to be told to back off, and then they are probably going to lose their jobs. We can't expose the truth about the present administration because, if they were interested in exposing the truth, then it would be after the highest ranking Attorney General in this country said to me: You don't want to go there, buddy. I said: Are you talking about contempt? and he made it clear that he was.

In fact, I want to look at exactly what the highest ranking Attorney General said to me in our hearing on April 8, 2014:

You don't want to go there, buddy. You should not—

Then I said: Are you talking about contempt?

You should not assume that this is not a big deal to me. I think it was inappropriate—he is talking about Congress holding him in contempt because he refused and continues to refuse to provide documents that he has, that he should have produced and that he continues to refuse to produce.

He said: I think it was unjust, but never think that it was not a big deal to me. Don't ever think that.

That is our highest ranking law enforcement officer in the country who was talking like that. So it was interesting.

This is what he said on February 13 of 2013. Amazing. ABC News will call my office and say: What is your basis for that? Will they ever call the Attorney General and say: How do you reconcile what you said under penalty of perjury before Congress to what you told us in our interview? Oh, gosh. No. ABC News could never do that because they might hurt the guy who is in the White House, who they helped put there.

So, in the interview with ABC News in February of 2013—it is not hard to find. If I can find it, surely ABC News or somebody should have been able to. He said to GOHMERT to never think it wasn't a big deal to him. Obviously, he is saying now it was a big deal.

This is what he said back over a year before:

> But I have to tell you that, for me to really be affected by what happened—he is talking about contempt of Congress—I'd have to have respect for the people who voted in that way, and I didn't, so it didn't have that huge an impact on me.

That was Attorney General Eric Holder to ABC News in February 2013.

Now, I had in the back of my mind that it had not been a big deal to him. Why didn't ABC News remember this?

□ 2000

Nobody at ABC News, even the one who interviewed him would have remembered: oh, you know, he told GOHMERT, don't you ever think it wasn't a big deal? Nobody remembered this from a year before at ABC News.

Now, I wouldn't use this line, but what my old practice court professor in law school used to say—Matt Dawson, a tremendously effective trial lawyer—but he used to have a line, if you were caught saying two different things, like our Attorney General has been—two different things about the same topic, Matt Dawson used to say: Well, were you lying then, or are you lying now?

Like I say, I am not saying that. I am just reflecting back on what Matt Dawson would say if confronted with those two different quotes.

What I, as a Member of Congress say, is this is really outrageous. It is time to have people in this administration that the world will respect, that the country will respect, that will be fair and evenhanded, will not come into Congress and mislead Congress, will not hold up, stonewall, prevent the American people from knowing the facts about how innocent people came to be killed with guns that this Justice Department forced to be sold to people who should never have been allowed to have them.

They are entitled and we are entitled, as a Nation, to have a Secretary of State that is respected and does not say outrageous things and accuse allies of outrageous offenses when those allegations are so far from true.

Yes, I know Secretary Kerry says he wishes he hadn't chosen the word ''apartheid.'' How about intifada, about accusing fellow Vietnam veterans of acting like Genghis Kahn? I always thought it was Genghis Kahn until I heard young Mr. Kerry talking about Genghis Kahn.

It is time for us to regain some respect in the world, and it is time for us to stop radical Islam before there is another holocaust.

I read a fantastic book written by Joel Rosenberg that came out this spring, ''The Auschwitz Escape.'' I didn't even know anyone had escaped from Auschwitz. It is a novel.

When you read about the novel, you get interested and find out there were people that escaped from Auschwitz because they wanted to get the news out to the world about what was happening, that this wasn't just a prison work camp, that they were rounding up Jews by the hundreds of thousands and bringing them in and, at Auschwitz, putting them in showers and, instead of water coming out, poisonous gas did; and then their bodies were taken right across and burned in a giant crematorium. The people that were there always saw the smoke, always smelled the vile smell of Jews' bodies burning.

Then you find out that, once people escaped, they got information out, it still took far too long for America or the Allies to do anything to stop it. We could have bombed the railroads that were taking Jews into these prison camps, like Auschwitz, where they were being killed in masses.

Even after people escaped and got word out, we didn't, the Allies didn't, and the railroads continued running, and the cattle cars cramped with Jews being taken. Initially, they were taken to the prison camps, and a decision was made, as they walked up to an individual, you go here, which means you are going to work until you can't work, and then we will gas you, and then burn you; or you are not worth keeping, so you are going to go get killed immediately.

In the end, the attempted genocide killed 6 million or so Jews. Because they were war criminals? No. Because they had committed a crime of any kind? No. Because they were Jews; that is a crime against humanity.

The leaders of Iran have said they want to destroy the Great Satan, which is the United States, and they want to wipe the Little Satan, Israel, off the map. They want the Jewish vermin, as they sometimes call them, eradicated.

There is some like the J Street Group, say: no, no, no, we can work with these people. And I have to point out to any Jew who wants to work with Iran and the current leadership of Iran, these people can't be trusted.

When the history was written, it turned out there were some Jews that helped the Nazis by pointing out where other Jews lived, where they could be arrested, or where they were being hidden. There is a special place for them in eternity.

People need to understand, the modern-day gas chambers are being constructed. They are too near completion in Iran. Right now, they are called nuclear weapons.

For a number of years now, we have been hearing projections: Iran is this close to having nukes, this close to having nukes. Joel Rosenberg raised a good point in one of his prior novels. He does great research.

In that novel, he had Iran constructing multiple—they waited until they had enough fissile material so they could construct several nuclear weapons, and I am sure that is their thought.

Just as with the 9/11 hijackers, yeah, they were crazy, but they weren't stupid. They were very methodical as they plotted to kill what they hoped would be tens of thousands of Americans, innocent people.

With glee, they thought about all the horror. With glee, some of those that helped plan, but were not actually part of the 19, that were joyful as they saw Americans deciding between being burned to death in the World Trade Centers or jumping a 1,000 feet to their death, and they rejoiced.

These same people in Iran who were so thrilled to see Americans burning, being crushed in the World Trade Centers as they fell or even jumping to their deaths before they fell, they were so ecstatic about that, and these people are working on nuclear weapons. They cannot be trusted.

Mr. Speaker, there is something this administration can do that will regain America's respect around the world, that should stop Vladimir Putin cold in his tracks, that will stop China from evermore aggressive overtaking and reach beyond their borders, to stop thugs around the world who seek to take over countries, something that would stop them because they would fear and respect America, would be the very thing that will protect America, will protect Israel, will protect Saudi Arabia, will protect UAE, will protect Jordan, will protect Egypt, and that is for the United States of America to have its Commander in Chief issue the order: Take out anything that Iran has that may be proliferating nuclear weapons. Take it out.

If they scramble to save something, then let's go back and hit them again and again, not the people of Iran, unless these cruel leaders have buried nuclear facilities in civilian areas. If they had done that, then it would be the Iranian leaders that would be responsible for criminally harming civilians and putting them as cowards, putting them between the criminals and judgment day. We need to do that.

Israel doesn't have our F–35s. They don't have all of our stealth yet. They

don't have the capability to carry our best bunker busters into Iran and eliminate their nuclear weapons. We do. Maybe it takes more than one sortie, one group of planes going in. Maybe it takes more than one, two, three.

We need to do it, take them out, whatever it takes, and that stops Iran in their development of the modern-day gas chambers, the modern-day holocaust that will occur in Israel and in America if we don't act.

I read about a survivor from one of the death camps when the American soldiers arrived. They were so thrilled, they went running up, and the Jewish inmate was then free, spit in his face and asked basically: Where have you been?

Six million people killed for nothing more than being of a particular race, and we could have stopped it far sooner. Who knows how many millions we could have saved if we had acted sooner?

But now, we know. We know, without a doubt, Iran wants to develop nuclear weapons, is trying to develop nuclear weapons, have said they want to wipe us out, have said they want to wipe out Israel.

It is time to take them seriously; and by doing so, you gain respect from the thug Taliban because they realize, as Qadhafi did: wow, if he will do that to Iran, he would do it to us.

And then we wouldn't even have to because they would fear us and respect us enough, respect our power—not us individually. They would respect the power, and the world could see more years of peace and could see an end in sight maybe for 100 years or so of radical Islam. Moderate Muslims could live in peace. Jews could live more in peace. Christians could live more in peace.

There are Christians being persecuted around the world, probably in greater numbers than ever before, not in percentages, but in numbers. In countries like Iraq, where we gave them their freedom, they are persecuting Christians and Jews. In Afghanistan, where we gave them their freedom, they are persecuting Christians and Jews.

They were persecuting Christians and Jews in Egypt until the people rose up and demonstrations—literally went arm in arm, a beautiful, incredible scene for world peace, as Muslims, Jews, Christians, secularists took to the streets to rebel and demand the ouster of a radical Islamist who was seizing power, and had they waited another year, they probably would not have been able to do it.

□ 2015

For those who believe in the power of prayer, we need to continue to pray for Israel and we need to continue to pray for Egypt and the Egyptian leaders.

I applaud the Obama administration. I was thrilled and am so pleased that this administration has announced they are going to go ahead and furnish Apache helicopters to the new government in Egypt.

It is going to be tough for the Egyptians. They have got a tough economy. They have too many on welfare. They have got a lot of adjustments to make. But they want freedom. The masses of Egypt want freedom. They don't want radical Islam. They don't want radical Islam like that which rebelled and killed Qadhafi and took over Tunisia. They don't want that.

We need to encourage them. We need to help them. We need to help them eliminate all the weaponization that Morsi encouraged and allowed, it turns out, in the Sinai, as Egypt stands up against radical Islam.

So I really want to thank the Obama administration for following through in supplying the Apache helicopters that were supposed to be supplied.

As General el-Sisi, who has stepped down as general of the military, and who will likely be elected President, said previously, Do you not understand we use the Apaches to keep the Suez Canal open? We are using the Apaches to clear out the radical Islamists in the Sinai. Why wouldn't you want to help us do that? Why would you rather help radical Islam?

I know that in this body a majority would stand with our President and we would be proud of him if he would protect us and protect Israel, stop the nuclear proliferation in its tracks, not by promising to release murderers, not by talking Israel into releasing more murderers, and not giving Iran billions and billions of more money and not eliminating any more of the sanctions against Iran, but just take out the nuclear capability that has developed so far. Because otherwise, if we let them get nukes, they will be glad to supply them to terrorists.

You don't have to have intercontinental ballistic missiles to get a nuke to America. You can put them on a boat and float them right up the Potomac, the Hudson, right up to Chicago, up to Houston, New Orleans, and take out 70 percent of our refining capacity.

So they could put a nuclear weapon on even a sorry Scud missile that is so inexact and launch it from a boat or a barge into the interior airspace. It doesn't need to hit the ground, but there is a huge range that even a Scud missile could make, and explode a nuclear weapon, creating an electromagnetic pulse, or EMP, that would fry most of the computer chips in the country, shut down most of our electrical capacity, shut down grocery stores, shut down stores relying on computers, shut down cars that have reliance on computer chips.

They could do all that with one nuke and a lousy missile that is not very exact. They could do that.

It is time we acted before they destroy America as we have known it, as it has come to be the greatest country in the history of the world. It has more individual freedom, but we see that waning. It has the greatest economy in history, but we have seen that wane.

Now we are told in a very short time China will be the biggest economy, unless something happens. How about if the United States stops the modern-day gas chambers from being completed, stops the radical Islamist enemies of America, Israel, and of moderate Muslims?

How about if we do moderate Islam a favor and take out the radicals for them as well?

Let's get peace on track. And you don't do it with a Secretary of State that condemns our closest allies and accuses our allies of being criminals. You don't do it by releasing murderous thugs of countries that hate us and are planning to kill us at some point whenever they get the capability. You do it by self-preservation.

In Texas, we are pretty proud of our self-defense laws. When somebody has told you they are going to kill you, and they are close to having the ability to do that, it is self-defense to stop them.

It is time.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of the recent tornadoes in Arkansas.

Mr. HARPER (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of him assisting with the emergency response to the tornadoes in Mississippi.

Mr. NUNNELEE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of recent tornadoes in Mississippi.

Mr. RICHMOND (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and May 1 on account of attending to family matters.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 994. An act to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 1, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5484. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pine Shoot Beetle; Addition of Quarantined Areas and Regulated Articles [Docket No.: APHIS-2010-0031] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5485. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Asian Longhorned Beetle; Quarantined Areas in Ohio [Docket No.: APHIS-2013-0004] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5486. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Issued Under the Export Apple Act; Exempting Bulk Shipments to Canada From Minimum Requirements and Inspection [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0022; FV14-33-1 IR] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5487. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Baltimore County, MD, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8327] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5488. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Certain Consumer Products [Docket No.: EERE-2013-BT-NOA-0047] (RIN: 1904-AD08) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5489. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Annual Update of Filing Fees [Docket No.: RM14-6-000] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5490. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting a notice of a proposed lease with the Government of Sweden (Transmittal No. 06-14) pursuant to Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5491. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-07, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5492. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting a notice of a proposed lease with the Government of Sweden (Transmittal No.07-14) pursuant to Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5493. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting consistent with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, and Executive Order 13346 of July 8, 2004, certification for calendar year 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5494. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a certification of export to China; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5495. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's annual report for Fiscal Year 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5496. A letter from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting the Office's annual report for Fiscal Year 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5497. A letter from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report on Strategy and Schedule for Security Clearance Reciprocity; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5498. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Special Rule for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2012-0071: 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AY21) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5499. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Endangered Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Mazama Pocket Gophers [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2013-0021] (RIN: 1018-AZ37) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5500. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Status for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2012-0071; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AY21) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5501. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Jaguar [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2012-0042;4500030114] (RIN: 1018-AX13) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5502. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program 2014 Report to Congress, pursuant to Public Law 109-469; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5503. A letter from the Vice President, Government Relations, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting the Statistical Summary for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4521. A bill to modify exemptions for small creditors and mortgage loan servicers, to require a study of appropriate capital requirements for mortgage servicing assets for nonsystemic banking institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 4522. A bill to establish the Green Bank to assist in the financing of qualified clean energy projects and qualified energy efficiency projects; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 4523. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 with respect to the identification of high priority corridors on the National Highway System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 4524. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to require that covered persons develop and implement emergency contingency plans; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CHU, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 4525. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to restrict the use of exotic and non-domesticated animals in traveling circuses and exhibitions; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 4526. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish and carry out a comprehensive program to improve education and training for energy-related jobs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MICHAUD (for himself and Ms. PINGREE of Maine):

H.R. 4527. A bill to remove a use restriction on land formerly a part of Acadia National Park that was transferred to the town of Tremont, Maine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 4528. A bill to require a report and briefing to Congress explaining the procurement and inspection process for armored vehicles to transport civilian employees of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 4529. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require personal disclosure statements in all third-party communications advocating the election or defeat of a candidate, to require the disclosure of identifying information within paid communications made through the Internet, to apply disclosure requirements to prerecorded telephone calls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. HUELSKAMP):

H.R. 4530. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards of up to $5,000,000 for information regarding the attacks on the United States diplomatic mission at Benghazi, Libya, that began on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. GERLACH, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. RENACCI):

H.R. 4531. A bill to prohibit the provision of performance awards to employees of the Internal Revenue Service who owe back taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 4532. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to specify when bank holding companies may be subject to certain enhanced supervision; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COOPER (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 4533. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to provide for the Inspector General of the National Security Agency to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 4534. A bill to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCALLISTER:

H.R. 4535. A bill to provide for the conveyance of National Forest System land in the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 4536. A bill to improve energy savings by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4537. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received for personal injuries or sickness resulting from service as a qualified public safety employee; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 4538. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish a United States Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H. Res. 560. A resolution promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2014, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States, such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. JENKINS, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 561. A resolution marking the 60th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision Brown v. Board of Education; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4521.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

Additionally, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal or amend any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 4522.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

''This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.''

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 4523.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, Clause 3

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 4524.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 4525.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 4526.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Sec. 8 of the United States Constitution—The ability of the U.S. Congress to regulate Interstate Commerce.

The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provides for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;. . . To regulate commerece with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;. . .

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 4527.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 4528.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, and 16), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 4529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The General Welfare Clause, Art. 1, Sec. 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 4530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section IX, Clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States, which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.'' In addition, the Necessary and Proper Clause, Article I, Section XIII, Clause 18 which states ''The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers...'' Lastly, Article I, Section VIII, Clause 1 states ''The Congress shall have power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4531.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which states ''The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 4532.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. COOPER:

H.R. 4533.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which states that the Congress shall have the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, which states that the President shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law: but the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 4534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 3.

By Mr. MCALLISTER:

H.R. 4535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I section 8

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 4536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 14

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article XVI of the Constitution—Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes. . .

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 4538.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 32: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 75: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 270: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 318: Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 594: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 647: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 755: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 855: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 942: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 963: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1020: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1072: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1141: Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H.R. 1179: Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 1180: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1212: Mr. BARTON and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 1226: Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 1250: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 1318: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1441: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1449: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BYRNE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. JENKINS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 1507: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 1554: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1726: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 1738: Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1764: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 1801: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1828: Ms. SCHWARTZ and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1837: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 1893: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2084: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. VELA.

H.R. 2123: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 2139: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 2144: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2302: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 2548: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 2553: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 2638: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DESANTIS, and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 2662: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2896: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 2932: Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2992: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 2994: Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 2996: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 3335: Mr. GARDNER.

H.R. 3344: Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 3377: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 3424: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 3456: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 3461: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 3482: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 3510: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 3530: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. JOLLY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. COBLE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. DESANTIS, and Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 3538: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3610: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. DELANEY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 3689: Mr. GARDNER.

H.R. 3707: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. CHU, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 3708: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 3717: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 3747: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 3836: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 3929: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 3930: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. YOHO, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 3970: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 4031: Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 4056: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 4060: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 4128: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 4148: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 4156: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 4157: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 4159: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 4178: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 4188: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 4190: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 4219: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 4225: Ms. ESTY, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. MOORE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. MENG, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 4228: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 4249: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4250: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 4291: Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 4305: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 4317: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 4318: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 4325: Mr. HONDA and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 4349: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 4351: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 4370: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 4373: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 4399: Mr. TAKANO and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 4407: Mr. LATTA and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 4411: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. FOXX, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. COBLE, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. LATTA, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 4440: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. JONES, and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 4446: Mr. KLINE and Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 4485: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 4489: Mr. LONG, Ms. JENKINS, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 4490: Mr. STOCKMAN and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 4494: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 4511: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.J. Res. 34: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.J. Res. 41: Mr. CASSIDY.

H. Con. Res. 95: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. PETERSON.

H. Res. 190: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 284: Mr. DENT.

H. Res. 422: Mr. TIERNEY.

H. Res. 489: Mr. RIBBLE.

H. Res. 508: Mr. SALMON.

H. Res. 525: Ms. TITUS.

H. Res. 552: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H. Res. 556: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H. Res. 559: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3344: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4486

OFFERED BY: MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 6: Page 3, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $9,800,000)''.

Page 11, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $9,800,000)''.

H.R. 4486

OFFERED BY: MR. TERRY

AMENDMENT NO. 7: Page 54, after line 12, insert the following:

SEC. 224. None of the funds made available in this Act for ''Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Administration'' for administrative expenses of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs meets with the Nebraska delegation to discuss alternative options for the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital planned for construction in Omaha, Nebraska.

H.R. 4486

OFFERED BY: MR. ROSS

AMENDMENT NO. 8: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Defense to close a commissary store.

H.R. 4486

AMENDMENT NO. 9: OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds $3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thursday, May 1, 2014 as the National Day of Reason.

The National Day of Reason celebrates the application of reason and the positive impact it has had on humanity. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm the Constitutional separation of religion and government.

Each day, scientists and engineers in my Silicon Valley district are developing innovative new technologies through the use of the scientific method and the application of reason. Such advances throughout history have offered hope for human survival on Earth, improved the conditions within which we live, and cultivated intelligent, moral and ethical behaviors and interactions among people.

Our Founding Fathers based the Constitution of the United States upon philosophical principles that have their origins in the historical Age of Reason. On the National Day of Reason, we remember and celebrate this history, including the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of religion and freedom from the imposition of religion by the state. Our nation's founders knew that the best way to protect religious freedom was to keep the government separate from religion.

The National Day of Reason is also a time to continue the effort our Founding Fathers began to form a more perfect union, something I work toward each day as a Member of Congress. Every year on this day, events such as food drives and blood drives are held in which Americans help their fellow citizens and our nation as a whole. These community service events are just some of the many ways Americans will be working to help those in need on the Day of Reason and throughout the year.

I encourage all citizens, residents and visitors to join in observing this day and focusing upon the employment of reason, critical thought, the scientific method, and free inquiry to the resolution of human problems and for the welfare of human kind.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL ANIMAL ADVOCACY DAY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of National Animal Advocacy Day. National Animal Advocacy Day encourages citizens to speak up to help secure meaningful protections for animals at the federal, state, and local levels.

On this National Animal Advocacy Day, I want to speak up for the humane treatment of our nation's horses. I ask the House of Representatives to pass H.R. 1094, the Safeguard American Food Exports Act, or SAFE Act. This bipartisan legislation, which I introduced with my colleague from Illinois, Rep. JAN SCHAKOWSKY, bans horse slaughter for human consumption and the export of horses for the same. Until a ban is in place, every horse is just one bad sale away from being sent to slaughter. I've seen this happen in my own district, and it must be stopped.

Horses are not bred for human consumption. Unlike dogs or cats, horses are routinely treated with drugs that can be toxic to humans. Horses are often transported without food, water, or rest in dangerously overcrowded trailers to endure an inhumane slaughter process.

Passage of the SAFE Act will not only protect our nation's horses. It will also protect consumers from exposure to the toxic chemicals found in horsemeat. Horses have a special place in our nation's history. Surveys show that 80 percent of American voters oppose the slaughter of horses for human consumption. It's a bill whose time has come. The SAFE Act will help to ensure that our horses get the protection they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, on National Animal Advocacy Day I applaud 170 of my colleagues in the House who are cosponsors of the SAFE Act, and encourage the rest of my colleagues to support it as well.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF OLIVIA BAIR ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Olivia Bair of Findlay, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Olivia's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2018. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Olivia brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2018. While attending Findlay High School in Findlay, Ohio, Olivia served as secretary for both the Red Cross Youth Council and Findlay's chapter of the National Honor Society.

Throughout high school, Olivia was a member of her school's soccer and golf teams. Olivia also participated in the Latin Club as well as played club soccer. In addition, Olivia volunteered her time to her community at City Mission of Findlay. I am confident that Olivia will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Olivia Bair on the offer of her appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Olivia will excel during her career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the Nation.

HONORING THE 129TH RESCUE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON VICE SQUADRON COMMANDER ROGER DALE HIGBY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor 129th Rescue Wing Support Squadron Vice Squadron Commander Roger Dale Higby, who is retiring after 52 years in law enforcement.

Mr. Higby moved to California at the age of five. He attended Los Gatos High School and graduated with an Associate of Arts Degree in Law Enforcement from West Valley College. Roger continued his education at San Jose State University where he acquired a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice.

Roger began his lengthy law enforcement career in 1961 as a campus police officer at San Jose City College. From 1963 to 1966, Roger served in the United States Army attaining the rank of Sergeant in the Military Police and as a traffic investigator. Afterwards, Mr. Higby served as a weapons specialist in the California Air National Guard. In 1966, he joined the Campbell Police Department and quickly moved up the ranks.

The County of Stanislaus was lucky to acquire him in 1976, when Roger became the Chief of Police of Riverbank. At that time, the department had lost its POST certification and was under the supervision of the Attorney General. In two years, Roger was able to regain that certification and get the department back on track. During this time, he also served

in the City of Waterford and taught at Ceres High School.

Mr. Higby spent 20 years with the Modesto Police Department in a variety of departments. He was a Traffic Sergeant, a member of the SWAT team, and Watch Commander. Roger had a 90 percent homicide clearance record when he was a Detective Sergeant.

Since January 2013, he has served as the Vice Squadron Commander at the 129th Rescue Wing Support Squadron at Moffett Airfield. Prior to joining the Squadron, Roger enjoyed many years at the State Guard Association of the United States as a MEMS Commandant Emeritus/MEMS International Coordinator.

Roger is married to Domenica Cindy and has a daughter, Danielle. In addition to his wife & child, his family includes his parents, Alfred & Mary Higby; siblings Richard and Joann Higby; biological parents Ruth Larsen and Ray Swift; and his biological siblings, Verna ''Sue'' Wertz, Thomas Bisbee, Dennis, Danny, Robert, and Debbie Swift. He enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, gardening, and farming almonds. Roger plans to continue consulting, training, mentoring, and writing after his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to law enforcement by Vice Squadron Commander Roger Dale Higby and hereby wish him continued success in his retirement.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the Taiwan Relations Act, signed into law 35 years ago on April 10, 1979 by President Jimmy Carter, officially recognizes the unique relationship between Taiwan and the United States.

Taiwan is one of our closest allies and best friends in the world.

The University of Tennessee started having a large number of students coming from Taiwan in the early 1960s because a man from that nation, Nelson Nee, was head of the U.T. International Students Program. Many of these students became, and many still are, leaders in the Republic of China.

I had the privilege of spending a week in Taiwan along with Congressman PETE SESSIONS and former Congressman Sonny Callahan around 10 years ago. The Taiwanese people could not have been kinder or more impressive to us than during that visit.

I am thankful for the friendship of the people from Taiwan and honored to mark the 35th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HARLEM'S OLDEST ROMEO, CLYDE E. COOK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 26, 2014, the Village of Harlem and the residents of the HDFC Houses at 206 West 121st Street came together to celebrate the life of Clyde E. Cook who passed away peacefully on April 15, 2014. It was a fitting tribute to a man who helped organize and redeveloped 206 West 121st Street Apartment Building into New York City's Housing Development Fund Corporation (HDFC) program, giving individual tenants ownership shares of their apartments, where Clyde served as president and building manager. Clyde and his beloved wife Clarissa were dear friends, allies and active members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Democratic Club, the home club of my political family.

Clyde Cook's obituary in the New York Amsterdam News reads as follows:

''Harlem's oldest Romeo'' Clyde E. Cook was a proud member of the Harlem Village, and because of his inspiration and positive outlook, he was an optimistic figure in the community. His smile and kindness moved everyone that knew him; he was a strong pillar and role model.

Cook took great pride and pleasure in helping others. He loved writing poetry and going to the movies. His 6-foot-2-inch slender frame, rich baritone voice and cool demeanor led to his being called ''Harlem's oldest Romeo.'' He was a father figure and dear friend to many. His direct involvement as a Harlem community advocate enhanced and enriched the neighborhood.

He was born in Selma, Ala., on Aug. 2, 1936, to the late Ira and Lottie Cook. Clyde was the youngest of four children. At an early age, his family relocated to Harlem and Clyde received his education in the New York City public school system, graduating from Clinton High School in the Bronx. During his adult years, Clyde fell in love and married Clarissa Harrison and resided in Harlem until she preceded him in death in 2006.

Clyde joined the auxiliary police during the nineteen seventies and graduated with honors. He held many managerial positions during his professional career starting at Harlem Hospital, the City Municipal Building at 1 Centre Street, the Board of Elections and ending as president and building manager of his HDFC building, located at 206 West 121st Street, around the corner from Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard and a short distance from the Mecca of Harlem's African Square on 125th Street that he loved so dearly. Clyde performed outstanding and exemplary service, helping others attain affordable housing.

Clyde Cook's leadership abilities led him to become an active community advocate. He joined the 28th Precinct Auxiliary Police in an effort to bring crime down and clean up the neighborhood during Harlem's darkest drug infested days. Being such a lover of community, Clyde became the president of the Golden Awards Committee, where under his leadership he honored many of Harlem's elite professionals for exceptional and devoted acts of service within the community. Our beloved Clyde passed away quietly with dignity and grace after a brief on April 15.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my esteem colleagues to join me in honoring Harlem's oldest Romeo and community advocate, Mr. Clyde E. Cook.

HONORING 11 RESIDENTS OF BROWARD COUNTY SELECTED FOR THE BROWARD SENIOR HALL OF FAME

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 11 outstanding seniors from my district that have been selected to be part of the Broward Senior Hall of Fame. Through the generous donation of their time and resources, these exemplary seniors have displayed a level of commitment to public service that can be admired by all.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County offers this annual distinction to seniors who have dedicated themselves to improving their community in South Florida. From ordinary citizens and businesspeople to public servants and advocates, they have gone above and beyond to serve both the elderly and those in need. The amount of time, money, and effort these individuals have expended for the betterment of their community is truly admirable and exhibits a level of passion worthy of recognition.

Congratulations to Margaret ''Marnie'' Allen, William Edelstein, Rose Manni, Rita Martin, Carmen Morales, Anthony C. Musto, Soutien Peng, Jackie Rosen, Joseph ''Joe'' Schwartz, Lucy Stevens, and Ilene Weisberg on their election to the 2014 Senior Hall of Fame. I hope that by honoring them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that they can continue to inspire South Floridians to live by their example.

42ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, DC (GLAA)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 43rd anniversary of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC (GLAA). GLAA is a valued organization that has become a local leader in the struggle for equal rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

Since its formation in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and tireless advocate for full and equal rights for the residents of the District of Columbia, and has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen enforcement of the landmark D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977. One of GLAA's most significant achievements, on which it worked with coalition partners,

D.C. elected officials, and District residents, was the enactment of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Rights Equality Amendment, which permits same-sex couples to marry in the District.

In addition to its leadership on LGBT rights in the District, GLAA has always provided leadership on a wide range of civil rights issues, such as family rights, police accountability, and access to condoms in prisons and D.C. public schools. GLAA also emphasizes effective public health strategies and accountability in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the District.

At GLAA's 34rd anniversary reception on April 30, 2014, the recipients of its 2014 Distinguished Service Awards will be recognized, including:

Jerry Clark, Chair of the D.C. Statehood Coalition, political director of D.C. for Democracy, and a board member of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. He has served as a trustee for the Law and Society Association, a co-chair of the Whitman-Walker spring gala, and as a member of the Democratic National Committee's Gay and Lesbian Leadership Council. He has served on the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, including as co-chair. He was appointed to the Mayor's Committee on the 15th Anniversary of the March on Washington. He earned his J.D. from the University of Chicago and his undergraduate degree from Princeton. He is a health benefits consultant.

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr., President and CEO of the Center for Black Equity, Inc. (originally known as the International Federation of Black Prides), the only Black LGBT international organization in the world. He founded IFBP in 1999 as a coalition of Black Pride organizers in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and South Africa to promote a multinational network of LGBT Pride and community-based organizations. There are over 30 Black Pride events with over 450,000 attendees each year. IFBP became the Center for Black Equity in 2012 with an expanded mission ''to promote a multinational LGBT network dedicated to improving health and wellness opportunities, economic empowerment, and equal rights while promoting individual and collective work, responsibility, and self-determination.'' He previously served as executive director of the DC Comprehensive AIDS Resources and Education Consortium (formerly known as the DC CARE Consortium) and Damien Ministries. He was licensed as a Social Worker in New Jersey, and has worked on HIV/AIDS and LGBT issues for 25 years. He serves on seven nonprofit boards, and is chair of Mayor Vincent Gray's LGBT Advisory Committee. He attended Rutgers University with degrees in history and business.

Alison Gill, Government Affairs Director at The Trevor Project, the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender queer (LGBTQ) youth, where she coordinates advocacy for LGBTQ youth mental health and well-being through policy initiatives at the federal, state, and local level. Prior to joining The Trevor Project, Alison was Public Policy Manager at the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, where she focused on state and local safe schools policy issues. Alison also engages in local transgender advocacy in Washington, DC, through Trans Legal Advocates of Washington. Alison is a graduate of Rutgers University, and received her J.D. from The George Washington University Law School.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the recipients of GLAA's 2014 Distinguished Service Award and in celebrating GLAA's 43 years of contributions to the LGBT community in the District of Columbia.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOHN WENDT ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that John Wendt of Sylvania, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

John's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2018. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

John brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2018. While attending Sylvania Northview High School in Sylvania, Ohio, John served on the Principle Advisory Committee, as a member of Sylvania's chapter of the National Honor Society and served as an office aid.

Throughout high school, John was a member of his school's soccer and basketball teams and earned varsity letters in both sports. John also participated with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes organization and the Big Serve Mission Trip his freshman year of high school, Latin Club as well as played club soccer. I am confident that John will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John Wendt on the offer of his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that John will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

PREVENT ALL SORING TACTICS (PAST) ACT

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, this Wednesday is National Animal Advocacy Day. On this day, citizens are invited to help enact meaningful protections for animals at the federal, state and local level by being an effective voice for animals.

On National Animal Advocacy Day, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to renew my call for the House of Representatives to pass the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act, or PAST Act. This important measure will stop the soring of horses, an abusive practice used by horse trainers in the Tennessee Walking, Racking, and Spotted Saddle Horse industries. Congress passed the Horse Protection Act more than 40 years ago in order to protect horses from soring. Unfortunately, a failed self-policing enforcement system and inadequate penalties in the statute have allowed this cruelty to continue.

This bipartisan legislation is already cosponsored by well over half of the House and is supported by many organizations in the equine industry, veterinary medicine, and animal protection communities. I am pleased to provide a copy of the list of support for the record to the full House. I urge my colleagues to take swift action to bring this important bill to the floor. Below is a current list of supporters of the PAST Act, H.R. 1518:

ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE PREVENT ALL SORING TACTICS (PAST) ACT

HORSE ORGANIZATIONS

1. American Horse Council
2. American Quarter Horse Association
3. American Morgan Horse Association
4. American Paint Horse Association
5. American Saddlebred Horse Association
6. Appaloosa Horse Club
7. Arizona Coalition for Equines
8. Carolina Walkers, Inc. (South Carolina)
9. Delaware Equine Council
10. Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary (Arizona)
11. European Tennessee Walking Horse Association
12. Fenway Foundation for Friesian Horses
13. For The Tennessee Walking Horse
14. Friends of Sound Horses
15. Friesian Horse Association of North America
16. Gaitway Walking Horse Association (Missouri)
17. Idaho Horse Council
18. International Friesian Show Horse Association
19. International Walking Horse Association
20. Maryland Horse Council
21. Michigan Horse Council
22. Minnesota Horse Council
23. Mountain Pleasure Horse Association (Kentucky)
24. National Plantation Walking Horse Association
25. National Walking Horse Association
26. Natural Walking Horses (Europe)
27. New York State Horse Breeders Association
28. New York State Horse Council
29. New York State Plantation Walking Horse Club

30. Northern California Walking Horse Association
31. One Horse at a Time, Inc. (Kentucky)
32. Pennsylvania Equine Council
33. Pennsylvania Pleasure Walking Horse Association
34. Pinto Horse Association of America
35. Plantation Walking Horse Association of California
36. Plantation Walking Horses of Maryland
37. Professional Horsemen's Association of America
38. Pure Pleasure Gaited Horse Association (Oklahoma)
39. Rocky Mountain Horse Association (Kentucky)
40. Sound Trails and Rails Society (Georgia)
41. South Carolina Horse Council
42. South Dakota Quarter Horse Association
43. Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club (Idaho)
44. Speak Up for Horses, Inc. (Kentucky)
45. Tennessee Walking Horse Exhibitors Association of Montana
46. Tennessee Walking Horse Association of New Jersey, Inc.
47. Tennessee Walking Horse Association of Oklahoma
48. Tennessee Walking Horse Exhibitors Association of Oregon
49. Tennessee Walking Horse Heritage Society
50. Texas State Horse Council
51. United Pleasure Walking Horse Association (Missouri)
52. United Professional Horsemen's Association
53. United States Equestrian Federation
54. Walking Horse Association of Michigan
55. World Walking Horse Association
56. Yankee Walkers/Gaited Horses of New England (Maine/New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island/Connecticut, and Vermont)

VETERINARY AND ANIMAL HEALTH

1. American Veterinary Medical Association
2. American Association of Equine Practitioners
3. National Association of Federal Veterinarians
4. U.S. Animal Health Association
5. Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association
6. Veterinarians for Equine Welfare
7. Alabama Veterinary Medical Association
8. Alaska Veterinary Medical Association
9. Arizona Veterinary Medical Association
10. Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association
11. California Veterinary Medical Association
12. Colorado Veterinary Medical Association
13. Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association
14. Delaware Veterinary Medical Association
15. District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association
16. Florida Association of Equine Practitioners
17. Florida Veterinary Medical Association
18. Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
19. Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association
20. Idaho Veterinary Medical Association
21. Illinois Veterinary Medical Association
22. Indiana Veterinary Medical Association
23. Iowa Veterinary Medical Association
24. Kansas Veterinary Medical Association
25. Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association
26. Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
27. Maine Veterinary Medical Association
28. Maryland Veterinary Medical Association
29. Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
30. Michigan Veterinary Medical Association
31. Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association
32. Missouri Veterinary Medical Association
33. Montana Veterinary Medical Association
34. Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association
35. Nevada Veterinary Medical Association
36. New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association
37. New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association
38. New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association
39. New York State Veterinary Medical Association
40. North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association
41. North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
42. Ohio Veterinary Medical Association
43. Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association
44. Oregon Veterinary Medical Association
45. Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association
46. Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association
47. Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association
48. South Carolina Association of Veterinarians
49. South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
50. Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association
51. Texas Veterinary Medical Association
52. Utah Veterinary Medical Association
53. Vermont Veterinary Medical Association
54. Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
55. Washington State Veterinary Medical Association
56. West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
57. Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association
58. Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association
59. Donna Preston Moore, DVM, former head of USDA's Horse Protection Program
60. Tracy A. Turner, DVM, MS
61. Michelle Abraham, Resident, New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
62. John C. Haffner, DVM, ABVP(Eq)
63. Susan Botts, DVM
64. Angela M. Dion, DVM
65. Michelle Abraham, Resident, New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
66. Hanna Galantino-Homer, VMD, PHD
67. Alicia Grossman, DVM
68. Sue Lindborg, CVT Research Specialist New Bolton Center, University of PA School Of Veterinary Medicine
69. Midge Leitch, VMD, former head of Radiology, New Bolton Center, University of PA School Of Veterinary Medicine
70. Harry Werner, VMD, past president, American Association of AAEP
71. Judith L. Ford, Veterinary Technician
72. Benson B. Martin, DVM, Associate Professor Sports Medicine, New Bolton Center, University of PA School of Veterinary Medicine
73. Nat Messer, DVM, University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine
74. Mary A. Robinson, VMD, PhD
75. Mary Lynn Stanton, DVM
76. Joy Tomlinson, DVM
77. Steve O'Grady, DVM, APF

ANIMAL PROTECTION

1. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
2. Animal Law Coalition
3. Animal Legal Defense Fund
4. Animal Protection Voters (New Mexico)
5. Animal Welfare Institute
6. Best Friends Animal Society
7. Dakin Humane Society (Massachusetts)
8. Equine Welfare Alliance
9. Homes for Horses Coalition
10. Horse Harbor Foundation (Washington State)
11. Horse Haven of Tennessee
12. Humane Society Legislative Fund
13. Michigan Horse Welfare Coalition
14. Mississippi Horses
15. Nevins Farm & Equine Center, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
16. Oregon Horse Welfare Council
17. Richmond Friends of Animals (Virginia)
18. Second Chance Ranch (Washington State)
19. Tennessee Voters for Animal Protection
20. The Humane Society of the United States
21. Virginia Alliance for Animal Shelters
22. Virginia Equine Welfare Society
23. Virginia Federation of Humane Societies
24. Virginia Beach Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

HORSE INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

1. Bill Harlin, Past President, Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association and owner of Harlinsdale Farm
2. Clay Harlin, former Senior Vice-President, Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association
3. Marty Irby, Past President, Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association
4. Chuck Cadle, Past Executive Director, Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association
5. Georgina Bloomberg, professional equestrian sponsored by Ariat International
6. Rick Wies, Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association former VP, Pleasure Horse Division
7. Susan Kayne, host of ''Unbridled'' television show
8. Pat Parelli, founder of Parelli Natural Horsemanship
9. Tom Seay, Best of America by Horseback, trail riding TV show
10. Jan Ebeling, dressage trainer, member of the 2012 Olympic dressage team for the USA and co-owner of Rafalca
11. Dr. April Austin, USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medalist
12. Monty Roberts, award-winning trainer, best-selling author of The Man Who Listens to Horses
13. Carl Bledsoe, former member of Walking Horse Trainers' Association
14. Pamela Reband, MD, Board of Directors member and former Vice President of TWHBEA
15. Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue
16. Eric Gray, walking horse farrier
17. Leslie Desmond, natural horsemanship clinician and author

18. Gael Borquin, dressage and eventing coach
19. Karl Mikolka, Former Chief Rider, Spanish Riding School, Vienna, Austria and USDF Hall of Fame
20. E. Allen Buck, Sympathetic Horsemanship
21. Steffen Peters, American Olympian and FEI rider
22. Shannon Peters, dressage instructor and FEI rider
23. Sheryl Rudolph, FITS/Fun in the Saddle, Inc.
24. Heather Barklow, Equine Connections, LLC
25. Diane Sept, Connected Riding Senior Instructor
26. Anita Adams, dressage trainer and FEI rider
27. Mary Werning, dressage trainer and FEI Rider, USDF Medalist
28. Maria Lisa Eastman, Raintree Equine Assisted Services, equine therapy program
29. Dr. Christine Teicheira, equine and human chiropractor
30. Gigi Nutter, USDF Gold Medalist, dressage trainer, owner Touch-N-Go Farm
31. Lisa Kelly Simmons, Lipizzan breeder, Past Director of the United States Lipizzan Federation
32. Jayne Fingerhut, MA, CMT, USDF Regional Champion Rider, equine business patent holder and manufacturer
33. Michelle Andrews Sabol, director of an equestrian therapy program
34. Holly Mason, Equine Biomechanics Specialist, author of It's Never Too Late
35. Terri Farley (author, the Phantom Stallion series)

NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL BOARDS

1. The Tennessean
2. Chattanooga Times Free Press

LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
2. National Sheriffs' Association
3. Sheriff Harrison Moss, Adair County, KY
4. Sheriff Stan Hudson, Caldwell County, KY
5. Sheriff Bill Marcum, Calloway County, KY
6. Sheriff Keith Cane, Daviess County, KY
7. Sheriff Rick Clemons, Grayson County, KY
8. Sheriff Bruce Hampton, Harrison County, KY
9. Sheriff Frank Latham, Hopkins County, KY
10. Sheriff Charles Lee Korzenborn, Kenton County, KY
11. Sheriff Merle Edlin, Larue County, KY
12. Sheriff Jimmy Clements, Marion County, KY
13. Sheriff Patrick Boggs, Mason County, KY
14. Sheriff William ''Butch'' Kerrick, Meade County, KY

PUBLIC OPINION IN KEY STATES WITH LARGEST TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE INDUSTRY

A poll conducted in December 2012 by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research found that 75% of Tennessee voters and 69% of Kentucky voters support federal legislation to strengthen the Horse Protection Act by ending the current, failed system of industry self-policing, banning the use of chains and stacks (devices implicated in the soring process) on horses at shows, and increasing penalties for violating the law.

LEGISLATORS

Sponsor of original Horse Protection Act of 1970: Former Senator Joseph Tydings

Current bipartisan cosponsors of the PAST Act: 51 Senators on S. 1406 / 269 Representatives on H.R. 1518 (320 total)

CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

1. Alyssa Milano, actress, Charmed, Project Runway All-Stars
2. Priscilla Presley, film and TV actress, Dallas, The Naked Gun
3. Emmylou Harris, singer-songwriter and 12-time Grammy winner
4. Kesha, platinum recording singer-songwriter
5. Viggo Mortensen, actor, The Lord of the Rings
6. Wendie Malick, actress, Hot in Cleveland
7. Loretta Swit, stage and TV actress, MASH
8. Jillian Michaels, trainer on The Biggest Loser
9. Mark Miller, musician, Sawyer Brown
10. Lynn Anderson, singer-songwriter
11. Jenna Morasca, actress, model, grand prize winner of Survivor: The Amazon
12. Alexandra Paul, actress, Baywatch
13. Dawn Olivieri, film and TV actress, True Blood
14. Joe Camp, director of Benji films, author of Soul of a Horse
15. Kelly Carlson, actress, Nip/Tuck
16. Mary Ann Kennedy, singer-songwriter
17. Lacy J. Dalton, singer-songwriter

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the second vote series on April 29, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on both H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014, and H.R. 627, the National Park Service 110th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act.

IN HONOR OF BRIG. GENERAL CECIL NEELY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor General Cecil Neely, an American hero, dedicated public servant, and a friend.

After getting his first taste of public service as President of the Madisonville High School Honor Society, Cecil first took those leadership skills to Sam Houston State University and then into the U.S. Army. Rising from Private to Brigadier General is no small feat. It takes a soldier's soldier to climb that ladder.

General Neely spent nearly three decades serving his country above and beyond the call of duty. Not only was he honored with our nation's highest peacetime award, the Distinguished Service Medal, he received the Bronze Star for valor in Vietnam, as well as the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Parachutists' Badge, and numerous other U.S. and foreign awards.

It is no wonder this former member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is also a member of the Infantry ''Hall of Fame'' at the United States Army Infantry School.

General Neely returned to Sam Houston State University to earn his Master's degree in history. And after his retirement from the military he dove into another form of public service as County Judge of Madison County. Resolving redistricting issues and cutting property taxes while improving medical services, it took Judge Neely's work to establish a District Attorney's office and a ''one-stop'' center to bring county and state services together.

General Neely prepared Madison County—and the Brazos Valley—for the 21st century. As a chairman of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments from 2001–2002, and member from 1994–2006, Cecil Neely has led by example at every step.

Of course, he couldn't have done it all without the great support system he has in his wife, Lynn and their children, Susan, Russell, and Michael.

Our communities and our entire nation have been blessed by his service. Brigadier General Cecil Neely, thank you and job well done, sir.

ST. MARY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, for more than 40 years, St. Mary Medical Center, located in my home district of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, has been serving the community and working to ensure a happier, healthier quality of life for tens of thousands of my constituents.

This week, St. Mary Medical Center was recognized for their outstanding work as they were named one of the best hospitals in the nation by Truven Health Analytics. After comparing 2,800 hospitals across the country based on 10 categories—including patient safety, patient satisfaction, and clinical standard—the group named St. Mary Medical Center one of its top healthcare providers.

Furthermore, the St. Mary's received the Everest Award—marking it as one of the most improved hospitals nationwide.

To those of us who know St. Mary Medical Center best, we are pleased—but not surprised—as St. Mary is an outstanding health care facility, employing thousands of dedicated health care professionals, on the cutting edge of all health care innovations, and a recognized leader in the region for providing the highest quality of care to their patients every day. They are a caring, faith-based medical center in the tradition of St. Francis and they are totally prepared to meet the healthcare needs of all in our community as they do so with grateful hearts, impeccable credentials, and a clear view toward their Franciscan mission and the future role of healthcare.

St. Mary's will always have a special place in my heart—it's where I met my wife and it's where my daughter and son-in-law both work today as nurse professionals, and it's where I received critical medical treatment when I needed it most.

This national recognition is well deserved and is a testament to the hard work of everyone involved at St. Mary Medical Center—

from administrators and doctors to nurses and support staff. I offer my most sincere congratulations on this well-deserved award!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF LYNN AND GLENDA MARTIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today—the 50th wedding anniversary of Lynn and Glenda Martin.

Glenda Jean Dalton was born in Gainesville, Georgia, and Horace Lynn Martin was born in Anniston, Alabama. They met at First Baptist Church of Saks over 50 years ago. They were married at First Baptist Church of Saks on May 22nd, 1954, and they are still very active members today. Lynn also serves as a deacon and as the Church Administrator.

Both Lynn and Glenda attended college at Jacksonville State University. While there, Glenda got her Master's Degree in Education, and Lynn got a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Math. Glenda taught at Wellborn High School until her retirement, and Lynn owns his own business in Anniston, Green's Art and Framing. He has also worked for several accounting firms over the years. Mr. Martin is also very involved with the Saks High School football team where he has carried the chains for the team for about 48 years. The Calhoun County School Board just voted to name the old high school gym after Mr. Martin. It is now known as the Lynn Martin gym.

Together, Lynn and Glenda have two daughters: Sheilah Brady and Dawne Vaughn. They have 7 grandchildren: Cory Wooten, Cassidy Wooten, Trey Brady, Jessica Vaughn, Aaron Vaughn, Peyton Vaughn, and Grayson Vaughn.

Please join me in congratulating this lovely couple on 50 years together. Mrs. Martin, a cancer survivor, and Mr. Martin set an example of love and service for the people of the Third District. The celebration will take place on May 10th at a reception with their friends and family members.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF EVAN ULINSKI ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Evan Ulinksi of Elmore, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Evan's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2018. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Evan brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2018. While attending Woodmore High School in Elmore, Ohio, Evan served as a member of the Key Club and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes organization.

Throughout high school, Evan was a member of his school's football, baseball and wrestling teams and earned varsity letters in all three sports. I am confident that Evan will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Evan Ulinski on the offer of his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Evan will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN JAMES EDWARD CHAFFIN III

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 12th, a Service of Death and Resurrection was held for an American hero Captain James Edward ''Ed'' Chaffin III.

Participating at the standing room only service at Mount Hebron United Methodist Church of West Columbia, South Carolina, were Iris Jo Harley as organist, with greetings from Reverend Mandy Taylor Young, remarks by Lt. Col. Phillip Jenison, and a sermon by Reverend Tim Rogers. Burial followed in the church graveyard.

The Service program contained the following tribute:

CAPTAIN JAMES EDWARD CHAFFIN, III

James Edward ''Ed'' Chaffin, III, was born on February 4, 1987, in West Columbia, South Carolina, the son of Elizabeth Rhodes Chaffin and the late James Edward Chaffin, Jr. He passed away while serving with the 82nd Airborne Division in Kandahar, Afghanistan on Tuesday, April 1, 2014.

Ed was a 2005 Honor Graduate of the Brookland-Cayce High School in Cayce, South Carolina, where he played football, was a member of the Interact Club, the National Honor Society, and the newspaper staff.

A 2009 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, he majored in Comparative Politics and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. While at West Point, he was a member of the Russian Club and participated in a club trip to the country of Azerbaijan.

Ed was an avid reader who enjoyed reading about history, especially on military subjects. He had a passion for travel and experiencing new cultures all over the world, which took him to Thailand, Vietnam, and Greece, just to name a few. He had a witty sense of humor, which was immediately evident to all who know him. Even far away, he always rooted for Gamecock football. He has a very caring spirit and a strong work ethic, making him an honored member of the armed forces protecting our freedom.

Ed's first tour of service was in 2011 for Operation Iraqi Freedom. His awards and decorations included the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the basic Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge, and the NATO Medal.

He is survived by his mother, Elizabeth ''Beth'' Chaffin of West Columbia; his sisters, Susan Chaffin Bilton and her husband, Jarod, of Mt. Pleasant, SC, and Nancy Chaffin of Charlotte, NC; and many classmates, friends, and fellow service members all over the world.

SAN ANTONIO MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the San Antonio Manufacturers Association (SAMA) is one of the oldest manufacturing associations in the country. And this year, SAMA celebrates its 100th year as the voice of the manufacturing industry in the San Antonio area.

''Made in America'' is a label we want to see on advanced technologies produced by American laboratories and factories. We must ensure that the United States provides an environment where the manufacturing industry can strive and grow.

SAMA helps with this initiative. The Association advocates for policies that will boost American manufacturing and help train the next generation of manufacturers.

The manufacturing industry stimulates the economy by providing good paying jobs and creating high-quality American products. More than 1,500 manufacturing companies operate in the San Antonio area alone, and in 2011, these companies' combined impact on the local economy reached $22.5 billion.

San Antonians greatly benefit from the manufacturing industry. Over 50,000 residents of the Alamo City work in this industry and the average wage is 11 percent higher than the average wage for all San Antonio jobs. So the manufacturing industry is good for all Americans, especially those in Central Texas.

Congratulations, San Antonio Manufacturers Association, on reaching the century mark. And thank you for all you do for San Antonio and the great State of Texas.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TRAVELING EXOTIC ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act. This legislation would restrict the use of exotic, non-domesticated animals in traveling entertainment.

Based upon publically available research, including video and photographic evidence, it is clear that traveling circuses cannot provide proper living conditions for exotic animals. This legislation is intended to target the most egregious situations involving exotic and wild animals in traveling circuses. Keeping elephants in chains, confining lions and tigers in small cages, forcing them to perform unnatural tricks for the sole purpose of human amusement is increasingly difficult to justify the more we learn about these intelligent, social creatures.

The Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act would comprehensively tackle the use of all exotic animals in circuses. The bill would end the confinement of animals for extended periods in temporary facilities, stop cruel training and control methods employed by circuses, and limit the danger these animals pose to public safety. The bill intentionally targets only the most egregious conditions these exotic animals are subjected to and would not impact zoos, aquariums, rodeos or other static facilities with captive wildlife.

While this Congress needs to take action on a variety of issues vital to our nation's well-being, I believe we should also take the opportunity to focus public attention on instances of fundamental animal mistreatment. How we choose to treat animals is a reflection of our nation's values, for better or worse. Too often, however, inhumane activities are hidden, rarely discussed, and left to continue unabated.

The Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act will ensure this significant animal protection issue, the use of exotic animals in traveling entertainment, receives proper scrutiny. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this important animal protection legislation.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTINE SULLIVAN

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christine Sullivan on her retirement and thank her for her dedicated service to the residents and small businesses in the Sixth District, and throughout Massachusetts.

For the last twelve years, Christine has served as the CEO of the Enterprise Center at Salem State University. Under Christine's leadership, the Enterprise Center has grown to provide numerous opportunities for local small businesses to improve and expand their operations. The Center offers more than 70 annual business skill workshops as well as a variety of specialized development programs including the Million Dollar Women Symposium, the 128 Venture North Breakfast series, and an extensive Mentor Program and the Growth Program.

The Enterprise Center currently works with more than 6,000 small business owners and employees in more than 142 communities throughout the state.

Before joining the Enterprise Center, Christine founded and served as CEO of Hawthorne Associates, a marketing, advertising and public relations firm serving clients in the US and internationally. Christine also served as Massachusetts Secretary of Consumer Affairs, Chief of Staff to former Congressman Michael Harrington, and Chair of the Communications Department at Endicott College.

Christine not only serves her community through her work at the Enterprise Center, she serves as a Director of Beverly Cooperative Bank, the North Shore Alliance for Economic Development, the Salem YMCA, the Salem Chamber of Commerce, the Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice, and the Creative Economy Council of Massachusetts.

I congratulate Christine on her successful career and wish her well as she begins her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Monday April 28, 2014 I was not present for 2 votes. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 178, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 179, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING MAINE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB FOR WHITE CAP MOUNTAIN PROJECT

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to be from a state that features some of the most beautiful and diverse natural landscapes in the country. From the mountains to the sea, with deep woods in between, Maine has many places that inspire a sense of wonder for the world around us.

That said, they are not always easy to reach. For that reason, I'm grateful for organizations and volunteers in our state who work so hard to protect these special places while building trails and other accommodations so the public can enjoy them.

I would like to recognize one of these groups in particular for recently restoring a key section of the Appalachian Trail, which stretches from Georgia to Maine. With partner organizations and dedicated volunteers, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club rebuilt the trail up White Cap Mountain, whose summit boasts some of the most spectacular views in the state. Support from the Federal Recreational Trails Program—an absolutely critical source of funding that has helped build thousands of miles of public trails across the country—was also critical to the project's success.

The difficulty of the rebuilding should not be understated. The trail is in a remote location on very rugged terrain. But the club's care and hard work have resulted in a path that will last for many years, accommodate more hikers, and limit environmental impacts on the mountain. Thousands of hikers have already used the newly refurbished trail.

Mr. Speaker, projects like this that benefit our community and deepen our appreciation of nature should not go unrecognized. My sincere congratulations go to the Maine Appalachian Trail Club on a job well done.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JASON HUG ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Jason Hug of Bryan, Ohio has accepted an offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Jason's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2018. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Jason brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2018. While attending Bryan High School in Bryan, Ohio, Jason was on the Honor Roll, was awarded numerous outstanding scholar athlete awards, a member of the National Honor Society, and maintained a 4.0 grade point average that placed him first in his class.

Throughout high school, Jason played football, basketball, baseball, and track and field, being voted captain of his football team his senior year. In addition, Jason was class president and volunteered at his church and other community events. I am confident that Jason will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jason Hug on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Jason will excel during

his career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY STUDENTS SELECTED AS FINALISTS IN NASA'S EXPLORATION DESIGN CHALLENGE

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the student engineers of Team Titan from the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy for being selected as national finalists in NASA's Exploration Design Challenge. Team Titan, led by Dr. Eric Hawker, is one of just five high school teams from across the country to be selected as finalists for the opportunity to contribute to the design of radiation shields for NASA's Orion spacecraft.

Over 125,000 students from 81 countries have participated in NASA's Exploration Design Challenge. This competition is designed to engage students on the topic of space exploration and challenge them to think like scientists and engineers.

The shield designed by Team Titan could protect a sensor inside the Orion spacecraft against space radiation. Team Titan's design was reviewed by Orion engineers, as well as educators from NASA and the National Institute of Aerospace, and selected as a finalist among the forty-six teams that submitted engineering notebooks with radiation shield designs.

IMSA has continuously demonstrated a dedication to offering the kind of education necessary to create future generations of scientists and engineers. Team Titan's selection as a finalist in NASA's Exploration Design Challenge provides a shining example of why IMSA is internationally recognized for its leadership in teaching science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to students in grades 10–12.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, Dr. Eric Hawker, and the students of Team Titan: Cassandra Erwin, Ryan Franks, Claire Hensley, Michael Hrcek, Alec Mangan, and Alonzo Marsh, for being selected as finalists in NASA's Exploration Design Challenge.

ARTICLE FROM TODAY'S FINANCIAL TIMES ENTITLED, ''CHINA TO OVERTAKE U.S. AS TOP ECONOMIC POWER THIS YEAR''

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following article from today's Financial Times entitled, "China to overtake U.S. as top economic power this year".

[From Financial Times, Apr. 30, 2014]

CHINA TO OVERTAKE US AS TOP ECONOMIC POWER THIS YEAR

(By Chris Giles)

The US is on the brink of losing its status as the world's largest economy and is likely to slip behind China this year, sooner than widely expected, to the world's leading statistical agencies.

The US has been the global leader since overtaking the UK in 1872. Most economists previously thought China would pull ahead in 2019.

The data, compiled by the International Comparison Programme hosted by the World Bank, and to be released today, are the most authoritative estimates of what money can buy in different countries and are used by most public and private sector organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund. This is the first time they have been updated since 2005.

After extensive research on the prices of goods and services the ICP concluded that money goes further in poorer countries than previously thought, prompting it to increase the relative size of emerging market economies.

The estimates of the real cost of living, known as purchasing power parity, or PPPs, are recognised as the best way to compare the size of economies rather than using volatile exchange rates, which rarely reflect the true cost of goods and services: on this measure the IMF put US GDP in 2012 at $16.2tn, and China's at $8.2tn.

In 2005, the ICP thought that China's economy was less than half the size of the US, accounting for only 43 per cent of America's total. Using the new methodology—and reflecting the fact that China's economy has grown much more quickly—the research placed China's GDP at 87 per cent of the US in 2011.

For 2011, the report says: ''The US remained the world's largest economy, but it was closely followed by China when measured using PPPs''.

With the IMF expecting China's economy to have grown 24 per cent between 2011 and 2014 while the US is expected to expand only 7.6 per cent, China is likely to overtake the US this year.

The figures revolutionise the picture of the world's economic landscape, boosting the importance of large middle-income countries. India becomes the third-largest economy having previously been in 10th place. The size of its economy almost doubled from 19 per cent of the US in 2005 to 37 per cent in 2011.

Russia, Brazil, Indonesia and Mexico make the top 12 in the global table. In contrast, high costs and lower growth push the UK and Japan further behind the US than in the 2005 tables while Germany improved its relative position a little and Italy remained the same.

The findings will intensify arguments about control over global international organisations such as the World Bank and IMF, which are increasingly out of line with the balance of global economic power.

When looking at the actual consumption per head, the report found the new methodology together with faster growth in poor countries have ''greatly reduced'' the gap between rich and poor, ''suggesting that the world has become more equal''.

The world's rich countries still account for 50 per cent of global GDP while containing only 17 per cent of the world's population.

Having compared the cost of living in different countries, the report also found that the four most expensive countries to live in are: Switzerland, Norway, Bermuda and Australia, with the cheapest Egypt, Pakistan, Myanmar and Ethiopia.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHRISTOPHER ''CHRIS'' ARTERTON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Dr. Christopher "Chris" Arterton, the Founding Dean of the nation's first school for professional politics, The George Washington University (GWU) Graduate School of Political Management who will be leaving his full-time post at GWU, but will remain on staff serving in a research capacity.

Dr. Arterton earned his B.A. from Trinity College, his M.A. from American University and his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Arterton is a distinguished author who has written several books on American politics and leadership. He is also a noted expert in political strategy and tactics, public opinion, and ethics and leadership in politics. His vision is to make democracy work where it is welcomed around the globe.

Prior to coming to GWU, Dr. Arterton was a professor at Yale University for 10 years, teaching in both the Political Science Department and the School of Organization and Management. Additionally, Dr. Arterton played an active role at The Institute of Politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, having served on five faculty study groups.

Dr. Arterton's research, his 20 years of teaching, and his considerable experience as a consultant on American public opinion make him an expert on the strategic environment of American political leaders, an area that encompasses the news media and communications technology generally and political strategy. Dr. Arterton continues to travel around the globe to teach about democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Christopher Arterton with heartfelt congratulations on a job well done for GWU and our country.

CITIZEN CONCERN ABOUT CONGRESS PASSING A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following response to a letter from a concerned citizen.

DEAR MR. MCANULTY: Thank you for contacting me with your concerns about Congress passing a responsible budget. I appreciate the time you took to reach out to me on this important issue. In my first few days

in Congress, I introduced H. J. Res. 49, which is an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would require an annual balanced budget. I believe that the federal government, like families throughout Missouri, should only spend what it has.

On December 12, 2013 the House of Representatives voted on a budget compromise that set spending levels for the next two years. While I believe Congress must pass a budget, I ultimately could not support this compromise plan that immediately raised new revenues without giving immediate attention to Washington's spending addiction and our massive national debt. We must start paying down our national debt.

Another reason I voted against the budget compromise were the changes made to veteran's benefits. Our men and women in uniform deserve unwavering support from every Member of Congress and all Americans. It is wrong to balance budgets on the backs of troops who voluntarily put themselves in harm's way so that we can all be free. The livelihood of our troops should not be negotiable.

While I appreciate the time and effort that went into crafting this budget deal, I could not support this plan because it immediately increases spending without immediately reducing the deficit. Simply put this agreement raises revenue and spends more money.

Again, I appreciate the time you have taken to reach out to me. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any additional questions or concerns. I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri and encourage you to visit my website at www.jasonsmith.house.gov/contact/newsletter to sign up for my e-newsletter and receive regular updates from Washington, DC.

HONORING KATHRYN MOIRA HAYES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathryn Moira Hayes for her thirty years of service to the people of Sonoma County in both the public and private sector. Ms. Hayes has been an honorable and effective advocate for the community in which she lives, for Sonoma County's business community and for all those in need.

Ms. Hayes' leadership of the North Bay Board of Realtors (NORBAR) over the last sixteen years has grown the organization to serve over 3,000 members in Lake, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties. During her tenure, NORBAR has been known not only for a high degree of professionalism and dedication to its members, the industry and community, but also for promoting professional standards and ethics, and seeking to preserve property rights and services of importance.

Prior to joining the North Bay Association of Realtors, Kathy was a member of my district staff for six years, responsible for district and field activities in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. During her time on my staff, she was a tireless advocate for constituents. In particular, I commend her work on issues related to Leaking Underground Storage Tanks, which was critical to maintaining a healthy community in our district.

Ms. Hayes' catalog of community involvement and achievements is far too prolific to list here. She is a past President of the Santa Rosa Education Cooperative Board and past Chair of the Board for the Sonoma County Chapter of the American Red Cross, as well as a current member of the Board for Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County. She has received numerous prestigious awards, including the George Escofie Distinguished Board Service Award from the American Red Cross, the Sonoma County Spirit Award from the Sonoma County Economic Development Board and the Gerald Hathaway Memorial Award for Significant Contributions to Chamber of Commerce Management in California.

In her spare time, Kathy is a master chef, a classically trained musician, and a graceful leader who builds consensus for every effort of which she is a part. Kathy has been a valuable contributor to her community for her entire life. But her most noted and beloved role is that of mother to her two sons.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Kathryn Moira Hayes at this time. She has been a model citizen and leader in Sonoma County and her presence has enriched the lives of all those in our community.

HONORING THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, DIVISION 39

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 39, proudly celebrating their 125th anniversary in May, 2014. Their motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity can be seen throughout the division's history, from helping Irish immigrants obtain work in the early 1870's to the present day, by awarding scholarships, holding fundraisers for those in need and collecting thousands of dollars and much needed supplies for those in New York and New Jersey who were devastated by super storm Sandy.

In 1884 Irish immigrants built and attended St. Leo's Catholic Church, which still stands today. In 1885 an Irishman and Hibernian, Frank Jordan, built the Tacony Music Hall, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. Today ancestors of the Irish immigrant families still reside in the Tacony area of Philadelphia. During the 1950's and 1960's many more divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians were started in Philadelphia and surrounding areas and Division 39 lost members. By the late 1960's when there were less than 50 members remaining, the officers and members undertook a revitalization of this once great division. By the early 1980's Division 39 had over 300 members, and by the mid 1990's there were over 900 members, making Division 39 the largest in the country. As of today the membership remains at approximately 750 members.

Some of the annual functions at the division are the communion breakfast, Veterans Day mass and social, children's Christmas party, mass before the St. Patrick's Day parade and post parade party, awarding of scholarships based on a written essay, three scholarship awards on Thanksgiving Day to Father Judge High School football players, erection and dismantling of the Christmas crèche in downtown Philadelphia, the annual chili cook off and membership drive and weekly crab night. These events are only some of the ways the Division 39 gives back to the community.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 39, on its 125th anniversary of serving the Tacony community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,447,321,527,551.15. We've added $6,820,444,478,638.07 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF KAMERON GRUBAUGH ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Kameron Grubaugh of Convoy, Ohio has accepted an offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Kameron's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2018. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Kameron brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2018. While attending Crestview High School in Convoy, Ohio, Kameron was on the Honor/Merit Roll and was a member of the Red/Blue Club and National Honor Society.

Throughout high school, Kameron played soccer and football, earning a varsity letter in football and led the Ohio Extreme Soccer Club

as team captain. In addition, Kameron was a member of the Model United Nations, Van Wert County Historical Society Junior Curator, and attended Buckeye Boys State. I am confident that Kameron will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kameron Grubaugh on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Kameron will excel during his career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE CUBA NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Cuba, New York Chamber of Commerce on its 100th anniversary. Over the past 100 years, the Chamber has successfully provided small businesses and local entrepreneurs with the resources, expertise, and advice needed to succeed.

The town of Cuba is stronger and more vibrant because of the Chamber. This organization has proven to be an invaluable resource for promoting local businesses by providing them with opportunities for growth. The Chamber brings businesses together, creating strong economic bonds and partnerships between its members. In addition, it provides referrals that are crucial to many businesses in the area. Due to the Chamber's unrelenting work in assisting commerce, local businesses continue to provide well-paying jobs and high-quality products and services to our region.

The Chamber is also a strong advocate for local tourism. It supports local events and industries that attract visitors to Allegany County, including a wide variety of agritourism and outdoor activities.

Once again I wish to congratulate the Cuba, New York Chamber of Commerce on 100 successful years of service and I look forward to the great contributions it will continue to make to New York's 23rd Congressional District.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION MARKING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution marking the 60th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision of Brown v. Board of Education, which was handed down on May 17, 1954. This case was a landmark decision for the 20th century civil rights movement and a turning point for our nation.

Brown overturned 58 years of a ''separate but equal'' policy established in Plessy v. Ferguson that was anything but equal. Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote in the Court's unanimous opinion that even if facilities are equal with respect to buildings, curricula, qualifications and salaries of teachers, and other ''tangible'' factors, that the effect of segregation, the very concept itself, meant that separate facilities could never be equal facilities. The Court ruled: ''Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal'' and, consequently, ''segregation is a denial of the equal protection of the laws.'' After this decision, access to public facilities could never again be denied on the basis of race.

The decision was a victory for the mid-century civil rights movement that also led to legislative pushes which drastically changed the outlook of race relations in America: the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act, and the Fair Housing Act. Brown helped level the playing field for all Americans regardless of race.

While the battle over segregation continued at the state level for many years afterward, and our nation still today has many civil rights issues to address, Brown remains a moment of historical significance that ushered our country to contemporary standards of humanity and compassion. As we mark this important milestone in our nation's history, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

135TH BIRTHDAY OF NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 135th birthday of Nannie Helen Burroughs and in recognizing her many contributions to our nation, and especially the District of Columbia. Ms. Burroughs was born on May 2, 1879, and in 1975, Mayor Walter Washington declared May 10 ''Nannie Helen Burroughs Day'' in D.C.

Born in Orange, Virginia, Ms. Burroughs moved to Washington with her mother when she was five years old. In 1896, Ms. Burroughs graduated with honors from M Street School, now Dunbar High School. She proceeded to make immeasurable contributions to our city and country as an educator, civil rights advocate and religious leader.

Ms. Burroughs was launched onto the national scene in 1900 with her speech at the National Baptist Convention in Richmond, Virginia, ''Hindering the Women from Helping,'' about giving women a greater role in the church. Her speech led to the establishment of the Women's Convention to the National Baptist Convention and her selection as its secretary. Ms. Burroughs held this position until 1947, when she was elected president and served in that capacity until her death in 1961.

Ms. Burroughs' signature achievement was the founding of the National Training School for Negro Women and Girls in the Deanwood Area of Washington, D.C. in 1909, where she served as its principal until her death in 1961. The school would later be renamed the Nannie Helen Burroughs School and remained in operation until 2013.

Ms. Burroughs contributed to many other parts of the nation, including: establishing a Negro women's industrial club—the first of its kind—in Louisville, Kentucky in 1898; serving as keynote speaker at the first Baptist World Alliance Congress in London, England in 1905; establishing Woman's Day in the Baptist Church in 1907, while a member of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in D.C.; giving the commencement speech at Tuskegee Institute in 1934—the first woman to do so; serving on the listeners' advisory panel of the National Broadcasting Company; and giving a radio address to the nation and soldiers fighting abroad men abroad in 1943. She was also a primary force in establishing the Frederick Douglass House Museum. Most recently, in 2012, Mrs. Burroughs was posthumously awarded membership in the American Automobile Association—a benefit which had been denied in 1930.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Nannie Helen Burroughs for a life of committed service to our children. Her legacy continues to offer a powerful example for how we should conduct our lives and strive to teach the next generation.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF'S ACADEMIC BOWL TEAM

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to acknowledge the success of the Academic Bowl Team at the New Mexico School for the Deaf. This impressive group of students travelled to Austin, Texas earlier this year to take part in the Regional Academic Bowl Competition, a tournament measuring contestants in different areas of knowledge. Over the course of matches consisting of three one-hour rounds, competitors were tested on their knowledge of the humanities, sciences, current events, deaf studies, and many other disciplines.

For the first time in school history, the NMSD team won the Regional Competition, going undefeated in all eight of their matches. Their winning performance earned them a trip to the national competition, held annually here in Washington, D.C. at Gallaudet University, the first university in the world founded to give instruction specifically to the deaf and hard of hearing. The team continued its run of excellence at the highest level by winning three out of five of matches on the first day of competition. On day two, NMSD won its first match before a loss in the playoffs eliminated them from competition.

This impressive performance was a result of hard work, dedication and perseverance, and

is a source of pride for the state of New Mexico. The team features a diverse group of students from different backgrounds, hailing from different parts of the Land of Enchantment, along with one exchange student—Kalle Lovgren—from Sweden. Two of the NMSD team members, Jasmine Sisneros and Tyrel Wilding, were selected as All-Stars for the entire Southwest Region. These fine young students, together with teammates Augusta Skoog, Hadassah Aguilar-Davis, and former National Most Outstanding Player Paige Foreman, who rejoined the team for the national competition, performed brilliantly through the Academic Bowl Competition.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the NMSD Academic Bowl Team and their coaches, Scott Vollmar and Nate Harrison, on all their success.

IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER OWEN J. MULLEN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Father Owen J. Mullen, a dedicated member of my Service Academy Selection Committee and an outstanding person who will be celebrating 50 years service as a Catholic Priest on May 16, 2014.

Born in Troy, New York in 1938, Father Mullen attended Mount St. Mary's University and Seminary for eight years in Emmitsburg, Maryland before being ordained a priest for the Wilmington Diocese in Delaware on May 16, 1964. He was then sent to Villanova University in Philadelphia in order to obtain a Masters Degree in Educational Administration and it was here that he worked for the next 17 years serving as both a teacher and a high school administrator. Following Villanova, Father Mullen became Pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Chestertown, Maryland.

Aside from serving in his church, Father Mullen also proudly served our nation. In 1968, he was commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Delaware National Guard and in 1979 was transferred into the Army Reserves where he was stationed at the United States Military Academy Admission Office counseling candidates for West Point. During the summer he also served as a Chaplain for the incoming Cadets at Beast Barracks and continued doing so for the next 20 years. In 1981, Father Mullen accepted a position to become Associate Chaplain at the University of San Diego until 1989.

Father Mullen was again invited to serve our nation's young military cadets at the United States Military Academy at West Point as an active duty Army Lieutenant Colonel Catholic Cadet Chaplain for the United States Corps of Cadets, where he served from 1989–1997. Father Mullen was then promoted to full Colonel and assigned as the Senior Army Chaplain in Hawaii.

Despite retiring on August 31, 2001, as a Colonel in the US Army after 30 years of active and reserve service, Father Mullen continued his service by becoming Pastor at Holy Family Parish and Academy until June 2004. He then returned to the University of San Diego as a University Chaplain with a multitude of responsibilities, including Chaplain for the Football, Baseball, Basketball Teams and the Lacrosse Club. Father Mullen also found the time to serve as an Advisor to the Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity and recently became the twenty-fourth alumnus to be elected as Phi Kappa Theta's Fraternity President.

During his time in San Diego, Father Mullen has served as a member of the Service Academy Selection Committee for both me and my father, former Congressman Duncan L. Hunter. In this capacity he has provided much needed insight and guidance to many young men and women as they prepared for careers in the military.

The common theme throughout Father Mullen's career has been one word—service. As Father Mullen knows well, Jesus taught his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew, ''But the greatest among you shall be your servant.'' This biblical principle has been the standard to Father Mullen's approach to any request, challenge or need, and we have all benefitted from his commitment to this standard. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating and thanking Father Mullen for his 50 years of service to both his community and our nation.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THOMAS HECKMAN ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Thomas Heckman of Toledo, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Evan's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2018. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Thomas brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2018. While attending E.L. Bowsher High School in Toledo, Ohio, Thomas was a member of the Spanish club, student council, yearbook, and National Honor Society.

Throughout high school, Thomas was a member of his school's soccer, cross country and track and field teams and earned varsity letters in all three sports. Thomas also volunteered with Safe-T-City all four years of high school. I am confident that Thomas will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Thomas Heckman on the offer of his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Thomas will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

MISS INDIAN WORLD—TAYLOR THOMAS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Taylor Thomas on her achievement of being crowned the 2014–2015 Miss Indian World. The competition was recently held at the University of New Mexico Arena in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where each contestant was judged on public speaking, personal interview, traditional representation, and dance/essay.

Ms. Thomas resides in my congressional district at Fort Hall and is a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. She qualified for the national competition by being named Miss Shoshone-Bannock Queen this past year. It is truly an honor for me to recognize Ms. Thomas for her national accomplishments and as a role model in the Fort Hall community. She will make an excellent representative of Native American culture throughout her tenure as Miss Indian World.

Not only is Ms. Thomas a respected ambassador of the Fort Hall community, but she also attends Idaho State University, where she is majoring in political science. I have no doubt that her commitment to higher education played an important role in the competition, as her personal interview was the strongest of any competitor. Ms. Thomas has also been an advocate for Native Youth programs and indigenous language preservation, which are important components of Shoshone-Bannock culture.

I wish Ms. Thomas well as she travels across the United States in her role as Miss Indian World. It is a great honor for the Fort Hall community, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and my congressional district to have such a talented young woman represent her community on a world stage.

BILL ADAMS: PITTSBURGH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ASSOCIATION'S 2014 INVENTOR OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Bill Adams on having been named the 2014 Inventor of the Year by the Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association. This award

honors living inventors whose patented inventions have had a significant impact on the economy, social well-being, and the advancement of technology.

After returning from military service in Vietnam, Bill Adams worked in the Pittsburgh Public Schools as an elementary school librarian. In the late 1970s, Bill inherited $10,000, resigned from his job and built Adams Manufacturing into the $50 million-plus enterprise it is today.

As the Founder and Chairman of Adams Manufacturing, Bill has contributed to progressing the design and use of a number of consumer products, such as suction cups, outdoor resin furniture, and holiday accessories. Founded in 1976, Adams Manufacturing is headquartered in Portersville, Pennsylvania, and celebrates American ingenuity by ensuring that their products are ''Made in the USA.''

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing Mr. Adams' contributions to Western Pennsylvania and American manufacturing.

TRIBUTE TO MISS MILLMAN, MR. DOWGIN, MISS VALLAD, & MISS DAVANZO

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lana Millman, Matthew Dowgin, Anna Vallad, and Amanda Davanzo for their dedication and hard work for the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, DC office for the spring 2014 session.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these four and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All four of our interns have made plans to continue their work in public service next year with various organizations in both Colorado and Washington. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Lana Millman, Matthew Dowgin, Anna Vallad, and Amanda Davanzo for their service this spring.

4TH ANNUAL JUNIOR INVITATIONAL AT SAGE VALLEY GOLF CLUB

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, I had the opportunity of attending the Sage Valley Golf Club in Graniteville, South Carolina, for the 4th Annual Junior Invitational at Sage Valley Golf Club. This spectacular event featured 54 of the top junior golfers from around the world coming together to compete at this prestigious championship. In just four short years, this tournament has quickly become heralded as one of the premier events in the world of junior golf.

Congratulations to Scottie Scheffler, of Dallas, Texas, on his victory at this year's championship. Scottie's 54-hole total of 5-under par, 211, was one-shot clear of Cameron Champ, of Sacramento, California, who finished second.

This tournament, which brings juniors from around the country and world together for a unique experience, is the vision of the Club's founder, Weldon Wyatt. Mr. Wyatt is to be congratulated on this immensely successful tournament. The great golf legend Gary Player even made an appearance at this year's event. Each year golf enthusiasts will look forward to attending next year's championship, which provides extraordinary opportunities for young golfers worldwide.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BRYANT SCHLADE ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Bryant Schlade of Napoleon, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Bryant's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2018. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Bryant brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2018. While attending Napoleon High School, in Napoleon, Ohio, Bryant was on the Honor Roll and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Throughout high school, Bryant was a member of his school's football, basketball, and track and field teams and earned varsity letters in all three sports. In addition, Bryant served as captain of the football and basketball teams his senior year. He was class president, member of the student council, Spanish Club member, Envirothon, and volunteered his time as an usher at church. I am confident that Bryant will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bryant Schlade on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Bryant will excel during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

HONORING DR. RAY ANN HAVASY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ray Ann Havasy, an esteemed resident of my congressional district. Not only is she an active and vocal member of her community in Port Washington, she is also the Director of the Center for Science Teaching and Learning, a valuable and necessary organization on Long Island.

The Center for Science Teaching and Learning exists to promote science education and literacy in children and adults. They accomplish this by holding workshops that engage our youth and challenge them to pursue their education inside and outside of the classroom.

Dr. Havasy, along with CSTL, has made an effort to promote S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning through local competitions that challenge participants to think critically about their studies and allow them to sharpen their knowledge in an applicable manner. The efforts of CSTL represent the type of innovative, out-of-the-box thinking we need to ensure that our children's academic competence remains that of a global leader.

Dr. Havasy and the Center for Science Teaching and Learning represent a positive institution in our community and I applaud their work. I am honored to be able to represent them here in Congress.

REMEMBERING JOHN BENINCASA

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the exemplary life and service of John Benincasa. John sadly passed away on April 6, 2014 at the age of 87.

Affectionately known as ''Mr. Alliance'' to those in his community, John was an extraordinary civil servant and veteran who served as president of the Alliance City Council and dedicated himself to the people of Stark County. On the day of his passing, John was in his 11th consecutive term as City Council president.

After graduating from Mount Union College, John worked as vice president and general manager of Da-Tronics Inc. He later became the City of Alliance Safety Service Director for much of the 1980s under then Mayor Francis Carr.

John was an active volunteer for his community, including 12 years on the Alliance

Park board. John also spent 13 years in the Alliance Jaycees as a Board Member, where he helped organize and manage the Carnation City Triathlon/Duathlon for 25 years. John was also an active member of the United Methodist Church and the Alliance Area Family YMCA.

He was an exemplary civil servant, who was able to set aside partisan differences and work for the betterment of the city he loved. John will be honored by the Stark County Democratic Party posthumously with the lifetime achievement award. He was devoted to his family and faith, and was dedicated to and strongly preached the principles of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor the life of John Benincasa. I extend my most sincere condolences to John's entire family. His contributions to this community will not be forgotten. Northeast Ohio is a better place because of his service and his life. I ask that the House join me in remembering Mr. John Benincasa.

HONORING THE ETZ CHAIM CENTER ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of The Etz Chaim Center on the occasion of their anniversary this June, marking 25 years of providing quality Jewish education from a spiritual perspective to the Delaware Valley. Etz Chaim is a welcoming, non-judgmental organization dedicated to bringing the beauty and depth of Judaism to the contemporary Jew. Through a diverse menu of educational and spiritually-focused programs, Jews of all backgrounds are able to grow and connect more passionately with their heritage. Based in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, in my Congressional district, Etz Chaim provides programming for Jews and families in Montgomery County and the Philadelphia area.

Etz Chaim was founded in 1988 by Rabbi Dovid Wachs and Rabbi Moshe Ungar in Northeast Philadelphia. Since then, both their space and their programs have grown. Etz Chaim's new headquarters in Elkins Park opened in 2012, allowing them to expand their numerous class, forum, and event offerings, providing hundreds of educational and spiritual programs for the community. Each year, Etz Chaim reaches almost 1,000 people, from community based events attended by many, to one on one learning sessions for individuals looking to advance their personal growth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Etz Chaim and all of their success in supporting the Jewish community in Pennsylvania.

HONORING CHARLES WILLIAM RANSOME

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charlie Ransome who served our country for 23 years in the United States Army. I had the great privilege of knowing Charlie, and today I am including in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a tribute to him so that my colleagues will know how much he contributed to the nation, to his community, to his friends, and to his family.

Charles William "Charlie" Ransome, 49 years of age, passed away peacefully at his home in Sugar Land, Texas on November 30, 2012, after a courageous seven month battle with pancreatic cancer.

A celebration of Charlie's life was held at a funeral mass at St. Laurence Catholic Church in Sugar Land, Texas on Friday, December 7, 2012. He was buried in Houston National Cemetery with full military honors, as was his wish. Serving as pallbearers were Michael Ransome, Bobby Balli, Terry Ray, Adrian Janak, David Ragusa, Richard Whitworth, Bill McLaughlin, and Jim Allen.

Charlie is survived by his beloved wife and son, Melinda Janak Ransome and Charles Zachary Ransome of Sugar Land, Texas. Also surviving him are his parents Rufus G. Ransome, Jr. and Jeanine Calderoni Ransome of Brownsville, Texas; his sister, Kathryn Anne Traynor (Frank) and nieces Sarah, Emily, and Rebecca of Houston, Texas; his brother, Michael Edward Ransome (Denise) and nephew Joshua and niece Olivia of Scottsdale, Arizona.

Additional survivors include his uncle, Charles Fount Ray and cousins Sandy and Karen Ray, Marshall and Mary Lou Ray, and Terry and Laurie Ray, all of Brownsville, Texas; and his uncle and aunt, William S. McLaughlin, Jr. and Doris Calderoni McLaughlin, and cousins Mary Leigh McLaughlin, Grayson Tate, and William S. McLaughlin, III, all of Houston, Texas.

Charlie was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Rufus G. Ransome and Kathryn Eidman Ransome; maternal grandparents, Dr. Charles F. Calderoni and Doris Thompson Calderoni; and his aunt Ann Ransome Ray.

Charlie was born on June 7, 1963, in Brownsville, Texas, to Rufus G. Ransome, Jr. and Jeanine Calderoni Ransome. He graduated from St. Joseph Academy in 1981 and Texas A&M University in 1985 earning a degree in civil engineering. While at Texas A&M Charlie proudly served as a member of the Corps of Cadets. He went on to serve 23 years in the U.S. Army and active reserves, retiring in 2008 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Charlie served tours of duty in Germany and Korea immediately out of college and was deployed to Iraq in 2004 with the Army Corps of Engineers as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Iraq Charlie managed logistics for the military's construction efforts and troop rotations and served as a special investigating officer. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his time in Iraq. Charlie believed very strongly that his years of his service in the military were his contribution to making a better world. Patriotism was a way of life for him. He closed all his communications with the following quotation from Edmund Burke (1729—1797): "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

In 1991, Charlie married Melinda Janak. They were blessed with the birth of their son, Charles Zachary, in 1996. Charlie spent 21 beautiful years with his beloved Melinda and 16 with his beloved Zachary. The family loved to travel especially to all the wonderful National Parks where Charlie marveled at the natural beauty that God created.

Charlie's civilian engineering career was spent with Jacobs Engineering, in Houston, Texas where he was employed for 24 years. Always a giving man, Charlie was active in volunteerism both through Jacobs and his son's activities. Some of his favorite contributions were running United Way campaigns for Jacobs, reading to under privileged children and serving as treasurer for his son's high school athletics booster club.

Charlie was a man of great integrity, with the highest of moral standards. He was truly a family man, always loving to have his family and friends join him, Melinda, and Zach to celebrate at their home. An avid sportsman, hunting, fishing and scuba diving were some of his favorite pastimes.

Charlie treasured his wonderful life and lived it to the fullest. He will always be remembered as a very kind and compassionate man who loved people. In turn, Charlie was loved by everyone who knew him, as was evidenced by the tremendous outpouring of love, care and support from family and his many friends throughout his illness and passing.

We treasure the years Charlie spent with us. He will forever live in our hearts. May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR MR. RAMON RIVERA

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ramon Rivera from Malaga, Washington. Mr. Rivera is the founder of the Mariachi Huenachi program at Wenatchee High School and also the director of that remarkable music group. Recently, he was honored by the Seattle City Club with one of the 2014 Washington State Jefferson Awards.

The Jefferson Award is an award for "unsung heroes" who have committed themselves to volunteer service and improving the lives of those around them, and, in doing so, improving the world. So far, over 300 students have participated in the mariachi program pioneered by Mr. Rivera, a program which has received national attention. Not only do his students learn about the rich cultural heritage of mariachi music but they are also expected to achieve academic excellence and are encouraged to pursue higher educations, something that many of Mr. Rivera's students would never have considered otherwise.

I am honored to have met Mr. Rivera during the Spring Recess and am even more honored to represent him as my constituent. I congratulate him on the success of his endeavors and earning this prestigious recognition.

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF INDIANAPOLIS TO RECEIVE THE NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, who is being awarded the prestigious National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services on May 8, 2014. This award recognizes ''institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities'' and is highly selective, as only ten institutions receive the award annually. It is also the highest award any American museum or library can receive.

The largest children's museum in the world, the Children's Museum of Indianapolis has been a mainstay of Indianapolis' cultural landscape since its founding in 1925, and is recognized as the global leader of museums for children. Among its many renowned permanent exhibits are a recreation of the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Seti I, a forty-three foot glass masterpiece by the famed artist Dale Chihuly, the SpaceQuest Planetarium where children can view and understand the Indiana night sky, and a working carousel from 1917. There is also the Dinosphere, which displays full-size dinosaur skeletons, including Leonardo the mummified dinosaur. From May 10, 2014 through November 2, 2014, the Children's Museum of Indianapolis will be the only museum in the United States to display the famed Chinese Terra Cotta Warriors as part of its permanent exhibit ''Take Me There: China.''

As a longtime Indianapolis resident who raised two children in our beautiful city, I especially appreciate all that the Children's Museum does for Hoosier children every day of the year. During Halloween, the museum presents its famous Haunted House, and during the holiday season the main staircase is transformed into the magical Yule Slide. Like many Hoosier parents, I have fond memories of taking my children to the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, and was so moved by the museum's work that I was inspired to serve on its Board, which was one of the great honors of my career. I am pleased to continue working with the museum as a distinguished advisor helping to advance its important mission.

As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage our children's curiosity and provide them with hands-on opportunities to learn about the world around them. The Children's Museum does just that, and undeniably inspires the more than one million visitors who come to experience the museum each year. I am proud to recognize the Children's Museum of Indianapolis today for its outstanding work in winning the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, and wish the museum continued success as it seeks to educate Indiana's children and families.

RECOGNIZING DR. DENNIS JOHNSON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Dr. Dennis Johnson on his retirement from the George Washington University's (GWU) Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM). Dr. Johnson has committed more than 20 years of service to the GWU campus and will truly be missed there.

Dr. Johnson hails from a small town outside Merrillville, Indiana. In high school, he was very active in student government and politics. He earned his BA in International Relations from Carlton College and his Ph.D. in Political Science from Duke University. His academic and scholarly interests include campaigns and elections, the profession of political consulting, and the history of American public policy.

Dr. Johnson has over 20 years of teaching and leadership experience with GWU's GSPM program. Dr. Johnson has served in multiple leadership roles with the GSPM, ending his tenure as the Director of its Legislative Affairs Program, Associate Dean, and later as its Acting Executive Director. Notably, Dr. Johnson served as a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer at Jinan University in Guangzhou, China during the 2010–2011 academic year, where he lectured and spoke to a variety of academic, professional, and business audiences throughout China. Dr. Johnson has authored numerous books on political management and has lectured on the subject around the globe. He has had a lifetime passion for politics. In addition to his academic career, Dr. Johnson earlier served as Chief of Staff to then Congressman Norman Sisisky (D–VA).

Dr. Johnson has done impressive work in advancing the cause of democracy around the globe. He epitomizes the American Dream, achieving success as a public school graduate and the first in his family to graduate from college. He earned money for his college tuition working summers in a steel mill. Coming from a small town to having had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have tea with the Queen of England, Dennis has retained a sense of humility and Midwestern charm.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Dennis Johnson with sincere congratulations on a job well done for GWU and for advancing democracy around the world.

TRIBUTE TO RANGEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL CYBERPATRIOT TEAM

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Savannah Clemente, Jacob Johnson, Lucas Nicodemus, Luke Robinson, Nathan Teeter, and LeeAnn Wilson of Aurora, Colorado. Colorado was well represented by these Rangeview High School students at the 2014 CyberPatriot Competition National Finals in National Harbor, Maryland.

CyberPatriot is the premier national youth cyber defense competition that teaches high school and middle school students about cyber-safety and how to defend computer systems against cyberattack. It also teaches students about internships and careers in cybersecurity and other opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The Rangeview High School CyberPatriot team distinguished itself from the rest of the competing teams by demonstrating outstanding skills in three rigorous rounds of competition against their peers. Out of 1,500 competing teams, only 28 made it to the final competition where national championship trophies and scholarships were awarded. The Rangeview team won First Place in the Digital Crime Scene Challenge sponsored by the U.S. Cyber Crime Conference.

The Rangeview High School CyberPatriot students will undoubtedly go on to serve as innovative leaders in our country. Their fierce dedication to the STEM disciplines is critical to our nation's future. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the Rangeview High School CyberPatriot students for their achievement of competing in the 2014 CyberPatfiot Competition National Finals.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JULIET V. GARCÍA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Juliet V. García president of the University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB). Dr. García was recently named by CNN Money/Fortune as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders—a list which includes Pope Francis, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Bono, and the Dalai Lama. Her leadership skills are an asset to Brownsville and South Texas.

Dr. García began her tenure as president of UTB in January 1992. Previously, she served as president of Texas Southmost College and was the first Mexican-American woman to become president of a college or university in the United States.

During Dr. García's tenure, she has relentlessly advocated for increasing access to higher education in South Texas, which is reflected in UTB's enrollment statistics. The UTB student body is 91% Hispanic and 71% are first-generation college students.

UTB has experienced tremendous growth under Dr. García's leadership. The school's budget has increased from $31.4 million to $145 million, classroom space has quadrupled and many new buildings have been constructed including: a library, a life and health sciences building, a student union, an education and business building, an early childhood learning center, a recreation center, a performing arts center, and two biomedical research buildings.

Currently, Dr. García is guiding UTB through a merger with the University of Texas-Pan American to create the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. Importantly, the new university, which will include a medical school, will have access to state oil and gas royalties through the permanent university fund.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Dr. Juliet V. García., and I appreciate you joining me in recognizing her commitment to higher education.

RECOGNIZING THE 2013–2014 UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the 2013–2014 University of Notre Dame Lady Irish Women's Basketball team on their perfect regular season and exciting NCAA tournament run. The team finished the regular season with an unbeaten record of 29–0 and finished the post season winning the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament, as well as competing in their third straight NCAA National Championship game.

The Lady Irish were led by their head coach, Muffett McGraw and senior captains Kayla McBride, Natalie Achonwa, and Ariel Braker. These outstanding players led their team to 37 consecutive victories, the university's first ever regular season, the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament Championships, and a third consecutive National Championship game appearance. Altogether, the Lady Irish finished their first season in the ACC, the same way it ended its time in the Big East, with another dominating conference title.

In addition, the Irish earned several prestigious individual conference and national honors. Along with the 37 game winning streak, Conference Championship, and Final Four appearance, Coach McGraw earned a sweep of the AP, Naismith, Pat Summit, and US Basketball Writers Association for Coach of the Year awards. Along with Coach McGraw's amazing accomplishment, the team had three AP All-American's with Seniors Kayla McBride and Natalie Achonwa and Sophomore Jewell Loyd. The team also won numerous Atlantic Coast Conference awards including: Coach of the Year (Coach McGraw), Player of the Year, (Kayla McBride) and ACC tournament MVP (Jewell Loyd). Along with those ACC awards McBride, Loyd, and Achonwa each earned all-conference honors as well. The hard work and dedication by the players and coaches showed in both the individual awards and their dominating run to the National Championship game. This team will be one that is remembered forever in university history for years to come.

As a former basketball player and Representative of Notre Dame, it is my honor to recognize the hard work and success of the 2013–2014 Lady Irish Basketball team. The dedication, selflessness, and sportsmanship these student athletes display is a model for young Hoosiers throughout Indiana. On behalf of Indiana's Second Congressional District, I am proud to recognize the University of Notre Dame Lady Irish's perfect regular season and amazing tournament run and wish them continued future success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 28, 2014, and Tuesday, April 29, 2014, I missed six votes as I was home in Arkansas dealing with the aftermath of the devastating storm that hit my district over the weekend.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote 178, the passage of H.R. 4192, ''yea'' on rollcall vote 179, the passage of H.R. 4120, ''yea'' on rollcall vote 180, the Previous Question, ''yea'' on rollcall vote 181, the Adoption of the rule for Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification, ''yea'' on rollcall vote 182, the passage of H.R. 4414, and ''yea'' on rollcall vote 183, the passage of H.R. 627, of which I am a cosponsor.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE CITATION FOR MG WILLIAM E. RAPP

HON. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General William E. Rapp.

Major General Rapp distinguished himself through exceptionally meritorious service from 1 August 2012 to 1 June 2014, while serving as the Chief of Army Legislative Liaison. During this period of extraordinary change, continued combat operations in Afghanistan, and significant fiscal constraints and challenges facing the Army, Major General Rapp implemented and fostered a significantly improved strategic partnership with the 113th Congress. He clearly understood the importance of Congressional oversight and spearheaded the execution of an Army strategy to enhance Congressional trust and confidence in Army programs, policies and operations. Major General Rapp did a truly outstanding job in dealing with some of the most complex issues the Army faced during the last two legislative cycles with unparalleled results, enabling the Army to receive the necessary authorities and resources to support combat operations, sustain the all-volunteer force and maintain the quality of life for Soldiers, their Families and Army Civilians. Major General Rapp's outstanding leadership, strategic vision, and keen judgment are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon him, the Office of the Army Legislative Liaison and the United States Army.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF SUE SWISHER

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about Sue Swisher, a good friend of mine, and a true champion for the children of our region.

Sue will be retiring this summer, after more than twenty-four years leading the Child Abuse Council in Rock Island, Illinois. Sue joined the Child Abuse Council as Director of Programs in 1994, and became its Executive Director in 1998. Under her leadership, the Child Abuse Council has provided child-abuse treatment and prevention to hundreds of children and families in our region. During her tenure, Sue spearheaded the creation of programs designed to prevent child abuse, instead of just reacting to it, including teacher-training programs like Safe from the Start, and fatherhood classes like Boot Camp for Dads.

People learn lessons during childhood that stay with them their entire lives. Children can either learn about trust and respect, or they can learn about fear and insecurity. Sue Swisher has worked tirelessly to ensure that our children learn lessons about love and respect that will resonate throughout their lives. We will miss her steady hand, and thank her for her invaluable contribution to our community.

REMEMBERING JACK HARDESTY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember Jack Hardesty, a longstanding community leader in Clarke County, Virginia, who passed away April 15, 2014 at the age of 82.

John Douglas ''Jack'' Hardesty's family has long standing ties to Clarke County dating back to the 1780s. He chose to continue this legacy as an entrepreneur who worked to further his community.

Jack may be best known for his work on the Board of Supervisors, serving 17 years as chairman. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Bank of Clarke County, was a trustee for his church and member of the Berryville-Clarke Chamber of Commerce. Jack was named ''Citizen of the Year'' this year by the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber for his lifetime of service.

Jack had an incredible impact on Clarke County, organizing the county's first Comprehensive Plan, as well as his efforts to preserve historic farmland and open space in the

county. Through his work he has left an indelible mark on the look and feel of his community.

Jack's accomplishments in agriculture were also well known. He was recognized as the Outstanding Young Farmer for Virginia in 1955, and later as Distinguished Dairyman of the Year in 1986.

Jack is survived by his two sons, John and David, who are both part of his family dairy business. I know he will be missed dearly by both his family and the community as a whole.

I submit the following article from The Winchester Star of Mr. Hardesty's story.

[From the Winchester Star, Apr. 17, 2014]

COMMUNITY LEADER JACK HARDESTY DIES

(By Val Van Meter)

BERRYVILLE.—A man who is credited for shaping the way Clarke County looks today died Tuesday after a life of service.

John Douglas ''Jack'' Hardesty, 82, was an entrepreneur before that word was the height of compliment. But, while building his family's fortunes, he also aimed to do what was best for his community.

''He has had a tremendous influence on how the county looks and feels,'' said Michael Hobert, current chairman of the Board of Supervisors, a post Hardesty held for the better part of two decades.

''He was responsible for the county's first Comprehensive Plan,'' Hobert noted. That plan is the community's vision on how it wants to develop into the future.

''He helped to establish our identity, and we'll have that identity for a long time into the future.''

His support to institute sliding-scale zoning helped preserve farmland and open space in the county and set a tone that has continued today.

Hardesty's family roots in Clarke County go back to the 1780s, and farming was all he wanted to do.

In high school, his senior classmates predicted that, within 10 years of their 1950 graduation, he would be milking 100 head of Holsteins. They weren't far off the mark.

He formed a partnership with his father and began building Harvue Dairy, which grew from a 25-head, hand-milked herd to a diary producing millions of pounds of milk a year and shipping the genetics of its registered Holsteins all over the world.

His importance to agriculture was recognized in 1955, when he was named the Outstanding Young Farmer for Virginia, and it only continued to grow. In 1986 the Virginia State Dairyman's Association named him Distinguished Dairyman of the Year.

As a member of the Clarke County Ruritan Club, Hardesty was ''very instrumental'' in purchasing the land for the Clarke County Ruritan fairgrounds.

The purchase was arranged in 1960, said Billy Milleson, who chairs the annual Clarke County Fair for the Ruritan Club.

''He and his dad ran the dairy department at the fair for years,'' Milleson said.

He said Hardesty was one of the people who saved the fairgrounds when the Virginia Department of Transportation planned to put the Harry Byrd Highway bypass around Berryville. Their preferred route took it right through the fairgrounds, demolishing the grove of huge oak trees that give it so much of its character.

Hardesty, Milleson said, ''went to Richmond and got it changed.''

''He was an authentic man,'' Hobert added. He was genuine. He had integrity and good judgment.''

Former state Sen. Russell Potts Jr. called Hardesty the consummate gentleman.

''He was Mr. Clarke County,'' Potts said, adding that Hardesty got into political life ''for all the right reasons.''

In 1965, Hardesty was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the Russell Voting District representative Bob Withers on the Board of Supervisors.

A year later, he ran for election and won. He remained on the board for the next 29 years, serving 17 as chairman.

''The quality of life in Clarke County is a direct result of him insisting on high standards,'' Potts said. ''He loved preservation,'' and the beauty of Clarke County.

Milleson said one of Hardesty's greatest characteristics was that he was a good listener.

''He could see the other side,'' he added.

In 1963, the stockholders of the Bank of Clarke County selected him to serve on the board of directors. In 1986, he stepped into the chairmanship, replacing the late Eustace Jackson, who had also preceded Hardesty as chairman of the Clarke supervisors.

Johnny Milleson, president of the Bank of Clarke, recalled Hardesty was always proud of his county and the bank, which grew from two branches, one in Berryville and one in Boyce, to 11 branches, including nine in Winchester and Frederick County.

He said when the two attended a seminar in North Carolina one year, people in the room were announcing their names and how long they had been directors of their respective banks.

Most were less than five years, but one man was cheered for serving 21.

He said Hardesty winked at him before announcing he'd been on the board of the ''best little bank in the state of Virginia'' for 41 years at that time.

The bank president said Hardesty was ''a part of the bank family until his passing.''

At Christmas, Hardesty would circulate through all the bank branches. ''He had a kind word for everyone,'' and knew everyone.

He added that he had gone to school with Hardesty's older son, Johnny, and had known the elder Hardesty ''since I can remember. He always had time for you, no matter how busy he was.

And, he was a hard worker. Meetings of the Bank of Clarke's board still begin at 6:50 a.m., a custom started by Hardesty, to make sure he got a full day's work in, despite taking time out for meetings.

Running a farm, a bank and a county didn't take up all of Hardesty's time.

He was a trustee for his church, Crum's Church, a post also held by his father.

He helped direct the dairy industry through positions on several organizations, including past president of the Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative, the Virginia Holstein Association and the Virginia State Dairyman's Association.

Three Virginia governors appointed him to committees to advise them on the concerns of local governments.

He promoted the larger county economy through membership in the Berryville-Clarke County Chamber of Commerce. This year, the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber, which now represents Clarke County, named Hardesty its ''Citizen of the Year'' for his lifetime of service to the county.

He was married to Carter Conley Hardesty, who died in 2003, for 50 years. The couple have two sons, John E. and David M., who are both part of the family dairy business.

A funeral service is planned for 11 a.m. Tuesday at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church in Berryville.

Potts recalled Hardesty protesting when he introduced a bill in the Virginia General Assembly to name a bridge for Jack and Carter Hardesty in the district he represented for so many years.

''I told him, 'You don't have any say in it,''' Potts recalled.

Then-Gov. Mark Warner and Sen. Charles ''Chuck'' Robb, along with former Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr., all came for the ceremony, Potts recalled.

Both Democrats and Republicans respected Hardesty.

Said Potts, ''If you couldn't get along with Jack Hardesty, you couldn't get along with anyone.''

Contact Val Van Meter at vvanmeter@winchesterstar.com

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason, which occurs this year on Thursday, May 1st.

As I see nations around the world in turmoil, among people of different religious faiths, we are moved to deeper appreciation for the Framers, who bequeathed us the Constitution, which requires the separation of church and state. We could not have built a vast nation of extraordinary religious and ethnic diversity were it not for our tolerance of the world's great religions, all of which exist among us in our nation today, and of Americans who claim no religion. I hope that all Americans—religious, non-religious and secular alike—will join in observing the National Day of Reason, today, May 1, 2014. This day provides an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the positive impacts on humanity of reason, critical thought and the scientific method, which have always been acknowledged to be consistent with religious faith, and to reaffirm that the line between religion and government must remain indelible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Day of Reason.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID SKORTON

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. David Skorton on his recent appointment as Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Skorton, who currently serves as the 12th President of Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York, will begin his tenure as the 13th Secretary of the Smithsonian in July 2015.

Dr. Skorton was chosen for this position based on his outstanding merit and impressive leadership record. He has extensive experience as an administrator, cardiologist, and

biomedical researcher. Dr. Skorton brings his unique talent and knowledge base to his new position, where he will be the first physician to lead the Smithsonian.

A staunch advocate of the arts, sciences, and humanities, Dr. Skorton will effectively promote the Smithsonian Institution's mission of supporting the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." I am confident that his skills, experience, and expertise will serve Dr. Skorton well in his efforts to oversee the immense collection of museums and research centers that comprise the Smithsonian Institution.

I commend Dr. Skorton on earning this remarkable opportunity and I look forward to the new heights that the Smithsonian Institution will reach under his leadership.

COMMENDING STUDENTS ON RECEIVING MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 10 students from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas who received appointments to America's military academies. The students who receive appointments to our nation's prestigious military academies are some of the best and brightest students in America. They bring enormous pride to our communities. It's an honor to recognize these young leaders who have committed to protect and defend our nation through service in our military academies.

The students selected to represent our district include: Joshua Xu of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Naval Academy), Cy Payne of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Naval Academy), David Hernandez, III of Pearland High School in Pearland (U.S. Military Academy), William Waters of Cinco Ranch High School in Katy (U.S. Military Academy), Morgan Landers of Strake Jesuit College Preparatory from Houston (U.S. Military Academy), Brittany Scofield of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Military Academy), Chad Cleary of Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugar Land (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy), Drake Dentry of Pearland High School in Pearland (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy), Nicholas Supry of Seven Lakes High School in Katy (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy) and Jonah Sanjay Bhide of American Embassy School, New Delhi, India (U.S. Air Force Academy).

As a former Navy pilot, I know that these students are about to embark on a tremendous citizenship experience. On behalf of all of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I'm thrilled to congratulate these young leaders. I'm confident they will honorably serve our nation with pride and distinction.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PATIENT SERVICES INCORPORATED

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the accomplishments of Patient Services Incorporated (PSI) and to congratulate the organization on its 25 years of assisting Americans obtain the treatments and therapies they need. PSI is a national nonprofit patient assistance charitable organization, headquartered in my Congressional district in Midlothian, Virginia. PSI has provided assistance to countless Americans in all 50 states and serves as a vital safety-net charity to help meet the needs of Americans suffering from expensive rare and chronic diseases.

Through PSI's leadership and determination, our nation's most vulnerable seniors are now able to access the treatments and care they need with the financial help of non-profit charitable organizations. I have visited with the devoted staff at PSI in the past, toured their campus, and I am proud to have PSI headquartered in my district.

PSI was founded out of the professional and personal experience of Dana Kuhn, a former Presbyterian Minister from Jackson, Tennessee. While employed as a clinical counselor at now VCU Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, Dana Kuhn encountered families devastated by chronic illnesses. Dr. Kuhn founded PSI in an effort to help this underserved community, and since then PSI has focused on finding solutions to the challenges facing the chronically ill.

Today I would like to congratulate PSI on its 25 years of helping Americans access medical treatments and therapies. In particular, I commend its Founder and President, Dana Kuhn, on his service to our country and his fellow man by creating this charitable organization.

RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR PETER AMMON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Peter Ammon as he leaves his post as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States. His hard work and dedication to strengthening the economic and cultural relationship between Germany and the United States must be commended.

In his role as Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Ammon strengthened the strong ties that bind Germany and the United States. Within the U.S., he visited 45 states and met with ordinary Americans, Governors, State Legislators, Members of Congress, and local elected officials. He also helped establish the German residence as an icon of German culture by featuring art crafted by U.S. and German artists on a rotating basis. The National Day parties hosted at the residence drew more than 3,500 guests, who enjoyed German art and food.

Dr. Ammon has championed the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership both as German Ambassador and for nearly 20 years prior because he knows this groundbreaking trade agreement will create jobs and growth on both sides of the Atlantic. Dr. Ammon leaves his post in Washington with the United States and Europe taking great strides toward finishing these tough, but necessary negotiations.

Dr. Ammon has served as German Ambassador to the United States since 2011. Previously, he served as Ambassador to Paris, France, and various other roles in the German government, including Director General for Economics at the German Foreign Office from 2001 to 2007 and Head of Policy Planning from 1996 to 1999. Prior to his service in these roles, Dr. Ammon served as a career diplomat in London, Senegal, and New Dehli.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my good friend Dr. Peter Ammon for his great service and commitment to the special relationship between Germany and the United States. We thank Dr. Ammon for his leadership and send him our very best wishes for his next post in the United Kingdom.

REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST AND HONORING THE SURVIVORS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the Holocaust survivors in our community. Communities around the world this week commemorated Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. As these individuals, who were small children and teenagers during World War II, are no longer with us, it is vital that we hear and record their personal stories of what happened in the ghettos and concentration camps in Nazi-occupied Europe. We must not forget what they have to say, and we must do everything in our power to ensure that these atrocities never occur anywhere in the world.

I submit the following article from The Washington Post on first-hand accounts of those who survived.

[From the Washington Post]

WASHINGTON AREA HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS SHARE HISTORIES IN DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

(By Katherine Shaver)

Blanche Porway remembers the guard tearing her from her mother's hand as they stood in line at the Auschwitz concentration camp with hundreds of Jews and other prisoners. Her mother was led off to the gas chambers while Porway and her older sister were spared, only because the guards deemed them fit enough to work.

Porway, then 19, had already survived the ghetto in Lodz, Poland, where her father and brother had starved to death.

"My sister said, 'I can't take this,'" Porway recalled tearfully Sunday. "But I said, 'We have to. We have to live to tell people.'"

Now 90, Porway shared her story at a brunch in Rockville to honor Holocaust survivors. The event, attended by about 40 survivors and their families, coincided with Monday's Holocaust—Remembrance Day, or Yom HaShoah, in Israel. Most of the survivors were residents at the Charles E. Smith Life Communities senior facilities in Rockville, where officials say they have one of the largest groups of Holocaust survivors in the Washington area.

They came with their adult children, who had grown up hearing their painful stories, and with grandchildren, who they hoped would learn more. They told of fathers being arrested in the night after an abrupt knock on the door. They told of their synagogues burning, of being boarded onto trains with other Jewish children fleeing the Nazis, of the nuns who hid them in convents. They showed scars on their hands from being forced to work in German factories and cried as they recalled being forced to shovel dirt at gunpoint during years in a labor camp.

Many broke into tears as they told their stories, their accents still carrying traces of their native German, French and Polish.

''It's hard to accept what happened, even now,'' Porway, who lives in Chevy Chase, said in a Polish accent, as her voice shook and her eyes teared up. A few moments later, she added quietly, ''I sometimes question if people want to hear it, or if they'll get too upset.''

Joel Appelbaum said he organized the brunch—this was the fourth—to honor Holocaust survivors in memory of his late father, who had stayed at one of the Charles E. Smith facilities. Appelbaum is vice president of the Progress Club, a Rockville social group that paid for the brunch through its charitable foundation.

He noted survivors' ages—those at the brunch were between 75 and 100—and the fact that their first-person accounts would soon be left to books and video archives.

''We have a limited window to do this,'' Appelbaum said as younger family members helped their parents and grandparents get seated, often after parking walkers and wheelchairs along the walls. ''Ten years from now,'' Appelbaum said, ''this will not be an event.''

Charles E. Smith community officials said the survivors benefit from sharing their stories, too. Some had spoken little about the Holocaust during their younger years, after they had started new lives in the United States.

''I think at this stage in their lives, they want to talk, and it helps them,'' spokeswoman Emily Tipermas said. ''They feel it's safe for them now to talk, and they understand that they lived through this period of history.''

Yetti Sinnreich said her father, Beril Sinnreich, who is 99, had one question for her as they sat down to eat: ''Can I speak?''

Yetti Sinnreich, of Potomac, said she grew up hearing about the Holocaust from both parents, who met after the war in a ''displaced persons'' camp in Romania. Her mother, Klara Sinnreich, 97, worked as a seamstress in a labor camp.

While growing up, Yetti Sinnreich said, ''I remember my father screaming with nightmares and waking up the house.''

Klara Sinnreich no longer speaks much. But when the microphone came around, Beril Sinnreich raised his hand. He broke into tears as he recalled being forced to march to a work camp. He was 26 when Romanian soldiers came to his home, he said. He lost his entire family in the Holocaust.

''For three days and three nights, I didn't see water,'' Beril Sinnreich said. ''We slept in train wagons. Every night, frozen people were thrown out like garbage.''

They marched for six weeks, he said, and his father died of a heart attack. ''He couldn't walk anymore,'' he said.

Beril Sinnreich, stooped with age and wearing a white cap, appeared exhausted as he spoke before the crowd.

''Three years, I was in a concentration camp,'' he said through tears. ''I survived.''

When asked after the brunch what he wanted the children and teenagers in the audience to take away from his story and others, Sinnreich had a short answer: ''It shouldn't happen again.''

TIM CARPENTER: A FIGHTER FOR JUSTICE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to join today with so many who are remembering the life of Tim Carpenter, a life-long advocate for social, economic and environmental justice.

Tim was a believer and an activist. He believed that we could create a world where every person has the right to quality health care, to a clean environment, to a good job, and to peace. And he knew the only way to achieve that just society is to empower people to take action.

Tim's activism took many forms. As co-founder of Progressive Democrats of America, he helped design and implement an ''inside-outside'' strategy that allowed people around the country to advocate with their elected officials and gave members of Congress real insight into the daily challenges facing our constituents. He didn't just talk about problems, he pushed for solutions—expanding voting rights, winning health care for all, and investing in people.

Tim made the most of his too-short life. There wasn't a progressive fight where you couldn't find Tim—strategizing, organizing, and mentoring new recruits to the cause. Tim was tough as nails when it came to pushing for results, but he was also a gentle and kind soul who connected personally to each person he met.

Tim will be greatly missed, but he has left us a powerful legacy by teaching us never to stop pushing our progressive principles through practical and effective organizing.

I offer my deep condolences to Tim's family, friends and fellow organizers.

HONORING THE 133 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE BY THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY TO CENTRAL INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 133 Years of Faithful Service by the Daughters of Charity to Central Indiana.

In 1633, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul were co-founded by Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac in Paris, France, to ''Serve Jesus Christ corporally and spiritually in the person of the poor.'' Over time, their work expanded worldwide with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton founding the Daughters of Charity community in the United States before the Civil War.

The Daughters of Charity in the United States were quickly recognized for their faithful ministry to people in need in the areas of health care, social services, education and spiritual care. Noting this, Bishop Francis Silas Chatard of Indianapolis worked with the Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Maryland, to begin a ministry of health care available for all people in need living in the growing city of Indianapolis.

With $34.77 in their pockets, four Daughters of Charity arrived in Indianapolis on April 26, 1881, to start a healing ministry—today known as the St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital.

The Sisters brought with them a mission that is lived and celebrated by the St. Vincent Health ministry to this day: ''We have a mission, a reason for being here, to keep health care human; human for our patients, human for our families, human for our doctors and human for all associates. The poor will come and the rich will come, if they know they are going to be treated as people.''

Two hundred ninety-five Daughters of Charity have served in the St. Vincent ministry over the past 133 years, in whatever ways they were most needed. They have been an inspiration to St. Vincent associates, physicians, volunteers and the broader community. As a former member of the St. Vincent Indianapolis Board of Directors who served with two Daughters of Charity, I witnessed firsthand their critical role in responding to human needs in the midst of ever-changing social, technological, human, and economic circumstances.

At the same time, the Daughters of Charity have remained responsive to contemporary health needs, as seen by the relocation and expansion of services; the establishment and operation of a nursing school; the support and expansion of training programs for physicians; the development of values-based relationships and innovative partnerships with physicians and community organizations; and the willingness to discern and redeploy resources to address greatest needs.

2014 marks a transition for the Daughters of Charity and St. Vincent Health in Indianapolis. The Daughters have deemed the ministry of St. Vincent Health to be fully prepared to continue their ministry to the Central Indiana community in the original spirit of the Daughters of Charity, and therefore are assigning their Indianapolis-based Sisters to other works of charity around the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark this transition, I simply want to take this moment to recognize the extraordinary and lasting contributions made by the Daughters of Charity to the improving health and well-being—body, mind, and spirit—of the people of Central Indiana, noting particularly their dedication to serving and advocating for persons who are poor and most vulnerable.

I join with the St. Vincent Health Community in thanking the Daughters of Charity for the work that began the healing ministry of St. Vincent Health in 1881 and continues to thrive today.

RECOGNIZING EAST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL'S NJROTC MARKSMANSHIP TEAM

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the NJROTC Marksmanship Team at East Aurora High School for earning a top 10 finish at the Navy National Marksmanship Meet. The NJROTC Marksmanship Team at East Aurora qualified for the Navy's National Marksmanship Meet by finishing eighth out of 600 teams from across the country in the Secretary of the Navy Postal Competition.

Participants at the Navy National Marksmanship Meet are scored on their ability to accurately shoot an air rifle from three positions: lying down, kneeling, and standing. The competitors in the Navy National Marksmanship Meet must use intense concentration and remain calm to shoot accurately.

The performance of its Marksmanship Team at the Navy's National Marksmanship Meet provides a shining example of why East Aurora High School's NJROTC program is nationally recognized as a distinguished unit and regularly receives awards and honors. As recently as 2012, the Armed and Unarmed Drill Teams finished in first place in the Challenge Division, and in 2006, the Color Guard won the overall championship while competing against 500 high schools.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the following members of the East Aurora High School NJROTC Marksmanship Team for their excellent finish at the Navy National Marksmanship Meet: Cadet Master Chief Giovanni Gutierrez, Cadet Senior Chief Austin Martinez, Cadet Second Class Petty Officer Luis Nevarez, Cadet LCDR Jesus Ortega, and Cadet Senior Chief Sylvanna Parra.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from a vote which occurred on April 29, 2014 due to a medical appointment. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll Number 180—H. Res. 555, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for consideration of H.R. 4414, Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014—''aye.''

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MRS. FLORENCE BELLAMY FROM THE PHENIX CITY SCHOOL BOARD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the House's attention today to recognize Florence Bellamy who is retiring from the Phenix City School Board after 25 years of service.

Mrs. Bellamy has served on the Phenix City School Board since 1989, including terms as vice president and president. Mrs. Bellamy has also served as the Immediate Past President of the Alabama Association of School Boards, having previously served as President, President-Elect, Vice President, and District 4 Director. She has remained active within AASB, including leading or serving on the Academy Advisory Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, and the Executive/Legislative Committee. In 2001, Florence was named an All-State School Member, the association's highest honor. She has also achieved AASB's highest recognition in training, the Master's Honor Roll. In January of 2008, Mrs. Bellamy was honored with a ''lifetime Achievement'' award from her local Board of Education.

In addition to her dedication to education, Mrs. Bellamy has a passion for serving her community. Since 2000, she has worked as a Supervisor with the Russell County Department of Human Resources in the area of Adult Protective Services. She and her husband, Michael, have four children and three grandchildren. Mrs. Bellamy and her husband, Judge Michael Bellamy, are also active in their church.

Mr. Speaker, we join his family and friends in celebrating Mrs. Bellamy's retirement and wish her the very best.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DEACON CALVIN O. BUTTS II

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, April 27, 2014, the Village of Harlem, New York and the Village of East Elmhurst, Queens, New York came together to celebrate the life of Deacon Calvin Otis Butts, II, father of our beloved Reverend Dr. Calvin Otis Butts, III, Senior Pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church. The celebration took place at the First Baptist Church of East Elmhurst, where Deacon Calvin O. Butts, II served the Lord and its ministry.

The celebration included the wonderful voices of the Abyssinian Baptist Church Mass Choir and the breathtaking and gospel and sound of the First Baptist Church of East Elmhurst Ministry of Music. The Baptist were certainly in the house as preachers from all over the City of New York crowded into the sanctuary to displayed their love and support to the Butts Family. The Reverend Patrick H. Young presided over the services and the Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III eulogized his father as only a proud and loving son could do. It was one of the most touching and delightful eulogies that captured our thoughts, our minds and our hearts.

I submit the obituary that was prepared detailing the wonderful life of Deacon Calvin Otis Butts, II:

THE LIFE OF CALVIN O. BUTTS II

Calvin Otis Butts, II was born on December 5, 1922 in Fitzgerald, Georgia, to Calvin Otis Butts, Sr. and Verdie Branch.

The second of eight siblings (Melba, Calvin II, Robert, Nadine, Elestine, Jerry, Joan Blondell, and Joseph) from that union, he grew up learning to love and trust God at the Salem First Baptist Church. This solid foundation of faith would strengthen and sustain him throughout his entire life. In his youth, Calvin served as a Western Union delivery boy, at that time a position not usually given to African Americans. The messengers' motto was ''Take pride in your job and in your appearance,'' words that clearly had an influence on him through the years.

While in Fitzgerald, Calvin met Eloise Edwards, from nearby Ocilla, Georgia. He accompanied her to her high school prom, which was the beginning of a love that would endure for over six decades.

After attending Monitor High School, Calvin moved to Corona, Queens, New York, with his older half-brothers, James and Leon. He first worked in retail sales until he enlisted in the United States Army in 1942. He served tours in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, earning three Distinguished Service Medals and achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant before his honorable discharge in 1945.

Upon his return to New York, Calvin began working as a butcher. He joined the Meat Cutter's Union, and eventually became a chef at the Black Angus restaurant, a job he held for 25 years. He then went on to work for the City Of New York as a chef at the Bruener Home for Boys in the Bronx. Calvin also took care of some unfinished business, marrying his former prom date, Eloise Edwards, on September 14, 1947—a marriage that lasted 66½ years, and produced one son, Calvin Otis Butts III.

Mr. Butts was a man of integrity who stood on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ, and it was apparent in every aspect of his life. He was a lifetime member of the NAACP, and as a testament to his faith and service, Mr. Butts was ordained as a Deacon at the First Baptist Church of East Elmhurst, where he was also a member of the Men's Chorus.

Deacon Butts was also a good father. He was unwavering in his support, and took pride in the accomplishments of his son. He made sure that Calvin III, got an excellent education from Morehouse College. Even as his strength began to wane, you could still hear the respect and pride in Deacon Butts' voice when he extended his hand and greeted his song with a strong and clear, ''Dr. Butts.''

Deacon Calvin Otis Butts, II transitioned from labor to reward on April 21, 2014. He is survived by his loving wife, Eloise; his son and daughter-in-law, Calvin III and Patricia Butts; sisters Nadine Nealy, Elestine (Richard) Holloway, and Joan Blondell Williams; sisters-in-law Rosalee Butts and Emma Nell Butts; grandchildren Calvin IV (Tiffany). Alexander (Dina), and Patricia Jeanne; great-grandchildren Kyla Jeanne, Alexander II, Calvin V, Arthur Andrew, Reed Harris,

and Ethan Nathaniel; and a loving host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

''For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept my faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.'' 2 Timothy 4:6–8

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my esteem colleagues to join me in honoring the Life of Deacon Calvin Otis Butts II.

HONORING PEDRO HUÍZAR

HON. PETE P. GALLEGO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Pedro Huízar. A surveyor by trade, his family roots and history date to the 1700s when accuracy in surveying depended on personal skill—not technology. Pedro was born in 1740. As a young man, he was trained as a sculptor in Spain and then sailed to the New World to seek his fortune.

Thirty-eight years later, he married his first love, María de la Trinidad Henriques. Historical records are somewhat hazy, but we know they had at least four children: three boys and a daughter. Sadly, in an event lost to history, María died. Pedro would later remarry to María Gertrudis Martinez in 1798.

In April 1793, Pedro was appointed surveyor when the San Antonio de Valero Mission—the mission we now know as The Alamo—was secularized. He was also present when Governor Manuel Muñoz distributed lands to 23 adult Indians. He too received a small piece of land for his service. Pedro went on to survey the lands at the missions San Francisco de Espada, San Juan Capistrano, San José and San Miguel de Aguayo, and Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña.

Around 1790, Pedro was commissioned by Governor Manuel Muñoz to draw the plans for reconstruction of the San Antonio de Béxar Presidio. Shortly after, on March 4, 1791, Pedro was sent to La Bahia to report on the feasibility of irrigation for lands around Nuestra Señora de Loreto Presidio, but later concluded that the efforts would be too costly.

Through his profession as a surveyor, Pedro Huízar played an important role by surveying the various missions and the presidios of San Antonio de Béxar. His reputation for honesty and sound judgment earned the trust of his community and made others call upon him when a reliable assessment or survey was required.

After many years of service, Pedro Huízar was appointed a justicia at San José in 1794 by Governor Muñoz. Later, in 1796, he was appointed justicia at Concepción, also by Governor Muñoz. In that position, he oversaw the temporal affairs of the Native American population.

Today, Pedro is most known as the probable designer or sculptor of the window of the sacristy at San Jose Mission. No documents exist to prove he was the sculptor, but it is believed he was the artist in charge of both the rose window and the façade. There are several variations of the legend concerning Pedro's connection with the rose window. Some claim that the window was dedicated to Saint Rose of Lima, but there are no roses in the window, only figs. The Huízar family maintains that the window was dedicated to Rosa, a love lost on the journey to the New World.

Today, on this floor, I honor the life and legacy of Pedro Huízar. I also honor his descendants—many of whom even today still live in the San Antonio area and in the area of the San Antonio missions.

IN MEMORY OF PETE HALL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 21, 2014, a Service of Devine Worship was conducted for in thanksgiving for the Life of Lt. Col. William C. ''Pete'' Hall at the Beaufort National Cemetery at Beaufort, South Carolina.

The following is the deserved tribute from the program of the service: Lt. Col. William C. ''Pete'' Hall, 83, U.S. Air Force, husband of Lucy Ann Preacher Hall, of Beaufort, SC, died Wednesday, April 16, 2014 in Beaufort Memorial Hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held on Monday, April 21, 2014, at 11:00 am in Beaufort National Cemetery with full military honors. Pete was born January 15, 1931, in Abbeville, SC, but grew up in Ridgeland, SC. He is the son of the late Samuel Blake Hall and Pearl Potter Hall.

After graduating from Clemson University, Pete served his country in the United States Air Force for over 21 years, and was a fighter pilot with over 3,000 hours in various aircraft, including the T-33, B-57, and F-4D. He flew many bombing missions during the Vietnam War and earned numerous decorations including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters.

After retiring from the Air Force, Pete served his community in several capacities, including President of the Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce, President of the Low Country Chapter of Retired Officers Association and as a member of the Beaufort County Aviation Commission, Beaufort County Tax Equalization Board, the Beaufort-Jasper Economic Opportunity Commission and the Beaufort-Jasper Water Authority. He served as vice-chairman of the Beaufort County Republican Party and represented them as a delegate at several state level conventions. Pete enjoyed attending Clemson University football games, boating, fishing, and shrimping in Beaufort's waterways, as well as spending time with his family.

Mr. Hall is survived by his wife, Lucy P. Hill (married 59 years), his two sons, Williams C. Hall Jr. and Robert B. Hall, and his five grandchildren. He will be missed by his family, as well as the many friends he has made over his years of service and living in Beaufort. In lieu of flowers the family suggests that donations be made to the Wounded Warriors Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675. Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family.

CONGRATULATING RIVER OAKS SQUARE ARTS CENTER IN ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA

HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. MCALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate River Oaks Square Arts Center in Alexandria, Louisiana on its 30th anniversary.

Opening in February of 1984, River Oaks Arts Center was originally the home of the Bolton Family of Alexandria and was donated solely to be used to promote the arts. It is proudly listed under the National Registry of Historic Places and after years of renovation, River Oaks opened its doors to the community featuring artwork from more than 150 artists.

Over the years, River Oaks Square Arts Center has stimulated interest and appreciation for artists around the local community by its display of work. Located in Downtown Alexandria's Cultural District, this art center continues its mission intended by the Bolton family of promoting and emphasizing the value of fine arts and crafts.

I commend River Oaks Square Arts Center and congratulate them on 30 years of success, leadership, and community contribution and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring them on this momentous occasion.

SRI CHINMOY

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Sri Chinmoy's arrival to America. As a spiritual teacher, poet, artist and composer, Sri Chinmoy used his many talents to make the world a more peaceful place to live.

Sri Chinmoy was born in the village of Shakpura, Chittagong, in Bangladesh, which was at the time called East Bengal. In 1964, Sri Chinmoy first traveled to the U.S. and later embarked on a fifty-state American lecture tour to promote his powerful message of peace, cooperation, and respect for all. His first stop was Rhode Island's Brown University. His message of peace resonated with Rhode Islanders because he sought what so many people seek—a peaceful world for himself and others.

His quiet and selfless work has served as an important example to all those who work toward peace and harmony. A few years ago, I was proud to help dedicate a statue portraying Sri Chinmoy in Roger Williams Park to celebrate the World Harmony Run, founded by Sri Chinmoy, which seeks to strengthen international ties and promote friendship. Providence is among the many cities in America

and across the world that recognize the peaceful principles taught by Sri Chinmoy. In fact, there are over 100 countries that participate in the World Harmony Run.

On the 50th anniversary of Sri Chinmoy's arrival to America, it is important that we remember his message and renew our commitment to make the world a more peaceful place. His leadership is sorely missed, but his spirit and message live on. As he so aptly described: ''we are all seekers, and our goal is the same: to achieve inner peace, light, and joy, to become inseparably one with our Source, and to lead lives full of true satisfaction.''

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. SHIRLEY BLUITT LEONARD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize beloved wife, mother, grandmother, Mrs. Shirley Bluitt Leonard, who passed away on Sunday, April 13, surrounded by her family. Mrs. Leonard was born in Mexia, TX to John C. Bluitt and Katie Wiley Bluitt Hurd. She graduated from Dunbar High School of Mexia in 1953. In 1956, she received the B.A. degree in Business from Wiley College in Marshall, TX. She earned the Master of Education from Prairie View A&M University (formerly Prairie View A&M College) in 1964. It was at Prairie View A&M University, on the steps of Suarez Hall, that she met her husband of 50 years Joe. E. Leonard, Sr. on February 28, 1964. Joe and Shirley Leonard graduated from the Master's program at PVAMU, marching together in May, 1964. She soon became certified as an educator in the State of Texas in Supervision and as a Reading Specialist, and subsequently took graduate education courses at the University of North Texas and Colorado University in Denver.

Mrs. Leonard's lifelong passion was educating others. During the course of her professional career, she taught in the Cleburne Independent School District, Aldine I.S.D., Austin I.S.D., and served as a Reading Specialist throughout the state of Texas. In the latter role, she supervised and coordinated the Title I Reading Program for the Austin Independent School District and coordinated programs for the Texas Youth Commission, formerly known as the Texas Youth Council. Mrs. Leonard was also a small business entrepreneur who owned and operated a beauty and fashion boutique for several years.

Mrs. Leonard was the mother of Dr. Joe E. Leonard, Jr., whom I also know personally through his work serving as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and previously as the lead staff member for the Congressional Black Caucus. Mrs. Leonard, a vivacious, spirited, and loving presence among her family, friends, and the many students she taught over the years, will be deeply missed. I extend my deepest condolences to the Leonard family during this time of grieving. Our country has benefitted immensely from Mrs. Leonard's career and her memory will continue to inspire others. Through her life she has created positive pathways for many future generations.

RECOGNIZING LT. COL. EDWARD COOK AS THE 2014 EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNER

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Col. Edward Cook as the 2014 recipient of the Exceptional Community Volunteer Award at the United Way of Central New York Achievements in Caring Celebration at the Palace Theatre in Syracuse, New York.

Lt. Col. Edward Cook, a member of the 174th Attack Wing based in Syracuse, is the standard bearer of dedication and commitment in serving his local community. Lt. Col. Cook lead a team of volunteers to collect food and toys during Drop Off Day for the Salvation Army's biggest event of the year—Christmas Bureau. Lt. Col. Cook coordinates all the logistics with his team to deliver food and toys, first to the Salvation Army, then to the Oncenter distribution point. The process culminates with Distribution Day, where Lt. Col. Cook once again leads his team to serve over 2,700 families who are most in need in Central New York.

The level of commitment shown throughout the Christmas Bureau process is remarkable, particularly this past year's Drop Off Day, where Lt. Col. Cook and his team braved below zero temperatures outside to make sure the logistical intake of food and toys ran smoothly.

This operation would simply not happen without Lt. Col. Edward Cook and his team. Lt. Col. Cook is present at every planning meeting throughout the year, and is always one of the first to step up to the plate for any other volunteer opportunity that may arise.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Lt. Col. Edward Cook as this year's recipient of the Exceptional Community Volunteer Award. We can only hope that all of us strive to have the same selfless dedication that Lt. Col. Edward Cook exhibits not only in protecting our freedom with the 174th Attack Wing, but in and around the community that we call home.

A SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE WILD HORSE AND BURRO MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as an advocate over the years for wild horses, I rise today to join a chorus of advocates in urging the Bureau of Land Management to implement a safer and more sustainable wild horse and burro management strategy. Along with a majority of Americans, I recognize that our federally-protected wild horses and burros are national treasures to be protected and preserved for future generations.

For decades, the agency has pursued an unsustainable and highly controversial approach to wild horse management. Today, the U.S. government maintains more wild horses in captivity than remain free in the wild. At the same time, the Bureau is underutilizing proven, cost-effective and humane alternatives for wild horse management that would keep wild horses on the range and avert the need for roundups, removals, sale and slaughter. This is an untenable situation, both for America's wild horses and for American taxpayers.

A June 2013 report by the National Academy of Sciences recommended using available fertility control as a ''more affordable option than continuing to remove horses to long-term holding facilities.'' I urge the agency to fix what is not working and to move toward these science-based recommendations. I stand ready to engage in a constructive dialogue with my colleagues and with agency officials to implement much needed changes to the current management program and to provide a more certain future for America's wild horse and burros.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 01, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense proposals relating to military compensation.

SH–216

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine new routes for funding and financing highways and transit.

SD–215

10:30 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for education.
SD–608

12 noon
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To receive a briefing on Georgia 2008, and Ukraine 2014, focusing on if Moldova is next, and to examine Russia's intentions with regard to Transnistria and Moldova.
CVC–268

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce
To hold hearings to examine a more efficient and effective government, focusing on cultivating the Federal workforce.
SD–342

3 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the Ukraine, focusing on countering Russian intervention and supporting a democratic state.
SD–419

MAY 7

9 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the 2014 Farm Bill, focusing on implementation and next steps.
SR–328A

10 a.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the economic outlook.
SH–216

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security
To hold hearings to examine investing in cybersecurity, focusing on understanding risks and building capabilities for the future.
SD–192

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and oversight for fiscal year 2015 for Federal information technology investments.
SD–138

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on progress, challenges, and next steps.
SR–253

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1603, to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, S. 1818, to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and S. 2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.
SD–628

MAY 8

3 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight
To hold hearings to examine waste and abuse in Army sponsorship and marketing contracts.
SD–342

MAY 14

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine wildfires and forest management, focusing on how prevention is preservation.
SD–628

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

MAY 21

10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on the Bureau of Indian Education.
SD–628

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Thursday, May 1, 2014*

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, through Whom we see who we are and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House to encourage them in their official tasks. Be with them and with all who labor here to serve this great Nation and its people.

Assure them that, whatever their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful in their duties and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations and fulfill them with integrity.

Remind us all of the dignity of work and teach us to use our talents and ability in ways that are honorable and just and are of benefit to those we serve.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. NORTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

GENTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the Gentry Arkansas Fire Department's 100th birthday.

Gentry, Arkansas, is home to over 3,000 of my constituents; and for the past 100 years, the Gentry Fire Department has been steadfastly committed to their safety and well-being, as well as the safety of thousands more who reside in the surrounding areas of Benton County.

From its humble beginnings in 1914 to the purchase of its first firetruck in the 1940s, the Gentry Fire Department and firefighters have worked tirelessly for its citizens, placing themselves in great danger to protect the lives and property of others.

We rest easy knowing the department will continue to do so for the next century, and I join the residents of Gentry to express my profound gratitude.

Thank you to the Gentry firefighters, past and present, for 100 years of selfless service to the Pioneer community. I wish you a very happy 100th birthday.

FULL EMPLOYMENT

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, the bottom line is we need bold visions to achieve full employment.

We know only too well that we have had unprecedented periods of high unemployment. We know that we have about 50 million people, 13 million who are children, living below poverty in the greatest country in the world. We know we must expand economic opportunity to have a strong middle class, who are the backbone of this great country. We know that getting every American working will add to not only our tax base, but also reduce the deficit and debt and eliminate poverty.

So the question is, Madam Speaker, why aren't we doing it? Where are the visionaries? Where is the President's American Jobs Act of 2013 or the 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act? Where are they?

Madam Speaker, let's bring them to the floor.

CUBAN JOURNALIST JULIET MICHELENA DIAZ

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the case of Juliet Michelena Diaz, an independent Afro-Cuban journalist who last month was unjustly detained by Castro's thugs simply for photographing the brutality of the state security forces of Fidel Castro in Havana.

The detention of this young journalist is not just an example of the regime's efforts to silence those who are critical of its actions, but it also shows how ruthless the Castro brothers continue to be in their policy of repressing independent voices and violating human rights.

There is no independent press in Cuba and many journalists are afraid to speak out against the dictatorship for fear of incarceration. That is why it is so important to support the free flow of information on the island so that the Cuban people can exchange ideas to promote democratic principles and the rule of law.

DECRIMINALIZING MARIJUANA LAWS

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, 18 States and the District of Columbia have rapidly decriminalized marijuana laws, making them subject only to fines. They did so for various reasons. None of those reasons were more solid or important than the Council's decision to decriminalize D.C.'s marijuana laws.

African Americans in the District of Columbia and Whites use marijuana at the same rate, but Blacks have an arrest record for possession eight times that of Whites. That's discrimination.

It is the same thing when Chairman JOHN MICA of the Government Operations Subcommittee of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee decides to hold a hearing on D.C.'s marijuana decriminalization law but on no others. Two prior hearings have looked at marijuana decriminalization. None has called local public officials.

Be on notice. The District of Columbia insists that it not be treated any differently from the 18 States that have decriminalized marijuana and the States who have legalized it.

VETERANS FAIR ECONOMIC TOWN HALL

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, last week, I had the pleasure of holding a veterans fair economic town hall and

several general town halls across my district. Throughout the conversations I had with my constituents, I heard a growing concern about the increasing government intrusiveness, whether it is in the doctor's office, the classroom, or the economy.

House Republicans understand that our constituents want government to work efficiently. We have offered real solutions that will grow good-paying jobs and expand opportunity for all.

In fact, we have already passed over 200 bills that will start helping people today but unfortunately are still collecting dust on Senator HARRY REID's desk. This includes bills that would lower health care costs and return choice back to patients, as well as expand domestic energy production to both create jobs and lower costs for consumers.

It is time, Madam Speaker, for the Senate to join us in advancing real solutions. It is time to make life work better for all Americans.

HONORING HAROLD CORBIN

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Harold Corbin and thank him for his service to the 11th Congressional District. This last Saturday marked 50 years of continued service to this great district. It was the first district meeting that he had missed.

Mr. Corbin is a lifelong resident of Franklin, North Carolina, which is a testament to his commitment to our community; and from 1980 to 1989, Mr. Corbin served as the Republican chairman of the 11th Congressional District. As chairman, Mr. Corbin made important contributions that have had a lasting impact on western North Carolina.

In 1981, his activism led to the election of the former Representative Bill Hendon, who was the first Republican Congressman to represent the 11th District in over 100 years.

From 1982 to 2002, Mr. Corbin served as the chairman of the Macon County Board of Commissioners. His leadership and inspiration to his son led his son to get involved in politics. He now holds that same position. It is both of them that have set a tremendous example for our Nation.

I will close with this. All of us in Washington can learn a lesson from Mr. Corbin, who has long said that, once elected, Representatives serving constituents ought to leave their politics at the door and truly serve the citizens.

TVA'S WATTS BAR NUCLEAR FACILITY

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my findings from last week's tour of TVA's Watts Bar Nuclear facility located in Tennessee's Fourth District in Rhea County.

The Watts Bar facility is constructing a second nuclear unit, which will be completed late next year. It will be the 21st century's first new reactor to go online, doubling the facility's capacity and then creating reliable energy for nearly 1.3 million homes and businesses.

This project has contributed significantly to the local economy by providing more than 3,300 high-paying jobs. TVA makes safety and security its top priority. During the construction of Unit 2, the workers have achieved a milestone of 22.8 million work-hours without a lost-time incident.

I would like to extend a special thanks to TVA's senior vice president of operations and construction, Mike Skaggs, and his team for making my visit so educational and productive.

Madam Speaker, it is imperative that we continue to support the safe, affordable, and reliable energy that nuclear provides in order to attract industry and create jobs.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on consideration of H.R. 4487, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 557 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4487.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0912

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4487) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, thank you for the recognition, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4487, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, provides $3.3 billion for the operations of the legislative branch, excluding Senate items. The recommendation is the equivalent to the fiscal year 2014 level and a decrease of $122.5 million, or 3.7 percent, from the requested level.

Conforming with the longstanding practice under which each body of Congress determines its own housekeeping requirements and the other concurs without intervention, funds for the Senate are not included in the bill as reported by the committee.

Through seven hearings and meetings with agency heads, the committee listened to all who presented their respective concerns and budget requests. It was necessary to make some critical decisions and prioritize programs, and we did this in a bipartisan and transparent manner.

We are presenting to the House today a bill that is fiscally responsible and maintains current operations for the Legislative Branch agencies.

The bill includes $1.2 billion for the operations of the House. This is equivalent to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $20 million below the request. It is worthy to note that the funding provided for Member's Representational Allowances and Committees provides for the current operations, and I do not anticipate further reductions in the coming year. The bill also includes the Members' pay freeze for fiscal year 2015.

□ 0915

With this bill, total funding for the House of Representatives is 14 percent below fiscal year 2010.

The bill includes $348 million for the Capitol Police. This is $9.5 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $77 million less than the requested level. This will support 1,775 sworn officers and 370 civilian positions. A slight increase above last year is provided to ensure the Capitol Police maintain current operations and ensure mission-essential training.

Knowing that access to the House office buildings is of critical concern to Members, we directed that the Chief of Police develop an action plan that will make sure public access to our buildings is easily accessible during heightened periods of visitation. The implementation of this plan is in the early stages, and we will continue to monitor the budgetary impacts to the Capitol Police.

The bill includes $45.7 million for the Congressional Budget Office. This is at

the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $378,000 below the requested level.

The bill includes $488.6 million for the Architect of the Capitol, excluding Senate items. This is a decrease of $40.5 million from the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $79 million below the requested level.

Within the recommended level, the committee continues its prioritization of projects that promote the safety and public health of workers and occupants, decrease the deferred maintenance backlog, and invest to achieve future energy savings.

The committee recognizes the continuing challenge of preserving and maintaining our infrastructure and prioritizing critical projects in the current budgetary environment. It is important to note that $21 million is recommended for the final phase of dome restoration, a very high priority of this committee.

In addition, we are continuing the 5-year practice of including funds for the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund, a fund established by Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ when she was chair of this subcommittee in anticipation of the renovation of the historic Cannon House Office Building.

Might I say, it is one of the really tremendous contributions that my friend and colleague has made, and I hope it stays inside of our operating procedure for many years to come. It was a wise decision.

Also included is $16 million for the lease cost of a portion of the Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Office Building in preparation of the Cannon renewal project.

The bill includes $595 million for the operations of the Library of Congress. This is an increase of $16 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $1.9 million above the requested level. The amount will allow the Library to continue at current operations.

Established by Congress in 1800, the Library of Congress is one of the largest libraries in the world, with a collection of more than 130 million print, audio, and video items in 460 languages. It is imperative adequate funding is provided to maintain acquisitions, preservation, the administration of U.S. copyright laws by the U.S. Copyright Office for research and analysis of policy issues for the Congress by the Congressional Research Service, and the administration of a national program to provide reading material to the blind and physically handicapped.

The bill before you accomplishes all of that.

It is important to note $5.5 million of the funding is provided for the Deacidification Program, which is $1 million over the Library's request. And $8.2 million is for the Teaching with Primary Sources Program, at $1 million over the request, to be used for competitive opportunities for developing online interactive and apps for classroom use on Congress and civic participation.

It is $1.2 million above the request for the Copyright Office to reduce the claims and processing time for copyright registrations and to conduct business analyses for the process engineering of the documentation recordation function.

The bill includes $122.6 million for the Government Printing Office. This is an increase of $3.3 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $6.3 million below the requested level. Funds have been included for continuation of development and infrastructure costs associated with the Federal digital system and the system replacement for upgrading the extensible markup language.

The bill includes $519.6 million for the Government Accountability Office. This is an increase of $14.2 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $5.5 million below the requested level. Language is included to establish a Center for Audit Excellence to build global institutional auditing capacity and promote good governance. This center is to be operated on a fee-based basis.

Finally, the bill includes $3.42 million for the Open World Leadership Trust Fund. This is $2.58 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $4.58 million below the requested level.

As a sign of support for Ukraine, the committee has reduced the program by 43 percent. This represents the program's percentage of participants from Russia. It is important to stress that Open World's program does not just focus on work with Russia. Ukraine has the next largest group of participants, closely followed by other nations in the surrounding region. Therefore, we encourage the center to do more in Ukraine and with other participating countries in the surrounding region.

I would like to thank my good friend, the ranking member, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her role throughout the process. We have worked well together in a bipartisan manner. It has truly been a team effort.

Also, I extend my appreciation to all members of the subcommittee in their efforts in helping bring this measure to the floor. I also want to thank the truly excellent staff that has nursed me through this.

Let me just add, parenthetically, that we had a pretty unusual situation in that, because of some early retirements and the loss of our dear friend, Bill Young, we had a lot of reshuffling to do on our committee. On our side, that meant we only had one carryover member, and that was the vice chairman, Mr. HARRIS from Maryland, who was indispensable and extraordinarily helpful to the rest of us.

Again, without a capable staff and without, frankly, a wonderful working partner in my ranking member, we would have had a much more difficult time. Frankly, I don't think anybody in this institution knows this bill and this process better than Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. She has been my friend. I was once on her committee as a very junior member when she chaired it, and I learned a lot from her then. I learned a lot more from her this time.

I look forward to the debate, and with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2015 (H.R. 4487)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH					
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES					
Payment to Widows and Heirs of Deceased Members of Congress	174	---	---	-174	---
Salaries and Expenses					
House Leadership Offices					
Office of the Speaker	6,645	6,778	6,645	---	-133
Office of the Majority Floor Leader	2,180	2,224	2,180	---	-44
Office of the Minority Floor Leader	7,114	7,257	7,114	---	-143
Office of the Majority Whip	1,887	1,924	1,887	---	-37
Office of the Minority Whip	1,460	1,489	1,460	---	-29
Republican Conference	1,505	1,536	1,505	---	-31
Democratic Caucus	1,487	1,517	1,487	---	-30
Subtotal, House Leadership Offices	22,278	22,725	22,278	---	-447
Members' Representational Allowances Including Members' Clerk Hire, Official Expenses of Members, and Official Mail					
Expenses	554,318	565,404	554,318	---	-11,086
Committee Employees					
Standing Committees, Special and Select	123,903	126,335	123,903	---	-2,432
Committee on Appropriations (including studies and investigations)	23,271	23,736	23,271	---	-465
Subtotal, Committee employees	147,174	150,071	147,174	---	-2,897
Salaries, Officers and Employees					
Office of the Clerk	24,009	24,639	24,009	---	-630
Office of the Sergeant at Arms	14,777	12,058	11,927	-2,850	-131
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer	113,100	116,163	113,100	---	-3,063
Office of the Inspector General	4,742	4,742	4,742	---	---
Office of General Counsel	1,341	1,353	1,341	---	-12
Office of the Parliamentarian	1,952	1,971	1,952	---	-19
Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House	3,088	4,114	4,088	+1,000	-26
Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House	8,353	8,893	8,893	+540	---
Office of Interparliamentary Affairs	814	814	814	---	---
Other authorized employees	479	479	479	---	---
Subtotal, Salaries, officers and employees	172,655	175,226	171,345	-1,310	-3,881
Allowances and Expenses					
Supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims	3,503	4,153	4,153	+650	---
Official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House	190	190	190	---	---
Government contributions	258,081	258,081	256,636	-1,445	-1,445
Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery	16,217	16,217	16,217	---	---
Transition activities	1,631	3,737	3,737	+2,106	---
Wounded Warrior program	2,500	2,500	2,500	---	---
Office of Congressional Ethic	1,467	1,485	1,467	---	-18
Miscellaneous items	720	720	720	---	---
Subtotal, Allowances and expenses	284,309	287,083	285,620	+1,311	-1,463
Total, House of Representatives	1,180,908	1,200,509	1,180,735	-173	-19,774

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2015 (H.R. 4487)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
JOINT ITEMS					
Joint Economic Committee	4,203	4,270	4,203	---	-67
Joint Committee on Taxation	10,004	10,149	10,004	---	-145
Office of the Attending Physician					
Medical supplies, equipment, expenses, and allowances	3,400	3,371	3,371	-29	---
Office of Congressional Accessibility Services	1,387	1,405	1,387	---	-18
Total, Joint items	18,994	19,195	18,965	-29	-230
CAPITOL POLICE					
Salaries	279,000	291,403	286,500	+7,500	-4,903
General expenses	59,459	64,260	61,459	+2,000	-2,801
Total, Capitol Police	338,459	355,663	347,959	+9,500	-7,704
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE					
Salaries and expenses	3,868	4,020	3,959	+91	-61
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE					
Salaries and expenses	45,700	46,078	45,700	---	-378
ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL					
General administration	90,277	96,433	91,555	+1,278	-4,878
Capitol building	61,376	57,545	53,126	-8,250	-4,419
Capitol grounds	13,860	14,366	11,993	-1,867	-2,373
House of Representatives buildings:					
House office buildings	71,622	108,934	71,622	---	-37,312
House Historic buildings revitalization fund	70,000	70,000	70,000	---	---
Capitol Power Plant	125,678	103,990	102,152	-23,526	-1,838
Offsetting collections	-9,000	-9,000	-9,000	---	---
Subtotal, Capitol Power Plant	116,678	94,990	93,152	-23,526	-1,838
Library buildings and grounds	53,391	62,756	41,733	-11,658	-21,023
Capitol police buildings, grounds and security	19,348	25,605	19,486	+138	-6,119
Botanic garden	11,856	15,686	15,023	+3,167	-663
Capitol Visitor Center:					
CVC Operations	20,632	21,095	20,875	+243	-220
Total, Architect of the Capitol	529,040	567,410	488,565	-40,475	-78,845
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS					
Salaries and expenses	412,052	420,852	424,057	+12,005	+3,205
Authority to spend receipts	-6,350	-6,350	-6,350	---	---
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses	405,702	414,502	417,707	+12,005	+3,205
Copyright Office, salaries and expenses	51,624	53,068	54,303	+2,679	+1,235
Authority to spend receipts	-33,444	-33,582	-33,582	-138	---
Subtotal, Copyright Office	18,180	19,486	20,721	+2,541	+1,235
Congressional Research Service, Salaries and expenses	105,350	108,382	106,095	+745	-2,287
Books for the blind and physically handicapped Salaries and expenses	49,750	50,696	50,429	+679	-267
Total, Library of Congress	578,982	593,066	594,952	+15,970	+1,886

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2015 (H.R. 4487)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE					
Congressional printing and binding	79,736	85,400	79,736	---	-5,664
Office of Superintendent of Documents, Salaries and expenses	31,500	32,171	31,500	---	-671
Government Printing Office Revolving Fund	8,064	11,348	11,348	+3,284	---
Total, Government Printing Office	119,300	128,919	122,584	+3,284	-6,335
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE					
Salaries and expenses	537,751	548,866	543,372	+5,621	-5,494
Offsetting collections	-32,368	-23,750	-23,750	+8,618	---
Total, Government Accountability Office	505,383	525,116	519,622	+14,239	-5,494
OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER TRUST FUND					
Payment to the Open World Leadership Center Trust Fund	6,000	8,000	3,420	-2,580	-4,580
JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT					
Stennis Center for Public Service	430	430	430	---	---
GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Scorekeeping adjustment (CBO estimate)	-1,000	---	-1,000	---	-1,000
Grand total (Discretionary and Mandatory)	3,326,064	3,448,406	3,325,891	-173	-122,515
Discretionary	(3,325,890)	(3,448,406)	(3,325,891)	(+1)	(-122,515)
Mandatory	(174)	---	---	(-174)	---
RECAPITULATION					
House of Representatives	1,180,908	1,200,509	1,180,735	-173	-19,774
Joint Items	18,994	19,195	18,965	-29	-230
Capitol Police	338,459	355,663	347,959	+9,500	-7,704
Office of Compliance	3,868	4,020	3,959	+91	-61
Congressional Budget Office	45,700	46,078	45,700	---	-378
Architect of the Capitol	529,040	567,410	488,565	-40,475	-78,845
Library of Congress	578,982	593,066	594,952	+15,970	+1,886
Government Printing Office	119,300	128,919	122,584	+3,284	-6,335
Government Accountability Office	505,383	525,116	519,622	+14,239	-5,494
Open World Leadership Center	6,000	8,000	3,420	-2,580	-4,580
Stennis Center for Public Service	430	430	430	---	---
Other appropriations	-1,000	---	-1,000	---	-1,000
Grand total (Discretionary and Mandatory)	3,326,064	3,448,406	3,325,891	-173	-122,515
Discretionary	(3,325,890)	(3,448,406)	(3,325,891)	(+1)	(-122,515)
Mandatory	(174)	---	---	(-174)	---

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I want to thank Chairman ROGERS and my ranking member, NITA LOWEY, for the commitment that they made to regular order, which is why we have our second appropriations bill on the House floor by May 1. It is my hope that we can stay true to this commitment throughout the remainder of this year.

I also want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma, TOM COLE, who I really couldn't say enough good things about what an incredible partner he has been. We really have—and I will say that several times throughout my remarks—worked cooperatively, collaboratively, and I think the finest compliment that I can pay another Member is that they are an institutionalist—someone who has incredible respect for those that came before us and the history and tradition and all that has led to us being the finest democratic institution in the entire world.

We are stewards of the Capitol complex in the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, and the chairman really has most definitely recognized that and honored it.

The budget deal struck during the shutdown last year gave us 2 years of discretionary caps so that the Appropriations Committee can now get on with the business of funding important government programs.

There are many opinions about how these resources should be allocated amongst programs, but that is a legitimate debate, rather than the alternative, which we saw during the government shutdown last October.

For my part, I am pleased with and supportive of the bill that my good friend Chairman COLE has put forward today, done within the funding constraints that the Legislative Branch Subcommittee had to operate under. We worked collaboratively, and, as always, it was a pleasure to work with him.

The bill provides level funding, and, unfortunately, the constrained allocation has ensured that there is no increase for Member and committee offices. Personal office budgets have been cut by 16 percent since 2010, while committees have been cut by 14 percent over the same period. When considered through a long lens, those cuts are even more damaging.

The Congressional Research Service reported in August 2010 that House committee staff levels declined 28 percent between 1977 and 2009. The recent cuts have only served to compound the decline in staffing levels highlighted by CRS.

There is no question that these cuts will continue to have a harmful effect on this institution—on our ability to retain the best and brightest and to serve our constituents most effectively. We have gone through some difficult economic times, there is no question, but as we emerge, we need to consider how continuing these stark funding levels affects our ability to compete with the executive branch and the Senate for the best talent. When a Senator can offer to double the salary of a legislative assistant working for a House Member, there is an imbalance that we ignore in the House, at our peril.

I want to thank Chairman COLE also for the focus placed on the Copyright Office in this bill. In the FY 2015 budget hearing with the Library of Congress last month, we heard about the need to bring the copyright system into the 21st century with business practices that provide for more interaction and improvement with the copyright community.

This bill starts that process by investing $1.5 million in much-needed IT improvements for the Copyright Office. The bill also carves out $750,000 to deal with the copyright backlog, which grew larger over the last few years as they lost staff due to tightening budgets.

As the authorizing committees review our Nation's copyright laws, these additional investments will ensure that the Copyright Office can meet immediate needs as well as prepare for new ways to do business.

During the Capitol Police hearing and during subcommittee markup we heard from Members on both sides of the aisle about the impact door closures have had on our constituents and staff. This is why we included report language requesting a report on how the Capitol Police can accomplish door openings without increasing overtime. We have now received what I can only hope is a draft report from the Capitol Police that details the opening of only two doors for 2½ hours each day.

The committee has been clear that access is one of the Capitol Police's top priorities, and the current plan does not reflect that priority. My expectation, which I know is shared by many Members, is that now that the Capitol Police have been provided essentially full relief from the sequester, multiple doors throughout the House should be staffed and opened for the entire workday.

Reducing overtime costs through door closures is unacceptable. Forcing our constituents, staff, and people trying to do business at the Capitol into long lines is inefficient and stressful for the public and the officers.

I will be asking the Chief to go back to the drawing board on this report.

The bill continues funding for the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund at $70 million, for which I thank the chairman. Since the estimate to rehabilitate the Cannon House Office Building, which is 100 years old, has come in at a staggering $753 million, investing a little at a time in the trust fund is the most responsible way to fund this and other major projects.

The bill also includes funding for the final phase of the Capitol dome project at $21.2 million. The funding provided this year will address the interior walls, columns, and coffered ceiling that have sustained significant water damage and paint delamination.

The public will soon see the skyline of our Nation's Capital changed with scaffolding on the Capitol dome that will begin to go up at the end of this month, using funds from previous years. The total pricetag to restore the dome will be around $106 million after this year's funding is provided.

This bill also directs the Library of Congress to continue their 30-year program to deacidify books and provides an additional $1 million to keep that program on track.

Also of note, the bill cuts the Open World Leadership Center by 43 percent to $3.4 million. The Stennis Center Leadership program is funded at $430,000 after finally—and thankfully—providing the committee with a budget justification for the first time, on time.

I congratulate Chairman COLE on writing a balanced bill with a few targeted investments. Even though I wish we could do more—and I know he does too—to invest in our staff, I know that the chairman had many competing priorities, including our vast infrastructure needs.

Chairman COLE, again, I have truly enjoyed working with you in this role, and I appreciate the accommodations made for the minority in this bill. Working with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle has been an absolute pleasure. It was a collaborative and cooperative effort. We are truly, I think, the example for the entire Congress on what collegiality means. The process in putting this bill together was really a team effort.

Chairman COLE understands that this may be the smallest appropriations bill, but one that is essential to his colleagues and the job they do to serve their constituents.

In conclusion, Madam Chairman, I want to thank the committee staff as well who has helped to craft this bill and assisted in a bipartisan manner: Shalanda Young; Liz Dawson, who continues to amaze us every single fiscal year; Chuck Turner; and Jenny Panone.

Also, we could not have done this without our personal staff: Maria Bowie and Sean Murphy, with Chairman COLE's personal office; and Ian Rayder from my office.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to my good friend from the great State of Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

□ 0930

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Chairman, I seek the opportunity to have a colloquy with Chairman COLE. I thank them for their work, the chairman and his staff, the work they have put into the legislation they are bringing before us this morning.

As a member of the Congressional Yellow Pages Caucus, I strongly believe that if an activity is available from a private company that can be found in the Yellow Pages, it should either not be a responsibility carried out by the Federal Government or, at the very least, performed by a private firm under contract with the Federal Government.

It is in that spirit that Congress needs to begin the process of leveling the playing field between the Government Printing Office, the GPO, and private industry. Nowhere is the overreach of the GPO and its statutory authority, found in title 44 of the United States Code, more egregious than in the area of secure Federal credentials.

Consider this: title 44 was codified in 1968. Secure credentials, produced by the private sector, first appeared about 30 years later and then became pervasive after 9/11.

I can't imagine that policymakers in the sixties could have ever envisioned title 44 expanding beyond the printing of copies of the Federal Register or the Declaration of Independence to cover credentials, let alone secure credentials, as the kind of printed products the GPO has traditionally produced.

The GPO's statutory monopoly on this issue has been challenged by numerous reports by the GAO and groups such as the National Performance Review.

Secure credentials are a world apart from the products that GPO has traditionally produced and should not be subject to title 44.

I hope that we can take steps to define a clear role for the GPO, create competition, and ensure that the private secure credentials industry and companies like MorphoTrust in Tennessee can perform these functions that the GPO has no business in carrying out.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I yield myself 30 seconds just to note that the Government Printing Office has been in business, doing the work, beyond the scope of printing the Federal Register, for more than 100 years.

It is also important to note that they specifically contract with the private sector to print a myriad of documents, and they are not the only institution that prints documents.

Madam Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chair, I want to thank my good friend from Florida for her leadership on this bill, as well as my very good friend from Oklahoma, who has done a terrific job as chair. Both of you take your responsibilities extremely seriously, as you should.

This is the bill that funds the institution itself, and you have both resisted efforts to demean this institution and to suggest that traditions and resources that have been available to this institution in the past are not necessary.

Both of you understand, because you are institutionalists and revere this institution, there are a lot of things that go on in this institution that play an important role toward serving the American public.

I do regret the fact that there was an amendment that was not made in order. I didn't expect that this amendment would have passed, but it was an issue that needed to be discussed on the House floor because it sets a precedent, what I believe is a very dangerous precedent.

This year, this bill freezes congressional compensation. It is the sixth year in a row that we have frozen our own salaries, but by putting it in this bill, I have been part of this institution long enough to know that, once you do that, there is a very high likelihood that neither political party, no matter who has the majority, is going to be willing to ever take it out; and so it will acquire an aspect of permanence.

So what I suggested is that we have a $25 a day housing stipend, just for those Members that live at least 50 miles from Washington, D.C. I am 10 miles. It wouldn't affect me. None of the other things that are available to Members, small as they might be, affect us either.

Obviously, we can't change our own pay. We can't raise it. So it wouldn't apply till the next term. I am retiring, but I will never lose my love for this institution, and that is why I am doing it.

It just happens that we will be in session 112 days, times 25, that would come, not coincidentally, to exactly what the salary increase would have been had we not frozen it.

The reason for doing this is that, since I was first elected to the Congress, in inflation-adjusted dollars, the compensation to Members has gone down by one-fifth. In the meantime, the cost of rental housing in D.C. has increased substantially.

Rental housing is going up as fast or faster than most other metropolitan areas of the country. In fact, the median cost per month, it is $2,250; per year, it is $27,000.

The problem is that if we continue to freeze the compensation to Members, my fear is—and Mr. COLE, I know, is going to provide a different perspective, but I think the fear is legitimate—that what we will wind up with is a composition of the Congress composed primarily of Members who don't need the pay, who are independently wealthy, who can blithely send the check back and take credit for it because they don't need it. In fact, more than half the Congress today, I understand, are millionaires.

On the other hand, you may have some who figure, well, I will serve one, two, three terms and then go into the private sector and use that experience, albeit limited, to enrich themselves. A lot of people do it. I am not being particularly critical, but I want to raise the issue as to what that means for the Congress itself, for this institution.

I don't think this is the right thing to do, Madam Chairman. We need people who represent those folks who barely make it, who have to pay a mortgage, who have student loans to pay, who have kids to raise. They represent the majority in this country, and it is so difficult for Members to maintain two residences.

I wouldn't have expected us to lose an opportunity for self-flagellation, but I do think we should have raised this issue.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. MORAN. I thank my very good friend.

I think I have made my point. We need to be as representative of the country as possible. For all our failings, for all our deficiencies, for all our needs, our struggles, we need to be able to empathize with people who have the same kind of financial constraints.

I know people think this is a lot of money, but if you are not going to show respect to yourself as an institution, you can't expect the public to show you much respect either.

We are the board of directors of the largest economic entity in the world. We deserve that respect. We ought to stand up for ourselves, defend this Congress—because what we do is defensible—and show that we merit adequate compensation, so we can be wholly representative of this great American public.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My friend and I have had a number of opportunities to talk about this issue. We talked about it in committee, we talked about it yesterday in discussion on the rule, and we are talking about it today because I think he wants to make his point, and I think he is using every opportunity to make his point.

Quite frankly, it is a point that needs to be made and a point that deserves to be heard. One of the things I will miss about my friend a lot is his tenacity when he has got something that he thinks is important and his willingness to go through a little heat and a little criticism, which I know he has received over this, to make that point. That is

a very valuable characteristic in any Member.

I don't think we are in immediate danger, the kind of future and the kind of House that my friend describes, but I do think, if we were to continue this course indefinitely, we would be.

Now, again, as I mentioned yesterday in our exchange, remember, a lot of people who come here for a short time aren't coming here to cash out on anything. They are coming here because they believe in the limited time of public service, and quite often, that is a pretty popular point of view in their districts. So I cast no aspersions on somebody that comes for 6 or 8 years, and that is their choice.

In my State, that is exactly what Senator TOM COBURN did in this body for 6 years and what he has done in the United States Senate. I know that is a sincere opinion as to what he thinks the appropriate thing is, and quite frankly, he has certainly never cast himself out and hung around Washington, D.C. I think that is true of many, many Members.

As my friend makes a good point about the character of the body and where we may be headed if we do the wrong things over time, I also think we are in a really critical point in our country where we are having to make a lot of difficult decisions.

We have made a lot of difficult decisions on this committee, made a lot of cuts that we didn't want to make because we thought the budget deficit was too high, and we needed to ask people to make some painful reductions.

I think if you are going to ask people to make painful reductions you have got to lead by example, and I think that is actually what both sides have tried to do.

Again, I know when my friends were in the majority, we didn't always get cost of living increases and those sorts of things either. They had inherited a difficult situation. They were making tough choices, and they were trying to lead by example.

I think that is exactly what this majority has continued to do, and so maintaining your personal credibility and your institutional responsibility, while you are arriving at and administering difficult decisions, I think, is a very important characteristic. So that is what we have tried to do in this bill.

Again, I appreciate my friend for making his point because I think, over time, we could change the character of the institution if we are not careful. I don't think that is an immediate concern, but it is one we ought to reflect on as we move forward.

Again, I thank him for his service, and I thank him for his persistence and tenacity.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, at this time, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), our distinguished ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I want to thank Chairman COLE and Ranking Member DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for their hard work on this bill. It really was a bipartisan effort, and I do think you have produced a good bill.

Today, we consider the smallest of the appropriations bills which funds the operations of our Nation's legislative branch.

Without Senate items, the bill is $3.326 billion, the same as 2014. While I am pleased with the overall funding level, it was my hope that, after years of cuts to Member Representational Allowances, or the MRAs, we might provide a modest increase this year.

Member offices have sustained $106 million in cuts since 2010. While some reduction was appropriate, those cuts have severely strained the House's ability to serve the American people, due to fewer staff for constituent casework, the inability to effectively communicate with our constituents, and fewer district offices.

Unless we return to sensible funding levels, we cannot stave off the further erosion of expertise, morale, and comity in this great institution.

This bill funds the Open World Leadership program at $3.42 million, a reduction of $2.58 million. Instead of reducing funds equivalent to the amount for exchanges with Russians, we should shift the funds to support a larger presence in Ukraine and other countries fostering democratic principles, as suggested in the committee report.

□ 0945

Madam Chair, with that said, I congratulate, once again, the chairman and the ranking member of the subcommittee for putting forth a balanced bill and urge its support.

Mr. COLE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), our distinguished ranking member of the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentlelady for yielding to me.

Madam Chair, I just wanted to say a few words in support of this year's Legislative Branch Appropriations Act. I have been honored to serve on this subcommittee for the last 4 years. I am the only member, in fact, to have served on the subcommittee for the last two Congresses.

It may have the smallest budget of the 12 appropriations bills, but it is vital to the work we do here in Congress and our ability to serve our constituents. From paying our staffs, to maintaining a digital and printed record of our work, to getting cost estimates of our legislative proposals, the legislative branch is so important to the proper functioning of our system of government.

It is especially gratifying that this year's bill reverses some of the draconian cuts from the legislative branch which have occurred over the last few years. I said last year that including these cuts would have been like cutting off our nose to spite our face. After all, agencies under the bill's jurisdiction, like the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office, help Congress to identify potential savings and efficiencies throughout the government.

Or consider the Architect of the Capitol, which is responsible for the maintenance, operation, development, and preservation of the United States Capitol. Two years ago, the House couldn't find the necessary funds to complete the restoration of one of the most vital symbols of our democracy, the Capitol dome. I am pleased this year that the legislation includes $21.2 million for the last phase of the Capitol dome restoration.

Other agencies in the bill receive much-needed investments, including the Library of Congress, the United States Capitol Police, and the Government Printing Office.

I would like to commend the outstanding bipartisan work of Chairman COLE and Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ in crafting this year's bill. Chairman COLE has done a yeoman's job stepping in at the last moment following the retirement of our colleague Rodney Alexander and shepherding this measure for the full House Appropriations Committee this morning.

I am also greatly appreciative of Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, whose institutional knowledge of the agencies in this measure is really unmatched.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I yield the gentleman from Georgia an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Both Chairman COLE and Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ were greatly aided by their excellent staff: Liz Dawson, Chuck Turner, Jenny Panone, and Shalanda Young.

I look forward to supporting the bill and doing all that I can to ensure its swift passage by the full House of Representatives.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I was tempted to actually yield my friend from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) additional time, he was being so kind to all of us on both sides of the aisle. But I genuinely want to thank my friend who is a very valuable member of our committee and, again, someone who is

always thoughtful, always helpful, and always works in a bipartisan manner. You saw it on this floor yesterday when he and Chairman CULBERSON delivered their bill in a very bipartisan and a very professional manner. He does the same thing on our committee. So I just wanted to thank my friend.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, at this time, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just wanted to once again thank my friend, my working partner in this, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. She, in this area, is an absolute expert without peer in this House, which has been enormously helpful to me.

Again, I want to thank the members of the committee. I want to thank all of the staff, frankly, from both sides of the aisle, all of the personnel offices. They have just been absolutely first-rate.

As I observed, I think, in one of our committee meetings, if the current chairman of the Democratic National Committee and the former chief of staff of the Republican National Committee can work this well together, then surely all things are possible in this universe.

It has been a pleasure to work with my friend. I look forward to continuing that collaboration as we go forward.

With that, Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4487—the Fiscal Year 2015 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act.

For our government to truly remain ''of the people, and by the people'' the House of Representatives must be a place that is open and transparent to all. From ensuring constituents can meet with their elected representatives to guaranteeing open access to the legislative business of Congress, the Legislative Branch must be accessible to the public. We also have a responsibility to ensure the safety and security of the U.S. Capitol complex for all who work here and all who visit.

Therefore, as a Member of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, one of my priorities has been to provide appropriate oversight regarding the security of the U.S. Capitol complex, including Members, staff, and visitors. I have met personally with House Sergeant of Arms Paul Irving and will continue to follow closely any developments relating to security concerns. I greatly appreciate Mr. Irving and our professional team of Capitol Police officers for the tireless work they put in to protect us and all who visit these hallowed halls.

Madam Chair, this bill adequately provides for the needs of the House Sergeant of Arms and the Capitol Police to ensure the necessary steps can be taken to maintain and strengthen security procedures for the entire Capitol complex.

Recent events have shown that even the most secure buildings in our country are still susceptible to security lapses. That is why it is more important than ever to remain vigilant in our efforts to ensure we are secure.

As I continue to serve on this Subcommittee, it is my responsibility to ask questions, find solutions, and help enact policies to keep members, staff, and guests as safe as reasonably possible.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chair, I rise today to highlight what I believe are anti-competitive practices at the Government Printing Office, or GPO.

As its name implies, the GPO was set up to do government printing. Title 44 of the United States Code states that ''all printing, binding, and blank-book work for Congress, the Executive Office, the Judiciary, other than the Supreme Court of the United States . . . shall be done at the Government Printing Office.'' GPO's mission statement is to ''produce, protect, preserve, and distribute the official publications and information products of the Federal Government.'' Somehow, GPO has interpreted this to mean that ''printing'' includes the creation of secure federal credentials.

Madam Chair, the production of secure federal credentials cannot be reasonably classified as printing. The production of these credentials involves electronic storage capability, anti-counterfeiting technologies, and specialized manufacturing techniques. Furthermore, Title 44 was codified in 1968—secure credentials were not created until 30 years later. It is hard to believe that lawmakers in the 1960's could have envisioned the technical know-how that goes into making these credentials, much less classified the production as printing.

The real problem, however, lies with GPO asserting its authority to make these products while crowding out private sector competition. The federal government has successfully contracted out production of secure credentials to the private sector for years. The private sector competes for these contracts, ensuring that we end up with the best product for the best price. More disturbingly, I have heard reports indicating that GPO has a dedicated sales staff, and sends other staffers on sales calls to promote its secure credentials capabilities to federal agencies. GPO's attempt to fill this space inhibits competition by encouraging the federal government to insource at the expense of innovations in the private sector. I believe we need to level the playing field.

By highlighting this issue, I hope to trigger a discussion that will define a clear role for the GPO today, but also to ensure that the private secure credentials industry, the acknowledged leaders in this field, will have a chance to compete for government contracts.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, earlier during debate colleagues criticized the production of secure credentials by the Government Printing Office for Federal agencies. Some of the statements, particularly the claim that this represents an ''overreach'' of the GPO's statutory authority and that the GPO has a ''monopoly on this issue'' are simply not true, and I want to correct the RECORD.

At the request of then-Public Printer Robert Tapella, the Joint Committee on Printing, which I had the honor to chair during the 110th Congress, authorized GPO to perform this function. Since that time, every JCP chairman has overseen the GPO's production of secure credentials and approved the GPO's annual expenditures for this purpose.

Far from an ''overreach,'' secure credential work is firmly within the GPO's statutory authority. GPO has a long history of secure credential work, such as with the manufacture of U.S. passport blanks since 1926. By definition, passports and all other forms of government credentials involve ''printing,'' the production of something in printed form. With secure credentials, intricate, multi-color modern printing embedded with anti-counterfeiting features is utterly indispensable to render a document immediately recognizable by handlers as the genuine article and thus inspire the confidence necessary to establish identity, facilitate border crossings and other purposes.

While serving as Public Printer, Mr. Tapella once declared that the production of secure credentials for the Federal Government does not belong in the private sector. I happen to agree with him and believe Congress should direct as much secure credential business to GPO as possible. In my view, the production of Federal credentials is as inherently a government function as the production of United States currency, which is produced solely by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

But however much the former Public Printer and I may agree on this issue, the GPO today—under the leadership of Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks—has taken a far more reasonable approach and simply makes the GPO available to all Federal agencies who wish to use its services. GPO asserts no ''monopoly'' nor can it as a practical matter, as Federal agencies are able to seek the services of either the public or private sector to meet their secure credential needs. With respect to the product at issue here, the GPO produces blank border-crossing cards for the State Department's visa office, and the cards are subsequently personalized by the State Department's own contractor, MorphoTrust. Moreover, the State Department continues to employ MorphTrust to produce passport cards, another secure credential. As here, the State Department and a number of other agencies contract directly with private companies for many of their secure-credential needs. To say, therefore, that GPO has a ''monopoly'' on the work is silly.

On December 4, 2013, the House Administration Committee, on which I serve as Ranking Minority Member, held an oversight hearing on the recent report by the National Academy of Public Administration entitled ''Rebooting the Government Printing Office: Keeping America Informed in the Digital Age.'' Congress ordered the study. Among other things, the Academy found that unlike with passports, ''the GPO is not the sole provider of smart cards [secure credentials]. Agencies may obtain smart cards from private sector vendors as well.'' The Academy's report endorsed GPO's work in that field.

I urge my colleagues to read the Academy report, currently available on the Academy's web site. I also urge Members to review the response provided by the GPO to questions submitted for the record of the December 2013 hearing concerning secure credentials,

reprinted below. Clearly the GPO does not deserve the criticisms lodged earlier and elsewhere. The men and women of the GPO perform a valuable and necessary service in providing secure credentials to support the missions of Federal agencies involved in securing our borders and other law enforcement tasks.

EXCERPTED QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC PRINTER, DAVITA VANCE-COOKS, FOLLOWING THE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE HEARING HELD DECEMBER 4, 2013

Question 7. GPO produces the millions of passports and related documents provided to Americans every year by the U.S. Department of State. You also provided sizeable quantities of other so-called ''secure and intelligent documents'' to the Department of Homeland Security. Do you foresee this portion of your business expanding in the future? Could GPO also produce such documents for state and local governments, as suggested in the NAPA study's Recommendation #9?

Response. In the wake of 9/11 and the introduction HSPD–12 and related Federal identification requirements, there has been an increase in the Government's need for secure credentials. With the approval of the Joint Committee on Printing, GPO implemented a capability in FY 2008 to help address this need. While GPO is far from the only provider of such requirements for Federal agencies, the volume of work processed by our capability has increased and is projected to increase in future years, as the report of the National Academy of Public Administration recently concluded. Regarding the production of secure credentials for state and local governments, GPO does not have the statutory authority to produce work that is not authorized by Federal law, nor are we equipped and staffed to handle secure credentials for all Federal agencies, much less for state and local governments.

Question 8. It is my understanding that aside from printing passports, GPO has also undertaken the manufacture of Border Crossing Cards and trusted traveler cards. Government agencies have been procuring from the private sector and issuing to their employees and contractors secure ID documents for decades. When did GPO get into the business of creating and providing secure credentials, other than passports? Can you please provide rationale as to why GPO believes that it should do this work for government agencies as opposed to the private sector, which has invested heavily to develop these new technologies?

Response. GPO provides a government-to-government solution to fulfill the requisitions of Federal agencies for secure credentials. Our program is staffed by cleared personnel and backed by a secure supply chain.

The establishment of our secure credential capability was endorsed to GPO management by GPO's Inspector General in 2005. GPO's proposal to set up a secure card center with its Security and Intelligent Documents business unit subsequently was approved in FY 2008 by the Joint Committee on Printing, which since then has also approved—on a bipartisan basis—all funding for this program in GPO's annual spending plans. In 2010, we became the only Federal agency certified by the General Services Administration to graphically personalize HSPD–12 credentials. In 2012 the Joint Committee on Printing approved the establishment of a COOP capability for our secure credential operations.

GPO serves as a card integrator, working closely with private sector providers to obtain the products and services needed to fulfill requisitions submitted by Federal agencies. For several years we have been accepted member of the Secure Card Alliance, a consortium of private sector companies and Federal agencies including the National Institute for Standards and Technology, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, the Department of Transportation, and the General Services Administration (http://www.smartcardalliance.org/). We work with the private sector for consulting, fabrication, design, materials, and supplies, essentially incorporating the best that industry has to offer into solutions sought by Federal agencies that requisition the work from us.

GPO's secure credentials capability serves as a valuable resource to a number of Federal agencies, including the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and the U.S. Capitol Police, which relied on us to provide secure law enforcement credentials for the 2009 and 2013 Presidential inaugurations. In addition to satisfactorily fulfilling Federal agency requisitions for secure credentials, our card production program was endorsed in the recent report of the National Academy of Public Administration. GPO provides secure credential products and services on a reimbursable basis with no appropriated funds.

Throughout the existence of GPO's secure credentials program, we have been open and transparent about its operation. As noted above, we are a well-known member of the Smart Card Alliance. We are subject to the oversight of the Joint Committee on Printing and our House and Senate legislative oversight and appropriations committees. Additionally, our program has been the subject of oversight by our Office of Inspector General (see for example http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/ig/audits/11-06_AuditReport(Issued_March_31_2011).pdf); the IG's semiannual reports to Congress for several years routinely tracked oversight of the GPO's secure credentials program as a ''management challenge'' (see for example http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/ig/semi-annual/11-30-09.pdf). We have kept the public informed through press releases (see for example http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/news-media/press/09news19.pdf, http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/news-media/press/10news39.pdf, and http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/news-media/press/11news60.pdf), YouTube videos (see for example http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=levIY1qIPy0, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ettaBOW4UEA, and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQxH1EZA71I), GPO annual reports to Congress, and other media.

Question 9. GPO's mission statement, articulated recently in your agency's strategic plan ''is to produce, protect, preserve, and distribute the official publications and information products of the Federal Government.'' Do you consider the production of secure credentials as fundamentally related to or falling under GPO's mission? Do you believe that the manufacture of secure credentials falls within the definition of ''printing'' under Section 501 of Title 44 U.S.C.? If so, has the GPO communicated this interpretation to federal agencies in any of its discussions with federal agencies? For ID cards and passports: what is the cost of the ink and graphics component per security card? What is the cost of the technological component per card?

Response. Our ''produce, protect, preserve, and distribute the official publications and information products of the Federal Government'' mission statement appears in our strategic plan and elsewhere to describe the informing function that GPO carries out, a function that is traceable to Article I in the Constitution. However, the public printing statutes of Title 44, U.S.C., make it clear that the performance of printing for the Government extends to a broad variety of products and services, some of which do not necessarily relate to an informing function. Over the years GPO has produced or procured tax forms, census forms, Social Security cards, ration cards, letterheads, envelopes, passports, postal cards, and other printed products that are associated with the operations of the Government. These products are produced by printing processes, including the processes of composition, presswork, and binding, which are defined in Title 44 as within GPO's authority to perform. The production of secure credentials for Federal agencies also involves printing processes, and so GPO is authorized to produce them (though as a practical matter, GPO is able and equipped to produce only a limited amount of secure credential work). As long as Federal agencies submit a requisition that complies with the relevant provisions of Title 44 (certifying that the products requested are authorized by law, necessary to the public business, and backed by the necessary funding), GPO will perform the work. Federal agencies who have contacted us to discuss our secure credential capabilities are aware of this fact. Regarding the cost of ink and graphics component per security card, ink is a very small percentage of the material cost for any of our products (less than 1%). The technological component of our card business (chip and antenna) is about 20–25%.

Question 10. As you know, only about 16 percent of the GPO is appropriated by Congress. The rest of GPO's funding comes from ''operating profits.'' Did Congress appropriate the money for the Secure Credential Innovation Center—which is what I understand to be a new multi-million dollar GPO facility? Or was that facility funded through operating profits from ID card and other sales? Will the facility affect overhead costs?

Response. There appears to be a misunderstanding about GPO's Secure Credential Innovation Center (SCIC). This is a small (529 sq ft) work space on the 5th floor of GPO's building C that is staffed by one FTE and equipped with a single opening laminator, laser cutter, CNC mill, plasma torch, UV epoxy curing station, and related equipment for the design and testing of security features requisitioned by Federal agencies for passports and other secure credentials. It is not a ''multi-million dollar'' facility. It was funded through the revolving fund, not appropriated funds.

We also opened a secure card COOP capability at our Stennis, MS, facility in 2013, with the approval of the Joint Committee on Printing. The capital investment proposed for this project was $2.2 million dollars, including $1.5 million for a card printer and installation, $450,000 for the required IT infrastructure, $175,000 for necessary space renovations and security upgrades, and an estimated $75,000 in support and travel costs. All costs were funded through GPO's revolving fund, and the project came in on time and under budget.

As costs of GPO's SID business unit, neither the Stennis facility nor the SCIC are included in overhead costs for the GPO as a whole. They are direct costs that are recovered through the rates charged for SID products.

As noted earlier, none of the funds for GPO's secure card capability are appropriated by Congress. Concerning GPO's finances under section 309 of Title 44, U.S.C., GPO does not generate ''operating profits'' but is limited to recovering its costs. Part of these costs includes the ability to generate funds for investment in necessary equipment and plant improvements.

Question 11. I've heard that GPO ''sales teams'' have been telling the State Department, the Department of Homeland Security, and other agencies that utilize ID card technologies for various programs—for example, to control access to our borders and to verify immigration status—that they are required by law to obtain their secure ID documents from the GPO, because the GPO is the government's printer. Do you believe that this is the case? Do you believe government-issued secure ID cards must be manufactured by and purchased from the GPO, rather than the private sector? If so . . . do you believe the GPO has the technological and security capabilities to produce these types of items? If not . . . are GPO sales teams in error if and when they state that federal agencies are required to purchase these items from the GPO by law?

Response. In hearings before the House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee for FY 2010, former Public Printer Robert C. Tapella said, ''I believe that Federal credentials belong in a Federally-owned, Federally-operated production environment and not in the private sector. And I think it is an inherently governmental activity'' (Hearings, Part II, April 28, 2009, p. 166). GPO management today does not endorse this position nor would it be practical. As a member organization of the Smart Card Alliance, we acknowledge the role of the private sector secure credentials industry in providing products and services to Federal agencies, and we work closely with them in the integration of card components to meet the requirements of products requisitioned from us. We do not compete against private sector companies for secure credential work. GPO provides a limited capability that is available for the use of Federal agencies seeking the provision of services in a govermnent-to-government setting, staffed by cleared personnel, and backed by a secure supply chain. As a postscript, GPO's SID business unit has one FTE (no sales teams) responsible for addressing inquiries for SID products and services that come from Federal agencies.

Question 12. It is my understanding that GPO either will soon or has recently begun manufacturing the US Border Crossing Card. The GPO ''won'' that business away from a private sector vendor. Please explain the process by which GPO ''won'' the contract away from the private sector and the decision-making behind GPO taking over production of the Border Crossing Card.

Response. We do not compete against private sector companies for secure credential work, and as a result we do not ''win business away'' from them. The Department of State submitted an SF–1 requisition to GPO for the production of the border crossing card. The decision to come to GPO for the production of this card was made by the Department, and the Department's requisition to us fulfilled all lawful requirements. GPO cannot participate in Federal agency RFPs where the private sector is involved. We are required by law to respond to requisitions for printing services from Federal agencies.

Question 13. Are you aware of testimony before the House Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittee on National Security that said that over 30,000 counterfeit US Border Crossing Cards have been found at our US borders? Now that GPO will be producing Border Crossing Cards, could you please explain to the Committee how you will ensure that these cards have the anti-counterfeit technologies required to make these cards truly secure? Do you feel that GPO has the technical expertise and capability to ensure that these cards are equipped with anti-counterfeit technologies?

Response. We are familiar with this testimony, which is posted online by the Subcommittee. (In reviewing the testimony provided at the hearing, we noted that the number of Border Crossing Cards identified as fraudulent rather than counterfeit by Chairman Chaffetz was 13,000, and that this number was identified in FY 2009, at http://oversighthouse.gov/hearing/border-security-oversight-part-iii-border-crossingcards-b1b2-visas/, 2:04:15). GPO received the requisition from the Department of State to begin producing the Border Crossing Card in 2013. We also noted that in the hearing the value of the Nexus card, which used to cross the border with Canada, was described very positively. GPO produces the Nexus card for the Department of Homeland Security.

Concerning GPO's ability to produce cards with anti-counterfeit technologies, GPO has significant expertise in the field of secure document design based on our work with passports. We have designed Government credentials with advanced security features. We work closely with the Department of Homeland Security's fraudulent document lab experts to validate credential designs and utilize both Government and commercial laboratories to test and evaluate our credential performances. For the Border Crossing Card, GPO worked with forensic document examiners at the Department of Homeland Security and with Department of State personnel to develop a product designed to withstand attempts at counterfeiting. We have the expertise and capability to ensure that these cards are equipped with anti-counterfeit technologies.

Question 14. I have heard that one of the ''selling points'' GPO uses with executive branch agencies is that the GPO can manufacture cards for them while also avoiding the competitive bidding requirements under Federal Acquisition Regulations. Do you believe that the GPO is required to follow the Federal Acquisition Regulations when it buys microchips, antennae, software, laminating materials, substantive expertise and training for its employees? Do all of those items need to be competitively bid to the private sector? Or can GPO buy essentially whatever it wants from whoever it wants, because it is doing so with money from operating profits rather than congressionally appropriated funds? Do you believe that following Federal Acquisition regulations would save the GPO money?

Response. GPO's Materials Management Acquisition Regulation (MMAR) is based on the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and is used as the authority for all procurements we make. Under the MMAR, GPO competitively bids for the acquisition of products and services used in GPO operations, including those required for the production of secure credentials. GPO's utilization of sole source procurement authority follows the same provisions established in the FAR for other Federal agencies.

As noted earlier, under the law GPO does not generate ''operating profits'' but is limited to recovering its costs. Part of these costs includes the ability to generate funds for investment in necessary equipment and plant improvements.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4487

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the House of Representatives, $1,180,736,000, as follows:

HOUSE LEADERSHIP OFFICES

For salaries and expenses, as authorized by law, $22,278,891, including: Office of the Speaker, $6,645,417, including $25,000 for official expenses of the Speaker; Office of the Majority Floor Leader, $2,180,048, including $10,000 for official expenses of the Majority Leader; Office of the Minority Floor Leader, $7,114,471, including $10,000 for official expenses of the Minority Leader; Office of the Majority Whip, including the Chief Deputy Majority Whip, $1,886,632, including $5,000 for official expenses of the Majority Whip; Office of the Minority Whip, including the Chief Deputy Minority Whip, $1,459,639, including $5,000 for official expenses of the Minority Whip; Republican Conference, $1,505,426; Democratic Caucus, $1,487,258: *Provided*, That such amount for salaries and expenses shall remain available from January 3, 2015 until January 2, 2016.

MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES

INCLUDING MEMBERS' CLERK HIRE, OFFICIAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS, AND OFFICIAL MAIL

For Members' representational allowances, including Members' clerk hire, official expenses, and official mail, $554,317,732.

COMMITTEE EMPLOYEES

STANDING COMMITTEES, SPECIAL AND SELECT

For salaries and expenses of standing committees, special and select, authorized by House resolutions, $123,903,173: *Provided*, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses until December 31, 2016, except that $2,300,000 of such amount shall remain available until expended for committee room upgrading.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For salaries and expenses of the Committee on Appropriations, $23,271,004, including studies and examinations of executive agencies and temporary personal services for such committee, to be expended in accordance with section 202(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and to be available for reimbursement to agencies for services performed: *Provided*, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses until December 31, 2016.

SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

For compensation and expenses of officers and employees, as authorized by law, $171,344,864, including: for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Clerk, including the positions of the Chaplain and the Historian, and including not more than $25,000 for

official representative and reception expenses, of which not more than $20,000 is for the Family Room and not more than $2,000 is for the Office of the Chaplain, $24,009,473; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, including the position of Superintendent of Garages and the Office of Emergency Management, and including not more than $3,000 for official representation and reception expenses, $11,926,729 of which $4,344,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer including not more than $3,000 for official representation and reception expenses, $113,100,000, of which $4,000,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Inspector General, $4,741,809; for salaries and expenses of the Office of General Counsel, $1,340,987; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Parliamentarian, including the Parliamentarian, $2,000 for preparing the Digest of Rules, and not more than $1,000 for official representation and reception expenses, $1,952,249; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House, $4,087,587, of which $1,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the completion of the House Modernization Initiative; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House, $8,892,975, of which $540,000 shall remain available until expended for the completion of the House Modernization Initiative; for salaries and expenses of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, $814,069; for other authorized employees, $478,986.

ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

For allowances and expenses as authorized by House resolution or law, $285,620,336, including: supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims, $4,152,789; official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House, $190,486; Government contributions for health, retirement, Social Security, and other applicable employee benefits, $256,635,776, to remain available until March 31, 2016; Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery, $16,217,008 of which $5,000,000 shall remain available until expended; transition activities for new members and staff, $3,737,000, to remain available until expended; Wounded Warrior Program $2,500,000, to remain available until expended; Office of Congressional Ethics, $1,467,030; and miscellaneous items including purchase, exchange, maintenance, repair and operation of House motor vehicles, interparliamentary receptions, and gratuities to heirs of deceased employees of the House, $720,247.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. (a) REQUIRING AMOUNTS REMAINING IN MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES TO BE USED FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION OR TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEBT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated under this Act for ''HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—SALARIES AND EXPENSES—MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES'' shall be available only for fiscal year 2015. Any amount remaining after all payments are made under such allowances for fiscal year 2015 shall be deposited in the Treasury and used for deficit reduction (or, if there is no Federal budget deficit after all such payments have been made, for reducing the Federal debt, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate).

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives shall have authority to prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(c) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term ''Member of the House of Representatives'' means a Representative in, or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

DELIVERY OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SEC. 102. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of a bill, joint resolution, or resolution to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) unless the Member requests a copy.

DELIVERY OF CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

SEC. 103. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of any version of the Congressional Record to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

LIMITATION ON AMOUNT AVAILABLE TO LEASE VEHICLES

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to make any payments from any Members' Representational Allowance for the leasing of a vehicle, excluding mobile district offices, in an aggregate amount that exceeds $1,000 for the vehicle in any month.

LIMITATION ON PRINTED COPIES OF U.S. CODE TO HOUSE

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide an aggregate number of more than 50 printed copies of any edition of the United States Code to all offices of the House of Representatives.

JOINT ITEMS

For Joint Committees, as follows:

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Economic Committee, $4,203,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Committee on Taxation, $10,004,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

For other joint items, as follows:

OFFICE OF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

For medical supplies, equipment, and contingent expenses of the emergency rooms, and for the Attending Physician and his assistants, including:

(1) an allowance of $2,175 per month to the Attending Physician;

(2) an allowance of $1,300 per month to the Senior Medical Officer;

(3) an allowance of $725 per month each to three medical officers while on duty in the Office of the Attending Physician;

(4) an allowance of $725 per month to 2 assistants and $580 per month each not to exceed 11 assistants on the basis heretofore provided for such assistants; and

(5) $2,486,000 for reimbursement to the Department of the Navy for expenses incurred for staff and equipment assigned to the Office of the Attending Physician, which shall be advanced and credited to the applicable appropriation or appropriations from which such salaries, allowances, and other expenses are payable and shall be available for all the purposes thereof, $3,371,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, $1,387,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

CAPITOL POLICE

SALARIES

For salaries of employees of the Capitol Police, including overtime, hazardous duty pay, and Government contributions for health, retirement, social security, professional liability insurance, and other applicable employee benefits, $286,500,000 of which overtime shall not exceed $23,425,000 unless the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate are notified, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or his designee.

GENERAL EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Capitol Police, including motor vehicles, communications and other equipment, security equipment and installation, uniforms, weapons, supplies, materials, training, medical services, forensic services, stenographic services, personal and professional services, the employee assistance program, the awards program, postage, communication services, travel advances, relocation of instructor and liaison personnel for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and not more than $5,000 to be expended on the certification of the Chief of the Capitol Police in connection with official representation and reception expenses, $61,459,000, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or his designee: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the cost of basic training for the Capitol Police at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for fiscal year 2015 shall be paid by the Secretary of Homeland Security from funds available to the Department of Homeland Security.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Compliance, as authorized by section 305 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1385), $3,959,000, of which $450,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That not more than $500 may be expended on the certification of the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance in connection with official representation and reception expenses.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary for operation of the Congressional Budget Office, including not more than $6,000 to be expended on the certification of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses, $45,700,000.

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries for the Architect of the Capitol, and other personal services, at rates of pay provided by law; for surveys and studies in connection with activities under the care of the Architect of the Capitol; for all necessary expenses for the general and administrative support of the operations under the Architect of the Capitol including the Botanic Garden; electrical substations of the Capitol, Senate and House office buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol; including furnishings and office equipment; including not more than $5,000 for official reception and representation expenses, to be expended as the Architect of the Capitol may approve; for purchase or exchange, maintenance, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, $91,555,000.

CAPITOL BUILDING

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol, $53,126,000, of which $28,817,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

CAPITOL GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for care and improvement of grounds surrounding the Capitol, the Senate and House office buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant, $11,993,000, of which $2,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the House office buildings, $71,622,000, of which $7,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

In addition, for a payment to the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund, $70,000,000, to remain available until expended.

CAPITOL POWER PLANT

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol Power Plant; lighting, heating, power (including the purchase of electrical energy) and water and sewer services for the Capitol, Senate and House office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the grounds about the same, Botanic Garden, Senate garage, and air conditioning refrigeration not supplied from plants in any of such buildings; heating the Government Printing Office and Washington City Post Office, and heating and chilled water for air conditioning for the Supreme Court Building, the Union Station complex, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the Folger Shakespeare Library, expenses for which shall be advanced or reimbursed upon request of the Architect of the Capitol and amounts so received shall be deposited into the Treasury to the credit of this appropriation, $93,152,000, of which $8,686,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That not more than $9,000,000 of the funds credited or to be reimbursed to this appropriation as herein provided shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2015.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for the mechanical and structural maintenance, care and operation of the Library buildings and grounds, $41,733,000, of which $16,542,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

CAPITOL POLICE BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND SECURITY

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computer Facility, and AOC security operations, $19,486,000, of which $1,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

BOTANIC GARDEN

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and purchase and exchange, maintenance, repair, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle; all under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, $15,022,946, of which $5,122,946 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, the Architect of the Capitol may obligate and expend such sums as may be necessary for the maintenance, care and operation of the National Garden established under section 307E of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (2 U.S.C. 2146), upon vouchers approved by the Architect of the Capitol or a duly authorized designee.

CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

For all necessary expenses for the operation of the Capitol Visitor Center, $20,875,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SCRIMS

SEC. 1001. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for scrims containing photographs of building facades during restoration or construction projects performed by the Architect of the Capitol.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Library of Congress not otherwise provided for, including development and maintenance of the Library's catalogs; custody and custodial care of the Library buildings; special clothing; cleaning, laundering and repair of uniforms; preservation of motion pictures in the custody of the Library; operation and maintenance of the American Folklife Center in the Library; activities under the Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009; preparation and distribution of catalog records and other publications of the Library; hire or purchase of one passenger motor vehicle; and expenses of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board not properly chargeable to the income of any trust fund held by the Board, $424,057,000, of which not more than $6,000,000 shall be derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2015, and shall remain available until expended, under the Act of June 28, 1902 (chapter 1301; 32 Stat. 480; 2 U.S.C. 150) and not more than $350,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2015 and shall remain available until expended for the development and maintenance of an international legal information database and activities related thereto: *Provided*, That the Library of Congress may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under the Act of June 28, 1902, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than $6,350,000: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, not more than $12,000 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for the Overseas Field Offices: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, $8,231,000 shall remain available until expended for the digital collections and educational curricula program.

COPYRIGHT OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses of the Copyright Office, $54,303,000, of which not more than $27,971,000, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2015 under section 708(d) of title 17, United States Code: *Provided*, That the Copyright Office may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under such section, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That not more than $5,611,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2015 under sections 111(d)(2), 119(b)(2), 803(e), 1005, and 1316 of such title: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than $33,582,000: *Provided further*, That not more than $100,000 of the amount appropriated is available for the maintenance of an ''International Copyright Institute'' in the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress for the purpose of training nationals of developing countries in intellectual property laws and policies: *Provided further*, That not more than $6,500 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for activities of the International Copyright Institute and for copyright delegations, visitors, and seminars: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any provision of chapter 8 of title 17, United States Code, any amounts made available under this heading which are attributable to royalty fees and payments received by the Copyright Office pursuant to sections 111, 119, and chapter 10 of such title may be used for the costs incurred in the administration of the Copyright Royalty Judges program, with the exception of the costs of salaries and benefits for the Copyright Royalty Judges and staff under section 802(e).

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 203 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 166) and to revise and extend the Annotated Constitution of the United States of America, $106,095,000: *Provided*, That no part of such amount may be used to pay any salary or expense in connection with any publication, or preparation of material therefor (except the Digest of Public General Bills), to be issued by the Library of Congress unless such publication has obtained prior approval of either the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses to carry out the Act of March 3, 1931 (chapter 400; 46 Stat. 1487; 2 U.S.C. 135a), $50,429,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, $650,000 shall be available to contract to provide newspapers to blind and physically handicapped residents at no cost to the individual.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

REIMBURSABLE AND REVOLVING FUND ACTIVITIES

SEC. 1101. (a) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2015, the obligational authority of the Library of Congress for the activities described in subsection (b) may not exceed $203,058,000.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in subsection (a) are reimbursable and revolving fund activities that are funded from sources other than appropriations to the Library in appropriations Acts for the legislative branch.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

CONGRESSIONAL PRINTING AND BINDING

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For authorized printing and binding for the Congress and the distribution of Congressional information in any format; expenses necessary for preparing the semimonthly and session index to the Congressional Record, as authorized by law (section 902 of title 44, United States Code); printing and binding of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed to Members of Congress; and printing, binding, and distribution of

Government publications authorized by law to be distributed without charge to the recipient, $79,736,000: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall not be available for paper copies of the permanent edition of the Congressional Record for individual Representatives, Resident Commissioners or Delegates authorized under section 906 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred under the appropriations for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the 2-year limitation under section 718 of title 44, United States Code, none of the funds appropriated or made available under this Act or any other Act for printing and binding and related services provided to Congress under chapter 7 of title 44, United States Code, may be expended to print a document, report, or publication after the 27-month period beginning on the date that such document, report, or publication is authorized by Congress to be printed, unless Congress reauthorizes such printing in accordance with section 718 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That any unobligated or unexpended balances in this account or accounts for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years may be transferred to the Government Printing Office revolving fund for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding sections 901, 902, and 906 of title 44, United States Code, this appropriation may be used to prepare indexes to the Congressional Record on only a monthly and session basis.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses of the Office of Superintendent of Documents necessary to provide for the cataloging and indexing of Government publications and their distribution to the public, Members of Congress, other Government agencies, and designated depository and international exchange libraries as authorized by law, $31,500,000: *Provided*, That amounts of not more than $2,000,000 from current year appropriations are authorized for producing and disseminating Congressional serial sets and other related publications for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 to depository and other designated libraries: *Provided further*, That any unobligated or unexpended balances in this account or accounts for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years may be transferred to the Government Printing Office revolving fund for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE REVOLVING FUND

For payment to the Government Printing Office Revolving Fund, $11,348,000, to remain available until expended, for information technology development and facilities repair: *Provided*, That the Government Printing Office is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds available and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs and purposes set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for the Government Printing Office Revolving Fund: *Provided further*, That not more than $7,500 may be expended on the certification of the Public Printer in connection with official representation and reception expenses: *Provided further*, That the revolving fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than 12 passenger motor vehicles: *Provided further*, That expenditures in connection with travel expenses of the advisory councils to the Public Printer shall be deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the revolving fund shall be available for temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title: *Provided further*, That activities financed through the revolving fund may provide information in any format: *Provided further*, That the revolving fund and the funds provided under the headings ''Office of Superintendent of Documents'' and ''Salaries and Expenses'' may not be used for contracted security services at the Government Printing Office's passport facility in the District of Columbia.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Government Accountability Office, including not more than $12,500 to be expended on the certification of the Comptroller General of the United States in connection with official representation and reception expenses; temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title; hire of one passenger motor vehicle; advance payments in foreign countries in accordance with section 3324 of title 31, United States Code; benefits comparable to those payable under sections 901(5), (6), and (8) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081(5), (6), and (8)); and under regulations prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States, rental of living quarters in foreign countries, $519,622,000: *Provided*, That, in addition, $23,750,000 of payments received under sections 782, 3521, and 9105 of title 31, United States Code, shall be available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That this appropriation and appropriations for administrative expenses of any other department or agency which is a member of the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum or a Regional Intergovernmental Audit Forum shall be available to finance an appropriate share of either Forum's costs as determined by the respective Forum, including necessary travel expenses of non-Federal participants: *Provided further*, That payments hereunder to the Forum may be credited as reimbursements to any appropriation from which costs involved are initially financed.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

CENTER FOR AUDIT EXCELLENCE

SEC. 1201. (a) CENTER FOR AUDIT EXCELLENCE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 7 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

''SUBCHAPTER VII—CENTER FOR AUDIT EXCELLENCE

''§ 791. Center for audit excellence

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Comptroller General shall establish, maintain, and operate a center within the Government Accountability Office to be known as the 'Center for Audit Excellence' (hereafter in this subchapter referred to as the 'Center').

''(b) PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall build institutional auditing capacity and promote good governance by providing affordable, relevant, and high-quality training, technical assistance, and products and services to qualified personnel and entities of governments (including the Federal government, State and local governments, tribal governments, and governments of foreign nations), international organizations, and other private organizations.

''(2) DETERMINATION OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AND ENTITIES.—Personnel and entities shall be considered qualified for purposes of receiving training, technical assistance, and products or services from the Center under paragraph (1) in accordance with such criteria as the Comptroller General may establish and publish.

''(c) FEES.—

''(1) PERMITTING CHARGING OF FEES.—The Comptroller General may establish, charge, and collect fees (on a reimbursable or advance basis) for the training, technical assistance, and products and services provided by the Center under this subchapter.

''(2) DEPOSIT INTO SEPARATE ACCOUNT.—The Comptroller General shall deposit all fees collected under paragraph (1) into the Center for Audit Excellence Account established under section 792.

''(d) GIFTS OF PROPERTY AND SERVICES.—The Comptroller General may accept and use conditional or non-conditional gifts of property (both real and personal) and services (including services of guest lecturers) to support the operation of the Center, except that the Comptroller General may not accept or use such a gift if the Comptroller General determines that the acceptance or use of the gift would compromise or appear to compromise the integrity of the Government Accountability Office.

''(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PERSONNEL.—It is the sense of Congress that the Center should be staffed primarily by personnel of the Government Accountability Office who are not otherwise engaged in carrying out other duties of the Office under this chapter, so as to ensure that the operation of the Center will not have a negative impact on the ability of the Office to maintain a consistently high level of service to Congress.

''§ 792. Account

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE ACCOUNT.—There is established in the Treasury as a separate account for the Government Accountability Office the 'Center for Audit Excellence Account', which shall consist of the fees deposited by the Comptroller General under section 791(c) and such other amounts as may be appropriated under law.

''(b) USE OF ACCOUNT.—Amounts in the Center for Audit Excellence Account shall be available to the Comptroller General, in amounts specified in appropriations Acts and without fiscal year limitation, to carry out this subchapter.

''§ 793. Authorization of Appropriations

''There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subchapter.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 7 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SUBCHAPTER VII—CENTER FOR AUDIT EXCELLENCE

''791. Center for Audit Excellence.

''792. Account.
''793. Authorization of appropriations.''.

(b) APPROVAL OF BUSINESS PLAN.—The Comptroller General may not begin operating the Center for Audit Excellence under subchapter VII of chapter 7 of title 31, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)) until—

(1) the Comptroller General submits a business plan for the Center to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate; and

(2) each such Committee approves the plan.

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER TRUST FUND

For a payment to the Open World Leadership Center Trust Fund for financing activities of the Open World Leadership Center under section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), $3,420,000.

JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

For payment to the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development Trust Fund established under section 116 of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1105), $430,000.

TITLE II—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be used for the maintenance or care of private vehicles, except for emergency assistance and cleaning as may be provided under regulations relating to parking facilities for the House of Representatives issued by the Committee on House Administration and for the Senate issued by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SEC. 202. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond fiscal year 2015 unless expressly so provided in this Act.

SEC. 203. Whenever in this Act any office or position not specifically established by the Legislative Pay Act of 1929 (46 Stat. 32 et seq.) is appropriated for or the rate of compensation or designation of any office or position appropriated for is different from that specifically established by such Act, the rate of compensation and the designation in this Act shall be the permanent law with respect thereto: *Provided*, That the provisions in this Act for the various items of official expenses of Members, officers, and committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, and clerk hire for Senators and Members of the House of Representatives shall be the permanent law with respect thereto.

SEC. 204. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued under existing law.

SEC. 205. Amounts available for administrative expenses of any legislative branch entity which participates in the Legislative Branch Financial Managers Council (LBFMC) established by charter on March 26, 1996, shall be available to finance an appropriate share of LBFMC costs as determined by the LBFMC, except that the total LBFMC costs to be shared among all participating legislative branch entities (in such allocations among the entities as the entities may determine) may not exceed $2,000.

SEC. 206. The Architect of the Capitol, in consultation with the District of Columbia, is authorized to maintain and improve the landscape features, excluding streets, in the irregular shaped grassy areas bounded by Washington Avenue, SW on the northeast, Second Street, SW on the west, Square 582 on the south, and the beginning of the I–395 tunnel on the southeast.

SEC. 207. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriation Act.

SEC. 208. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available to the Architect of the Capitol in this Act may be used to eliminate or restrict guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns of offices of Members of Congress and other offices of the House of Representatives and Senate.

(b) At the direction of the Capitol Police Board, or at the direction of the Architect of the Capitol with the approval of the Capitol Police Board, guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns described in subsection (a) may be suspended temporarily or otherwise subject to restriction for security or related reasons to the same extent as guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by the Architect of the Capitol.

SEC. 209. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 610(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2015.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 210. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, excluding Senate items, exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is $0.

This Act may be cited as the ''Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2015''.

The CHAIR. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in House Report 113–426. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. NUGENT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113–426.

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, beginning line 23, strike ''in an aggregate amount that exceeds $1,000 for the vehicle in any month'' and insert ''and excluding short-term vehicle rentals in an aggregate amount that does not exceed $1,000 for the vehicle in any month''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 557, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Chairman, my amendment is simple. It would end the practice of Members leasing vehicles on the taxpayers' dime. I am just not convinced that this is a necessary use of taxpayer money, and neither are the constituents that I represent.

We are asking agencies throughout the Federal Government to use their funding carefully and to cut out unnecessary, nice-to-have things. We ought to apply the same standard to ourselves, and in many ways we have done an excellent job of doing that.

Funding for the House of Representatives has been cut since the Republicans took the majority by over 14 percent. We have cut our own MRAs and committee funds. We have frozen our own pay.

Unfortunately, the vehicle lease program isn't consistent in that effort. That is not to say that some Members who lease vehicles aren't doing it responsibly. They are, and they have good reason. Unfortunately, I think the line of what is appropriate in terms of leasing vehicles has been blurred by others. Members of Congress driving around the Capitol in luxury vehicles financed by the taxpayers that they represent isn't exactly the image we want to portray to the American people, especially when many Americans are struggling just to get by.

The vehicle lease program in its current form is simply out of touch with the economic reality of what our American brothers and sisters face. Therefore, until we can ensure that all Members of Congress are using this program responsibly, I believe we ought to halt it entirely.

The Senate, to their credit, in one of the few times that I agree with the Senate—and I don't say that often—already has barred its Members from leasing vehicles with public money; and, frankly, I think it is time that we do the same.

To be clear, my amendment is straightforward. It says that the CAO may not make any payments from any Member's Representational Allowance for the leasing of a vehicle. My amendment excludes short-term vehicle rentals and mobile district offices, as those are often necessary resources used in serving our constituents. But having basically a personal car entirely paid for by taxpayers should no longer be allowed.

I urge adoption of my amendment and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. I want to begin by thanking my friend. We serve together on the Rules Committee. It is very seldom

that I would disagree with my friend, who not only has a distinguished record here, but a distinguished record in law enforcement.

And let me make it clear. I am quite content to let the body work its will on this matter. I appreciate my friend actually bringing it forward. I think it is important to discuss.

I had not really thought about this a great deal until I saw my friend's amendment. I don't lease a vehicle through my office at all. Although we have discussed it and looked at it, it just never seemed to be appropriate or make sense for us. We do have 63 Members, however, who do do this practice. The average cost of the vehicle is $589.

Now, I can't tell you that I have taken a survey of all 63, but I have talked to a few—just sort of tell me what your reasoning is—and the responses are pretty diverse. But you could break it into two or three categories.

First, some of them cover exceptionally large districts, and they find this the most cost-effective way to actually cover it, I mean, even to the point of saying, as one Member said:

> I go through rough terrain to reach remote areas. I need a vehicle that, frankly, is quite a bit more robust than members of my staff have or that I even have personally, sometimes, to reach some of my constituents.

I thought that was a pretty impressive reason.

Second, others, again, just find it much more cost-effective than actually paying and reimbursing for mileage. But I think the core thing here is to trust—actually trust—the Member to make the decision.

I think an important point here is to note that we are not going to save any money, really. This comes out of the Member's Representational Allowance as it is, so there is not a real savings here. And it is all publicly disclosed, so Members take some considerable risk if they do this. They have to be able to explain it to their constituents.

At the end of the day, I just simply don't want to micromanage individual Members in how they spend the money which we allot them through this bill.

And with that, I understand my good friend would like to say some things, so I will yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I also rise in opposition to my Florida colleague's amendment, which seeks to dictate to other Members how to spend their office budgets. It is important to note that I also do not lease a vehicle.

The bill already sets a limit on what Members can spend on vehicle leases to ensure that costs are appropriately controlled. The Nugent amendment would go further and prevent long-term vehicle leases unless they are classified as mobile district offices.

The problem with the gentleman from Florida's amendment is the same as we have had with other similar amendments in the past that have sought to restrict or eliminate Members' use of funds for their office budgets.

We have Members that represent entire States or very large geographic areas. Removing transportation options for Members trying to effectively represent their constituents forces a one-size-fits-all approach to serving our congressional districts, and we know that is not reasonable nor does it make sense.

The House makes statements of disbursements available to the public so that our constituents can judge us on the purchases that we make. Each Member has to answer to his or her constituents if they spend inappropriately or if they make purchases that are at odds with the sensibilities of those that sent the Member to office. We don't need to dictate to each other how we can most effectively do our jobs.

With that, Madam Chair, I urge the defeat of this well-intentioned but misguided amendment.

Mr. COLE. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Chair, I do appreciate the comments of more senior Members of this House. I, obviously, have been here 3 years, and I do appreciate their comments.

But I will go back to this. Think about this. The Senate, each Senator represents their whole State. They gave up that privilege a while back because it didn't make sense. But think about this. Today, Members of Congress can lease Lexuses, BMWs, Infinities, Acuras, Mercedes, which all fall within the guidelines, and not all do that. But does that send a message to our folks back home that this is the right way to do it? Because that MRA that was discussed, this also covers all of the wear and tear on the car, it covers the fuel. There is no expense that is spared with regards to covering that, versus the mileage reimbursement, if I used my own car, which I do.

That is not to try to diminish or hurt any Member. It really is, though, bringing us into compliance with the same thing that the Senate has done. It is about reasonable usage of the dollars the taxpayers give us.

Once again I will tell you that I agree with most of what my good friends have said, but I disagree on this one. I truly believe it is time for this House to move forward and limit itself in regards to these types of acquisitions and purchases.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

□ 1000

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. SPEIER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 113–426.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Chairwoman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, line 10, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $500,000)''.

Page 12, line 16, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 557, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Chair, I rise today because many Americans think Congress has unchecked power. They think we know how to make laws but don't know how to follow them. They think of us not as the House of Representatives but as the House of Hypocrites. I have spent a lot of time here on the floor speaking about sexual harassment and the epidemic of rape in the military and on college campuses. It is just as important that we bring the same scrutiny to our own House.

The American people expect us to conduct ourselves in a manner befitting the responsibilities and duties that we hold as Members of Congress—not as if we are freshmen in a frat house. While they are the exception, not the rule, it is an embarrassment to this institution that some Members have ''sexted'' teenage pages on the floor. It is unacceptable that others have groped and inappropriately touched their staff members. This behavior is illegal and unacceptable in the private sector, and it is illegal and unacceptable here.

This is not a Democratic issue, and this is not a Republican issue. This is a House issue. Just recall former Congressman Bob Filner. He pled guilty to charges of felony false imprisonment for sexually harassing a former aide in the San Diego's mayor's office. When Mr. Filner was ranking member on the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the House, he allegedly sexually harassed several female members of the Armed Forces who were rape survivors. But none of the women ever said a word while Mr. Filner was still here—not one.

If you work for a private company in my home State in California, it is likely you have had several hours of sexual

harassment training to identify and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace because it is the law. It is also the law in California that State legislators and their staff participate in a mandatory sexual harassment training every year. But that is not the case here in the House.

In fact, congressional Office of Compliance staff say that when new Members go through their 3-day training, they are mostly counseling empty seats by the end of day 3.

Sexual harassment training is already mandatory for the executive branch agencies, and it has proven to result in a significant reduction in the number of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation claims. But this training for Congress is only voluntary. The congressional Office of Compliance provides sexual harassment training to offices, but it is not typically requested until after an office reports an incident.

It is time we take advantage of the valuable training the office provides. My staff and I actually have taken this 1½ hour training, and as much as I know about sexual harassment, I learned additional things during that training.

Madam Chairwoman, my amendment is simple. It appropriates $500,000 in additional funds to the Office of Compliance to be used to enhance sexual harassment training programs by implementing a Web-based platform. These funds will also be used for outreach to inform House office employees what their rights are, the various forms sexual harassment takes, and where to go if they experience sexual harassment. It is time to send a new message: that we are here to serve and that we are not above the law.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition; although, I am not opposed.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the gentlelady from California's amendment, which would provide an additional $500,000 to the Office of Compliance. The funding is intended for the office to provide mandatory sexual harassment training for all congressional offices in the House of Representatives.

Surveys find that anywhere from 25 to 31 percent of women in the United States have experienced sexual harassment at work, with the majority of women reporting that the harasser was a direct supervisor or senior to them. Sexual harassment creates counterproductive, hostile, and potentially dangerous working environments, not only threatening the emotional and physical well-being of women, but also women's job performance and security.

There is no reason to think the House of Representatives is immune to this problem. The House of Representatives should not be exempt from providing proper training to identify, prevent, and report sexual harassment, as many private institutions undertake.

Additionally, this type of training is already mandatory for all executive branch agencies. It is time that we follow suit to ensure that the entire Federal Government is setting a model example for safety and respect in the workplace.

To that end, I have cosponsored Representative SPEIER's resolution, which amends the rules of the House to require that the mandatory annual ethics training offered to Members, officers, and employees of the House include the specific program of training in the prevention and deterrence of sexual harassment in employment.

I urge support of this amendment and thank the gentlelady for her leadership on this issue, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendment. When I came to Congress, I was outraged by the behavior of some of my colleagues. In one incident, a woman Member was told to share a seat with a male colleague when there weren't enough chairs at a committee meeting.

While there have certainly been improvements, recent events embarrassing this institution highlight the continued need for training. We cannot allow ''Mad Men''-style antics to occur in our offices.

Sexual harassment training will help victims, improve awareness of what is not allowed, and is necessary if we want to be serious about stopping inappropriate acts.

I thank the gentlelady for offering this amendment, and I encourage your support.

Ms. SPEIER. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. At this time, I would like to yield 30 seconds to Chairman COLE.

Mr. COLE. I thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Chairman, I just want to thank my friend from California for bringing this amendment. I think it is a truly important amendment and something that we are more than happy to accept, and appreciate her raising the issue very, very much.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. We thank the gentleman and appreciate his support.

At this time, I would like to yield the balance of our time in opposition, even though no one is speaking in opposition to this very important amendment, to the gentlelady from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER), the chair of the Committee on House Administration.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlelady for yielding me time, and I certainly want to thank my colleague from California for offering this very, very important amendment which we are all very supportive of.

This amendment, as has been explained, provides additional funds to the congressional Office of Compliance. This is the agency that really is tasked with making sure that Members of Congress and—very importantly, most importantly—their staff are aware of what their individual rights are and how to protect themselves against sexual harassment in the workplace.

Unfortunately, sometimes it seems like the Members might be protected, but perhaps their staffs are not as well aware and protected as they need to be. This is certainly not a partisan issue. We have seen incidents over the years of Republicans and of Democrats, both sides of the aisle here.

Actually, Madam Chair, this week I met with senior staff at the OOC. I met with all the board members there. We talked about what kind of additional training might be helpful when we put together our new Members orientation program in the fall, various kinds of things that we can do, and, of course, they needed a little bit more cash to be able to really step up, particularly on the Internet and various things, and do awareness training. So this amendment, I think, is very important.

Certainly, Madam Chair, Congress needs to be held to the highest standards, and, at a minimum, we ought to be held to the same standards that we hold private businesses to out in the marketplace and the workplace.

Every employee that works on this Hill needs to work in an environment that they feel is free from sexual harassment, and if they feel threatened in any way, they need to be able to be sure that they understand their rights and what recourse they have to protect themselves without any fear of retribution. I think Congress needs to be a leader on this issue—a leader—and I certainly feel that by conducting awareness training, that will help stop any unfortunate situation, and if we don't stop it, certainly, then, allowing an individual to protect themselves. That, I think, is an important thing for all of us.

So, again, I thank the gentlelady from California for offering the amendment, and I would urge all my colleagues to support this amendment.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chairman, I also yield back the

balance of my time and thank the gentlelady from California for her amendment.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113–426.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chairwoman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, line 2, after the first dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $3,166,946)''.

Page 32, line 21, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $3,166,946)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 557, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chairwoman, I rise today to speak in favor of my simple and straightforward amendment. My amendment would reduce funding to the United States Botanic Garden to the levels appropriated in fiscal year 2014. That money would then be transferred to the Spending Reduction Account so that we could take one more step towards reining in Federal spending.

I would be the first to say that I appreciate the Botanic Garden and its beauty. I believe it is a good program, and I am personally interested in botany. But Members of Congress are often faced with difficult choices, especially given our current fiscal crisis. There are programs that are constitutionally mandated, and other programs that are nice but are not constitutionally mandated. This is one program that is nice but cannot be immune from the fiscal pressures facing our government.

While the Botanic Garden is a wonderful attraction, Congress must seek to limit excessive spending in the name of getting our fiscal house in order. No line item can be overlooked in making these assessments and decisions, including our own office budgets, as we have demonstrated.

Madam Chairwoman, so many families are tightening their belts during these trying economic times. Congress must do the same and make cuts where it can.

I am concerned that the Architect of the Capitol has proposed over $5.1 million in new capital projects at the Botanic Garden this year. Rather than making minor repairs to a few small leaks in the roof, the Architect of the Capitol is proposing to tear down the entire roof and replace it with something called a new vegetative roofing system. At a time of soaring deficits and with the Federal debt in excess of $17 trillion, such expenditures are especially wasteful, and we shouldn't be wasting precious taxpayer money on a new, state-of-the-art vegetative roofing system.

My proposed amendment is a fair cut. It does not gut the program but merely rolls back the appropriations back to 2014 levels. My amendment still allows for almost $2 million in new capital projects and repairs to take place in fiscal year 2015.

A note about vegetative roofs. They are usually at least twice the cost to install and require a much higher maintenance cost, and in some cases have unintended consequences by attracting wildlife into urban areas, as an example, geese. I ask each Member to vote in favor of the Gosar amendment.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment which seeks to cut over $3 million from the Architect of the Capitol's Botanic Garden—the people's Botanic Garden.

Now, I understand the gentleman from Arizona is trying to generate headlines by attempting to cut much-needed funding to one of the most beloved destinations in Washington, D.C., our Nation's Capital, but this is not the way to fix our Nation's deficit.

Over 200 years ago, George Washington had a vision for our Capital City to include a botanic garden that would demonstrate and promote the important role plant life plays in our Nation. It may seem trivial, but the Botanic Garden, established in 1820, is one of the oldest botanic gardens in the United States. It is also one of the most visited destinations on the Capitol complex. In fact, I know it is my own children's favorite place to visit when they come to Washington, D.C., and often our first stop.

Our constituents sent us here to do real work and look for real solutions to the deficit, not to try to score cheap political points by attacking important institutions that have already taken a fiscal hit, like the Botanic Garden.

The gentleman says that no line-item or opportunity can be looked over when it comes to reducing our deficit. Yet, I urge the gentleman if he is looking for ways to significantly reduce our deficit, to urge the House Republican leadership to address comprehensive immigration reform, which would result in a $900 million reduction in the deficit over the next 20 years. Going after a garden isn't the answer.

In fact, I think it is important to note that since President Obama took office, our deficit has been cut by more than 50 percent as a percentage of our GDP.

With that, I urge the Members to defeat this ill-advised amendment.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I thank my friend for yielding. I want to thank my friend too because I know the spirit in which this is brought is to save money and to make some tough decisions, and I share that. It is worth pointing out that we did reduce the Architect's request by $79 million.

□ 1015

Frankly, we are spending about $40 million less than we did last year, so it is not as if we have not been serious about this. We did look at this particular area. My friend from Florida made the point that not only is it a well-traveled destination point and very desirable place, but it is a pretty old building, and we really do have serious problems here that we think are potentially health hazards.

We have chunks of the building, 5–15 pounds, that have fallen off from the height of 40 feet, and that is a health hazard; so given the traffic there, given the fact that we have been pretty tough across the board, we thought this was one of those urgent priorities that needed to be taken care of.

Again, I have no qualms with my friend's motives. I know he is trying to save money. I share that belief. We have made a lot of tough decisions across the board, and it is certainly appropriate for this body to look, and if people can find areas, we are happy with that.

In this case, our judgment as a committee—and certainly my judgment—is that we need to make certain that a facility that is this well used is kept safe and in good repair, so we don't risk liability and risk injury and, frankly, that we do keep open and functioning one of the most beloved institutions of the Capitol complex.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 113–426.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, line 13, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $243,000)''.

Page 32, line 21, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $243,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 557, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, the bill under consideration today is probably the smallest appropriations bill that we see each year, at least in terms of the number of dollars involved.

It funds the operations of the legislative branch—both the operational expenses of the congressional offices and the expenses which occur in protecting and maintaining Capitol grounds.

This bill decreases in several places, and it holds the line on a number of accounts as well. In total, the bill provides funding which is in line with the amount provided just last year. I commend the Appropriations Committee for this. However, there are also a number of increases found within the bill.

Earlier this week, I submitted amendments to the Rules Committee, all of which were meant to target accounts which received seemingly inexplicable increases. I have been allowed one amendment today, only one, which would decrease funding for the Capitol Visitor Center by $243,000 and move the same amount to the spending reduction account.

This move would result in the Visitor Center funding being equal to the amount which was appropriated last year, just keeping it at the same level.

The Capitol Visitor Center opened to the public in December of 2008, and according to the Congressional Research Service, it cost more than $600 million to complete. While the Visitor Center received about $65 million in private donations, the rest of its cost was borne by taxpayers.

Madam Chairman, it has been less than 10 years since the Visitor Center has opened, at considerable public expense. I think, given our current fiscal state, we can certainly afford to level fund the Visitor Center, hold the line, and use this increase, while just a small one, to help reduce our Federal deficit. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, this amendment cuts the small inflationary increase of $243,000 provided to the Capitol Visitor Center in this bill. This small increase is needed for the Capitol Visitor Center to keep up with inflation in order to provide the same level of service to our constituents next year as they are providing this year. When is enough enough?

My colleague must not be aware that the Capitol Visitor Center is 7 percent below the funding level that they were in fiscal year 2010. They have already contributed their fair share to deficit reduction.

If my colleague is serious about reducing the national debt and the deficit, then I would suggest that he stop voting to repeal the Affordable Care Act because the recent CBO estimate is that there would be a net increase of $109 billion to the deficit between 2013 and 2022 if the Affordable Care Act is repealed.

Perhaps he can call on his own leadership to reduce the deficit by $900 million by taking up and passing comprehensive immigration reform.

When I was chair of this subcommittee, I inherited a fiscal disaster in cost overruns during the construction of the Capitol Visitor Center. We were collaboratively and in a bipartisan way able to bring that project in for a soft landing and slow the hemorrhaging of Federal funds for a project that a Republican majority began.

Now, we recognized that the responsible thing was to ensure that this facility had the tools necessary to succeed, so that our visitors could have an informative and welcoming space to visit their government and to understand our democracy, so it baffles me that we would see an amendment that goes after the very organization that interacts with our constituents nearly every day.

I want those working in the Capitol Visitor Center to know that we appreciate the work they do. They are essential to the experience our constituents have when visiting our Nation's Capitol. With that, I urge defeat of the amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Madam Chair, first, I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I want to thank my friend too because I know he is very serious about looking for places to cut costs. Indeed, later on, there are a number of items that Members have brought to our attention that we will accept. In this case, we don't think it is appropriate.

I do want to thank my friend from Florida. I happened to be on this committee as a junior Member when she did do, I think, an unbelievably good job in working us through what had been a bad process and cost overruns in the Center.

At the end of the day, this is where millions of Americans—this is their portal to the Capitol. It is well run, and it is well managed. I think maintaining access and keeping it safe and keeping it welcoming, if you will, is very important.

So while this is a legitimate question to raise, I agree with my friend and would oppose the amendment.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, I didn't realize with this amendment that we were going to get into debate about the unaffordable, uncaring act, so-called ObamaCare. Actually, I have the solution.

We have been promised that if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. We have been promised that if you like your insurance, you can keep your insurance. We know both of those are not factual.

We know both of those were known by the President when he made those claims to America, that he knew that they were not factual also. I am just waiting for the President to come out with this claim: if you like your gun, you can keep your gun.

Before getting back to the appropriations process, let me, to just finish up—and that is, I have the solution. It is called the Patient Option Act. It will actually make everybody's health insurance in this country less expense.

It will provide access to good quality health care for all Americans, and it will save Medicare from going broke. It has been endorsed by the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, as well as FreedomWorks, and it will solve the problems that we all face of an out-of-control health care cost system burden that has been placed on us by a government that has intruded into the health care system itself.

Madam Chairman, this country expects us to make cuts. We are spending money we don't have. We are borrowing 40 cents on every dollar that we spend, and we just have to stop spending money we don't have. We have to restore fiscal sanity to the government. That is what I will continue to do as a Member of Congress, as long as I am here.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, as a breast cancer survivor and one of the 129 million Americans who live in this country with a preexisting condition, I am thankful for the Affordable Care Act and the peace of mind it established on January 1 when, never again, an insurance company in this country could drop us or deny us coverage, the coverage that the gentleman from Georgia has repeatedly voted to take away from millions of Americans.

This amendment would cut the Capitol Visitor Center by $243,000, when we need to make sure that they have the cost of inflation increase, so they can continue to provide the good service that they provide to our constituents, so we can continue to educate Americans and everyone around the world

about the finest democracy in the world.

Madam Chair, I urge Members to vote against this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. DUFFY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 113–426.

Mr. DUFFY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 29, line 7, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $3,420,000)''.

Page 32, line 21, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $3,420,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 557, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. DUFFY. Madam Chair, first, I want to commend the work of both Mr. COLE and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ in producing a spending bill that doesn't actually increase spending. It doesn't actually reduce it, but it actually maintains it; and for this institution, I think that is a positive, and I commend you both for doing that.

I think it is important, when we talk a lot about our debt at $17 trillion—we have deficits at $1.5 trillion today, down to a little over $600 billion, I think it is important that this institution lead by example and look to places that we can cut, places that we can be more efficient, when we look at spending on operations here in the House.

When we do that, I think it is important to look at duplicative programs, programs that accomplish the same mission through multiple agencies.

I would submit to this Chamber that one of those is the Open World Leadership Center. This program—its purpose is to engage emerging leaders from post-Soviet countries by exposing them to American cultural institutions. I would argue it has outlived its usefulness.

Listen, it is great that we should engage others from around the world. We should engage their leaders. I think that can help bridge the gap.

The problem with this program is that, since 2000, it has cost the American taxpayer $150 million; but not only that, we have nearly 90 programs that try to accomplish this very same mission, just to name a few in the State Department: the National Endowment for Democracy, the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute, and USAID, all with this same mission.

So I think this is a space where we can eliminate this program. The mission can still be accomplished with other agencies, and we can move over $3 million to deficit reduction.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chair, I want to thank my friend. Again, I appreciate the spirit in which he approaches this. This is an interesting point of discussion because we actually have Members of both parties who really like this program and think it is very important, and we have Members of both parties that share your point of view. It is not a partisan debate in the least.

I would say that there are a number of both contemporary points and a number of longer-term points that ought to be taken into account.

□ 1030

First, this was originally a $6 million item. We have cut it by 43 percent aimed at Russia. All the other participants in this program are the very countries that Russia threatens right now; particularly Ukraine, which is the second largest participant. I think it would be a really bad signal for this country to actually cut programs that are supportive of democracy in the areas immediately around Russia and, frankly, I think more or less plays into Mr. Putin's hand.

Beyond that, we have a unique institution, a unique arrangement, and a unique person heading it at the Library of Congress, Mr. Billington, who is probably the world's most expert on Russian history, culture, and literature. This has been well placed, as long as he has been the librarian, and well used.

So, again, I appreciate my friend's motives, but I would urge the rejection of his amendment.

With that, I would like to yield the remainder of the time that I have to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), my good friend.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chairman, I could not agree more with my good friend from Oklahoma, the chairman of this subcommittee, the idea that my colleague from Wisconsin would suggest that this program has outlived its usefulness when the Russian bear is hungrier than it has been in decades, when Putin seized Crimea and now he is trying to take parts of eastern Ukraine.

Let me explain what this program does. It takes emerging leaders in Russia and Russia's satellite countries, former members of the Soviet Union, who show exceptional talent and interest in speaking for themselves and it brings them over to the United States and puts them in homes and communities where they will learn how our rule of law works, what equal justice under the law means in a truly democratic country. It shows them how to participate in the democratic process. It shows them how we have taken the works of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky and Solzhenitsyn and we have implemented them in a country that respects individualism and puts individualism higher than statism. It is a direct threat to communism. It is a direct threat to Mr. Putin. Because if you do this, Mr. Putin can't keep his $60 billion he has taken from corruption. He can't continue to make his people dependent upon the state. This is disruptive to him. It is a direct threat to him. That is why it is important.

Haven't we done enough for Mr. Putin's interests to cut this program by 43 percent by preventing these young emerging leaders from being able to come over to this country? Do we now have to deny Ukrainian leaders the ability to gain an understanding of what a country that is not corrupt, of what a country that respects individualism, respects democracy, respects equal justice under the law is all about?

That is what this program is all about. We spend half a trillion dollars on our military, and yet programs like this will accomplish more for sustainability of peace among nations by giving an opportunity for people to speak for themselves, to speak out for the rule of law, to speak against corruption. That is what we as a nation want. We don't want to dominate anybody else. We want to be an instrument of our values and our vision. We want to be that beacon of light and hope for other nations. This is one of the ways in which we achieve that objective. A small amount of money, but an enormously valuable contribution to world peace.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUFFY. Madam Chairman, with all due respect, to those who may disagree with this amendment—I am seeing some bipartisan agreement; I know I have some bipartisan disagreement with this amendment—but to my colleagues, there are 90 programs that are aimed at accomplishing the very same mission. When do we come forward and say: Listen, let's cut this back; let's cut it back a little bit? The bridge isn't cut off, but we have other programs that are doing the same thing.

Listen, we want to talk about what is going on in Ukraine and want to talk about what is going on in Russia. This program didn't exist in the 1980s. Ronald Reagan didn't have this program to

tear down the Soviet Union. He did it with strong leadership. So to come to this institution and say: Listen, the $3.4 million in this program is going to stop the aggression of Putin, no. Strong leadership will, though. This is about when do we come together as an institution and find programs that are duplicative, programs that we can look and say: This can be scaled back and we can look to one of the other 89 programs to accomplish this same mission.

There is a constituency around every dollar. That is why it is so hard in this town to scale back because everyone will come forward and go: But no, no, no; this dollar is so important. And people come from our communities and go: No, don't cut back.

We are $1.7 trillion in debt. This is unsustainable. So let's come together and find this program that we can cut and look to the other 89 that can accomplish the same mission, which I think is a noble mission.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. HALL

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 113–426.

Mr. HALL. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 211. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of the report of disbursements for the operations of the House of Representatives under section 106 of the House of Representatives Administrative Reform Technical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C. 5535) to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 557, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HALL. Madam Chairman, I would like to thank my good friend Chairman COLE and the Appropriations Committee for allowing me to offer this amendment in conjunction with Congressman MCCAUL. My amendment today simply prohibits the Statement of Disbursements of the House from being distributed the old-fashioned way—through print.

A lot of people say I am old-fashioned and I am behind the times, but I have a Facebook account, I tweet, and just this week my congressional Web site was singled out for the Silver Mouse Award, placing it in the top 6 percent of all congressional Web sites for transparency, ease of use, and accessibility of constituent services.

Right now, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House distributes 441 copies of its three-volume Statement of Disbursements to the House at a cost of well over $300,000 per year. This quarterly public report of all reports and expenditures for U.S. House of Representatives Members, committees, leadership, officers, and offices was more than 2,400 pages long in its last edition. Multiply that by 441, and you have 100,000 pages of printed material, all of which can easily be accessed on the CAO's Web site.

To be clear, my amendment does nothing to prohibit the CAO from making the Statement of Disbursements of the House available online to Members as they currently do. But if I can learn to communicate electronically, I sure don't see why the Federal Government can't do the same thing.

Mr. COLE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HALL. I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I want to accept this amendment.

You certainly aren't behind the times. You are usually ahead of the curve.

In this case, the gentleman certainly is. I appreciate him pointing out an area where we can save $300,000. He is precisely right on this. We are more than happy to accept the amendment and, again, very much appreciate our friend for bringing it to the floor and for saving the American taxpayers $300,000.

Mr. HALL. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. WENSTRUP

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 113–426.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 211. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) a printed copy of the Daily Calendar of the House of Representatives which is prepared by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 557, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Chairman, I rise in support today of amendment No. 7.

My amendment is simple. It would eliminate the daily delivery of printed copies of the House Calendar to Member offices.

This multipage paper booklet is currently delivered each legislative day to 441 Representatives' offices. The document in my hand is about 100 pages, meaning that about 44,000 pages are wasted each legislative day, over 5 million pages a year.

The information in these pages is readily available online, and, as required, paper copies will be kept on record. Previously, the House took similar action by ending paper deliveries of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a few years ago with no adverse effects.

Let's be honest, Madam Chairman, no one sits and peruses the calendar every day. Most offices accept the delivery, turn 90 degrees, and place it in the recycling bin. Hardly a good use of time or precious paper.

Ending this outdated practice also saves money. We can save hardworking taxpayers nearly $200,000 a year, according to the Government Printing Office.

Madam Chairman, I want to note that this idea came from one of my staff members, Kate Raulin, who repeatedly recycles these Calendars and grew frustrated at the waste she saw every day. Imagine if every staff member of this body had an idea or an amendment that would save the taxpayers about $200,000 a year. By my back-of-the-napkin calculations, those savings would easily top over a billion dollars a year.

When I worked in the private sector, we had to be mindful of excess costs and waste. The government must be held to the same standard and should reform outdated policies. We should not remain stuck in the past. If the daily cost of delivery came out of each Member's personal office budget, how many of us would actually pay to get this delivered every day?

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and vote ''yea.''

Mr. COLE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WENSTRUP. I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I want to thank my friend for bringing this to the floor. He is precisely right in everything that he says about both the costs and the functionality of the document in question.

His staff member is to be commended for bringing it to his attention and for you acknowledging her. I think staff people every place are grateful. We are delighted to accept this amendment, delighted to save the money, and, again, appreciate our friend bringing it to our attention, pointing it out, and saving the taxpayers $200,000.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 113–426.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 211. There is appropriated, for salaries and expenses of the Office of Technology Assessment as authorized by the Technology Assessment Act of 1972 (2 U.S.C. 471 et seq.), hereby derived from the amount provided in this Act for the payment to the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund, $2,500,000.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 557, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I yield myself 2½ minutes.

For 23 years, Congress had an insightful nonpartisan agency aimed at providing Members of Congress and their staff with expert advice on the technological aspects of public policy. It was called the Office of Technology Assessment. From 1972 to 1995, it produced reports on topics that were striking in their relevance even today: computer software security, disposal of chemical weapons, teaching with technology, bioenergy, and many more. OTA was part of Congress, understood the congressional process; it spoke the language of Congress, and it looked at the technological aspects of a large variety of issues and provided clarity where it was needed.

□ 1045

Congress turned out the lights on the OTA in 1995 with the thought that congressional agencies like CRS, GAO, also universities and private industry would fill the void. They have not. In the years since the OTA was defunded, our need for its work has grown only more acute. Too often, we have considered or not considered legislation in ignorance of the technological factors.

That is why I am introducing an amendment to restore some funding to the OTA. My amendment would reallocate to the OTA $2.5 million appropriated for the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund, about 1.4 percent of the surplus in that trust fund. During its 23 years, the OTA produced an amazingly high return on investment, with hundreds of millions of dollars in savings.

A study on Agent Orange helped save the government $10 million. An OTA report was the source of recommendations for upgrades in the computer system of the Social Security Administration that led to a savings of more than $300 million. Studies on the synfuels helped save, literally, billions of dollars.

When Congress stopped receiving the OTA's counsel, technological topics didn't become less relevant in the political process; they just became less understood, and scientific thinking lost its toehold on Capitol Hill, with troubling consequences for the ways we legislate on all issues, not just on those that are explicitly scientific.

I urge a ''yes'' vote on this amendment in order to give Congress a tool that we desperately need to do the people's work with clarity and reason.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, my friend is, frankly, one of the most thoughtful and best Members of this body. There is no question about that. So, when we discussed this, I took it very seriously because it was my friend's proposal, and I think any other Member in this House would do the same. At the end of the day, I came to a different conclusion for a number of reasons.

First, we are in a very tight budget. We have no increase at all, so funding this initiative means effectively taking money away from someplace else. Second, I looked at the long-term spending pattern of this program in the past. It actually peaked at $20 million, so I think starting at $2.5 million is not likely where it will end up over time. Third, quite frankly, I looked at what some of my predecessors in my position had thought, both Republican and Democratic. As my friend knows, obviously, the Democrats had the majority after 1995 for a 4-year period, which was relatively recently, and they looked at this and came to the same decision that was made in '95, and that, I think, we make today, which is that there are other sources of information. The Government Accountability Office, in particular, has developed a capability here, and we think there are other sources of information.

While I don't deny that this has played a useful role in the past, I just believe, given the constrained circumstances that we have today, given the possibility that this will grow, and given what at least to date has been a bipartisan judgment that this is something we didn't need to renew, I, reluctantly, decided not to include this in the bill. For that reason, I would also oppose the amendment.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), my good friend, the ranking member of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I thank the gentleman, regretfully, because I know how passionate the gentleman from New Jersey is about this important issue.

Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to this well-intentioned amendment, which seeks to add $2.5 million to reestablish the Office of Technology Assessment, which did have an important scope of work for Congress during its existence in the 1990s. Unfortunately, the amendment takes the funding from the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund. This fund is critical for the long-term maintenance for such items as the Cannon House Office Building's rehabilitation, which is an ongoing project that has already begun. The fund was established so we could bank resources over several years for the revitalization of our House office buildings and stave off cost overruns that have plagued previous projects.

I have been a supporter of the Office of Technology Assessment dating back to my time as chair of this subcommittee. In fact, in fiscal years 2008–2010, I included $2.5 million in this bill within the Government Accountability Office for activities similar in scope to the work of OTA's. I also supported an identical amendment offered by Mr. HOLT in fiscal year 2012, as the Cannon project had not yet commenced, but now that it has, I cannot support an amendment in good conscience that would take critical resources from a fund that supports ongoing rehabilitation projects on the Capitol complex. Perhaps, had the gentleman found another source for his funding, we could have been supportive.

I thank the gentleman for his passion on this issue, but I urge Members to vote against the amendment.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. MCDERMOTT), who observed the OTA in action in his time here in Congress.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Chairman, I was one of the 16 people who was on that committee. It used to be a committee with four Republicans from the Senate and four Republicans from the House, four Democrats from the Senate and four Democrats from the House. It was a balanced committee. It looked at the technological questions of what we are spending billions of dollars on.

Now we have a choice of where we get our information. The GAO looks backward. All of the government organizations look backward. They don't look forward. That is not their role to imagine what will happen out there. What we need is an organization that can look forward as we proceed to spend billions of dollars in technology. We can either get the information from a nonpartisan organization that is controlled evenly by both sides of the House and the other body, or we could go to industry. They will come in here,

and they will give us all of the information of their having the best thing since sliced bread.

I think we need the OTA, and I urge you to adopt the amendment.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), my good friend, a member of the Appropriations Committee, someone who has also observed the OTA in practice.

Mr. MORAN. I thank my friend representing Princeton, New Jersey, who has a doctorate in physics, who is a ''Jeopardy!'' award winner, who is, perhaps, one of the most academically advanced Members of the Congress. It is interesting that he is the one who knows enough to know what we don't know in this Congress. My concern is that many of us don't know enough to know what we don't know.

Madam Chairman, the size of computers is shrinking by about 50 percent every couple of years, and their capacity—their power and their speed—is doubling, yet we can't understand the implications of that, which applies to all of our constituencies. We just mandated that 30 percent of the energy that the military spends, which is billions of dollars, has to be from non-carbon-polluting forms of energy. Do we know whether that is achievable? We just committed yesterday $11 billion for computer interoperability for electronic medical records.

We have to understand the implications of our decisions, and the OTA helps us to be able to do that.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, in closing, for almost a quarter of a century, the OTA was one of the most respected, productive, cost-efficient agencies we have seen, producing comprehensive reports for the House and the Senate on issues related to health care policy, agricultural production, telecommunications, space policy, electronic surveillance, national defense, and much more. It prevented decisions made in ignorance, and ignorance is expensive.

My friend from Oklahoma and also the ranking member, the gentlelady from Florida, talked about cost. What we are talking about here is finding the low-hanging fruit on making government more efficient. That is what the OTA did. That is what the OTA would do. This is the last Legislative Branch appropriations I will be dealing with. I know the OTA. I worked as a staffer on Capitol Hill. I saw that it works. I saw how much it elevated the debate here on Capitol Hill. It saves taxpayer money. I urge a ''yes'' vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Again, I want to thank my friend because I know he is, indeed, committed to this idea.

In closing, Madam Chair, I think, as usual, my friend Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ probably made the salient point of the debate. We are taking from our historic trust fund, which preserves this building, and redirects that resource. That is a mistake. That is just simply a mistake. If there is another way to fund it, I would still have grave reservations about reintroducing it because I do think the information is available elsewhere, but robbing from your seed corn, I think, is something we shouldn't do.

We have established this fund. We have been able to maintain it under Democrats and Republicans alike. We are going to have these challenges going forward. I do not want to set the precedent of this becoming a piggy bank to fund other things out of. We need to maintain our campus. This is an important way to do it, and I think weakening it in any way would be counterproductive.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 113–426 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. NUGENT of Florida.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

Amendment No. 8 by Mr. HOLT of New Jersey.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. NUGENT

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 196, noes 221, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 188]

AYES—196

Amodei
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Esty
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foster
Franks (AZ)
Gabbard
Gallego
Garcia
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hurt
Israel
Jenkins
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kilmer
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Long
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Meng
Messer
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Napolitano
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (NC)
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rokita
Ross
Royce
Ruiz
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Tiberi
Tierney
Tonko
Upton
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder

NOES—221

Aderholt
Amash
Bachmann
Bachus
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Bishop (GA)
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Calvert
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cole
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis, Danny
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Fattah
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gosar
Gowdy
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)

Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Higgins
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Hultgren
Hunter
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McKeon
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Nunes
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Roby
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Speier
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—14

Becerra
Enyart
Frelinghuysen
Gingrey (GA)
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
McAllister
McCollum
McIntyre
Miller (FL)
Richmond
Rogers (KY)
Schwartz
Stockman

□ 1126

Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. HANABUSA, Messrs. WALBERG, ROGERS of Michigan, and GRIFFIN of Arkansas changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mrs. NOEM, Messrs. COURTNEY, TONKO, SCOTT of Virginia, LUETKEMEYER, GRAVES of Missouri, CAMP, GOHMERT, ROKITA, BURGESS, and Mrs. BLACK changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. FOXX). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 219, noes 198, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 189]

AYES—219

Aderholt
Amash
Bachmann
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Franks (AZ)
Gabbard
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—198

Amodei
Bachus
Bass
Beatty
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Conyers
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Grimm
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Roby
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—14

Becerra
Enyart
Gingrey (GA)
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Hurt
Matsui
McCollum
Miller (FL)
Richmond
Rogers (KY)
Schwartz
Stockman
Visclosky

□ 1132

Mr. DELANEY changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. HURT. Madam Chair, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 189. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 207, noes 212, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 190]

AYES—207

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gabbard
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hahn
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shuster
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tipton
Tsongas
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—212

Aderholt
Bachus
Bass
Beatty
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibson
Granger
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Roby
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—12

Becerra
Enyart
Gingrey (GA)
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Matsui
McCollum
Miller (FL)
Richmond
Rogers (KY)
Schwartz
Stockman

□ 1136

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 164, noes 248, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 191]

AYES—164

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Fudge
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Matheson
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tonko
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—248

Aderholt
Amash
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clyburn
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Fincher

Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—19

Amodei
Becerra
Coble
Enyart
Gingrey (GA)
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Kaptur
Matsui
McCollum
Miller (FL)
Negrete McLeod
Richmond
Rogers (KY)
Schwartz
Speier
Stockman
Tsongas
Waters

□ 1141

Ms. KELLY of Illinois changed her vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) having assumed the chair, Ms. FOXX, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4487) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 557, she reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Mr. RUIZ. I am opposed in its current form, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Ruiz moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4487 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 2, line 11, strike ''$1,180,736,000'' and insert ''$1,181,236,000''.

Page 5, line 16, strike ''$285,620,336'' and insert ''$286,120,336''.

Page 6, line 2 (relating to amounts made available for the Wounded Warrior Program), strike ''$2,500,000'' and insert ''$3,000,000''.

Page 19, line 12 (relating to amounts made available for Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped), strike ''$50,429,000'' and insert ''$50,696,000''.

Page 22, line 16 (relating to amounts made available for the Government Printing Office Revolving Fund), strike ''$11,348,000'' and insert ''$10,581,000''.

□ 1145

Mr. COLE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

Mr. HOYER. Objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Here in Congress, we wrestle with some of the hardest choices about the future of our great Nation, but sometimes these choices are very easy. Some choices cut across party lines, define our values as Americans, and give us an opportunity to stand together and fight for what is important.

The easy choice today is to either fund more wasteful and outdated printing services or fund the Wounded Warrior Program. The Wounded Warrior Program in Congress provides paid fellowships for injured veterans to work in congressional offices across the country to help serve other veterans and gain work experience as they assimilate back into civilian life.

There has never been a more important time for the heroes who have defended our country to play these pivotal roles in shaping our laws. I have the honor of working with a Wounded Warrior fellow in my office, and I have seen firsthand their dedication and greatness.

Chris Rennick is a marine from the 1st Battalion in Twentynine Palms, California, who served in Iraq. He was raised on a farm by his godparents, Linda and David Matheny. Mr. Matheny always told him, ''Chris, do your best,'' and that is exactly what Chris did.

He deployed twice with the United States Marine Corps. His first was with the ''tip of the spear'' in the first invasion of Iraq in 2003. Chris was injured in an IED blast in his first deployment and still returned to Iraq for a second tour in 2004, and again was injured in an IED explosion.

Chris served honorably and received the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Action Medal, and the Iraq Expeditionary Medal. Chris' unit received the Presidential Unit Citation.

After serving in the Marines, Chris came home and dealt with a traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder. He told me he was in a bad place. He struggled to hold down three jobs while caring for himself. It was a fellow veteran in the Wounded Warrior battalion who reached out and helped Chris get back on track. Now Chris does the same for others, as a Wounded Warrior fellow.

Chris joined the Wounded Warrior Program because he still firmly believes in the Marine Corps motto, ''Semper Fidelis,'' always faithful. Chris remains always faithful to his brothers in arms and to this day is always faithful to our great country that he sacrificed for.

In his short time with my office, less than 1 year, Chris has helped over 300 veterans in my district alone receive the benefits that they have earned and get the care that they need. Chris' passion for helping veterans is an inspiration for me and, I know, for all of you, and that is the reason why we must fully fund the Wounded Warrior Program.

My motion to recommit would fund the Wounded Warrior Program with 30

slots for both Republicans and Democrats by redirecting $767,000 from the Government Printing Office. Additionally, it would provide $267,000 for Books for the Blind and Handicapped. We can do all of this with no new spending.

So the choice today is clear and it is easy: Would you rather fund more printed outdated copies of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and House legislative calendar, or would you rather support our Wounded Warrior fellows like Chris?

This institution and this entire country needs heroes' voices like Chris' in every decision that we make. I urge you to vote ''yes'' and support our veterans and those with disabilities by supporting these critical programs.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, after spending the last few hours debating and amending this bill, we have before us a bipartisan piece of legislation that funds this House, its safety, and the agencies that support the legislative process, and all in a fiscally responsible and, frankly, bipartisan way.

Yesterday, in nearly a unanimous fashion, this House passed a bill that provided nearly $4 billion in funding that directly supports and assists our wounded warriors, and I think most all of us on both sides of the aisle are proud of that.

This includes $2.6 billion for the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, $560 million for the largest system of spinal cord injury of care in the United States, and $135 million to assist blind and visually impaired veterans. It also includes $96 million for research that benefits wounded warriors in areas like prosthetics, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injuries, and the like.

The total medical care budget of the VA for FY15 is $59.1 billion, enough to care for 6.7 million patients and, again, is something that I think every Member in this House ought to be proud of and was more than delighted to support.

This legislation, as with all appropriations legislation that we bring to the floor, makes every stride to ensure that the very best care for our wounded warriors and veterans is available. I know that I speak for this entire body when I say we deeply respect and respect the service and sacrifices of our troops and veterans and that the bill we passed yesterday is hard-and-fast proof of that.

Frankly, had we wanted to do more, I would suggest that yesterday would have been the time to do more because, clearly, everybody was willing to support that measure.

Keep in mind, the bill before us now is the smallest of the 12 appropriations bills, but it is still incredibly important; and advancing this bill gets us one step closer to completing our necessary work, our constitutional duty of funding the Federal Government.

Motions to recommit like this one, quite frankly, are mostly political ''gotcha'' tactics, and both sides do it. I cast no partisan stones here. I have seen it happen on this floor many, many times before. But I think both sides probably ought to stop and reflect if we are really honoring the veterans or if we are using them to make a political point. I would hope not the latter, because yesterday we did the right thing; today we are trying to score points at one another's expense.

Yes, both sides have done this. I am sorry it happens. My personal opinion is that it shouldn't, and I hope we will dispense with it going forward.

The bill in front of us has bipartisan support. If it is allowed to proceed, it will pass overwhelmingly.

Over the past 2 days, we have done some great work, kicking off the appropriations process at the earliest date in decades and passing our first bill yesterday with overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle. Let's continue that good work today. Let's pass this bill. Let's reject the motion to recommit. Let's get the work of the people done.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 194, noes 222, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 192]

AYES—194

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—222

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon

McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—15

Becerra
Coble
Enyart
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey (GA)
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Matsui
McCollum
Miller (FL)
Negrete McLeod
Richmond
Rogers (KY)
Schwartz
Stockman

□ 1202

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 14, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 193]

YEAS—402

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—14

Amash
Broun (GA)
Duncan (TN)
Engel
Franks (AZ)
Green, Gene
Holt
Jones
Labrador
Massie
Matheson
Rogers (AL)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Wittman

NOT VOTING—15

Becerra
Coble
Enyart
Gingrey (GA)
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Matsui
McCollum
Miller (FL)
Negrete McLeod
Payne
Richmond
Rogers (KY)
Schwartz
Stockman

□ 1208

Mr. RANGEL changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 193, please let the record show that my vote on final passage would have been a "yes." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to the devastating impact of recent flooding in my district, I missed the following rollcall votes: No. 188–193 on May 1, 2014. If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 188—Nugent of Florida Amendment to H.R. 4487, "aye," rollcall vote No. 189—Gosar of Arizona Amendment to H.R. 4487, "aye," rollcall vote No. 190—Broun of Georgia Amendment to H.R. 4487, "aye," rollcall vote No. 191—Holt of New Jersey Amendment to H.R. 4487, "nay," rollcall vote No. 192—H.R. 4487, Motion to Recommit, "nay," rollcall vote No. 193—H.R. 4487, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2015, "aye."

□ 1215

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring about next week's schedule, and I yield to my friend, the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR, from Virginia.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House is not in session.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and noon for legislative business.

On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business tomorrow.

In addition, the House will consider H.R. 4438, the American Research and Competitiveness Act of 2014, sponsored by Representative KEVIN BRADY. This bill will provide American businesses with the certainty they need to invest in good-paying middle class jobs and develop the technologies of the future.

The House is also scheduled to consider a privileged resolution finding Lois G. Lerner, former Director, Exempt Organizations Division, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the House will consider H.R. 10, the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act, authored by Chairman JOHN KLINE. Mr. Speaker, America does not work if our children are trapped in failing schools. This bipartisan bill provides an opportunity for our children to attend schools which foster a quality learning environment focused on those students succeeding.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information with reference to the legislation for next week. He leads with a bill that is entitled American Research and Competitiveness Act of 2014.

As the gentleman knows, we have an agenda which I have talked to him about briefly. We call it Make It In America, which is essentially about growing manufacturing and encouraging manufacturers to return to the United States and encouraging people when they want to go into manufacturing to do so here in America.

Not only will that provide for a ''Made in America'' label all over the world, but it will also provide the kind of middle class jobs and opportunities that we need.

Part of that agenda, I will tell my friend, is to make permanent the research and development tax credit. This bill does that. This bill also costs somewhere in the neighborhood of $150 billion, maybe a little less, over 10 years. It is unpaid for.

The series of bills that were passed by the Ways and Means Committee will cost $310 billion. They are also unpaid for. I suggest to my friend—and as he knows, I preach relatively regularly that one of the things that we need to do for the business community and for America is to get ourselves on a fiscally sustainable path.

Mr. CAMP offered a comprehensive piece of legislation, Mr. Leader, as you know, which I think was an honest effort, but it also made hard choices. It made hard choices not to increase the deficit and, therefore, provided offsets for tax cuts. I think that is absolutely essential for us to do.

This bill that we will consider next week, which is a proposition I think most of us support, and that is giving businesses the insurance that the research and development tax credit will in fact be available not only for 1 year, but for a series of years—in this case, I believe 10 years.

What the business community doesn't need and what America doesn't need is making the deficit worse. As a matter of fact, Mr. Leader, your party talks a lot about bringing the deficit down. This goes in exactly the opposite direction, and I think that is lamentable. I said $150 billion. It is actually $155 billion over 10 years.

I would hope that the party that is demanding that unemployment insurance be paid for, that is demanding that the sustainable growth rate be paid for, and that any change in the sequester be paid for, ought to have consistency and not add $155 billion to our deficit in a vote next week on something that I think we are all for; and it is easy, Mr. Leader, as you well know, to vote for tax cuts—easy. It takes no courage whatsoever.

I have been at this business 45 years. It has been my experience that, over those 45 years, it is easy for Members to vote for tax cuts. What is hard to do is to pay for the policies you adopt. This bill does not do that. This bill makes the deficit worse, exacerbates the lack of confidence that Americans have in the fiscal responsibility of their country, and puts us in a worse place.

So I would hope, Mr. Leader, that before this bill comes to the floor, that you and the Rules Committee and Mr. CAMP, as he did in the bill that he offered to this House, which was, frankly, dismissed out of hand because it made tough decisions, this bill makes no tough decisions. It has a tax cut. It has all the candy and none of the spinach.

It is all good, and nobody has to pay the price. Nobody has to take responsibility. I think that is lamentable, and I would hope that, before this bill comes to the floor, there would be a way to pay for this bill.

I want to suggest to you that there is a way to pay for it. There is a way to pay for the other extenders that the committee wants, and that is by passing a comprehensive immigration bill.

Mr. BOEHNER indicated that that was not being done because it was tough and people didn't want to do tough things. I understand that. It is hard to do tough things. That is why they are called tough. Mr. BOEHNER now says he was kidding when he said that.

My view is he was deadly serious, and the reason we are considering this bill next week is because it is easy to do. The reason we are not considering comprehensive immigration reform is because it is difficult, but comprehensive immigration reform would pay for all of the tax cuts that are being proposed in these six extenders and, indeed, in all of the extenders that are proposed by the Senate Finance Committee.

They only proposed that for 2 years, not 10 years, but it would pay for all of them. In fact, CBO says if we pass comprehensive immigration reform, it would mean $200 billion for the next 10 years and $900 billion over the next 20 years.

In December, the Budget Committee chairs, Mr. RYAN and Mrs. MURRAY, were able to come up with a substantial sequester replacement. We ought to be able to do that as well.

Let me close this part of my comment with two quotes, one from Republican Secretary of the Treasury Hank Paulson, who said:

> As a general rule, I don't believe that tax cuts pay for themselves.

And then Mr. Alan Greenspan, who initially said in 2001 and 2003 that he thought the tax cuts would pay for themselves. However, upon review of those tax cuts, he came back in response to a question on ''Meet the Press'' from David Gregory, and the question was:

> You don't agree with the Republican leaders who say tax cuts pay for themselves?

Mr. Greenspan:

> They do not.

So all of your Republican colleagues are being asked to vote for a $155 billion increase in the deficit, which they all say they want to bring down. I am sure they will get up and rationalize—as they did in 1981, in 2001, and 2003—that those tax cuts would magically grow the economy, so that they would not exacerbate the deficit. In the 33 years I have been in Congress, that has not been our experience.

So, Mr. Leader, I very sincerely hope that we can join together in a bipartisan way and support this legislation because it is the right thing to do in terms of growing manufacturing, and it is the right thing to do in bringing down our deficit to pay for it.

I yield to my friend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSER). The Chair reminds Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would say to the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, that for 30-plus years, the R&D tax credit has been on temporary extension. This is nothing but reflecting reality, saying that this is a very important part of incentives, so that we can fulfill the mission that the gentleman is on, that we share as well, which is more manufacturing here in America.

If making it in America is important, the R&D tax credit is fundamental to that mission. This has been in place for over 30 years on temporary extension, and to hold it hostage as the gentleman suggests, Mr. Speaker, is not the way to go about facilitating growth in our economy.

I respect the gentleman's commitment to fiscal discipline. Obviously, we have different opinions about how to

get to that goal, but both of us, I think, would agree, Mr. Speaker, that growth is something that has been too little, too tepid, and we need to return to an era in which we can see some robust growth in our economy.

It will help those who are chronically unemployed. It will help businesses grow. It will help communities grow and families get by easier, so they can see a better future. This R&D tax credit is something that, as the gentleman says, he supports, and to support that means support it as it has existed, but let's once and for all send the signal of certainty that this will be the policy for manufacturing and others in this country, so we can continue to innovate.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. I would say that the rationale he uses, however, is applicable to the sustainable growth rate reimbursement for doctors serving Medicare patients. We do that every year as well. The Republican side of the aisle demands that be paid for.

We do unemployment insurance.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I would be glad to yield on that.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, the difference in the SGR to this is we have consistently offset the expenditures under SGR. This R&D tax credit is a tax credit. It is allowing businesses who invest to keep more of that investment, to plow it back into research.

The precedent is not there, as it is on SGR and the other items that perhaps the gentleman would point to. This is important to growth. This is important to manufacturing. We should all join together and support the current extension of what has been in place for over 30 years, on extension over a dozen times.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his observation, Mr. Speaker. The other side of the aisle laments the deficit; they lament the debt. We have the debt, we have the deficit because we don't pay for what we buy. That is why we have a debt. That is why we have a deficit.

When we were in charge, we put in a pay-as-you-go rule. That rule said, if you are going to spend money, this is essentially a tax expenditure; it is a worthy tax expenditure. It is something that I support. It helps to grow the economy, but it is a tax expenditure.

No one on this floor can say that it does not make the deficit worse; no one with any degree of credibility.

□ 1230

The argument has been made, of course, though, that tax cuts, they will grow so much that you won't get the deficit. That is what President Reagan argued and his proponents argued in 1981. The debt increased 187 percent under President Ronald Reagan because they didn't pay for themselves.

When the Republicans took over, Mr. Speaker, they amended the rule so we didn't have to pay for things. This bill comes to the floor without any necessity to pay for it. So we will give a tax cut, assuming it passes, and somebody is going to pay for it. My children, my grandchildren, your children, Mr. Speaker, they are the ones who will pay for it because we are going to make a decision, apparently, not to pay for something that we know is going to increase the deficit.

So the analogy when we want things paid for is not always followed, Mr. Speaker, for instance, unemployment insurance almost invariably not paid for. Almost every economist says investing in unemployment insurance grows the economy, will help grow the GDP, but we don't follow that practice here, unfortunately.

We have a bipartisan paid-for unemployment insurance bill that the Senate has passed that we can't even get to the floor. That is paid for. It grows the economy and it helps 2.5 million people who are falling through the cracks. Yet we bring a bill to the floor that has a $155 billion cost, we don't pay for it, and the unemployment insured, 2.5 million, are ignored.

Mr. Speaker, we don't think that policy is one that we ought to pursue. We would hope, again, before this bill comes to the floor that it is paid for.

I referred to comprehensive immigration reform, Mr. Speaker.

I will yield to my friend if he wants to make a comment on a previous comment.

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

I would like to just point out that the last time the gentleman's party was in the majority in this House during a lame-duck session we did extend the R&D tax credit unpaid for. I hear what the gentleman is saying, but I would point that out for historic accuracy.

I would say this, Mr. Speaker. I guess there may be a little bit of different view on how deficits are created. The disproportionate cause for our deficit is the fact that we have demographics in this country, 10,000 people every day turning 65 becoming eligible for our health care entitlement programs, and those programs are almost 50 percent—the Medicare program is almost 50 percent underfunded. That is the disproportionate cause of the deficit.

I think all of us have said you can't tax your way out of it; you can't grow your way out of it; you have to change the structure of the program. That is something that the gentleman's party nor the President will agree with us on. That is the disproportionate cause of the deficit.

An additional cause of the deficit is we don't have enough growth; we don't have revenues coming into the Federal Government. For some reason, there has been an acceptance around here of a new norm, a very low and tepid growth. The R&D tax credit is something that is growth oriented; it is certainty. The gentleman said so himself. The gentleman said that manufacturing in America needs certainty in the R&D tax credit.

We have essentially been allowing an R&D tax credit since 1981 in this country. So let's just call it what it is and make it permanent so that we can get back on the path to growth. Addressing growth, addressing our unfunded liabilities connected with entitlement programs, that is the sure way to reduce deficits and reduce the debt burden.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear the gentleman point that out. I have been trying to work with the gentleman and his party for some period of time now starting with Bowles-Simpson and some other comprehensive suggestions.

As I said, Mr. CAMP, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, has offered a comprehensive bill. I don't agree with some of the things in it, but it is an honest piece of legislation that makes the tradeoffs, the tough choices, that need to be made. This bill does not. That is my point.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, because I know the majority leader has another engagement, comprehensive immigration reform, I said that it scores approximately $1 trillion positive for our economy over the next 20 years; but it is also morally the right thing to do to fix a broken system, a system that doesn't work, with which everybody agrees.

I would again appeal to the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, to bring a comprehensive immigration bill to the floor. I understand that there are many on his side of the aisle that don't agree with it. Fine. Vote against it, but give this House an opportunity. Give the American people the opportunity to have a comprehensive immigration bill voted in the people's House on this floor so that we can fix a broken system, or offer alternatives to that which is proposed by the United States Senate and passed overwhelmingly by the United States Senate.

If the gentleman wants me to yield to him, I will, certainly.

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

I would just respond, we have had this discussion before. The majority is in opposition to the Senate bill. The Speaker has said as much, and I have said as much.

I have also said, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman, to the President, and others that we have got a lack of trust between this House and the White House. I have said to the President that what could help is we start rebuilding that trust, which starts with an admission

that it can't be my way or the highway, and it must instead be building trust, understanding where we can agree together.

Yes, we all agree the system is broken. We have a system that is broken on the legal side, and we have illegal immigration. There are things that this House has done before, like a green card stapled to a diploma. The President says, no, we can't do something like that; we can't do something like that without taking care of everything. That, to me, Mr. Speaker, is where the problem lies.

There is not enough trust on the part of the Members of this body to think that the White House and the administration is going to implement whatever it is that we pass. So instead, why shouldn't we focus on where we agree and start from there? That has been the position that I have expressed to the gentleman as well as to the administration.

So again, I just take issue with his insistence that somehow we can just do that and it will all be fixed. That is the fundamental problem here, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the fundamental problem is not my way or the highway. It is no way.

The Republican Judiciary Committee has passed out a number of immigration reform bills. The Homeland Security Committee headed by a Republican chairman has passed out an immigration reform bill dealing with border security. None of those bills have been brought to the floor. It is not a question about liking the Senate bill or trusting the President of the United States.

Everybody agrees, Mr. Speaker, the immigration system is broken; but there is no way, no bill, no option that has been brought to this floor to fix that system to respond to what everybody agrees is a broken system of immigration.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the Taoiseach, otherwise known as the Prime Minister of Ireland, celebrated St. Patrick's Day here with us at a luncheon, and part of his speech was about passing comprehensive immigration reform.

They don't have to take our bill; they don't have to take the Senate bill; but, Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to have a bill on the floor to fix a broken system. It is not a question of whether they trust the President; it is whether or not they trust the word of the House of Representatives that it can work its will. I would hope that we could work our will on this issue. It is important for the American people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

LET THE STATES LEAD ON JOB CREATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a recent Monthly Labor Review report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics reiterates that energy production and energy jobs are surging in parts of the country, including my home State of Pennsylvania.

The report, which reviews employment trends from 2007 to 2012, states:

> Pennsylvania has seen a surge in natural gas production and employment over the past 2 years, resulting in substantial growth in terms of both employment and wages.

Over the report's study period, Pennsylvania went on from being the tenth largest State by oil and natural gas employment in 2007 to being the sixth largest in 2012, and the Commonwealth also had the second largest employment increase over the same period, positioning itself only after Texas.

We talk a lot about what Washington can do to boost growth and employment. Well, Mr. Speaker, this report speaks to the fact that we should allow private innovation in States like Pennsylvania to lead the way.

HUNGER IN AMERICA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Chairman PAUL RYAN held a hearing on poverty—a timely and necessary conversation. But the problem is that not one single person living in poverty was a witness at that hearing, and that is really a shame.

There are plenty of men and women, like Barbie Izquierdo or Tianna Gaines Turner from the Witnesses to Hunger, who should be invited here to describe what it is like to be hungry or cold simply because there isn't enough money to heat a house and buy enough food to eat. They can describe for Mr. RYAN how difficult it is to stretch a SNAP allotment for the entire month and, most importantly, how hard it is to make ends meet with a job that pays an inadequate wage.

We need to hear from those who struggle with poverty and not just those think tank gurus. We need to hear what is working and what is not working on the ground in our communities.

Chairman RYAN's hearing missed the mark. When it comes to issues involving poverty and hunger, Mr. Speaker, this majority that runs this House doesn't have a clue.

I urge everyone to listen to real people who are struggling in poverty. Perhaps if we did, this Congress wouldn't be so cruel to poor people.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN DONALD BUSKA

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Donald Buska, a Montana World War II veteran who passed away earlier this week.

I had the honor to meet Donald on Monday, just a day before he passed away. Donald was in Washington, D.C., as part of the Big Sky Honor Flight, an incredible program that allows Montana veterans to travel to D.C. and see their memorials.

One of the best parts of my job is meeting with these Montana veterans and honoring their service and their sacrifice. It is an honor to hear their stories, to stand with them before the memorials honoring their service, and to shake their hands.

I am glad Donald was able to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime trip to accomplish his lifetime dream.

Thank you, Donald, for your service. Cindy and I join all Montanans in saying ''thank you'' and keeping your family in our thoughts and prayers.

GLOBAL HUNGER/LIVE BELOW THE LINE

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is the lunch hour here in Washington, D.C., but for the over 840 million people around the world who are struggling with hunger, an adequate lunch is a luxury they cannot afford. Instead of enjoying food, they are facing a terrible, gnawing pain in their gut right now. By the time I finish this statement, six children will have perished because of hunger or inadequate nutrition.

This week, the World Food Program is asking everyone to try to Live Below the Line—to put yourself in the shoes of the hungry, and to try to get by on only $1.50 of food per day—the purchasing power of people living in extreme poverty, as defined by the World Bank. I and members of my staff are

taking this challenge. But for millions of people, this is not about 1 day or 1 week. This is about their everyday lives.

It should not be this way. As President Kennedy said over 50 years ago:

> We have the ability, we have the means, and we have the capacity to eliminate hunger from the face of the Earth. We need only the will.

In the past, Republicans like Bob Dole and Democrats like George McGovern came together. They led this battle against global hunger. Today, we have a moral obligation to continue that battle, to meet our responsibilities to our fellow man and woman—and to our children—and to do what we can to end the scourge of hunger in our own Nation and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, let's take advantage of this challenge. Let us end hunger in this generation.

□ 1245

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY SHERIFF MICHAEL SEVERSON

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

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Polk County Deputy Sheriff Michael Severson for his bravery, for his selflessness, and for his sacrifice in the line of duty on April 19, 1991.

On that day, Deputy Severson was shot in the spine and suffered paralysis from the neck down. Also from that incident, his partner, Deputy Allen Albee, lost his life. He was a husband and a father of two.

In the 23 years since that incident, Deputy Severson's life would change as a result of his injuries, but he would never give up on life. Deputy Severson traveled and shared his story with others. He provided inspiration and hope for those struggling to adjust to the challenging life of paralysis.

Then, sadly, on Monday, April 14, Deputy Severson succumbed to his wounds, and he passed away in his hometown of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 23 years, Deputy Severson persevered. For his bravery, for his selflessness, and for his sacrifice in the line of duty, he is one of our heroes.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all of you to join me in offering our gratitude for his service. On behalf of this entire body, we thank him, and we extend our condolences to his family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PASTOR R.C. JOHNSON

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to a great man, Pastor Raymond Charles Johnson, Sr., known in Fort Worth as ''R.C. Johnson.''

Pastor Johnson moved to Fort Worth in 1953, where he began his work at the Greater Saint James Baptist Church. He was ordained as pastor of the church in 1985, and he dedicated 61 years to the preaching of the Word. Although many in the community knew that he was a pastor, he also worked at General Motors for over 32 years and was a Korean war veteran. In addition to his work in the ministry, he was a precinct chairman for over 50 years in the same precinct.

Pastor Johnson was so proud of his work in Ministers Against Crime, where they went to local schools and worked in communities. I can tell you that they worked in those schools and that they made a difference in those kids' lives—in their behavior and in their grades. He really made a difference in the community.

Sadly, earlier this year, I was at his wife's funeral. They had been married for 63 years. She died back in the January–February time period, which was really, really tough on him. He, too, succumbed just this past week.

I want to thank Pastor Johnson for everything he did to help me and so many other people in the community. He is someone the Fort Worth community will be proud of for many years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JERRY UMANOS

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to honor the life of Dr. Jerry Umanos, the father-in-law of my former staff member, Krista Umanos, and the father of her husband, Ben.

Dr. Umanos was killed at the CURE International Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, on April 24. He was a pediatrician, a man dedicated to his Christian faith, who felt called to serve those in need. Since 2005, this calling led him to Afghanistan to treat patients and to train Afghan medical personnel. Dr. Umanos had a love of and a dedication to the people of Afghanistan—a love that transcended the typical call to serve.

His wife, Jan, asked that we honor her husband's memory by opening our hearts to the Afghan people and to everyone around the world who needs to see Christ's love for all.

Dr. Umanos' caring for all mankind, regardless of country or creed or religion, is inspiring. His death is a loss for his family and friends, as it is a loss for all of those touched by his selfless service. While Dr. Umanos' earthly mission is complete, the positive effects of his works in this world shall never perish.

God bless Dr. Jerry Umanos and his family.

You have made the world a better place.

HOME RULE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon because of interference in the local affairs of the District of Columbia that is about to take place pursuant to a hearing that has been called by the Government Operations Subcommittee of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

First, let me be clear. The Oversight and Government Reform Committee, led by Chairman DARRELL ISSA, has been respectful of self-government in the District of Columbia. Chairman ISSA has not only observed the same self-government for our District that he insists upon for his, but he has gone beyond that to encourage greater home rule and budget autonomy for the District of Columbia. This subcommittee hearing is not done under the aegis of the full committee but, rather, under the leadership of the subcommittee chair, JOHN MICA.

The respect for local control lies at the heart of the formation of the United States of America, itself. It was the denial of that respect that led to the Revolution and to formation of the United States. Essentially, at that time, when Americans were saying taxes are a matter for local jurisdictions, it meant the United States, and when the Constitution, itself, was drawn, the Framers were at pains to separate out local matters over which the Federal Government would have no say and no control.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the House, of course, as well as the Senate, maintain some control over the District of Columbia that Congress does not have over other jurisdictions. I assert what should be clear in that illegitimate control, but at the very least, I respect and thank Members who have not gone out of their way not to violate their own principles of local government in order to exercise that control, as the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, under Chairman ISSA, has been clear to avoid. In short, don't have hearings on the District of Columbia—that's for the District of Columbia City Council.

The Government Operations Subcommittee has called for a hearing on Wednesday on the recently decriminalized marijuana law in the District of

Columbia. It is important to note that there are Federal and State matters that are implicated in this hearing. The subcommittee has held two hearings on those implications because of the conflict between State and local law that is emerging very rapidly on marijuana possession—but look at what the subcommittee did in its two prior committee hearings:

In one hearing, it called a U.S. attorney, who is a Federal official. It was a U.S. attorney from a district in Colorado and in addition, an official from the Drug Enforcement Administration. In another hearing, it called only one witness, the Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Do note that each and every one of these officials was legitimately called as a Federal official.

Why was no official from the State of Colorado called? There was no State official, no local official—only a Federal official from the State of Colorado. The reason is clear: Colorado would have taken umbrage at the audacity of this body to dare call them to account on their own local laws.

Be on notice that we take the same umbrage. We will not silently allow this Congress or its committees and subcommittees to interfere in our local affairs, and on this matter, we are standing on very solid ground.

Eighteen States went quite ahead of the District and decriminalized their marijuana laws. ''Decriminalization'' means that a fine rather than prison results from the possession of marijuana. Twenty States proceeded to enact medical marijuana laws, which to enable people who have certain medical conditions to get medical marijuana. It took me 11 years to remove—or to get the Congress to remove—an amendment that kept the District from allowing its own citizens to have access to medical marijuana at a time when we had a runaway HIV–AIDS problem, where medical marijuana had been helpful. I was finally able to do that. Two States of the Union—Washington and Colorado—have legalized marijuana.

How dare any committee or subcommittee call the District of Columbia local officials—any local official—to testify on our local law? I will get to why we enacted that law in one moment.

Let me say who preceded us and who has not been called before this House or any committee or subcommittee of this House even though they have done either precisely the same thing or have gone even further than D.C. I am going to call the roll, Mr. Speaker, so you will know the company in which we find ourselves and why we insist upon treatment without discrimination, because we are the exact equivalent of other American citizens:

Alaska: going back more than almost 40 years now—decriminalized marijuana. No penalty for use in one's home. Actually, that is further than decriminalization. That legalized marijuana in one's home;

California: a $100 fine. Some of these are quite old, these laws. More recently, there has come a flood of marijuana laws changes.

Colorado: no penalty. Of course, there are different amounts involved, and most of these involve people over 21;

Connecticut: a $150 fine;

Maine: as low as a $350 fine, as high as a $1,000 fine depending on the amount;

□ 1300

Maryland, $100 fine; Massachusetts, $100 fine; Minnesota, $300 fine; Mississippi, $100 to $250 fine; Nebraska, $300 fine. That goes back to 1978, by the way. Nevada, $600 fine; New York, $100 fine; North Carolina, up to $200 fine; Ohio, $150 fine; Oregon, $650 fine; Rhode Island, $150 fine; Vermont, up to $200 in fines; and the State of Washington, no penalty for those 21 or older.

What has the District of Columbia done? Its decriminalization involves a $25 fine instead of a criminal misdemeanor, penalty of up to 6 months in jail, and as much as a $1,000 fine. It also prohibits law enforcement from using the smell of marijuana as grounds for stopping and searching a resident.

The reason for the low fine is that the District faced the possibility—in fact, very real possibility—that if it didn't have a low fine, it would end up with another disparity, namely, those who could afford the fine would not go to jail, and those who could not would.

I want to say something about why going to jail becomes so important. First, let me quote the President, who said:

> Middle class kids don't get locked up for smoking pot and poor kids do. And African American kids and Latino kids are more likely to be poor and less likely to have resources and the support to avoid unduly harsh penalties.

What the President said in general should be understood in particular in the District of Columbia, and I suspect in many States as well because the problem of disparity in enforcement is nationwide.

The District of Columbia is a very progressive jurisdiction, and it is very racially sensitive. We have a population that is about half Black and half White, about 10 percent Latino, very progressive. And yet, in the progressive District of Columbia, African Americans are eight times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than Whites.

Understand that, in the District of Columbia as across the country, Blacks and Whites use marijuana at the same rate. Why then are African Americans eight times more likely to be arrested? I can only guess. Sometimes they live in high-crime areas where there may be more police out on the street.

Notice that the legislation bars arresting someone because an officer smells marijuana on the person. Of course, if that is the reason for an arrest, what you can do is take somebody in who has violated no law except possession of a small amount of marijuana—and all of the amounts we are talking about are small amounts—and what happens is that that an African American or White person or any other resident has a criminal record for the rest of his or her life. For an African American, that matters.

We have a whole generation particularly of young men who, with that first arrest, are essentially ruled out of the job market because they have a ''drug possession arrest.'' That drug possession is a small amount of marijuana. That ruins that young man's life not only for work, but as the world turns, for the opportunity to have a good marriage, to raise children, and for African Americans to have a stable community, all beginning with one marijuana possession arrest.

The result may be to lead this person, frankly, into a life of criminal activity. You can't get work because you have a drug possession arrest on your record. And if you can't get work and you need money, what can you do? What you often do is you go from possessing marijuana, as many young people do, to the next level, to distributing it or otherwise being involved in criminal activity.

We don't have to go this way.

I suspect that some of the jurisdictions that have decriminalized marijuana have done so—and you will notice they are very diverse—simply because they are more libertarian, a bit more open to what they see around them, which is that people engage in alcohol consumption as much as they do, in smoking marijuana, at least as much. We learned the hard way that you don't put people in jail when it comes to drinking alcohol or even distributing it.

I want to be clear. I do not and will never advocate the smoking of pot, don't think it is a good thing, don't think being high is fine. I also don't think drinking alcohol is a good thing, but I wouldn't want to put anybody in jail for it. If someone is unfortunate enough to develop a habit, I want to do what we do with people who develop that habit with alcohol and try to get them off that habit.

Look. It is a free society. We cannot keep everybody from every sin, but we don't lock them up in the jails. That is why you find State after State opening their jails and letting out people who have been convicted of drug possession, don't want to ruin lives, particularly what amounts to young lives.

We feel very deeply about this. If I may say so, I think every jurisdiction

that has passed these laws feels deeply about it and would tell Congress which way to go if Congress came anywhere close to their local laws. I am not going to tell Congress which way to go. I am just going to tell Congress: Don't mess with our marijuana laws. And the reason I have to say that to the Congress is because Congress can.

This hearing could be the first step toward overturning D.C.'s marijuana law. Usually when they try to overturn one of our laws, they don't give us a hearing. They just try to do it in some sneaky way.

This hearing is for show. But it is a dangerous hearing because it is about a real law and real people and real racial disparity and, yes, real discrimination against my district because we have been pulled out as no other jurisdiction has been.

I want to compliment those Members on the floor from the other side who were consistent with their own principles yesterday. There was a marijuana amendment on the floor yesterday, and the full details of it I don't have before me, but I recall it would allow prescription by Veterans Administration physicians for medical marijuana for certain wounded veterans because of the finding that it has a beneficial effect on some of their concerns, especially nausea and other kinds of conditions they bring back with them.

The vote was divided, but I looked at the members of the subcommittee who will be hearing on Wednesday about cannabis laws in the District of Columbia. There are seven members of that subcommittee; and two Republicans on that subcommittee, that seven-Member subcommittee, voted to respect states' rights and voted, in effect, to allow States to do what is necessary when it came to medical marijuana for veterans.

Yes, the parties are coming together on this issue, and for that reason it makes no sense whatsoever to have a divisive hearing that calls out one local jurisdiction—the weakest in the country because the District of Columbia has no Senators, because while I vote in committee, whatever you do to my District or even for my District, I cannot vote on it on this floor.

I can tell you this. As a result of this hearing and because the D.C. decriminalization bill has to lay over here for 60 days before it becomes final, it is still here, I have alerted my allies throughout the country, and particularly in those States which have decriminalized marijuana or legalized it. So if any Member of this House ever gets oversight over this matter and dares to vote that the District can't decriminalize cannabis, even though their citizens have the opposite right, we will call them out.

I don't believe that kind of hypocrisy exists in this House, nor do I know whether there is any attempt to try to overturn our laws. I have to come to the floor proactively, my friends, because Members don't exactly come to me ahead of time and tell me when they want to perform the illegitimate act of overturning a local law in the District of Columbia. So I am calling them out right now: Don't you dare to seek to countermand the elected, the democratically elected D.C. council which has decided what is best for its citizens, particularly if your own jurisdiction—and I have called your names—has decided that some form of marijuana possession decriminalization or legalization should occur in yours.

Even for those of you who come from parts of the United States which have not changed their marijuana laws, let me say to you: I respect that your local jurisdictions, your State jurisdiction has not acted in that way. There are real issues here. We don't want people smoking marijuana to end up where people who smoke cigarettes did.

A lot of what is being done now, the city is already holding hearings on the law's effects, is putting in place measures that would have the effect of not only alerting people to the problems of smoking anything, but keeping this matter from being excessive. Smoking pot perhaps has more of a chance of being excessive at least among young people if it is barred. I am not so sure now that it is allowed in so many States, a third of the States, that you will have nearly the excitement about smoking pot as you did before it was decriminalized.

Whatever is the result is not for a national legislature, not in America where local matters get decided by local folks. Yes, there is a conflict with Federal law. That is for the Federal Government in its implementation of drug laws to take care of.

□ 1315

And if you want to somehow go out against these States which are rapidly decriminalizing marijuana laws—you have got to come after all of them, not just one—that is what I am here to say. We don't intend to be the outlier that Congress uses to prove its point about marijuana.

We demand respect for the principles for which the Constitution stands. Nothing in the Constitution says anything about respecting local control, except for the District of Columbia. The Framers left some control of D.C. matters with Congress, but certainly not the kind of control that would be exercised here. The Congress on its own decided that even the control that the Framers left in the Congress, it would never exercise, when it passed 40 years ago the Home Rule Act of the District of Columbia.

The Home Rule Act says that matters of local law are for the local jurisdiction of the District of Columbia, just as they are for the local jurisdiction of each of the 50 States. That was a landmark law. We intend that it will be respected. No hearing called, however illegitimate as this hearing is, is enough to override that law and its intent.

That law needs to be expanded, not sat upon with a hearing that picks out one local law. It needs to be expanded so that the 100 percent of local funds raised in the District of Columbia don't have to come before a national body before we can spend our own money, as if you were the masters of our local funds—almost $4 billion of it raised from local citizens and local businesses.

You want to bring us before you on Federal funds? Be my guest. But don't come to the District of Columbia when it comes to its own money. And don't come to the District of Columbia when it comes to its own laws.

Nobody in this House can speak with any credibility to the reasons, and they are legion, but don't forget the most important reason that the District decided to decriminalize its laws. It didn't even legalize marijuana, as two States have done; it decriminalized them.

It is a modest step, it is a responsible step. And it is a step taken in the face of horrific evidence, shameful evidence, that showed that, essentially, the only people that got arrested in the District of Columbia for marijuana possession are Black people. That is an outrage. The council had to do something about it. Just as the other States, for whatever reasons, have decided to move for local reasons, our council has moved for entirely local reasons.

We ask you to respect that move, especially when it comes to what I am sure will be countless lives of African American citizens in the District of Columbia that will now have a chance, at least, to escape from penalties of law enforcement, to live a fruitful life because they will not start off in life with marijuana possession penalties that ruin their entire lives.

We ask for equality of treatment. We are equal citizens under the law. If your citizens were treated unequally, each and every Member of this House would be on this floor. I come in that spirit, and I come asking for the very same respect.

I yield back the balance of my time.

SUDAN TRAGEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide in which nearly a million perished in a horrific 100-day span while the world idly stood by.

As has been documented in print and film, including Samantha Powers' riveting book, ''A Problem From Hell: American and the Age of Genocide,'' cables were sent, reports of the violence and the targeting of innocents received, and yet the American foreign policy apparatus was largely consumed not with stemming the bloodshed, but rather with avoiding use of the word ''genocide'' less it necessitate a response. And so many people died.

Of course, there is the now-notorious negligence of the United Nations in this regard, which culminated in a catastrophic moral failure on the part of the international community.

Kofi Annan, then head of U.N. peacekeeping, was receiving on-the-ground intelligence from General Dallaire, who was a Canadian general, about the impending tragedy, and yet he repeatedly refused to authorize General Dallaire to seize known weapons caches until it was too late. What horrors might have been prevented had Annan chosen otherwise?

Fast-forward several years.

President Clinton traveled to the Kigali Airport in Rwanda and issued what has come to be known as the ''Clinton apology'' for failing to do more to stop the violence.

Later, President George W. Bush famously wrote ''not on my watch'' in the margin of a report on the Rwandan genocide.

No President, Republican or Democrat, wants atrocities to occur on their watch. I venture this much is true of President Obama. And yet every indication points to the fact that the crisis currently unfolding in South Sudan is headed the way of Rwanda.

In fact, yesterday, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, characterized South Sudan as ''on the verge of catastrophe.'' But with the stakes as high as they are, the situation is simply not being met with the urgency it demands.

It is time for bold action.

President Obama, who so far has failed on this issue, should immediately dispatch former President George W. Bush, who has a great reputation in Africa, and former President Bill Clinton, who also has a good reputation in Africa, to the region to help negotiate a lasting peace and to convey in no uncertain terms that the fate of South Sudan is a U.S. foreign policy priority.

Both of these men, President Bush and President Clinton, have done a great deal on this issue and have remained invested in Africa beyond their Presidencies.

This pair of statesmen, hailing from two different political parties, would send a powerful message to the warring factions, and especially as it relates to President Kiir, with whom President Bush and his team forged a lasting relationship during intensive negotiations involved with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and would open immediate lines of communication at a pivotal time.

I first visited Sudan in 1989, years before Darfur became a household word, and I have prayed for the day when the people of that long-suffering land would enjoy peace and representative government. I have been five subsequent times, most recently in 2012.

For more than two decades, a steady stream of Sudanese activists, Lost Boys and Girls who resettled in the United States, humanitarian groups operating in the region, and others have visited my office.

Whether it was the seemingly intractable war between the North and the South, the genocide in Darfur, or, in recent years, the violence in the Nuba Mountains set against the backdrop of the birth of a new nation, I have followed events closely in that part of the world, urging U.S. administrations of every stripe to engage vigorously in pursuit of lasting peace, justice, and rule of law.

I asked President Bush to appoint a special envoy. He appointed former Senator John Danforth, who did an incredible job with then-Secretary of State Powell.

While I did not support Obama's candidacy, I was heartened and encouraged by his rhetoric on Sudan during the 2008 campaign. I took further encouragement from some of the individuals who joined his foreign policy team—senior advisers with strong human rights credentials and a stated desire to see the United States lead in the prevention of crimes against humanity and other atrocities.

Sadly, those words have not translated into action.

As I noted earlier, Samantha Power, who rose to prominence for her reporting on genocide prevention, now represents the U.S. at the United Nations in New York. I wish her voice was stronger within this administration on this issue. I urge everyone to read her book. It was a profound book. I urge her to take the message of the book and be a spokesman in this administration.

Today, I stand before you as concerned as I ever have been about the state of affairs in South Sudan and the potential for the recent violence to spiral into genocide—a genocide that could defy even the horrors of Rwanda, given that oil reserves are in play.

On Monday, I received deeply troubling reports from individuals on the ground about recent atrocities in South Sudan and the lack of an effective U.S. or international response. I heard of civilians, including women and children, indiscriminately targeted and killed. I learned of houses of worship turned from places of sanctuary to mass graves. I was told of ethnic divisions that now run so deep, it could take generations to heal.

These reports, coupled with a smattering of news stories from the last several months, belie what can only be characterized as an emergency situation in urgent need of high-level intervention.

Consider the following excerpts from media accounts.

Voice of America, April 21:

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan on Monday accused opposition forces in Bentiu of carrying out targeted killings, including of children, and inciting ''vengeful sexual violence'' against women after they captured the town last week from government troops . . . UNMISS also said that individuals associated with the opposition have been using an FM station in Bentiu to broadcast hate speech.

It sort of reminds you of exactly what took place in Rwanda.

Will we ever learn?

The Washington Post, April 22:

Gunmen in South Sudan who targeted civilians, including children and the elderly, left ''piles and piles'' of bodies, many of them in a mosque and a hospital, the United Nations' top official in the country said Tuesday.

CNN, April 23:

South Sudanese rebels seized a strategic oil town last week, separating terrified residents by ethnicity before killing hundreds . . . Residents sought shelter in churches, mosques, and hospitals when the rebels raided Bentiu town.

Fox News, April 3:

As rebel forces entered Bentiu last week, residents were led to believe that by entering the mosque, they would be safe . . . But once inside they were robbed of money and mobile phones and a short while later gunmen began killing, both inside the mosque and inside the city hospital . . . If you were not Nuer, nothing could save you. The gunmen killed wantonly, including children and the elderly.

The Economist, April 26:

Even in a civil war that has been rife with atrocities, the scale of the massacre of civilians in South Sudan's oil hub of Bentiu on April 15–16 plumbed a new depth of hell. The rebel White Army, so-called after the ash its fighters sometimes smear on themselves, killed anyone they suspected of supporting the government, including—it is reported—200 people in a single mosque and others in churches and aid-agency compounds.

□ 1330

Local radio broadcasts helped to stir up ethnic hatred to direct the violence at perceived enemies of Riek Machar. No side is winning. Hopes of building a new country from scratch are drowning in blood.

I have a photo here—and many others—a graphic visual image of what I have just heard described. It is from the most recent massacre in Bentiu this month.

We see pictured the piles of bodies described in the news accounts, and just yesterday morning, I received reports from someone on the ground that another attack in that town could be imminent.

Where is the urgency from the Obama administration? Where is the outrage?

I read with great interest the recent statements by Kenya's President, in which he said: ''During the 20th commemoration of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda''—the 20th anniversary is this month—''I expressed our region's disappointment at having done little to nothing at the time to end the slaughter of a million innocent victims, human beings in Rwanda, by a bloodthirsty cabal.''

He went on—and I commend the President of Kenya for saying this: ''I also pledged,'' he said, ''in the name of Kenya and the region that we would never again allow a similar genocide to happen within our shores.''

''I return,'' he said, ''to the pledge today because of what is happening in parts of Sudan. We are outraged and gravely concerned at seeing the killings of hundreds of innocent civilians caught up in the internal conflict of the South Sudan Liberation Movement.''

''We refuse,'' he said, ''to be witnesses to such atrocities and to remain helpless and hopeless in their wake.''

President Obama, Vice President BIDEN, this is happening on your watch. Will you allow it to continue? Will you refuse to be a witness to the atrocities?

News coverage of these events have been sporadic, at best. While most Americans are likely unaware of the horrors being perpetrated in South Sudan, people who are in a position to help know what is happening.

Yesterday, I had a press conference with Congressman PITTS and Congressman SMITH. Two members of the press—two members, only two members of the press even came. The room was empty. Nobody's covering this story hardly.

Will it be like Rwanda, when they all had all the stories, and you remember the movies that they did on Rwanda, looking back? Will the press then cover it, looking back? Will they then say whose fault it was that they didn't act?

Where is the media today? Where are the networks? Where is the Obama administration?

Cables are now being sent to Washington. Talking points are being drafted at the National Security Council and the State Department. These events are not happening in a vacuum.

Will we see the contents of the reports only after it is too late, when enterprising filmmakers and authors dredge up the documents and wonder why no one mustered the will to act?

A joint op-ed piece yesterday by long-term South Sudan expert Eric Reeves and John Prendergast, who has been on the scene, who has done so much to bring the attention to these issues, opened with the following line—they say: ''No civilians in the world are in greater danger than those in South Sudan.''

Again, here is what they said: ''No civilians in the world are in greater danger than those in South Sudan.''

You see how powerful—where they say even more than in Ukraine, more than in Syria?

The pair continue:

> Unlike the asymmetric warfare to which we have been accustomed to hearing about in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and in Darfur, symmetric warfare ensures heavy casualties in military confrontations, but victories and defeats now have more ominous consequences; for in South Sudan, the victors see a military victory as justifying civilian slaughter of the predominant ethnic group of the opposing forces, and with a terrifying momentum, ethnic slaughter leads yet to greater ethnic slaughter.

In short, crimes have been committed by both sides. There are no angels in this conflict. There must be accountability for anyone implicated in these atrocities. We have the technology, the capacity, the eyewitness accounts to know who is involved and who is actively violating the ceasefire.

Reeves and Prendergast further warn of looming famine, given that the planting season has already been disrupted with more than a million forced out of their homes, and ominously, they predicted that as many as 7 million—7 million—could face starvation this fall.

The atrocities must stop. The suffering must cease. What is the end game?

America helped give birth to South Sudan. We have a moral obligation to do something and something bold. So I say this: President Obama, you must not allow this to continue on your watch. I call on your predecessors, President Bush and President Clinton, to immediately engage in this crisis before more innocent blood is shed.

President Bush would go. President Clinton would go. Can you imagine the image of both President Bush and President Clinton there together?

So I close with this last thought: President Obama, Vice President BIDEN, failure to act—and this will be in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for future generations to see—failure to act will be a stain on your administration and a blot on your conscience.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for 42 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that makes America great is that our country is a country that—regardless of one's race, one's religion, or one's ethnicity—we, as citizens of the United States, make up a collective family, the American family; yes, a diverse family, but a family, in and of itself, composed of all the people, the great variety of people we have here from every part of the world who have come here to live in freedom and enjoy the opportunity and the liberty and the justice that America represents.

Here, despite where one was born or whose one's parents are or when even one became a citizen, we are all equally part of that family.

Just as many families across our Nation have come to discover, at one point or another, in a time when there are scarce resources, when you are going through perhaps an economic crisis or trying to avert an economic crisis, it is not unreasonable to provide for one's family before helping others.

It is not selfish to watch out, thus, for our fellow Americans. It is not selfish to watch out for our fellow Americans above the well-being of foreigners, even foreigners who wish us well and, yes, foreigners who would like to become part of the American family; but, first and foremost, those Americans from every part of the world who are citizens of this country or, yes, who have come here legally in the attempt to become a U.S. citizen, their interest must be our first priority.

Tonight, I draw my attention and the attention of my colleagues to the dire consequences that we face if many—and many people have been insisting that we do this—if we implement the so-called immigration reform which, of course, would legalize the status of those who are currently unlawfully living and working in our country.

Just as we are a nation of immigrants, we are also a nation of laws. What the American people and my colleagues must keep in mind, while debating this issue of immigration, is the distinction between legal immigration and illegal immigration.

Perhaps the thing that has disturbed me most in this debate is the attempt to blur the difference between the two, the difference, even to the point where statistics are being used to say: well, this is what immigrants have done for our society.

No, the statistics are what immigrants have done, but that does not include the illegal immigrants that are part of the equation.

No, illegal immigration is on a totally different plane. Legal immigration and illegal immigration are on totally different planes. Too often, we see these lines blurred, as I say, in this debate.

I happen to be very pro-legal immigration, and there is no reason for most Americans not to lift their head up when we actually understand that our country admits more legal immigrants annually than all the other

countries of the world combined, totaling roughly a million legal immigrants every year.

While our immigration system certainly needs reforming or making it more effective and more efficient in what it is doing, this controlled and open process of legal immigration has worked well for America and demonstrates the capacity for our people to have compassion and generosity towards other human beings, other people who would like to come here to be part of the American family—coming here while obeying the rules, coming here not thumbing their nose at our legal system, coming here with respect towards the rest of us by obeying the laws and the regulations that are necessary for someone to come here legally.

Those folks have been wondrous, and, in fact, we all trace our roots back to people like this who came here and have contributed so much to the well-being of our country, and those million people who come here legally every year are a major positive asset to our country.

Despite our generous legal immigration policy, it is estimated that anywhere from 11 to 20 million foreigners are unlawfully present in the United States today.

While I certainly understand the positive motives and the essential goodness of the vast majority of these trespassers, of these people who are here illegally, it does not negate that they are lawbreakers, nor does it negate the economic and social consequences of inundating our country—far above that million-person mark of legal immigration, but inundating our country with a large number of people, thus causing a growing damage to the American family, to people who are here who have come here legally, and to our U.S. citizens.

□ 1345

The dire consequences are evident to average Americans who see the decline in the quality of their schools, their neighborhoods—the safety of their neighborhoods, yes—and their health care. Yes, even their jobs. They can see the decline in the quality of the jobs that are available to working people in this country. Not only are citizens hurt by permitting illegals to cut in front of the line, but it is also a slap in the face to those who continue to wait their turn to come to America.

When we give in to trying to placate and trying to meet the interests of people who come here illegally, it is done at the expense of those people who are waiting in line and want to be American citizens and want to obey our laws and want to come here legally. Yes, illegal immigrants hurt the American people and hurt legal immigrants even worse.

Earlier this year, President Obama's 2012 unilateral deferral of deportation for certain illegal immigrants, essentially an amnesty decree, caused huge delays for thousands—that is thousands who are here legally seeking green cards, seeking to have government employees do their job and to actually make the immigration system work. Our government employees were servicing illegal immigrants at the expense of legal immigrants. They got it totally backwards. And that is the argument that we face today. It has a lot of things totally backwards.

While it is concerning that the President's actions appear to be political—which is this effort that we saw to try to appeal to the various segments of our population in order to conduct policy in the interest of illegal immigrants—I am most troubled by the fact that, basically, our President would defy the rule of law and congressional intent by unilaterally granting preferential treatment to those immigrants who are here illegally. And our President then, without congressional intent or any rule of law behind it, actually shifted the services of our government to service the needs of people who are here illegally at the expense of those people who are here legally.

Nearly 4.5 million mostly legal immigrants are currently caught up in the backlog of our bureaucratic immigration process. That is 4.5 million people who we need to be concerned about. They are part of the American family. They have come here as part of those 1 million legal immigrants that we have coming in, but yet they end up waiting decades—years, and sometimes decades—to make sure that their papers are processed so that they can become citizens.

The last thing we need to do—and unfortunately this administration has been doing it—is shift over the work effort and the time and the resources that are necessary to help these people who come here legally become citizens, shift that over to trying to service those people who are here illegally and have thumbed their nose at our law.

A policy which hurts those who follow the law and hurts those who are U.S. citizens and then rewards illegal and dishonest behavior is going to have some pretty bad consequences.

We are not fooled by the rhetoric—and no one should be fooled by the rhetoric—that we need to have ''comprehensive immigration reform'' and that it will in some way impact in a positive way what I have been talking about this afternoon. What they really mean when they talk about ''comprehensive immigration reform''—what they really mean—is ''amnesty.'' They don't want to use that word because the American people learned what that was all about. What they are really doing is rewarding those who have broken the law; and they do so at the expense of American citizens and, yes, at the expense of those immigrants who are here legally.

As the saying goes: Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. Mr. Speaker, we have already been fooled once. Amnesty has been tested, and it has proven to be a failed policy. In fact, it has served only as a catalyst for chain migration, which has compounded many of the horrific economic and social challenges that we face today.

So we have already had an amnesty in the past, and we know what it has done to the challenges that we had then. It has made them worse. And now we have ended up with, as I say, horrific economic and social challenges.

I am, of course, speaking—when I talk about the amnesty of the past—of the 1986 immigration reform bill, where Congress infamously promised President Reagan that they would enhance border security in exchange for an amnesty on the behalf of nearly 3 million illegal immigrants then residing in the United States.

Needless to say, border security was never enhanced and, needless to say, many more than the 3 million that we were supposedly talking about were legalized through chain migration. And millions upon millions more would continue to illegally flock to our country.

Why?

Because they saw that those people who had come here illegally ended up becoming naturalized, ended up being put in front of the line of those people who were waiting diligently in other countries to come here legally. Thus, it created a major increase in the flood of illegals into our country.

As common sense would dictate, the U.S. Government cannot continue to send this type of mixed message, the message which basically says we are going to reward that person who is here illegally by making him a citizen, putting him through the process actually even before those people who have come here legally, and anybody who gets here illegally, we will reward them with citizenship. They will then have the rights of Americans for education, for health care and the opportunities that are abundant here for American citizens and legal immigrants.

Well, if we continue to say anybody who can get to this country illegally or not is going to have those benefits, that is a mixed message if we expect that illegal immigration is going to be halted or in some way that the people overseas who are considering will hesitate to come here. In fact, we are rewarding those who made it here. Without expecting the legal immigration invasion of our country to increase, we actually gave people the incentive to come here illegally.

Illegal immigration only dramatically jumped after the 1986 amnesty deal, setting the path for our current predicament.

And what is our current predicament?

We have social and economic dislocation that is harming the American people, especially middle class working people. Like after the 1986 amnesty deal, those admitted into the United States under a new amnesty will surely have spouses, children, parents, even siblings back in their home country with whom they will want to reunite. They will insist on reuniting with—legally or illegally—those people who are in the United States.

So that is why we have ended up in a situation where we hear people say: Well, we have these people that we will never see in our family in this other country. Well, the people who are saying that have every right to go to that other country. It is as if someone who is in the United States who is saying that we have to reunite the families—and they are here illegally in the first place—that that is a reason that we should legalize their status so that they can reunite the family that has been left behind. No. The other option is people who are here illegally should go home and be with their families that they left behind. It is better for them to do that.

So this has really been a potential threat when we talk about family reunification and the rest because there is a potential to triple the number of people who are currently here in this country illegally. Let's get that right—triple. If we give amnesty and we legalize the status of those who are here illegally, we could be tripling the number of people. We could be inserting this number of people into our system.

If true, this abrupt population swell will fundamentally change America socially, economically, and, yes, politically, causing major consequences that we can even see across the board. And you can see what those consequences will be because those people that now are swirling in the ranks of our population will mainly be poorer people, people at the poorest end of the economic level. We will be importing millions—tens of millions—of poor people, increasing poverty in America.

The stress that would place on our social services is one thing, but to our economy and what that does to the American people in the job market would be horrendous. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, every 1 percent increase in the labor force attributable to immigration tends to lower the relative wages of all American workers. Let's get that straight. That is what happens when you have an increase in the labor force by immigrants who come to this country. That is why we want to limit it to 1 million people.

If we have 11, 20, 30, 40 million people coming in, we can expect major decreases in the actual wages that all Americans receive. It is going to impact the American wages. Surprise, surprise. When you have a flood of illegal immigrants into a country, they are bending down the wages, bending down the wages of the American people.

However, those who stand to lose the most are whom, when we say that these people are mainly people from lower income levels? So what we are talking about, the people who are really losing by legalizing the status of illegals, by having a plan that would eventually bring tens of millions of more people into our country and insert them into our process, the people who are hurt the most are low-income, low-skilled American workers.

One major study found that increases in immigration during the 1980–2000 era resulted in an 8 percent decrease in wages for high school dropouts and a 3 percent decrease in wages for the average American worker. Well, this is hardly surprising. Well, for me, it wouldn't be surprising.

During my college days, I was a janitor. I worked as a janitor. And let's note, I worked as a janitor because I needed a job. I was cleaning toilets. I was scrubbing floors. I was picking up trash. That was not my desired job, but I needed the money.

Historically—right now—jobs such as these would be a steppingstone for those who perhaps lacked an education or were trying to earn their way through school. I was trying to help pay my education expenses. But after decades of illegal immigrants who have been bending back the wages and the businesses willing to exploit them, many of the jobs that we are talking about, like janitorial jobs, no longer pay even the wages that were paid in real dollars then.

□ 1400

I have gone back and taken a look at what a janitor makes, and janitors were making basically the same pay as I made back 40 and 50 years ago. Well, why is that? Our economy has quadrupled, maybe tripled, in the last 40 years. How come janitors make exactly the same amount of money?

They have been left out. They have been left out because the job of janitor has been bid down. The wages for people who would be janitors in our country have been bid down, bid down by people who flooded into our country illegally willing to work for a pittance, willing to live in homes where you have three or four families to a house that is only supposed to have one family.

We have a situation where who is being hurt? It is that American who would have had that job being that janitor—maybe working his way through school, maybe not—who now can't take that job because it pays so little. People say, well, how can we afford to take care of buildings if you are going to have to pay a certain amount of money, more money to those people who are taking care of the buildings?

Well, proportionately it is the same. The people who own the buildings are making a bigger profit now at the expense of the fact they are paying a pittance to illegals to take care of the building.

But also we can rest assured that technology would by now have developed that would make the life of a janitor and the job of a janitor much more efficient. You probably would have toilet bowl machines that would permit one person to clean 100 toilet bowls a night rather than 12 or 15, and that, then, would mean that the person running that machine and making that machine would be an American citizen or a legal immigrant who is earning a decent wage.

There is nothing wrong with having people who are working those jobs earn a decent wage so that they could then raise a family and, yes, maybe own their own little home some day. That is the way it used to be. When you are a working person, then you can expect to earn enough to maintain a decent standard of living. But we have a flood of illegals coming in. Especially after we gave that amnesty, what we have done is bid down the wages of the American people as tens of millions of illegals are now present in our society.

To this point, between 1960 and 2012, a time when America was experiencing its highest levels of immigration, native-born workers and legal immigrants lost an average of $402 billion in wages while native-owned firms, meaning American-owned companies, profited by an average of $437 billion.

So thus we have wages being depressed by illegal immigration that actually lowered the amount of money by $400 billion in money that was paid in wages, yet the people running the business or owned the property were $437 billion richer. So what we have seen here is a huge shift of wealth to whom? To upper-class owners of businesses at the expense of the lowest level of Americans.

Now, how is our country a safe country? Our country is a safe country because all of us who are part of the American family are doing our part to protect our country. Those people at the lower end of the economic sphere, they are the ones who join the military and go out and defend us. They are the ones who obey the law. They are the ones whom we rely upon in their good judgment to support the Constitution and a rule of law. If they lose faith in the system, we will suffer greatly.

That is one of the things that is happening is that the poor people are being left out. Actually, their standard of living is going down. Of course, our friends in the other party have provided very lucrative welfare abilities to people to be on the dole rather than

giving them a good job. At the same time, they are pushing for more government programs to give the dole, to make people dependent and thus, I might say, lose their dignity of being able to be self-sufficient. At the same time, the folks on the other side of the aisle are pushing for amnesty, for illegal immigration, that would bring in 40 million new people, insert 40 million people, foreigners, into our system.

What is that going to do for the poor people of this country? Why are the unions in our country not jumping up and supporting the rights of their working people not to be having to face illegal immigrant labor bidding down their labor? Over the last 50 years, there has been a massive transfer of wealth going on, and yet at the same time we see the business wages, business profits, going up and workers' wages going down. Yet we have policies that seem to encourage it that don't make any sense.

We have people who use the rhetoric of trying to care for America's poor. The last thing they should be doing is bringing in 40 million new foreigners—mostly poor—into our country.

Knowing this, it should be no surprise that Big Business has been a consistent advocate of amnesty. Big Business wants cheap labor, and this, I might add, is not being loyal to the American family. To be loyal to the American family, no matter who they are, whether they are poor Americans, working class Americans, we should be watching out for each other.

Lower wages, however, are not the only negative impact of mass illegal immigration into our country. Similar structural breakdowns and strains can be seen in our education system. People in the lower income parts of town are seeing their education system fall apart. We see the health care system in our country falling apart. We see as well in a variety of other institutions that people rely on that the strain of millions of illegals—and they want to bring more in—is destroying this social, this economic, and this infrastructure that our people depend on.

All things considered, if amnesty were being granted to the 11 to 20 million illegal immigrants currently in the United States, it would cost the American taxpayers an additional $6.3 trillion over the next 50 years. At least 45 million foreigners, mostly poor, would be inserted into our society.

Is that going to make America a better place? Are the working people, the people who are part of the American family, going to be better off because of that? Absolutely not. And the voices of the American people need to be heard because we have people posturing as if they are doing a favor for the less fortunate by advocating this amnesty for illegal immigrants which would bring in tens of millions of more poor people from foreign countries into our country.

With our national debt approaching $18 trillion, a budget deficit of over half a trillion dollars and two unsustainable entitlement programs that we need in order to maintain some sort of security for the American people, Medicare and Social Security, these are currently on the road to bankruptcy, and if we bring in these millions more people, we can expect that the expenses of our government will shoot up trying to provide benefits for people who now—by the way, now after making them legal, they are entitled to those benefits.

Someone who is here legally is entitled to every benefit and protection as people who are here who were born here. And if we legalize the status of illegals, we are taking tens of millions of foreigners who are here illegally and granting them the rights to all those programs.

America cannot afford amnesty for those foreigners who are here illegally. We must take care of the needs of the American family, of American citizens, and of legal immigrants into our society who have joined our family. Their interests have to come first over the interests of—yes, and let me just say, there is no doubt that those people who are here illegally in our country, the vast, vast majority, 90 percent or more, are wonderful people.

We should not fool ourselves into thinking that we can somehow take care of all of the wonderful people in the world. We can't do it. As we try to do it and try to open up our borders even more than the 1 million legal immigrants that we have, we are going to attract even a bigger flood into our country which will put even more pressure on us. What we are doing in that case is hurting our fellow Americans.

Even if these people are wonderful people who come here legally and they are seeking opportunity, I am sorry, we can't take care of the whole world, and we can't tell the world that whatever good person comes here illegally we are eventually going to give them amnesty and they will be eligible for all our programs.

There is an argument about what are called the DREAMers, young people who were brought here by their parents. They didn't come here voluntarily. Their parents brought them here when they were 2 or 3. And now they don't have legal status. There are a lot of obstacles in their way. They want those obstacles removed. They want themselves to be legalized. But do you know what will happen if we do that, if we say that a young person going to school because they are young and they have been brought here by their parents, what is going to happen? What will be the message if we do that?

If we legalize the status of just the DREAMers, we are telling the people throughout the world, man, when you come here illegally to the United States, make sure you bring your children. We are telling people throughout the world, bring your children to this country so we can take care of the needs of your children.

We have needs of our own children in the United States of America. And they are wonderful kids out there that we care about, but we have to care about our own kids first. People who have come here legally have that right. They are part of our family. American citizens are part of our family. But the well-being of children from foreigners in various countries throughout the world has to be second on our list, down on our list, way down as compared to the well-being of our own people.

Yes, if we take care of the DREAMers, what is going to happen is we will be encouraging a mass flow of young people into our country. Younger people who are in school, we will have to take care of their education, et cetera. That is not right. You can't give the incentive to people to come here and expect that we are not going to have many, many more people coming here. We will have many more DREAMers coming here if we legalize the status of those who have been brought here illegally by their parents.

This issue continues to be presented as a humanitarian imperative, as something that without cost we could help these people among us. We can do that without cost? There is nothing without cost. We are being presented that we can have an amnesty as if it is not going to cost the American people. It is costing us right now. What we have done in the last 20 years to ignore this influx of illegals into our country has already caused great damage to the well-being and the standard of living of American workers at the lowest level.

People say they think they are appealing to Mexican Americans by being for amnesty for illegals. The hardest-hit community in America, perhaps the hardest-hit, and certainly minority communities, including Mexican Americans, they know where their jobs are going. They know when they have a job and an illegal comes across the border from whatever country, Asia or Mexico or Honduras or Ireland or wherever they are coming from, if they are taking the job of an American, the Mexican American community is the hardest-hit. Their education funds are the hardest-hit. Their neighborhoods are the hardest-hit.

That is why I believe that Americans of Mexican descent are patriots. They are part of the American family. And that is why I do not believe that they want to legalize the status of every illegal that has poured into our country. It hurts their families more than anyone.

So what we need to do now is make sure that as we discuss legalizing the status of illegals, of amnesty—they don't want to call it that, they want to

call it comprehensive immigration reform—that we keep in mind these things could have a dramatic, negative impact on the well-being of American people. Whose side are we on? That is what you have got to ask.

What are the answers to this? Let me just say that solutions are not easy, but I would suggest there is a simple but not easy solution. We should make sure that anyone who comes here illegally does not get a job. We need to E-Verify all the jobs that are here in the United States to make sure they are not going to illegals, and they should be going to Americans or legal immigrants. And we should make sure that no illegal immigrant or the immigrant's family receives government benefits, whether it is health care or education.

I don't believe in deportation, actually. I think deportation is the wrong tactic. But unless you are going to—the President, obviously, didn't fulfill his obligation for deportation, but he didn't take another step that would then deter illegal immigration. The step to do it is no deportation. It is dehumanizing. No sweeps through people's community. But don't give jobs and benefits that belong to the American people to foreigners who are here illegally. That is the solution.

They will go home. They will go home in peace. They have our well wishes. But they are not going to have our jobs and our scarce resources that should be going to the American people.

□ 1415

I would ask my colleagues, as this discussion on the legalizing of illegal immigrants takes place, that we be honest with each other, and yes, that we be compassionate, but that our compassion is aimed at the American people and legal immigrants and not just compassion for those who come here illegally.

No matter how wonderful people these people are, we have to consider the American people first.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

SECURITY THREATS TO THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if my dear friend from California has seen this, but following up on his comments, this is part of the front page of the Army Times, April 28, and it says here:

Thousands more will be forced out; staff sergeants now on hit list.

It talks about the career killers, but because of the cuts to our military, we are forcing out thousands and thousands of patriots who wanted to make a career of the United States military. I, along with my friend from California, don't necessarily think it is a good idea to be saying: look, if you are illegally in the country, all you have to do is go displace yet another American patriot and take their job in the military, force them out into the civilian sector, where our United States military veterans have a much higher unemployment rate than the general population.

That is not a good idea. It is not fair to our patriots, and it should not be something that this Congress passes, to once again not only run out patriots who wanted to make the United States military a career, but force them out with illegal immigrants using their job, taking their jobs, forcing them into an unemployment sector, where their unemployment rates are so very high. They shouldn't be high.

People should be willing to hire veterans. They have phenomenal work ethics, or they wouldn't have been in the military, unless they got bumped out early for not working; but otherwise, from my 4 years in the Army, right after we turned to being a volunteer Army, it was a very difficult time. Our military was not appreciated.

I went through officer basic at Fort Riley, Kansas, and it was a standing order not to wear your uniform off post because of hatred for the military, and if you got caught by yourself in uniform, there might be a gang that would beat you up. It happened, so it was a standing order. You couldn't wear your uniform off post because of potential violence upon our military by American citizens.

It has blessed my heart to see America begin again to appreciate those who answer the call of their country, serve their country, and do so honorably and well in the United States military, which should result in our promises to our military and promises that, to some, helped induce them into the military of good health care, good veterans' care.

Now, I was only in 4 years and don't have a disability. I have never been provided any VA assistance or health care, but for those who need it, deserve it, were promised it, we can't be having a socialized medicine system that ends up being like most socialized medicine systems become; and the way ObamaCare will eventually lead this country into being, with regard to health care, you get put on lists.

Socialized medicine doesn't go broke because you get put on lists, and you die waiting for your procedure in sufficient numbers, at least we have people die who won't get the procedure, or perhaps they need a hip or a knee, pacemaker, or whatever it is, they don't get them because they are having to wait in line.

We shouldn't do that to our Nation. We should repeal ObamaCare outright before it takes us there, but for the sake of this country, we can't continue betraying our veterans and not ensuring that they have the best health care that is available.

If VA clinics or hospitals aren't doing the trick, let's give them a card that lets them walk into any health care facility in the Nation and get the best care we have got, and let's keep our promise to them that we will take care of that.

My dear friend, Andrew C. McCarthy, has an article out in National Review Online today. He posted it at 4 a.m. I know Andy is up that time in the morning because, sometimes, we exchange emails at that time in the morning.

He is a brilliant lawyer, constitutional scholar, historian, and a patriot himself, who was the lead prosecutor in ensuring that the planner, the one most responsible for the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993, when President Bill Clinton was in office, he made sure he was convicted.

If one actually looks at comments by the brother of that al Qaeda leader, you find references to his brother saying: hey, you know, there is violence, there is going to be a lot more violence against the U.S., but I will be glad to help negotiate this thing if we can get release of The Blind Sheikh.

Morsi, who became president of Egypt, a Muslim brother, he made clear, before he was even elected, that he wanted to secure the release of The Blind Sheikh who plotted, planned, carried out the first bombing of the World Trade Center, which we can be thankful that it didn't result in more death and more damage.

We should have learned a lesson from that. We didn't learn it. We continued, under the Clinton administration, to treat that like it was some civilian crime, instead of what it actually was, an act of war. As an act of war, it should have stirred more of a response.

So perhaps there was someone in the White House after the World Trade Center was bombed in 1993, who wondered out loud within the White House: well, what difference at this point does it make why they bombed the World Trade Center or what we might have done to provide more security? What difference at this point does it make?

Because perhaps, if that kind of thinking were not in the White House during the 1990s, perhaps we could have looked more closely at the causes of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and looked more closely at the forces behind it and determined, wow, this is really a group that is at war with the United States, radical Islamists have been at war with the United States since 1979.

We just didn't know it. There was a war going on, but it was one-sided because the other side, the United States,

didn't know there was a war, so they weren't fighting a war. They just kept retreating.

In 1979, an act of war occurred in an attack against our embassy. The man, the Ayatollah Khomeini, radical Islamist who became the head of Iran, that President Jimmy Carter welcomed as a man of peace, that one of the top advisers right now in our Homeland Security Department spoke up for as a featured speaker at the Ayatollah Khomeini man of vision ceremony that was held some years back in this country.

Now, this featured speaker on behalf of the man of vision, the Ayatollah Khomeini, he is advising the Homeland Security Department; not only that, the FBI in 2011 gave him their highest civilian award. Some people do not understand there is still a war going on. Some in this administration and some in the Senate and some in the House may refuse to recognize it, but there is still a war going on.

Mr. McCarthy writes:

Here is the main point: The rioting at the American embassy in Cairo was not about the anti-Muslim video. As argued here repeatedly, the Obama administration's ''Blame the Video'' story was a fraudulent explanation for the September 11, 2012, rioting in Cairo every bit as much as it was a fraudulent explanation for the massacre in Benghazi several hours later.

Once you grasp this well-hidden fact, the Obama administration's dereliction of duty in connection with Benghazi become much easier to see, but let's begin with Jay Carney's performance in Wednesday's exchange with the White House press corps, a new low in insulting the intelligence of the American people.

Mr. Carney was grilled about just-released emails which corroborate what many of us have been arguing all along: ''Blame the Video'' was an Obama administration crafted lie, through and through. It was intended, in the stretch run of the 2012 campaign, to obscure the facts that (a) the President's foreign policy of empowering Islamic supremacists contributed directly and materially to the Benghazi massacre; (b) the President's reckless stationing of American government personnel in Benghazi and his shocking failure to provide sufficient protection for them were driven by a political-campaign imperative to portray the Obama Libya policy as a success—and, again, they invited the jihadist violence that killed our ambassador and three other Americans; and (c) far from being ''decimated,'' as the President repeatedly claimed during the campaign (and continued to claim even after the September 11 violence in Egypt and Libya), al Qaeda and its allied jihadists remained a driving force of anti-American violence in Muslim countries—indeed, they had been strengthened by the President's pro-Islamist policies.

The explosive emails that have surfaced thanks to the perseverance of Judicial Watch make explicit what has long been obvious: Susan Rice, the President's confidant and ambassador to the U.N., was strategically chosen to peddle the administration's ''Blame the Video'' fairy tale to the American people in appearances on five different national television broadcasts the Sunday after the massacre. She was coached about what to say by other members of the President's inner circle. One of the emails refers expressly to a ''prep call'' that Ambassador Rice had with several administration officials on late Saturday afternoon right before her Sunday show appearances.

□ 1430

The tangled web of deception spun by the administration has previously included an effort to distance the White House (i.e., the President) from Rice's mendacious TV performances. Thus, Carney was in the unenviable position Wednesday of trying to explain the ''prep call'' email, as well as other messages that illuminate the Obama White House's deep involvement in coaching Rice. The emails manifest that Rice's performances were campaign appearances, not the good-faith effort of a public official to inform the American people about an act of war against our country. Her instructions were ''to underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy,'' and ''to reinforce the President and administration's strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges.''

Carney risibly claimed that the ''prep call'' was ''not about Benghazi.'' Instead, according to him, it was ''about the protests around the Muslim world.''

Two points must be made about this.

The first involves the administration's blatant lying. Benghazi was the only reason Rice was on the Sunday shows. If the massacre had not happened, there would not have been an extraordinary administration offering of one top Obama official to five different television networks to address a calamity that had happened a few days before.

Moreover, as is well known to anyone who has ever been involved in government presentations to the media, to Congress, to courts, and other fact-finding bodies, the official who will be doing the presentation is put through a ''murder board'' process. This is a free-wheeling session in which the questions likely to be asked at the presentation are posed, and potential answers—especially to tough questions—are proposed, discussed, and massaged. The suggestion that Rice, less than 24 hours before being grilled by high-profile media figures, was being prepped on something totally separate and apart from the incident that was the sole reason for her appearance is so far-fetched it is amazing that Carney thought he could make it fly.

The second point brings us full circle to Egypt.

Why would Carney claim, with a straight face, that Rice was being prepped ''about protests around the Muslim world?'' Because other than Benghazi, the ''protest around the Muslim world'' that Americans know about is the rioting, not protest, the rioting at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo a few hours before the Benghazi siege. When Benghazi comes up, the administration—President Obama, Hillary Clinton, Susan Rice, Jay Carney, et al.—love to talk about the Cairo protests. Why? Because the media—and, thus, the public—have bought, hook, line, and sinker, the fraudulent claim that those ''protests'' were over the anti-Muslim video. Obama & Co. shrewdly calculate that if you buy ''Blame the Video'' as the explanation for Cairo, it becomes much more plausible that you will accept the ''Blame the Video'' as the explanation for Benghazi; or, at the very least, you will give Obama officials the benefit of the doubt that they could truly have believed the video triggered Benghazi, despite a mountain of evidence to the contrary.

You see, the Benghazi fraud hinges on the success of the Cairo fraud. If you are hoodwinked by the latter, they have a much better chance of getting away with the former.

But the ''Blame the Video'' is every bit as much a deception when it comes to Cairo.

Thanks to President Obama's policy of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamic supremacists in Egypt, post-Mubarak Cairo became a very hospitable place for jihadists. That included al Qaeda leaders, such as Mohammed Zawahiri, brother of al Qaeda emir Ayman Zawahiri; and leaders of Gama'a al-Islamiyya, the Islamic group, the terrorist organization that was led by The Blind Sheikh, Omar Abdel-Rahman, the terrorist I convicted in 1995 for running the jihadist cell that bombed the World Trade Center and plotted to bomb other New York City landmarks.

In the weeks before September 11, 2012, these jihadists plotted to attack the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. In fact, The Blind Sheikh's son threatened a 1979 Iran-style raid on the embassy. Americans would be taken hostage to ransom for The Blind Sheikh's release from American prison, where he is serving a life sentence thanks to Andy McCarthy. Other jihadists threatened to burn the embassy to the ground, a threat that was reported in the Egyptian press the day before the September 11 ''protests.''

The State Department knew there was going to be trouble at the embassy on September 11, the 11th anniversary of al Qaeda's mass murder of nearly 3,000 Americans. It was well known that things could get very ugly. When they did, it would become very obvious to Americans that President Obama had not decimated al Qaeda as he was claiming on the campaign trail. Even worse, it would be painfully evident that his pro-Muslim Brotherhood policies had actually enhanced al Qaeda's capacity to attack the United States in Egypt.

The State Department also knew about the obscure anti-Muslim video. Few Egyptians, if any, had seen or heard about it, but it had been denounced by the Grand Mufti in Cairo on September 9. Still, the stir it caused was minor, at best. As Tom Joscelyn has elaborated, the Cairo rioting was driven by the jihadists who were agitating for The Blind Sheikh's release

and who had been threatening for weeks to raid and torch our embassy. And indeed, they did storm it, replace the American flag with the jihadist black flag, and set fires around the embassy complex.

It is important here, Mr. Speaker, to note that the al Qaeda leader's brother, Zawahiri's brother, he was out there even after the attack on Benghazi's consulate, basically saying: Hey, there could be more rioting, more trouble, unless you work with me, and let's get The Blind Sheikh released and then we can avoid future violence. Amidst all that is what Andrew McCarthy is pointing out, claiming it was all about a video.

In his article, McCarthy says:

Nevertheless, before the rioting began but when they knew there was going to be trouble, State Department officials at the embassy began tweeting out condemnations of the video while ignoring the real sources of the threat: the resurgence of jihadists in Muslim Brotherhood-governed Egypt, the continuing demand for The Blind Sheikh's release (which underscored the jihadists' influence), and the very real danger that jihadists would attack the embassy (which demonstrated that al Qaeda was anything but ''decimated'').

The transparent purpose of the State Department's shrieking over the video was to create the illusion that any security problems at the embassy—violent rioting minimized as mere ''protests''—were actually attributable to the anti-Muslim video, not to President Obama's policies and patent failure to quell al Qaeda.

Because there was a kernel of truth to the video story, and because the American media had abdicated their responsibility to promote the predominant causes of anti-Americanism in Egypt, journalists and the public have uncritically accepted the notion—a false notion—that the video caused the Cairo rioting. That acceptance is key to the administration's ''Blame the Video'' farce in connection with the lethal attack in Benghazi.

At about 10 p.m. Washington time on the night of September 11—after they knew our Ambassador to Libya had been murdered and while the siege of Benghazi still raged—Secretary of State Clinton and President Obama spoke on the telephone. Shortly afterwards, the State Department issued a statement from Secretary Hillary Clinton blaming the video for the atrocity in Benghazi. That was the beginning of the fraud's Benghazi phase—the phase Susan Rice was prepped to peddle on nationwide television. But it wasn't the beginning of the fraud.

Secretary Clinton's minions at the State Department had started spinning the video fraud hours earlier in Egypt. The sooner Americans grasp that, the sooner they will comprehend the breathtaking depth of the President's Benghazi coverup.

Today, our Oversight Committee was having a hearing to see a retired general on the verge of tears finally coming forward, who was with AFRICOM. He knew what was going on, he knew the truth, and he could not remain silent; and so he came forward and said: Yes, there was really much more we could have done.

Mr. Speaker, I hope and pray that all of those who were part of the AFRICOM intelligence community will find courage from the general coming forward—some I know that have left our intelligence service and gone on to good civilian jobs. He has broken the ice. They can come forward now. I hope, Mr. Speaker, they get the message. He has come forward, the ice is broken, you won't be the first should be the message.

All of the hostility—I mean, when I have an intelligence officer, former intelligence officer, tell me—when I ask, ''Where have you been?''—''I have been scared.'' I said, ''You have never been scared of anything.''

''I have been scared since 9/12.''

All of those who have been forced to remain silent, I hope they will come forward.

A mom with a son in our country's service had told me after 9/12 about where her son was and what he was doing. So I called him, and it took a long time to get hold of him. He wasn't forthcoming. His mom told me yesterday, or this week, that he'll be out of the U.S. service before long and he wants to talk and come clean. I hope more will start coming clean on the strength of this retired general's courage.

But in the remaining minutes, it should not be lost that today is the National Day of Prayer. For some that still are not convinced at what is at war here, we simply need to look at a statement from Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind who is at Guantanamo. I am grateful to President Obama that he has kept him there. He is a threat to the world, and particularly the United States. He was the mastermind behind 9/11.

In the pleading he prepared himself on page 4—this has been declassified so anybody can find it on the Internet—he says:

We do not possess your military might, not your nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, we fight you with the almighty God. So, if our act of jihad and our fighting with you caused fear and terror, then many thanks to God, because it is him that has thrown fear into your hearts, which resulted in your infidelity, paganism, and your statement that God had a son and your trinity beliefs.

In other parts of the pleading he makes clear that Jews should be destroyed.

Here he makes clear, also, anyone who has a trinity belief believes that God had a son. Then he quotes from the Koran saying:

Soon shall we cast terror into the hearts of the unbelievers, for that they joined companies with Allah, for which he has sent no authority; their place will be the fire; and evil is the home of the wrongdoers.

So he bases his belief that anyone who believes in a holy trinity should go to the fire and burn forever on that part of the Koran. Others have different interpretations, but radical Islamists believe that.

That is why I think it is immensely helpful to go back to after the Declaration of Independence but before the Constitution.

In 1783, the Treaty of Paris was entered in Paris, France, between American diplomats and British diplomats. Britain was the strongest country in the world, and our American diplomats knew they had to come up with something that was so important that the strongest nation in the world would not quickly come back after the new United States.

□ 1445

When I first saw this document, I was shocked at the first words, and then it made sense. The beginning of the treaty that forced Great Britain to acknowledge United States' independence starts with these words: ''in the name of the most holy and undivided Trinity.''

They believed in the Holy Trinity. They knew that Great Britain believed in the Holy Trinity. They wanted something under which the Brits would swear that would be so important that they would not dare break that oath. That is why it started, ''in the name of the most holy and undivided Trinity.'' That is where we got our start. That is why radical Islam is at war with us.

I hope and pray on this National Day of Prayer that we will humble ourselves, admit our wrongdoing, turn back to the God who has protected us—and He will bless our land.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for April 29 and 30.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 2, 2014, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5504. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report

of a violation of the Antideficiency Act in the Office of International Affairs; to the Committee on Appropriations.

5505. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a piece of proposed legislation to authorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5506. A letter from the Acting Director, Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Handling Retaliation Complaints Under the Employee Protection Provision of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 [Docket Number: OSHA-2011-0540] (RIN: 1218-AC58) received April 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5507. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Advisory Committee: Bone, Reproductive and Urologic Drugs Advisory Committee [Docket No.: FDA-2014-N-0355] received April 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5508. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Spirulina Extract [Docket No.: FDA-2012-C-0900] received April 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5509. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Department's final rule — NRC Assessment Program for a Medical Event or an Incident Occurring at a Medical Facility; Management Directive 8.10 [DT-14-07] received April 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5510. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1991 (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the December 17, 2013 — February 14, 2014 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq, pursuant to Public Law 107-243, section 4(a) (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5511. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting a notice of a proposed lease with the Government of United Arab Emirates (Transmittal No. 05-14) pursuant to Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5512. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5513. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5514. A letter from the HR Specialist, Small Business Administration, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5515. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type certificate Previously Held By Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0822; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-004-AD; Amendment 39-17783; AD 2014-05-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5516. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0789; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-127-AD; Amendment 39-17782; AD 2014-05-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5517. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0642; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-035-AD; Amendment 39-17777; AD 2014-05-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5518. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0835; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-095-AD; Amendment 39-17790; AD 2014-05-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5519. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0171; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-038-AD; Amendment 39-17812; AD 2014-06-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5520. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the final feasibility report and final supplemental environmental impact statement; (H. Doc. No. 113–105); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

5521. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Determination of Housing Costs Amounts Eligible for Exclusion or Deduction for 2014 [Notice 2014-29] received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5522. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting fourth quarterly report of FY 2013 on Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

5523. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting first quarterly report of FY 2014 on Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 4539. A bill to require the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, when issuing a research paper, to include all studies, data, and other analyses on which the paper was based; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 4540. A bill to regulate certain deferred prosecution agreements and non-prosecution agreements in Federal criminal cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4541. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to develop a strategy report to address the skills gap by providing recommendations to increase on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities, increase employer participation in education and workforce training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. GIBSON):

H.R. 4542. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend expensing of environmental remediation costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 4543. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to apply CMMI waiver authority to PACE programs in order to foster innovations in such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RUSH, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 4544. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow a deduction for any fine paid by an owner of professional sports franchise; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HARPER (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Mr. PALAZZO):

H.R. 4545. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the Pat Harrison Waterway District approximately 8,307 acres of National Forest System land within the Bienville National Forests in Mississippi, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. COLE, Ms. HANABUSA, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 4546. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 4547. A bill to modify the definition of ''antique firearm''; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4548. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to include programs that teach technology literacy in any job training program for ex-offenders offered under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 4549. A bill to require the Forest Service to meet annual volume targets for timber harvesting in the management of a unit of the National Forest System and to provide for the transfer of such management responsibility to the State in which the unit is located when such targets are not consistently met, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 4550. A bill to extend the emergency unemployment compensation program, and to stimulate the economy and create opportunities for new job creation; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Education and the Workforce, Small Business, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 4551. A bill to amend the Forest Legacy Program of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to authorize States to allow certain entities to acquire, hold, and manage conservation easements under the program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 4552. A bill to encourage and ensure the use of safe equestrian helmets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BARR, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. CRAMER):

H.R. 4553. A bill to authorize appropriations for fossil energy research and development programs at the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. MULVANEY (for himself and Mrs. WAGNER):

H.R. 4554. A bill to amend the securities laws to improve private market offerings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. CAMPBELL):

H.R. 4555. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and make permanent rules related to investment by nonresident aliens in domestic mutual funds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 4556. A bill to help small businesses access capital and create jobs by reauthorizing the successful State Small Business Credit Initiative; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 4557. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to provide for notice to, and input by, State insurance commissioners when requiring an insurance company to serve as a source of financial strength pursuant to such Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 4558. A bill to clarify the authority of States to regulate private flood insurance coverage; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHOCK (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mrs. NOEM):

H.R. 4559. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the time period for contributing military death gratuities to Roth IRAs and Coverdell education savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER:

H.R. 4560. A bill to allow members of the Armed Forces and National Guard to defer principal on Federal student loans for a certain period in connection with receipt of orders for mobilization for war or national emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER:

H.R. 4561. A bill to specify requirements for the next update of the current strategic plan for the Office of Rural Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs for improving access to, and the quality of, health care services for veterans in rural areas; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 4562. A bill to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H. Res. 562. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for Moldova's territorial integrity; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H. Res. 563. A resolution expressing support for designation of May as ''National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 564. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 2014 as ''Health and Fitness Month''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 4539.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 4540.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Section 8, clause 18: ''The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4541.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; and

Article I; Section 8; Clause 3 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 4542.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 4543.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 4544.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. HARPER:

H.R. 4545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of Section 3 of article IV of the Constitution

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 4546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

U.S. Cont. art. IV, sec. 3, cl. 2, sen. a

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rule and Regulations respecting the Territory of other Property belonging to the United States;

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 4547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4548.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the United States Constitution related to general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 4549.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section III, Clause II

''The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.''

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 4550.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 4551.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, of section 8, of article I.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 4552.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, as this legislation provides for the general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 4553.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution: the Congress shall have the power to provide for the general welfare of the United States.

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H.R. 4554.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18. ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 4555.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 4556.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 4557.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the forgoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 4558.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article I, section 8, clause 3

By Mr. SCHOCK:

H.R. 4559.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER:

H.R. 4560.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER:

H.R. 4561.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 4562.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 309: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 498: Mr. VELA, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 543: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 596: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1020: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. FLEMING.

H.R. 1097: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 1125: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1239: Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 1413: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1428: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1441: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1449: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MARINO, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 1461: Mr. MASSIE and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 1462: Mr. ROONEY and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 1551: Mr. OLSON, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 1563: Mr. MCNERNEY and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1652: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 1717: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 1733: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 1750: Mr. FLORES, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KILMER, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. OLSON, Mr. DENT, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 1779: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1798: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 1812: Mr. ROONEY and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 1830: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. BARBER.

H.R. 1918: Mr. GARCIA, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 2028: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2146: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2156: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2203: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VELA, Mr. WALZ, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. MESSER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. PITTS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2315: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 2415: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 2417: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 2429: Mr. DENT, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. MICA.

H.R. 2548: Mr. ROONEY and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 2708: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 2725: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 2807: Mr. LATHAM, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 2870: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 2932: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 2936: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2939: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 3135: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 3179: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 3283: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 3318: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. HAHN, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 3338: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 3344: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 3367: Mr. LATTA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 3382: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3383: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 3408: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 3481: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. FLEMING, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. DAINES.

H.R. 3490: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 3516: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3530: Ms. ESTY, Mr. STIVERS, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3581: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 3600: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 3610: Mr. COTTON, Ms. ESTY, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3616: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 3665: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3673: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 3708: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 3722: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 3723: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 3776: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 3850: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 3877: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.
H.R. 3921: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3930: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 3976: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 3992: Mr. KLINE, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 4016: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4031: Mr. FINCHER.
H.R. 4040: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 4058: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 4060: Mr. HANNA and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 4092: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 4119: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 4158: Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 4162: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 4190: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 4221: Mr. ELLISON and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4225: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 4229: Mr. FINCHER.
H.R. 4250: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 4260: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 4285: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 4315: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4316: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 4320: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 4321: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 4329: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 4342: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 4351: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 4365: Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4372: Mr. WELCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 4374: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 4383: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 4423: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 4433: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 4438: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 4447: Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 4450: Mr. POCAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 4457: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 4471: Ms. MOORE and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 4485: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 4491: Mr. POSEY and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 4504: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 4510: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. DUFFY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 4528: Mr. ENYART.
H.J. Res. 5: Mr. LONG.
H.J. Res. 20: Mr. GARAMENDI and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. GALLEGO.
H. Res. 30: Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
H. Res. 72: Ms. EDWARDS.
H. Res. 190: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California and Mr. VARGAS.
H. Res. 456: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. KIND.
H. Res. 525: Mr. HOLT and Mr. GRAYSON.
H. Res. 538: Mr. POSEY and Mr. WOLF.
H. Res. 540: Mr. VEASEY, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Res. 542: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H. Res. 547: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, and Mr. RAHALL.
H. Res. 561: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. YODER, Mr. COOK, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

SENATE—*Thursday, May 1, 2014*

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God who brought light out of darkness causing the morning to appear, give to our Senators the vigor needed for today's tasks. Lord, protect them from every evil way, empowering them to live with integrity. Keep their bodies fit and healthy, their thinking straight, and their hearts pure. As they strive to serve You, may they accomplish their daily duties with simplicity, uprightness, and faithfulness. Give them the grace of faith by which they may lay hold of things unseen.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency legislation.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:15 a.m., with the time equally divided and controlled. At 11:15 a.m. there will be three rollcall votes, cloture on two U.S. district judges from Maryland and cloture on a U.S. circuit judge for the Tenth Circuit.

At 1:45 p.m. there will be up to four rollcall votes on confirmation of the U.S. district judges in Maryland and the circuit judge.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY GAINER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are a number of us who have large families. I have five children and lots of grandchildren, but the person about whom I am going to speak has an even larger family than I have. Terry Gainer has a huge family. He and his wife Irene have 6 children and 14 grandchildren, but that is just the beginning because he has 10 siblings himself.

His family extends far beyond the immediate family I just talked about. As the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, Terry Gainer has taken care of roughly 6,500 people who work in the Senate and all the facilities around here, but that is not the end of it. He is also someone who is concerned and feels responsible for the thousands and thousands of people who come to this building every day. They are also a part of his family. So he has a huge family, and he has nurtured and taken care of his family, from his wife Irene to the thousands of people whom he has never known and never will know who come into this building, and he has done a wonderful job.

Senators and staffers are oftentimes split along ideological lines, but we all agree on one thing: We are utterly dependent on the Sergeant at Arms office, and we are aware of the wonderful job Terry Gainer has done as Sergeant at Arms.

The daily needs of the world's greatest deliberative body are not few in number, and Chief Gainer has been up to this task. As the Sergeant at Arms, he has been responsible for the enforcement of Senate rules as well as the security of the Capitol and Senate office buildings.

I try not to talk about this often, even though I would like to talk about it more than I do. For a number of years of my life I was a police officer. I was a Capitol policeman. I have my badge in my office across the hall from here, and I am very proud of that. I was a Capitol policeman, but today the Capitol policemen who work in this facility and around this great building and all the office buildings have so many more responsibilities than someone who was a police officer during my day.

Every minute of every day we have evil people trying to do harm to these beautiful buildings and the people who work in them. It is the responsibility of the Sergeant at Arms and the Capitol Police—for whom he is responsible—to take care of us, and he has done an admirable job. We are confident in him every day.

Under his leadership, the day-to-day operation of the Senate has never been better, even though we have been through some difficult times with the government shutdown, sequestration, and all of those issues that have been very difficult, but none of this is surprising considering that Terry Gainer has been in public service for almost 50 years.

He was a young homicide detective in Chicago. He comes from Chicago. He did a lot of things as a police officer. He is a lawyer. He has been Chief of the Capitol Police. Over the many years I have seen Chief Gainer—that is what I call him, Chief Gainer. I don't call him Mr. Gainer or Terry, I call him Chief because to me he will always be the Chief of Police of the U.S. Capitol Police Force, for whom he did an admirable job.

I check with the officers often and ask: How are things going? I think that during the time he was the Chief of Police, the positive attitude of the police officers has been significant because of his experience with the bad guys and his ability to do such a good job. They felt very confident in his leadership abilities. He has been a wonderful Sergeant at Arms. Only one of his functions is to take care of the Capitol police.

As his time in the Senate comes to an end, Terry leaves his successor with an organization that has weathered a government shutdown, as I mentioned, a crippling sequestration, and is adequately prepared for the challenges of the future.

I try to be as praiseworthy as I feel is appropriate, but having done that, I know I have not done justice to Terry Gainer. I will truly miss him. I will miss him significantly. He is somebody

we can all turn to, and he is very direct; whether it is the latest big problem we had with some issues dealing with the Intelligence Committee and their battles with the CIA, whatever it is, he has the ability to step forward and put out the flames.

I say to Terry Gainer: I am going to miss you. I have great affection for you. I have great confidence in your having a wonderful future. You have experience that very few people in the world have, and I wish you the very best in all of your future endeavors and that of your wife Irene and all the kids.

TRIBUTE TO DARYL CHAPPELLE

Mr. President, not everybody knows the next individual I am about to acknowledge. He has a job in a small part of this great Capitol complex. He is retiring after having been a Senate employee for approximately 40 years. His name is Daryl Chappelle.

When I first came to the Senate, all rides to the office building were in an old train. It was, as they still are, old, old, old. They would crunch and bang as they went along the tracks. The handicapped can't get on those trains. But a Republican Senator from Oklahoma who is now retired and I worked to change that so the train system would not be the old, dilapidated trains, and now all the people coming from Hart and Dirksen are in these beautiful enclosed trains that you can wheel a wheelchair in without any effort whatsoever, and that is wonderful.

There is a person there to help people who travel from the Old Senate Office Building, as it was called when I was there. It is now called the Russell Building. They still have this old train, and Daryl is always there. He is so nice and greets everybody who comes on those trains. We all recognize him when we are trying to get from here to the Russell Building.

He has operated the underground trains that run between the Capitol office buildings for 41 years. He has a smile that covers his whole face. He has a voice that is infectious. You can hear him when he laughs, and we will all miss that.

I join my colleagues in wishing Daryl all the best as he embarks on his much needed and deserved retirement.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY GAINER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I too want to comment on the great service of Terry Gainer and Daryl Chappelle.

Our departing Sergeant at Arms, Terry Gainer, whose decade-plus period of Senate service has been the capstone to a very long and distinguished career.

Terry is a familiar presence in the halls of the Capitol and always a reassuring one. Whenever you saw Terry, you always had the sense that things were under control around here, even though you knew how much work and preparation went into it. It is the same feeling you might have being around the father of a large family or a veteran big city cop, and I think it is no accident that Terry is both of those as well.

He has the bearing of a guy with long experience who has seen it all. We have all gotten the benefit of that experience over his years here, and that is something that just can't be bought.

Those of you who have watched the majority leader and I spar down here on the floor in the mornings know we don't agree on much, but picking Terry was one decision he got just right.

Terry's resume is pretty well known by now. He spent nearly half a century enforcing the law at the Federal, State, and city levels in a number of very demanding, high-profile posts. He started his law enforcement career in Chicago during the tumultuous year of 1968, making him one of five boys in his family to serve in the Chicago Police Department. That is to say nothing of his extended family. It is a point of pride in the Gainer family that there has been a Gainer on the Chicago PD for more than a century.

Terry volunteered to serve his country in Vietnam and served with distinction. He spent several years as a homicide detective in Chicago before moving over to the State police. He later served as an official at the Transportation Department, and for a time he was No. 2 in the DC Police Department. Somehow along the way he also got a law degree and helped negotiate Chicago's first-ever labor contract with the police union there.

He is the only person ever to serve as both the Chief of the Capitol Police and the Senate Sergeant at Arms. During his tenure as the Senate's top law enforcement officer, he has overseen a dedicated team of 850 professionals. He has presided over major improvements to the physical safety of the Capitol Complex and the Senate's IT infrastructure here and in our State offices. He has kept us all informed during emergencies.

For one night every January, he is the public face of the institution. I know Terry says he tries to get out of camera shot during the State of the Union, but we won't blame a guy with 14 grandkids for sneaking in a little face time on the State of the Union night.

Terry recently admitted to having a few secret signals for the grandkids—sort of like a third base coach. One time, he even got President Obama and the First Lady to pose for a photo with Flat Stanley. It is just one of the fond memories he says he will carry with him into his next chapter, and we wish him all the best.

We will miss his intelligence, his professionalism, and his good humor. Terry's colleagues will tell us that among his many other qualities, he is a lot of fun to be around. We will also miss the wisdom and judgment he brought to the job every morning. Terry leaves a legacy of excellence and a stellar example for his successors.

Let me add on that note that one of the most impressive aspects of Terry's legacy is the fact that despite the incredible demands of a high-pressure, high-profile career, he and Irene managed to raise six wonderful kids. I know they both share a deep and lively faith and would attribute much of their success to that. But it is still impressive, and we are glad the family will get to spend even more time with Terry now.

So, Terry, thanks for your service. You are a credit to your profession, your native Chicago, and to the Senate you have served so well. You have every reason to be proud. Now go enjoy your retirement, at least for awhile.

TRIBUTE TO DARYL CHAPPELLE

Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to another beloved member of the Senate family, Mr. Daryl Chappelle. Daryl has been here for more than four decades, and this week he takes his final turn at the helm of one of the two subway cars that run from Russell to the Capitol.

Daryl came here right out of Springarn High School, over in northeast Washington, when he was 19 years old, and by all accounts he has been an exemplary worker. He began his career in the night labor division of the Senate superintendent's office in 1972. Since 1986, he has worked off and on as a mechanic and driver for the subway service. By one estimate, he has taken 130,000 trips between Russell and the Capitol.

But it is not the length of Daryl's tenure that I wish to honor this morning, as impressive as that is. It is the spirit in which Daryl did his job every day. It is literally legendary.

The motto of the Architect of the Capitol is to serve Congress and the Supreme Court, preserve America's Capitol, and to inspire memorable experiences, and I think Daryl Chappelle embodies that motto.

First of all, he is the happiest guy you ever met, and he has a genius for lifting people's spirits. One of the stories I heard about Daryl this week came from a woman on my staff. She told me she met Daryl on her very first day here, more than a decade ago, and still remembers it vividly. She had just moved here from Kentucky for an internship. She didn't know her way around, and she was pretty nervous, and it must have shown too because after giving her directions to the office, Daryl not only gave her a big warm smile, he also left her with a message that she has never forgotten. As she stepped off the train and headed off to her first day on the job, Daryl

looked at her and said, ''Everything is going to be OK.''

It is a great story, because it not only captures Daryl's spirit, it points to the secret of his success: Daryl is the undisputed champion of making the most of a brief encounter.

He showed us all the power of the small gesture. He reminded us that when all is said and done, what really matters is how we deal with each other. If you didn't happen to find yourself down by the trains this week, you missed something special. People were pretty much tripping over each other to say goodbye to Daryl Chappelle: Senators, visitors, colleagues, locals—everybody saying goodbye. It has been like a rolling party down there all week.

Over the years, through all of these trips, Daryl has had a tremendous impact on this place. Today we want to thank him for warming this place every single day, and for helping our image around here, because Congress may not have a very high approval rating these days, but nobody who ever had the pleasure of riding Daryl's train could ever leave Washington without feeling a little bit better about this place.

Now, Daryl, you may not have had any major pieces of legislation named after you during your years here; reporters may not have snapped photographs of you when you walked down the hall, but at the beginning or the end of the day, you lifted our spirits. You brought us all back to Earth. It is hard to think of this place without you.

We wish you and Pat all the best in your retirement. I know you have been looking forward to spending more time with your bride. Thank you for your service, my friend, and thank you for your wonderful example.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:15 a.m. with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, and with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The assistant majority leader.

HONORING SENATE RETIREES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in the history of the United States of America, we estimate some 500 million people have lived in this great Nation—60 percent of them as of today. But in the history of America, with 500 million people, only 1,950 men and women have been given the opportunity to serve in the Senate, including the Presiding Officer, our newest Senator, from the State of Montana. So 1,950 men and women who have occupied this Chamber in the previous Senate, becoming part of the history of this Nation and contributing to this great institution. I have been fortunate enough to have served with some of the greatest, and I have noted their presence, their impact, and I have noticed their absence too.

When we take stock of the Senate and what it has done for America, what it means to America, it goes way beyond the men and women who occupy these desks. It includes a lot of people who make a contribution to this institution who may never be recognized for it, but, nevertheless, make this the great institution it is, serving this great Nation. Today we honor two of those people.

TRIBUTE TO DARYL CHAPPELLE

First I wish to join in honoring Daryl Chappelle. Daryl, thank you so much for 41 years of service in the Senate. His legendary smile has warmed my spirits on days when I was really down in the dumps. He always had that happy smile, wishing me well. He was always making a person's day a little bit better. Daryl, I want to thank you. Time and time again, I am sure even on days when you weren't so up, you made a point of adding to a positive feeling for everyone—not just Senators and staff but visitors as well. You have been a great part of our Senate family. I wish you the very best in your retirement. We are going to miss you on that rickety old train that runs back and forth between the Russell Building and the Capitol. I wish you the very best.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY GAINER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I also come to the floor to give special tribute to our Sergeant at Arms, Terry Gainer, who is retiring. If one is not from Chicago and one doesn't know the scene very well, one may not understand what I am about to say. Let me make it clear. When one asks where Terry Gainer is from and someone says Chicago, one would then say: And?

He would add: The South Side.

And?

Beverly.

And?

Saint Barnabas.

When a person reports their parish in that section of Chicago, they have really identified themselves as being part of that great city and part of a great American Catholic tradition—Irish Catholic tradition in many respects—that Terry Gainer represents.

I think about him today and what his life has meant, but first I think of his family name. There aren't many names like the Gainer family name that carry with it so much respect in the city of Chicago. I think of his relatives I have worked with, the families who are related to him that I know, neighbors to staffers—the list goes on and on of the Gainers who have made an impact on the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois. Few can make the claim Terry can make in terms of what he has given to the city, the State of Illinois, and to our Nation.

Terry Gainer, of course, is the Sergeant at Arms today and has announced his retirement soon, after 7½ years serving in that capacity, or at least serving in the Senate with the Capitol Police and with the Sergeant at Arms office. He has served longer than any Sergeant at Arms since World War II. Terry served as Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper since January of 2007. His accomplishments are so many.

Do not underestimate the responsibility that has been given to him and the men and women who work with him. This building is a target for people who would bring destruction to this building and death to those who visit. Sadly, we have seen graphic examples of that in recent years past. It has been Terry's job, both with the Capitol Police and now with the Sergeant at Arms office, to keep us safe and to keep the business of the Senate working every single day.

Terry had the background to achieve it. He volunteered to serve our Nation in Vietnam. After his service, he retired as a captain in the Naval Reserves in the year 2000. He earned his bachelor's degree from St. Benedict's College. He continued his family's proud tradition of law enforcement by serving in the Chicago Police Department for nearly two decades. As Senator MCCONNELL mentioned earlier, over a century of service by the Gainer family to the Chicago Police Department was carried on by Terry. He obtained a master's of science degree and his law degree from DePaul University. He was appointed superintendent of the Illinois State Police by Governor Jim Edgar and held that position for 7 years. He was then called to Washington, DC, to serve as second in command at the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department.

In 2002, Terry became chief of the United States Capitol Police and was instrumental in facilitating the substantial growth of that force in the challenging days following 9/11/2001.

After a brief stint in the private sector, Terry returned to public service when he was appointed by Majority Leader HARRY REID to serve as Sergeant at Arms. HARRY REID, himself a former Capitol Hill policeman, understood the responsibility and understood Terry was the right person for the job.

As I noted earlier, during his tenure as the Sergeant at Arms, Terry has done an exemplary job of balancing security and public access to the Capitol

and to the Senate. His steady management hand, his quick smile, his constant presence in the halls of the Capitol and Senate office buildings are going to be greatly missed.

I wish to thank Terry Gainer personally for his friendship, support, the little favors he has done for me and for every Member of the Senate to make our lives and the lives of our family better. You have truly added to this great institution, as much as any person who served because you have made your mark and you have kept us safe and you have kept the millions of visitors during your tenure safe as well.

That is quite an accomplishment, Terry.

Congratulations to you and especially to Irene, who has been patient throughout it all, with her own career and her own effort, raising the family and making her mark professionally. The two of you are quite an example to all of us of public service at its best.

Thanks, Terry, for your service.

And now comes the tough responsibility of following in the steps of Terry Gainer.

Majority Leader REID has announced that Drew Willison, who is in the Chamber here today, will be replacing Terry as the next Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper—officially on Monday.

Drew has spent more than 5 years in two stints as the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, and he has learned from the best—Terry Gainer.

Prior to his work in the Sergeant at Arms office, Drew was a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee staff, where we worked together. He had roles in the Energy and Water Subcommittee effort, as well as the Legislative Branch Appropriations. His experience and knowledge of the legislative branch will serve him well in his new capacity.

I congratulate Drew and wish him the very best of luck. Terry's service as Sergeant at Arms has set the bar very high, but I know, Drew, you are up to the challenge.

Mr. President, let me end by thanking again Terry, Irene Gainer, the Gainer family, and all who support them for unselfishly giving to this Senate such an extraordinary contribution—for sharing their husband, father, and grandfather with our home State of Illinois and with this great Nation for so many years.

Terry and Irene have more than earned the right to move to the next chapter in their lives and to celebrate that time with their 6 children and 14 grandchildren.

I congratulate Terry on his distinguished public service career, for his accomplishments as a law enforcement officer, a decorated veteran, and the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper. Most importantly, I thank Terry for his friendship.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY GAINER AND DARYL CHAPPELLE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, before he leaves the floor, let me offer my congratulations to the Sergeant at Arms, Terry Gainer, and also my thanks to him for his service to this great institution. We know we will miss him but also wish him well in the next chapter of his life.

Mr. President, I also want to express, as have the majority leader and the Republican leader, my best wishes to Daryl Chappelle, as he leaves after 40 years of service to the U.S. Senate.

There are some people you run into each day who sort of make you feel better and brighten your day, and Daryl was one of those people.

I know we get involved in some pretty tough debates around here, and people sometimes walk around with a scowl on their face, but it is nice when people like Daryl help break that mood and remind us that we are lucky to be alive each day and come to work in such a wonderful place as the U.S. Senate.

I wish both Chief Gainer and Daryl well in the next chapter of their lives.

VA ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came to the floor primarily to talk about a very serious matter; that is, our U.S. military and our commitment not only to those who wear the uniform of the military—and, of course, I am aware of the Acting President pro tempore's long distinguished service—but also the solemn obligation we have to our veterans once they leave active-duty status.

They have more than upheld their commitment—in the mountains, in the valleys of Afghanistan, in the deserts of Iraq, and in postings around the world, from Japan, to Korea, to Kuwait, to Israel, to Germany, and all across the globe. Of course, they have joined generations of men and women—the ''greatest generation,'' of which my dad was a member, the World War II generation; and, of course, then those who fought in Korea, in Vietnam, and, of course, the most recent conflicts we have had, which I just mentioned, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

My strong conviction is that we owe a moral obligation, not just a legal obligation, to those veterans, to keep our commitments to them once they separate from military service.

I am sorry to say the Department of Veterans Affairs has repeatedly and outrageously failed to uphold its own commitment to America's Armed Forces and our veterans.

The problem, the way I see it, is we have almost become desensitized because we all know as a result of the drawdown of our military after our exit from Iraq and now Afghanistan we are getting a large number of people retiring from military service, so it is understandable there would be more pressure put on the Department of Veterans Affairs to process these claims, to process these retirements, but what we have learned is there are outrageous examples—for example, in Phoenix, where 40 veterans died because their names were taken off of the appointment system list in order to make the backlog look not as bad as it really was. Many of them had been put on what was called a secret waiting list that was designed to conceal the unconscionably long wait times endured by up to 1,600 sick veterans.

So what I mean when I say I think we have become almost desensitized to this backlog—where more than half of the claims now made with the VA are backlogged, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs' own criteria—it takes something like this, where 40 veterans have died because they were put on a secret waiting list in order to cook the books at the Phoenix VA, to hopefully wake us up and to get us to do something about this outrageous situation.

According to the investigation, high-level officials in the Phoenix VA knew about the secret waiting list, and they did nothing about it. It is even worse than that. Not only did the Phoenix officials tolerate this list, they actually defended it.

A former Phoenix VA doctor told CNN that the list ''was deliberately put in place to avoid the VA's own internal rules.'' That is why I call this a case of cooking the books. To avoid accountability, to avoid solving the problem, they tried to sweep the problem under the rug, and that is outrageous.

One of the victims of the secret waiting list was a 71-year-old Navy veteran named Thomas Breen. In late September, Mr. Breen was rushed to the Phoenix VA hospital after he became ill. The doctors diagnosed him, knew he had a history of cancer, and they very clearly designated his condition as ''urgent.'' That would indicate Mr. Breen should get another checkup within a week of his visit to the emergency room. Yet Mr. Breen was forced to wait and wait and wait and wait—even as he and his daughter-in-law made daily phone calls to the VA asking about an appointment and emphasizing the urgency of his medical condition. Each time they were told to

wait just a little longer. Finally, a full 2 months after his initial ER visit, Mr. Breen passed away. The cause of death was stage 4 bladder cancer.

A week after that the VA finally called with Mr. Breen's appointment—after he died. By then, obviously, it was too late.

Stories such as Mr. Breen's should be a wake-up call to the U.S. Senate. They should be a wake-up call to the White House. They should pierce our sense of moral indignation and say: When are we going to do something about this backlog? When are we going to hold people accountable for cooking the books so that they avoid accountability for a backlog that we all know exists?

So I am suggesting again that the President needs to designate a point person who will come in and deal with this on an emergency basis; it is that serious. The President needs to treat this seriously—not ignore it, not sweep it under the rug—and the Senate needs to treat this with the urgency it deserves as well, which is why I hope the majority leader, who is the person responsible for such things, would designate or ask the committees with jurisdiction to hold emergency hearings to get to the bottom of this because we do not know whether this just happened in Phoenix. Chances are it did not, and I will mention another outrageous example in a minute. We need to know if this is just a local matter or endemic to the whole VA disability and health care system.

In Pittsburgh, we know there have been other problems. Six patients at the VA hospital died, and more than 20 others became sick, after an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease. As in Phoenix, patients at the Pittsburgh facility were kept in the dark about what was going on. It took ''CBS News'' doing an investigation to bring this to the light of day.

''CBS News'' concluded:

An internal memo shows a top doctor at the hospital knew that Legionella—

Which causes Legionnaires' disease—

could potentially be in the hospital's water system, and [he] recommended the use of bottled water. Though staff members were told to test patients for Legionnaires' disease if they exhibited certain symptoms, there is no evidence to suggest patients or their families were informed of management's concerns about a potential outbreak.

In other words, they were kept in the dark.

It is scandals such as this and a rampant lack of accountability that have prompted people such as Senator MARCO RUBIO from Florida to introduce legislation that would give the VA Secretary more authority to fire and discipline senior officials for abuses and failures on the job. I think that is a smart move, and I am proud to cosponsor that bill. Because the lack of accountability leading to the problems I have just described is absolutely appalling. It should shock all of us.

The underlying problem, which we have known about—to which I fear Congress and the Federal Government have become desensitized—is there are literally hundreds of thousands of U.S. military veterans who are waiting to have their disability, compensation, and pension claims processed and waiting more than the 125 days the VA calls a backlog.

According to the VA's own figures, in mid-April there were 602,000 compensation and pension claims pending nationwide, and a majority of them had been pending and in the backlog category.

For that matter, there are still 51,000 entitlement claims pending at just two VA regional offices, in Houston and Waco in my State. A majority of those claims are backlogged too.

I know that Congress has taken steps to address the backlog in claims. In the national defense authorization bill from last year, we included some of the provisions which authorized State-based veterans organizations, like those in Texas, to help the Federal Veterans' Administration expedite processing of these backlogged claims. But it is not enough. The evidence from Pittsburgh and the evidence from Phoenix indicates that it is not enough. So we have to do more.

This is not partisan politics. This should not be treated as business as usual. This should be a call to action on the part of the Senate and the Federal Government to live up to its obligations and its commitment to our Nation's veterans.

Just a few concluding words and thoughts about the challenges that face our current generation of military veterans. According to a recent survey, more than half of those who served in Afghanistan and Iraq struggle with some sort of physical or mental health issues stemming from their service. Some of them are relatively minor. Some of them are very serious, indeed. The serious ones have manifested themselves in horrible ways. For example, one out of every two Afghan and Iraq war veterans says they know a fellow servicemember that has either attempted or committed suicide. As I said a moment ago, those who sign up for the U.S. military and our all-volunteer force receive a promise—a promise that if they serve their country, if they can do their part, their country, our country, will do our part.

All they are asking for is us to make good on that promise. Serving America's veterans is one of the most important responsibilities the Federal Government has. The VA's failure to meet its responsibility is an ongoing scandal—one that I will continue drawing attention to until our veterans get the support they so rightfully deserve.

I hope my other colleagues, who I know share this commitment to our veterans, will come to the floor and urge the majority leader to ask the committees with jurisdiction to convene emergency hearings to get to the bottom of this, to find out if what happened in Phoenix and Pittsburgh are isolated events or if this is a cancer that is eating away at our VA health care and disability system.

I call upon the President once again to appoint a point person to make sure that we get to the bottom of this as soon as possible because, of course, this is an executive branch function—the veterans health care system. I remember when healthcare.gov was rolled out and the Web site did not work the way the President expected it to. He appointed a point person to help make sure that all hands were on deck and we got to the bottom of the problem as soon as possible. I would think that this scandal in the Veterans' Administration and the way our veterans are being treated would at least equal the same sense of urgency and call for the same sort of response as the failure of the Web site for healthcare.gov.

So I hope our colleagues in the Senate can pull together to come to the service of our veterans in a way that they deserve. I hope the President views this with the kind of urgency that it really deserves and appoints a point person who can get to the bottom of this, working with Congress as quickly as possible so we can meet our obligations to our Nation's veterans.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DARYL CHAPPELLE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, before I give my intended remarks, I want to add my voice to others who have paid tribute to Daryl Chappelle, who retires today after 42 years of working in the Senate. I have only been here for 3 years, but I can tell you, in the time that I have been here, I look forward to running into Daryl as I make my trips back and forth between the Russell Senate Office Building and the Senate floor. There are certain people in life who just brighten your day. Every occasion when I have encountered Daryl during the workday, it has just been that experience.

I pay tribute to an individual about whom I don't know a lot personally or of his background or his family. It is a sad thing about the nature of today's busy world in which we don't know people—as I certainly do at home and

in hometowns across our country—but I will tell you that the opportunity to be with and experience the conversation and joy that Daryl adds to this place has been a real treat and a wonderful experience for me.

I wish him and his family best wishes in his retirement and thank him for his service to the Senate and to the people of our country.

NOMINATION OF NANCY MORITZ

I rise to tell my colleagues about a nomination we are considering, and I speak in support of Justice Nancy Moritz.

She is currently a supreme court justice on the Kansas Supreme Court, and she is before us today as a nominee to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

I appreciate working with my colleague Senator ROBERTS and those in the White House as we came together to try to find an acceptable and honorable nominee, and I believe we did. I extend my appreciation to Justice Moritz for having agreed to answer the call to serve her country in a new capacity as a member of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

She comes today before the Senate and again on Monday as someone who is highly qualified, greatly prepared, and who has the necessary background. Certainly the educational requirements are there, but the experience that she has encountered in her distinguished legal career, both public and private, really adds a dimension to this person and something that I would look for in a member of the tenth circuit.

For the past 4 years she has been a justice on the Kansas Supreme Court. Prior to that she spent 15 years as an attorney in the U.S. attorney's office in our State in both Kansas City and Topeka. Prior to that she had 6 years of experience in private practice as well.

Justice Moritz was raised in a small neighboring town of mine. Her hometown is Tipton. It is in many ways a typical small Kansas town. I know folks in Tipton would tell me how exceptional they are—and I have seen many instances of how true that is—but I know the people of Tipton. I have witnessed their character, their integrity, their work ethic, their kindness, their care and genuine concern for others. That sense of community you attain when you grow up in a town of just a few hundred people is something I think has great benefit in becoming who we are.

I, in some ways, admire the justice for that background and know what that kind of experience means in molding her character as well as her work ethic and how she conducts herself.

She also served for a period of time as a law clerk to Judge Ed Larson. Ed Larson was a law partner of mine, and he remains a good friend. I called to visit with him about the nomination of Justice Moritz, and I trust his judgment. He not only was a law partner in practice with me—or really I was in practice with him—but he then went to the court of appeals and then was elevated to the Kansas Supreme Court.

Of all the people I have met in life, and certainly many of the attorneys I have met in life and the judges, if you were looking for someone whose opinion and judgment you would trust, Judge Ed Larson is certainly that person. He has made clear to me that Justice Moritz was one of the very best law clerks he ever had, and he believes her to be highly qualified. With his recommendation, my judgment about Justice Moritz was even more increased and enhanced.

Again, I am convinced that her background, growing up the way she did, her experience with Judge Larson and his stamp of approval upon her character and abilities, suggests we have a great person to join the tenth circuit.

I encourage my colleagues to review her qualifications, and I would hope and assume they would reach the same conclusion that I have, that the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals will be well served with this Kansan on it. I look forward to supporting her confirmation, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

NOMINATIONS OF GEORGE HAZEL AND THEODORE CHUANG

Mr. CARDIN. I rise in support of the nominations of George Hazel and Theodore Chuang to be U.S. district judges for the District of Maryland.

Let me say from the beginning that I am very proud of the manner in which Senator MIKULSKI, the senior Senator from Maryland, and I have established a process to review and make recommendations to the President for the vacancies in the U.S. District of Maryland.

We have used a process that we think works. It gets us the most qualified individuals, and these two today are certainly an example of highly qualified individuals who want to be judges for the right reasons. They have a demonstrated track record of public service.

I particularly appreciate their commitment to pro bono. They understand that the courts need to be open to all and that we have a special responsibility as lawyers and as judges to make sure that there is equal access to justice. They understand the appropriate role of a judge in our system to be objective and to carry out the laws of this land.

George Jarrod Hazel received his B.A. cum laude in 1996 from Morehouse College and his J.D. in 1999 from Georgetown University Law Center. He was nominated to fill the vacancy created by the taking of senior status in May of 2013 by Judge Alexander Williams, Jr.

I might just say Judge Williams had a very distinguished record on the district court.

Mr. Hazel began his legal career in private practice from 1999 to 2004. He then became a government prosecutor as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Columbia from 2005 to 2008.

He then joined the Greenbelt, MD, U.S. attorney's office for the District of Maryland. Finally, Mr. Hazel joined the office of the State's attorney for Baltimore City and now serves as the chief deputy State's attorney.

I can attest that being the chief deputy State's attorney in Baltimore City is a demanding position. In his present job, Mr. Hazel helps to oversee 200 prosecutors and 200 support staffers, and he has fought tirelessly to keep our communities safe and make them safer. In fact, he has played a key role in achieving those objectives.

He has demonstrated in his entire career as a lawyer a commitment to public service in each of the positions that he has held. He wants to serve the public, and these are the types of people I would hope we would like to see in our district court.

Mr. Hazel has extensive Federal and State court litigation experience, including civil and criminal matters, as well as jury trials. He has served as a prosecutor, private attorney, and manager of a large legal office.

Mr. Hazel lives in North Potomac with his wife and two children. He is an active member of his community. He is a leader in the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Largo, MD, and in Washington, DC, and has served as a member, trustee, and now as a deacon.

In terms of his pro bono commitment, Mr. Hazel has been president of his church's legal ministry, where he has assisted members of the church, including many who could not afford lawyers, in obtaining legal representation when they are in need.

He also prepares meals at the church and teaches Sunday school classes.

Mr. Chuang was nominated to fill the vacancy created by Judge Roger Titus when he took senior status in January of this year.

Judge Titus had a very distinguished record and continues to have a very distinguished record in our district court.

Mr. Chuang received his J.D. magna cum laude in 1994 from Harvard Law School and his B.A. summa cum laude in 1991 from Harvard University. He began his legal career as a law clerk for Judge Dorothy W. Nelson in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 1994 to 1995. From 1995 to 1998, Mr. Chuang served as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S.

Department of Justice. From 1998 to 2004, Mr. Chuang served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Massachusetts. He spent 3 years in private practice from 2004 to 2007.

He served as a deputy chief investigative counsel for the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform from 2007 to 2009. In 2009 he became the chief investigative counsel for the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the House of Representatives. Mr. Chuang currently serves as deputy chief counsel of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where he has worked since 2009.

Like Mr. Hazel, Mr. Chuang has devoted his entire professional career to serving the public. He is very much interested in helping this community and, again, he is the type of individual I hope we would all like to see in our district court.

Mr. Chuang has extensive Federal court litigation experience, both civil and criminal cases, including jury trials. He has served in all three branches of government: as clerk, law clerk, congressional investigative counsel, and agency deputy general counsel. The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave him a ''well qualified'' rating. You can see that he has the type of experience and type of sensitivity to understand the appropriate role of a district court judge.

Mr. Chuang lives in Bethesda with his wife and his two children. He is an energetic member of his community. In terms of his pro bono work, he has served on the board of directors of the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, a nonprofit legal services organization that serves low-income, limited-English proficient Asian Americans and immigrants in Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia, and which provides legal representation and referral services in cases involving domestic violence, family law, immigration law, employment law, and a variety of other areas.

Mr. Chuang also told us that from approximately 2002 to 2003, as president of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts, he oversaw and promoted a project of the organization's Community Service Committee to provide a pro bono legal workshop in Boston's Chinatown, at which attorneys provided general information about immigration law, employment law, and other areas of law that may affect the lives of area residents.

He is committed to helping his community, and he has demonstrated that during his entire professional career.

Mr. Chuang's parents emigrated from Taiwan to the United States seeking freedom and opportunity. I would note that if confirmed, Mr. Chuang would not only be the first Asian-American Federal judge in Maryland but also the first Asian-American Federal judge in the Fourth Circuit, covering five States in the Mid-Atlantic and South.

President Obama nominated these two individuals in September of 2013 and the Judiciary Committee held their confirmation hearings in December of 2013. The Judiciary Committee then favorably reported both nominations in January of this year.

I urge the Senate to confirm these very well-qualified nominees and fill these important vacancies to better serve the people of Maryland.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUSTICE FOR ALL REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last year, the Senate came together to pass meaningful legislation that was supported by victims of violence, law enforcement, and those committed to working to end domestic and sexual abuse. That bill, the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, had the support of all Senate Democrats and a majority of Senate Republicans. It cleared the Republican House overwhelmingly and it was signed into law 1 year ago. In a divided Congress, this historic reauthorization was made possible because so many victims and service providers stood together to push for a comprehensive bill.

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which I was proud to co-author with Senator MIKE CRAPO, a Republican from Idaho, strengthens protections on campuses, where far too many students have become victims of devastating violence instead of enjoying the wonderful experience of learning and growth that we all wish for our children. Our bill, which was signed into law last year, ensures that college students are informed of the resources available to them if they are victims of sexual assault or stalking, and of their school's planned response to such crimes.

For women like Laura Dunn, these provisions have real meaning. When many skeptics called for a watered-down VAWA bill to make it easier to pass, champions like Ms. Dunn, a courageous survivor of campus sexual assault, urged us to stand strong for all victims. More than 200 survivors of campus violence at 176 colleges and universities joined her in an open letter to Congress calling for the passage of the Leahy-Crapo VAWA bill. People like her made all the difference in our ability to ultimately pass this important legislation.

One year after its enactment, I am heartened that the Obama administration has begun to implement the Leahy-Crapo VAWA bill and that it announced a series of steps that will help colleges and universities meet new requirements contained in the law. This includes stronger reporting requirements and better training for university officials, more coordination between campus police and local law enforcement, and the implementation of privacy policies to protect the identity of victims. I can remember the horrific scenes I witnessed when I was a prosecutor in Vermont. I can also remember that I never asked a victim about their nationality, immigration status, religion, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. As I have said countless times, a victim is a victim is a victim. Providing a victim with the services they need in a safe and private environment is common sense and I am glad the Obama administration is making the protections Senator CRAPO and I fought for a reality for students across the country.

We cannot stop there, however, and we should be doing even more to protect all victims of crime. That is why I urge my fellow Senators to support the Justice for All Reauthorization Act. This comprehensive and bipartisan legislation was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee in October. The Justice for All Reauthorization Act protects victims of crime by providing them with the resources they need and enhancing protections for crime victims. It also helps to prevent and overturn wrongful convictions, and provides law enforcement with the tools and resources necessary to ensure justice for all.

The Justice for All Act reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction Act, which has provided significant funding to reduce the backlog of untested rape kits so that victims need not live in fear while rape kits languish in storage. It also strengthens the Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program, one of the key programs created in the Innocence Protection Act.

Kirk Bloodsworth was a young man just out of the Marines when he was sentenced to death for a heinous crime that he did not commit. He was the first death row inmate in the United States to be exonerated through the use of DNA evidence. There are certainly others out there like Kirk Bloodsworth now, wrongly convicted, waiting for the day when a DNA test will prove their innocence and set them free. We must never stop trying to improve our imperfect criminal justice system, to bring closure to cases swiftly but accurately, and to correct mistakes when they happen.

The Justice for All Act reauthorizes funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic

Science Improvement Grant Program, which assists laboratories in performing the many forensic tests that are essential to solving crimes and prosecuting offenders.

The Justice for All Reauthorization Act is a bipartisan bill that Senator CORNYN and I introduced nearly 1 year ago. All Senate Democrats support passage of this bill, and it is even cosponsored by the minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, but it has not passed the Senate because some Senate Republicans object. In the face of this obstruction, some would have us pick apart pieces of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act, with the hope that we can do the other pieces later. To me, to law enforcement, and to countless victims of crime, this is not acceptable. Just last year, we showed the country it was possible to stand with all victims of domestic and sexual violence when we ignored the critics in the House who tried to divide us. When they told us we could only protect some victims, we refused to let them pit survivors of injustice against one another.

By remaining unified in the face of such efforts, this divided Congress was able to pass a historic Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act that for the first time provided key protections for college students, tribal women, and members of the LGBT community. This year, we should again stand by all victims of crime and do what is right by passing a comprehensive Justice for All Reauthorization Act. We should not let the House of Representatives lessen our resolve to reauthorize public safety programs widely supported by crime victims and law enforcement.

I remain steadfast in my resolve to get this done. I know every Senate Democrat shares this resolve, and I know that law enforcement, civil rights leaders, victims groups, and countless others feel the same way. I hope Senate Republicans will join us to pass meaningful legislation that supports all victims of crime and upholds our system of justice. We should stand united for all victims. I urge all senators, and particularly those in the Republican Caucus, to clear the Justice for All Act without further delay.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

NOMINATION OF THEODORE CHUANG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am going to talk for a few minutes on one of the nominations we have today, the nomination of Theodore Chuang to be district judge for Maryland. This nomination was voted out of committee on a 10-to-8 vote. I opposed the nomination in committee, and I would urge my colleagues to do the same today. I can't support the nomination because of the central role Mr. Chuang played in the administration's persistent and steadfast stonewalling of the congressional investigation into the attack on our diplomatic mission in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. That attack resulted in the first murder of a sitting U.S. Ambassador in over 30 years. Three other brave Americans serving their country were killed in Benghazi as well.

As we all know too well, just hours after the fighting had ended, this administration—in the middle of a Presidential campaign at the time—rushed to blame the attack on an obscure Internet video. The administration denied what was already clear: that what had happened at Benghazi was a premeditated terrorist attack that had nothing to do with any video. The CIA's Libya station chief and other administration officials immediately recognized and reported that the attack was an act of terror, not a spontaneous demonstration. The American people demanded answers. Congress demanded answers as well. But the administration has systematically stonewalled our ability to get those answers. That is where this nominee's role comes into play.

Following the Benghazi attack, Mr. Chuang left his position at the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a special detail at the State Department. His job at the State Department was to provide legal guidance and manage the Department's responses to the congressional investigation into a terrorist attack.

For months the State Department ignored congressional inquiries. That forced the House Oversight & Government Reform Committee to issue subpoenas in August 2013. Mr. Chuang received those duly issued subpoenas but continued the administration's policies of systematic stonewalling.

So let me be very clear. The State Department has never asserted that the emails, the documents or witness interviews conducted by the Benghazi Accountability Review Board are protected by executive privilege. The State Department has never asserted any privilege justifying its refusal to disclose documents responsive to these subpoenas. The State Department has never provided any legal basis whatsoever for its continued stonewalling of this investigation.

So following Mr. Chuang's nomination hearing before our Judiciary Committee, I asked him several questions for the record about why the State Department refused to comply with its legal obligation to respond to the subpoenas. Mr. Chuang, who was in charge of coordinating the State Department's responses, couldn't come up with a legal basis. Instead, he cited only ''institutional concerns.''

That ought not be a good enough answer for what is a legitimate role of oversight by the Congress, trying to get answers to legitimate questions. In other words, abstract ''institutional concerns'' does not permit the executive branch to toss a congressional subpoena into the garbage.

Benghazi raises questions of vital national importance that to this very day remain unanswered. They remain unanswered because this administration refuses to honor its legal obligations to comply with the congressional oversight that is being done through the extraordinary measure of subpoena. The American people deserve better and so do we. We are members of coequal branches of the Federal Government.

But the Benghazi scandal isn't simply going to go away. In fact, just this week additional emails came to light demonstrating that the White House led a coordinated messaging effort on Benghazi from the very beginning.

This is what one of the emails said: It was the administration's goal ''to underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video and not a broader failure of policy.''

That quotation is from an email sent by the administration's Deputy National Security Advisor on September 14, 2012—2 days after the attack. That email was sent even though officials on the ground in Libya had reported that the attack was an act of terror.

Some have called this email the smoking gun, proving that the administration intentionally misled the American people about the terrorist attack, but no matter how this email is characterized, it was clearly responsive to congressional subpoenas and does not seem to have been produced until a government watchdog group filed a Freedom of Information lawsuit seeking to compel the administration to comply.

So let me be clear. From what we know now, it took a Freedom of Information Act request and an ensuing lawsuit to force the State Department to produce documents that were obviously related to the terror attack at Benghazi, and this is the case even though the House committee made multiple requests for those documents and then issued subpoenas compelling their production.

I am sure Mr. Chuang thought he was doing his duty to zealously represent his client when he was managing the document subpoenas the State Department received from Congress, but his role in coordinating administrative responses was plainly unsatisfactory and unacceptable and something that goes against the grain of an administration that on day two of their administration—in other words, January 21, 2009—said this was going to be the most transparent administration in the history of the country.

We should demand more and expect more respect for congressional oversight. For this reason I have decided to

oppose this nomination, a nomination that was reported out of committee on a 10-to-8 vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the nominations related to the cloture vote of Theodore Chuang and George Hazel.

Senator CARDIN and I are recommending these two outstanding men to serve on the U.S. district court in Maryland. Senator CARDIN and I are proud to nominate these men because of the outstanding qualities they will bring to the Federal bench in Maryland that has had a long and distinguished career of absolutely fantastic judges.

We have before us two Maryland judges who will be taking a different status—Judge Titus and Judge Williams. Judge Williams served in the Southern District of the Maryland Federal court—and we salute those two for their outstanding service. On another day I will say what a great job they have done.

Senator CARDIN and I take our responsibilities for recommending to the President the people of the highest caliber to serve as judges. We believe very strongly in the concept of an independent judiciary, people who will bring to the bench absolute integrity, judicial competence and temperament, a commitment to the core constitutional principles that have made our country great, and also though a history of civic engagement in Maryland—because a judge is not how many Law Review articles they write but can they administer equal justice and continue to honor equal protection under the law. Mr. Chuang and Mr. Hazel meet and exceed these standards.

Mr. Hazel comes with an incredible background. He served as an assistant U.S. attorney to the district court of Maryland. He has been the southern division coordinator on tough issues such as Project Exile, a Federal-State partnership addressing gun and violent crimes in Prince George's County and surrounding areas. He spent 5 years in private practice at Weil, Gotshal & Manges. He is also a man of faith, involved deeply in his church, Metropolitan Baptist Church, where he serves as a deacon.

Most recently, he has worked with the Baltimore State's attorneys office. The Baltimore State's attorney's office faced a lot of challenges. It faced dated technology and difficulties in maintaining chain of custody on evidence. He came in to work with our new State's attorney, which is an elected position, and he is a real reformer. So whether you were a prosecutor or you were a defendant, you knew it was going to be one of the best well-organized offices in Maryland.

Hazel brought that kind of know-how to make sure the apparatus of government worked because that was all part of making sure people got equal justice: Did we have the right guy when we were a prosecutor? Did we have the right evidence? Did the prosecutor have the right tools? Did the public defender or their private counsel have the opportunity to provide the defense of them? We have been able to do that. Also, working in his church he has shown he has been available to provide all kinds of pro bono services.

He is a graduate of a distinguished law school and he is a Morehouse man. I think when he takes the Federal bench and takes that oath, we are going to be proud of the service he does.

Then there is Mr. Chuang, the one who has been under dispute today. Gosh, I wish the whole Senate could meet him as well as Mr. Hazel. This is a new generation coming into the Maryland Federal judiciary. Mr. Chuang's parents and his own story is that of the American dream.

Mr. Chuang's parents came with practically nothing from Taiwan seeking the American dream and a better life for their family. He worked very hard and then went on to some of our most distinguished schools. He went to Harvard Law School and Harvard University. He was a summa cum laude undergraduate and named by Time magazine as one of the high achievers. At Harvard, he was with the Law Review. But as I said, it is not how many Law Review articles one writes; it is, do they right wrongs in our society.

Yes, he has served at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; yes, he has worked in government positions; yes, he has worked in private practice at Wilmer Cutler; yes, he has been at the Department of Justice; and, yes, he did provide legal counsel to the State Department. I am going to talk about that.

First of all, I am kind of tired of this Benghazi witch hunt stuff, but I am not going to go into that. I respect my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Congress has a right to oversight.

But let me make the record clear: Mr. Chuang's role during his temporary assignment was as legal counsel providing legal advice and representation to his client. His client was the State Department. Although he provided legal advice related to the House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform, he did not have decisionmaking authority over whether to provide subpoenaed documents to the committee. That was at higher levels. If the committee had a beef with the State Department, they should have taken it up with the Secretary of the State, which I know they did.

During his 6-month detail, the State Department produced a vast majority of documents and witnesses requested by the HOGR.

In the case of the subpoena in question—which was for internal files of the independent Accountability Review Board that conducted the Benghazi investigation—the State Department agreed to produce most of the documents but has to date declined to produce memoranda of interviews of State Department personnel because disclosure of those witness statements may chill cooperation in future ARBs. Although State offered to discuss alternative means of serving the committee's request, the House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform has not actively engaged the State Department on this since the fall of 2013.

Opposition to Mr. Chuang's nomination will have no impact on whether the State Department produces the documents, and he is not a State Department employee.

So I respect my colleagues for wanting to have cooperation. I don't dispute whether they have a legitimate grievance. I leave that in that field and domain, but I would say Mr. Chuang's role was that of a civil servant, providing advice to the leadership of the State Department on this matter. Then the State Department's job, at its highest level, was to negotiate with the House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform, chaired by Mr. ISSA and the ranking member, our very good colleague Congressman CUMMINGS of Baltimore.

So if we are going to vote against Chuang because the Secretary of State did or did not do something, I think we have other problems.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask for 1 additional minute to summarize.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. If we continue to attack people because of the job they did for which they had no decision about, we are going to have a chilling effect on who comes into government.

If these two men whom I am recommending and whom the President has nominated were in private practice, they could be making hundreds of thousands of dollars. Because these two men are duty-driven, with outstanding educations, backgrounds, and experience, they have chosen public service. I hope the Senate chooses them to serve on the Federal bench. This body is going to be very proud of them the way Senator CARDIN and I are in bringing them to the floor's attention. I urge that we invoke cloture.

I yield the floor and ask that we follow regular order.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Theodore David Chuang, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Barbara Mikulski, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Thomas R. Carper, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, we are again voting to overcome Republican filibusters of three highly qualified judicial nominees. Republicans continue to refuse to consent to vote on much needed judges to our Federal Judiciary. We currently stand at 80 vacancies and have not had fewer than 60 vacancies since February 2009, at the beginning of President Obama's first term. For most of President Obama's tenure in office, judicial vacancies have continued to hover around 80 and 90 because of Senate Republican obstruction. Nevertheless, Senate Republicans continue to object to votes on these nominations. This includes the three nominations that we are voting on today.

Nancy Moritz has been nominated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Justice Moritz is currently a justice on the Kansas Supreme Court, where she has been serving since 2011. Prior to joining the Kansas Supreme Court, she was an appellate judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals from 2004 to 2011. Before becoming a judge, Justice Moritz spent nearly ten years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Kansas City and Topeka offices. From 1989 till 1995, she was an associate at Spencer, Fane Britt & Browne, LLP in Kansas City and Overland Park. From 1987 to 1989, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Patrick F. Kelly, U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. Justice Moritz has the support of her Republican home state senators, Senator ROBERTS and Senator MORAN. She was also reported from the Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote on January 16, 2014.

Theodore Chuang has been nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. Since 2009, Mr. Chuang has served in the Office of General Counsel at the Department of Homeland Security. He currently serves as deputy general counsel and as counsel on detail to the U.S. Department of State. Previously, Mr. Chuang served as the chief investigative counsel for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the deputy chief investigative counsel for the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reforms from 2007 to 2009. From 2004 to 2007, Mr. Chuang worked in private practice as a counsel at the law firm Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP. Prior to that, Mr. Chuang served as an assistant U.S. attorney, Criminal Division, for the District of Massachusetts from 1998 to 2004 and as a trial attorney in the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section of the Justice Department from 1995 to 1998. Upon graduating from Harvard Law School, magna cum laude, Mr. Chuang served as a law clerk to Judge Dorothy W. Nelson on the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals from 1994 to 1995.

Mr. Chuang has the support of his home State Senators, Senator MIKULSKI and Senator CARDIN. He was voted out of the Judiciary Committee on a 10–8 vote on January 16, 2014. During the committee vote, the ranking member urged others to vote ''No'' based on the fact that Mr. Chuang has been serving on temporary detail to the State Department and has been working with the agency to assist in its response to the ongoing congressional investigation into Benghazi. The ranking member argued that because the administration has refused to turn over interview notes and summaries that he would vote ''No'' on Mr. Chuang's nomination. This appears to be a case where Mr. Chuang is being held responsible for the decisions of the administration not to turn over the documents when it was not his decision to make. Moreover, Mr. Chuang has responded to the ranking member's Question for the RECORD on this issue fully and forthrightly, and nothing in those responses indicates that Mr. Chuang has conducted himself improperly in any way. Mr. Chuang is a superbly qualified attorney with an impeccable background, and should be supported by the entire Senate.

George Hazel has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. Since 2010, he has served as the chief deputy State's attorney for the office of the Maryland State's attorney for Baltimore City. Prior to taking this position, he was an assistant U.S. attorney for the district of Maryland from 2008 to 2010 and for the District of Columbia from 2005 to 2008. From 1999 to 2004, Mr. Hazel also served in private practice at the law firm Weil, Gotshal and Manges, LLP. An experienced trial counsel, Mr. Hazel has tried approximately 50 cases to verdict. Mr. Hazel also has the support of his home State senators, Senator MIKULSKI and Senator CARDIN. He was reported from the Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote on January 16, 2014.

All three of these nominees have the experience, judgment, and legal acumen to be terrific judges in our Federal courts. Let us end these unnecessary filibusters. I thank the majority leader for filing cloture petitions and I hope my fellow Senators will join me today to end these filibusters so that these nominees can get working on behalf of the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Theodore David Chuang, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 124 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Harkin	Murphy
Begich	Heinrich	Murray
Bennet	Heitkamp	Nelson
Blumenthal	Hirono	Pryor
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reed
Boxer	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Landrieu	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Levin	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Walsh
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Franken	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murkowski	Wyden

NAYS—43

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Coburn	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Collins	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Kirk	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—3

Boozman	Rockefeller	Tester

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 54, the nays are 43. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF THEODORE DAVID CHUANG TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Theodore David Chuang, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, has the clerk reported the nomination?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The nomination has been reported.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of George Jarrod Hazel, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Barbara Mikulski, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Thomas R. Carper, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of George Jarrod Hazel, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murkowski	
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—42

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Chambliss	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johanns	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Crapo	Kirk	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker

NOT VOTING—3

Boozman	Sanders	Tester

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 55, the nays are 42. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF GEORGE JARROD HAZEL TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of George Jarrod Hazel, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Dianne Feinstein, John D. Rockefeller IV, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Mikulski, Carl Levin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Harkin, Amy Klobuchar, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Robert Menendez, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 126 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Ayotte	Hagan	Murphy
Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Roberts
Brown	King	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cardin	Landrieu	Schatz
Carper	Leahy	Schumer
Casey	Levin	Shaheen
Coburn	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Moran	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden

NAYS—38

Alexander	Flake	McConnell
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Chambliss	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johanns	Thune
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cruz	Kirk	Vitter
Enzi	Lee	Wicker
Fischer	McCain	

NOT VOTING—2

Boozman	Tester

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 60, the nays are 38. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF NANCY L. MORITZ TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the time until 1:45 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, the Highway Trust Fund is a vital resource for States to tackle much-needed transportation projects. But right now that trust fund is running on fumes. States from Vermont to California and many in between are rethinking their plans for construction because of funding uncertainty in the Highway Trust Fund. One example is New Mexico. Their State officials are starting to ramp up construction plans for Interstate 25 in Albuquerque. That project has been a high priority for city officials for a number of years. Once it is completed, it is going to reduce traffic and improve safety. That is vital for that area. But right now State officials in New Mexico have said they are concerned about Federal funding for that project and it now might be in jeopardy.

That is not an isolated case. The trust fund supports transportation projects across our entire country. It eases congestion for our commuters and for businesses that need to move their goods efficiently and quickly. It funds safety initiatives and construction that improves our roads and bridges. It sparks job creation for American workers.

But the Department of Transportation now says that trust fund will not be able to keep up with its payments to States as soon as this summer. This crisis is right around the corner. Many States are now planning for worst-case scenarios. In fact, the State of Missouri has stopped planning for new projects. In Colorado, a State official has said: Without these funds, major projects probably will not be completed or ever get underway.

Arkansas has begun planning several projects to replace old bridges and widen highways and repair roads, but now, their transportation officials have put 10 projects on hold because of this looming crisis.

Construction is at its height during our summer months. So if the Highway Trust Fund hits a crisis in the next few months, we could potentially see a construction shutdown, meaning workers are going to be left without paychecks.

That could add up to 10,000 jobs in Florida, according to the President of the Florida Transportation Builders Association. Across the country, failing to shore up our Highway Trust Fund could cost more than 180,000 jobs in fiscal year 2015. That is according to an analysis from the Center for American Progress.

In Kentucky, Governor Steve Beshear summed it up by telling reporters: ''We can't afford for the Highway Trust Fund to go insolvent.'' States and workers are counting on us to solve this. I am hopeful that we can replenish the Highway Trust Fund in a bipartisan way. In fact, House Republican DAVE CAMP, who chairs the Ways and Means Committee, has proposed using corporate revenue to replenish the Highway Trust Fund.

President Obama's Grow America Act also calls for corporate revenue to address this crisis and make important investments in our infrastructure. That approach makes a lot of sense. Closing wasteful loopholes so we can create jobs here at home would be good for our workers, good for our economy, and it would make our broken tax system fairer in the process. I am here today to say I am hoping that Republicans will come to the table willing to close just a few corporate loopholes so we can avoid an unnecessary crisis in our Highway Trust Fund, so that we can give our States more certainty to plan and we can help spark job growth in the summer.

But if Republicans are not willing to work with us, they are going to have to explain why egregious corporate tax loopholes are more important than workers in our construction industry and more important than drivers and businesses that rely every day on safe roads and bridges.

I am here to say and to warn that construction projects are at risk across our country. Another example happens to be in New Hampshire, where construction crews have been working on a major project to widen Interstate 93. That project was designed to ease congestion and improve safety. Last month the State transportation commissioner said the project could be stalled and thrown off schedule if Congress does not resolve the Highway Trust Fund crisis. He said, ''Any hiccup in federal funding could have a negative impact on the ending.''

For many States this looming crisis is already a reality. We have to act now. So let's show our States that together we will continue to invest in projects that help drivers and help businesses move their goods, and let's show the American people that Congress can work together to ensure vital transportation construction projects will move forward this summer. Let's shore up that Highway Trust Fund and avoid this unnecessary and totally preventable crisis.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak about the corrupting power of money in our national politics and the tragic impact of a whole series of decisions by the Supreme Court that has steadily strengthened that power.

Over the last 40 years a bipartisan coalition in this body and bipartisan coalitions in Congress have come together behind commonsense measures that actually succeeded in limiting the power of money in politics. Most recently, back in 2002, a bipartisan coalition in this Chamber led by Senators JOHN MCCAIN and Russ Feingold, Republican and Democrat, took a few steps to effectively limit the use of so-called ''soft money'' and to ban special interests from pouring money into national elections in the month or two before Election Day.

As actual elected representatives, their perspective as Members of Congress who enacted that legislation was informed by their real experience as public officials who have run and won elections and who have written, fought for, and passed actual legislation.

Since Members of this Chamber, Members of this Congress, have seen and experienced the corrosive effect of money every day, Congress, in my view, should be given great deference when it has been able to transcend partisan division and put in place commonsense protections.

Yet over the past few years a bare majority on the current Supreme Court has, in decision after decision, dismantled many of those critical protections and shows no signs of stopping.

In doing so, this Court's decisions display a significant and stunning naivete about how our political system actually works and how it is continuing to change and as a result have brought us closer to a world where, as a recent New Republic piece argues, ''millionaires and billionaires speak loudly and the rest of us do the listening.''

Most recently, in a 5-to-4 decision, the Supreme Court struck down a limit that has stood since 1971, when Congress passed the Federal Elections Campaign Act, on total campaign donations anyone may make in the same election cycle.

Before this recent Supreme Court ruling, individuals couldn't give more than $117,000 between candidates and party committees. After the ruling, that limitation has been swept away, and there is nothing to stop a wealthy donor, an ultrawealthy donor, from contributing to every Federal race each election cycle.

Some here have cheered the decision as upholding the First Amendment and free speech, but in my view, when you are able to spread around hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations to dozens and dozens of candidates in a

coordinated way, you are not speaking, you are coming dangerously close to buying.

For ultradonors, the reality is not just about making their voices heard. Under existing Supreme Court precedent under these recent decisions, there is no limit on anybody's ability to spend whatever amounts he or she wishes to conduct actual speech, to buy newspaper ads, buy television spots, or even to make a politically motivated movie.

The reality is it is about trying to control more and more of the legislative agenda of this Congress and more and more of the direction of our government.

In McCutcheon, this recently decided case, the Supreme Court hasn't just enabled speech, it has made it dramatically easier for the wealthiest and the special interests they represent to hedge their bets by diversifying their political portfolio. It has more in common, sadly, with Wall Street investment strategies than with the free speech rights envisioned by our Founders at the Constitutional Convention.

Frankly, I think the Founders would not recognize our political system today and the increasingly harsh influence of big-money donors in our overall national political scene.

Together with the Citizens United decision of the Supreme Court of 5 years ago, we see the truly dangerous implications of the decisions rendered. One of the boldest decisions I have ever seen—Citizens United, with another 5–4 decision—killed off nearly half of that bipartisan compromise bill of 2002 of McCain-Feingold by allowing corporations and other special interests to anonymously fund campaign ads in the months before an election.

In doing so, as Justice Stevens wrote in a dissent, the Supreme Court ''relied largely on individual dissenting opinions. . . . blaz[ing] through our precedents [and] overruling or disavowing a body of case law.''

Justice Stevens noted that to do so the Court decided a question the parties did not present directly to it, saying:

> Essentially, five justices were unhappy with the limited nature of the case brought before us, so they changed the case to give themselves an opportunity to change the law.

I understand this is a dissent, but a dissent that I think should draw our attention to the direction these two vital, difficult Court decisions are taking this Nation.

Soon after the Supreme Court extended these rules to State campaign finance laws as well. In combination these two decisions, McCutcheon and Citizens United, have brushed aside important bipartisan legislation that was designed to prevent corruption of the political branches and to provide Americans some level of confidence that their voices, not just those of the ultrawealthy and powerful, mattered to their elected representatives. We have all seen the impact of this decision, of Citizens United in particular, as commercials by groups nobody has ever heard of, funded by donors who can remain in the dark, have flooded the airwaves of our election years ever since.

Earlier I mentioned that these two decisions show a stunning naivete about how politics in our modern world really works. Let me be clear I don't say this because the Supreme Court overturned a law that Congress passed. It is the Court's job to be a check on Congress to defend our fundamental freedoms in the face of congressional overreach or improvident action. But in the McCutcheon decision, the Court overturned a core holding of its own previous decision in Buckley v. Valeo, the case it purports to apply. As Justice Breyer wrote in dissent in McCutcheon, the Court's holding:

> understates the importance of protecting the political integrity of our governmental institutions. It creates a loophole that . . . taken together with Citizens United . . . eviscerates our Nation's campaign finance laws, leaving a remnant incapable of dealing with the grave problems of democratic legitimacy that those very laws were intended to resolve.

For instance, in the Court's decisions, it consistently refers to traditional political corruption as quid pro quo corruption, corruption of the sort where a specific contribution is made for a specific vote or action in arguing that campaign donations and political spending or speech have shown no signs of leading to corruption. The majority argues that campaign giving and the ''general gratitude'' that a candidate or elected official may feel is not the same thing as quid pro quo corruption in the sense of directly buying votes or action in the Congress.

But as Justice Breyer notes in his opinion in McCutcheon in the dissent, the majority's:

> narrow view of corruption . . . excludes efforts to obtain ''influence over access to elected officials or political parties.''

Every single Member of this body and every Member of the House of Representatives knows that to be true and knows this influence to be pernicious. Let me give an example. As many of my colleagues would attest, hanging over everything we do is the shadow of anonymous big-money ads getting dropped into the airwaves out of nowhere in the last weeks before an election, and it influences, in pervasive and corruptive ways, decisions made in this body week in and week out.

Of course, tough opposition ads are nothing new. Robust debates in campaign season go back to the very first campaigns of this Republic. As politicians, we all welcome the opportunity to those who engage to disagree with them. That is an important and healthy part of our democracy, and every citizen should have the right to voice their opposition to me or to any Member.

But what is a huge problem is the fact that nobody knows who is behind these ads, making it easier for any wealthy individual or corporation to pour an unlimited amount of money into a race behind completely false attacks. Because the donor is often in the dark, there is no way for the public to know who the claims are coming from or whether they are credible.

That is why in this Chamber folks in my caucus, Democrats, have repeatedly argued for our taking up and passing the DISCLOSE Act, which would require third-party ads to say who funded them so that citizens can reach their own conclusions.

This is an increasingly difficult problem for our country. In the 2010 election cycle, super PACs spent more than $62 million nationally. Through the 2012 cycle, outside groups spent an incredible $457 million on House and Senate races. So far in this cycle they have already raised and spent more than $200 million.

The result is that every campaign has to do more and more fundraising so they have the resources to rebut the claims made in these negative ads with concealed donors. That means more time on the phone or at fundraisers, traveling around the country, organizing and carrying out fundraising activities rather than engaging with our constituents and diving into details of policy. It is even worse in the House where the daily demands in their 2-year cycle are even more difficult.

Let me offer one brief statistic. In the average winning Senate race in 2012, it cost $10 million, which means the winning Senator had to raise $4,600 every single day over a 6-year term.

That is time not spent on solving the real issues facing our country. That is an unbelievable amount of time dedicated to fundraising, and it just doesn't end, whether the term is 2 or 6 years.

I know I have it relatively easy, little to complain about. Compared to my colleagues I come from a small State. The very modest amount we have to raise in a competitive race in Delaware pales in comparison to much larger States with much more expensive media markets, but it is a problem for this entire body and this entire country.

Let me offer one last example of concretely why this matters. As we debate in the Senate, the other party complains about the absence of opportunities to offer amendments and the lack of a robust and open amendment process. One of the reasons we often do not take to the floor and vote on competitive, compelling amendments is the concern that they will then become the subject of last-minute, aggressive, targeted campaign ads funded by undisclosed donors. Rather than being a

Chamber of honest, open, and free debate, the shadow of secret money turns policymaking into a beacon of risk aversion. Policymaking gets paralyzed and this serves no one.

Although it is not an example of corruption in the quid pro quo sense that the Supreme Court so narrowly focuses on, money does corrode the public trust and steadily corrupts this system in a thousand different ways. The irony of this all is that we badly need an honest discussion about the impact of big spending and fundraising on our political system. At this point I believe we badly need fundamental changes to redirect the decisions and the attention of the Supreme Court.

Buckley v. Valeo, the 1976 decision by the Court that equated political contributions and money with speech, in my view needs to be revisited. Senator UDALL of New Mexico has introduced a constitutional amendment that, in my view, restores the balance of that original law and decision, and it is one that I strongly support. By bending backward to declare anything that corporations or the ultrawealthy wish to do with their money the equivalent of speech, today's Court, in my view, rather than strengthening speech, has weakened it for the millions of Americans who cannot afford to play in this new system.

At a time of growing economic inequality, that concerns me more and more because this new political inequality threatens the very foundations of our democracy.

Noting the presence of two other colleagues, I would ask if I might have the forbearance of two brief speeches recognizing Delawareans.

I appreciate the forbearance of my colleagues and would like to take a few minutes to recognize two great Delawareans.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY GRAVELL

I wish to recognize Harry Gravell.

Right now in Wilmington, DE, friends will be coming to celebrate Harry, who is retiring from his long leadership role of the Delaware Building Trades Council after a lifetime dedicated to workers and our Nation.

I first got to know him in my service on the county council in New Castle County, where he gave me very helpful, very insightful advice, and was a constant source of encouragement and support.

Don't get me wrong. He didn't always agree with me. He didn't always support me. With Harry you got a straight shot. You got exactly what he thought and nothing less. You always knew where he stood even if he disagreed with you. He is transparent, he is honest, and you know why he believes what he believes.

He is not only a great friend but a great father. We were both honored in 2012 by the Delaware chapter of the American Diabetes Association as fathers of the year. Harry is the proud father of two: Jayme and Dee, and grandfather of three: Makayla, Avery, and Lily.

Harry's life story is one of determination and service. He never gives up, especially when he puts his mind to something. From an early age he knew the value of hard work. For high school he went to the Salesianum School, a great school in our community, and worked his way through school to make sure he could afford a great education.

A Vietnam veteran, he served our country in wartime. Since he came home, he has never stopped fighting for working families and veterans, and I was particularly proud to work with him in his role in the Sprinkler Fitters Union, then on the Building Trades Council on Helmets to Hardhats, on offering training and real job opportunities to returning veterans.

If you know Harry, you have seen his drive up close. You have seen him fight through thick and thin for his workers, his family, and our community.

But perhaps the greatest example of his sheer will was his most recent fight. He suffered a stroke a few months ago. Doctors read him a long list of things he was never going to do. Harry scoffed. Digging in, as he has his entire life, he finished his physical and occupation therapy faster than doctors thought he could. He has just finished building a house in Lewes. Everyone who knows him I believe will agree with me that he deserves the years he will now get to spend on the beautiful beaches of Delaware.

REMEMBERING JAMES WILCOX BROWN

Let me last briefly offer a tribute to a lifelong friend and mentor, James Wilcox Brown of Newark, DE. He set sail on April 24 at the age of 65. The gentle determination and unconditional kindness with which he lived his life inspired all around him, including his family, his friends, and this junior Senator from Delaware.

Jim graduated from Salesianum School, the University of Delaware, and the Washington and Lee University School of Law. He worked as legal counsel for W.L. Gore & Associates for 36 years. He served as a member of the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps for 26 years, retiring as colonel.

His tireless community service was broad and deeply felt. I was proud to be able to appoint him to the Delaware Service Academy Selection Board.

He is survived by his wife Peggy and their four wonderful children: Genevieve, Hilary, William, Mary Ellen, and six grandchildren. I simply wanted to add my voice to so many who will deeply miss this patriot, this great lawyer, this centered, thoughtful, kind man, and this personal friend who helped teach me the importance of humility and of a commitment to excellence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

ARKANSAS STORM

Mr. PRYOR. I come to the floor with a psalm and a story. The psalm I want to read is one of the most famous passages in all of Scripture. In times such as this that Arkansas has been through, a lot of people go to Ecclesiastes or one of the gospels, but I want to read Psalms 23—and I will tell you why in a moment.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Madam President, on Sunday, April 27, 2014, at about 7:06 p.m., a tornado touched down right on the Saline and Pulaski County lines, just west of Little Rock. It stayed on the ground for about an hour, crossed the Arkansas River, crossed right near a little town called Mayflower. The weather service now tells us it was an EF–4. That means it had a wind speed of up to 190 miles per hour—190 miles per hour. We lost 15 Arkansans, and we will never forget them. We love them and their families, and we will miss them. It is a great loss to each and every Arkansan and really each and every American: Paula Blakemore of El Paso; Mark Bradley of Mayflower; Jamye Collins of Vilonia; Helen Greer of Mayflower; Jeffrey Hunter of Vilonia; Dennis Lavergne of Vilonia; Glenna Lavergne of Vilonia; David Mallory of Vilonia; Robert Oliver of Mayflower; Cameron Smith of Vilonia; Tyler Smith of Vilonia; Rob Tittle of Paron; Rebekah Tittle of Paron; Tori Tittle of Paron; and Daniel Wassom of Vilonia. As you can see and hear from those names, a lot of these were family members and obviously members of a few communities in my State.

I wish to thank my colleagues first because many called and reached out in various ways. Some covered meetings for me. In fact, Senator JACK REED of Rhode Island actually covered a military promotion ceremony, which was really special for me—and for him to do—and special for everyone involved. So I thank him for that. Many of my colleagues have offered to help.

We also had people from outside Arkansas who reached out. I know our Governor fielded calls from a number of other Governors from around the country. Our emergency management people have been contacted by other emergency management folks.

Another phenomenon that has happened in our State—we neighbor several States that have gone through this

before. One of those is Missouri, and I see my colleague from Missouri here in the Chamber today. People from Missouri came down to help. People from Oklahoma came down and helped. Of course, we helped those States in their time of need, so it was reassuring and so appreciated that those folks, those previous storm victims came to Arkansas and helped us. We really do mean that, and we appreciate it very much.

Federal officials reached out. I was in the car with our Governor Mike Beebe when President Obama called him. That meant a lot. They were able to work through some of those Federal-State issues immediately, right there on the phone. That was great. Of course, Secretary Jay Johnson called the Governor, and I talked to him actually that same day. He is trying to come to Arkansas in the next few days, and I hope he will be able to make it. Craig Fugate, Director of FEMA, came in the very next day, and we appreciate Director Fugate and the resources FEMA brings and the attention to our State.

One of the things we recognize is that the work is just beginning. I see my colleague from Louisiana, and I don't know of anyone in this Chamber who better understands about recovering from a widespread disaster.

I thank and acknowledge the thousands of Arkansans who made a difference.

One of the underappreciated groups I want to mention—they probably don't get enough notoriety, even though this may sound kind of silly—is the TV weather people. As soon as the storms were in the area, they broke from their normal broadcasting and they went with wall-to-wall coverage. I talked to so many folks in Mayflower, Vilonia, and other areas who said: Hey, we watched on TV, and we could see exactly where that storm was, and that is what saved us because we knew it was coming.

The sirens were going. I was at a dinner with some friends of mine in Little Rock, and we heard the sirens, we heard the weather radio go off, and sure enough we turned on the television and we watched it too, just like everyone else.

The Department of Emergency Management has been off-the-charts good. There is a man there named David Maxwell who unfortunately has a lot of experience with this, but ADEM has been phenomenal. We have a system in Arkansas called Code Red, and that got activated and worked very well. The various elected officials—the county judges, et cetera—all came together.

We also, obviously, had first responders who rolled in immediately, and that was great. General Wofford of the Arkansas National Guard activated 54 guardsmen. They showed up and did their duty. And it is so reassuring to the communities when they see those men and women in uniform. First, they know they have a lot of training and a lot of experience, and it stabilizes things.

The other thing I noticed when I pulled up was that there were police cars and firetrucks and everything from what seemed like every jurisdiction in Arkansas. So it was really great to see that.

Some of the unsung heroes in this are just everyday, ordinary Arkansans, just everyday citizens. They came and brought their chainsaws. They checked their kids out of school to go help, and they rolled out and really streamed in to help.

There are really too many other folks to mention from some of the State agencies that are really underappreciated—the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; the Forestry Commission, which had people there clearing the way and knocking down things; the highway department; the utilities. As always, the utilities sprung into action. Even though power was down for a pretty good while—I think we had about 35,000 customers or so without power for a little while, but the utilities people got that taken care of. They got their folks from other States to come in, as we do. Entergy is our largest single electric utility in the State, and they brought people in from other States and got their contractors going.

I noticed also the churches. The churches really are prepared for this. It is part of their mission. I did notice the State Baptist Convention has what they call a mobile mass feeding unit. In the first 3 days they fed 4,300 hot meals in Vilonia alone. I don't know what else they were doing in other places, but it was great for the volunteers who were helping and also the families there to be able to go and get a hot meal. Of course, the Salvation Army and Red Cross—all of them really rolled out and helped.

Again, these two Senators who are here in the Chamber with me today have been through these tragedies before. They know the insurance industry rolls out and sets up temporary units. I saw lots of insurance folks with clipboards and cameras and all the things they needed.

The wireless companies came and put up temporary towers because a lot of those were knocked down. There were charging stations for folks.

Walmart is the largest company based in Arkansas, and they came with truckloads of water, diapers, snacks, various kinds of donations, baby wipes, batteries, and flashlights. Whatever people needed, it seemed as though Walmart was there with a truck to offload and really help people do what they needed to do.

Tyson Foods is another of our great Arkansas companies. They have a program they call Meals that Matter, and they do three meals a day. I saw their trucks at the Mayflower school where they were set up. I saw this big Tyson truck just sitting there, and I knew everybody was scurrying around doing other things at other trucks, and I asked: What is that one for? And I heard that one was just full of ice. They have learned through these tragedies and other places they go that ice is in very short supply, and they know that keeping things cold and giving people something cool to drink is very important.

I could talk about this for a long time, seeing those people and seeing what they have gone through. I was there the next morning with the Governor and the attorney general and a number of others, and it was very emotional. You talk to some folks, and they are grieving for the loss of their loved one or their next-door neighbor in one case. I talked to a man who had lost his mother. At the same time, others are rejoicing to be safe and to have their lives and the lives of their children.

One man I talked to—I never even got his name, but I think he was stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base—said he looked out his front door and saw the storm bearing down on the house and there wasn't any way to avoid it. He grabbed his kids, threw them in the bathtub, got some blankets, covered them all up—including himself—in the bathtub. He said that for about 45 seconds it sounded as if they had an F–16 in their house. When it finally stopped, he took the blankets off, and at that point they weren't in the bathroom anymore, they were in the garage. The roof had collapsed and they couldn't get out. Before long, they heard some neighbors calling for them, and they were able to dig a tunnel and get those three girls out and then he got out. They came out of it with just scratches, but it is an amazing story of perseverance.

There is a little hardware store in Mayflower called H&B True Value Hardware, and that building was really shaken to its foundation. It is a total wreck, but the merchandise was good. This man's entire career, his entire working life is right there in that building, that local hardware store he is going to turn over to his daughter one day. His daughter was there with her children, and they were getting their merchandise out and trying to get it into some sort of storage so it could be safe while they rebuild. That is a real-life matter for them, so we tried to help there.

I remember standing out by the curb in front of what used to be a home. It was just a pile of rubble. At first, when you look at that, all you see is debris. Your eyes can't even focus on it. You don't even know what you are looking at. But when you sit and take a moment and look—I looked down and saw a ceiling fan motor. The blades were all

gone, but there was a ceiling fan motor. And, gosh, right there I saw Legos mixed in the yard. There was an upside-down sink right there on the pavement. There was a family portrait—whether it was from this family, that family, or a family from a mile away, who knows, but nonetheless a family portrait, just a color photo lying there in the middle of the street.

Another of the things I saw as I stood there looking at what used to be a house—there was the front door, the doorframe, the brick, and sort of a stoop with the steps going up to the house, but there was no house there. All that was left was that doorframe. You think about that. Think about those people, and their house is completely gone. They have to rebuild.

I did hear a story—I didn't talk to the people, but a story was going around among some of the volunteers who were working about a family who survived and their dog survived. The way the dog survived is that as the tornado was hitting their home, they actually grabbed the dog by the collar. He was about to fly out the window or what was left of the house, and not only were they holding on for dear life, but they held on to the dog, and they all made it.

A lot of times you would go up to where a house was and it would be just a concrete slab. That is all there was. You just look at that and think, how did anybody survive that? But they did, in most cases.

I went to the farm of a friend of mine, a guy named Preston Scroggins, whom I have known a long time. He is a pillar-of-the-community kind of person there in Vilonia. I went to his home and saw that he had lost everything. He lost his home, lost all of his vehicles. He had a big farm shop—what we call a shop—which is a metal building with steel girders in it. And I have never seen this before with a tornado. When they built that metal building, of course they build these girders to hold it up, and then there is the siding type of stuff on the sides, the roofing, which is all metal. Of course the steel was twisted, and that is pretty bad, and it takes a lot of force to twist steel like that. But what I had never seen before is that the footings of the building, which were these huge concrete balls—they dug a hole, filled it with concrete, and stuck the steel girders in them to create the footings—these balls of concrete were actually picked up out of the Earth by that tornado. They were actually picked up and set down a few feet away from the big hole in the ground. That is an amazing amount of force, and that is what an EF–4 does. This tornado didn't just knock down buildings; it obliterated them.

The beautiful thing about our people is that it did not obliterate their dreams. We talked to one woman who said: This was my dream house. But the amazing thing was—and a new phrase has been created out of this—we heard people saying over and over that they were Ark strong because people in our State are resilient. They are strong people. They are scrappers. And part of being strong is to pull yourself up by your bootstraps and dust yourself off and go out and do more that day to improve what you have and work for your family.

But another element of being strong is neighbor helping neighbor, and we saw that in abundance in Arkansas. To sit there in your front yard with no worldly possessions left—your truck looks as though it has been beaten by 20 men coming at it with hammers and beating on it, your house is in ruins and there is nothing left—and then to look at me and say, ''Well, it is just stuff,'' it takes a strong person to do that. That is someone who has the right perspective.

I saw the bravery, the selflessness, and the generosity, and now you know why I am so very proud to be the Senator for these amazing people.

I am also proud of the Senate because it wasn't too long ago we voted for disaster relief in this body. We now have money sufficient to cover this and other disasters. I wish I could say this is going to be the last one for the year, but everyone knows it will not be.

I will close with a psalm.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures.

There are green pastures as part of this, and our people have found those and will continue to be finding those as we go through this.

He leads me beside the still waters.

It is a very comforting thing, and they need to be comforted right now.

He restores my soul.

One thing I looked up is the definition of ''soul.'' According to Webster's, it is a nonphysical aspect of a person. It is a person's emotional and moral nature, where the most private thoughts and feelings are hidden, the complex of human attributes that manifest as consciousness, thought, feeling, and will.

He restores my soul; he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death—

I can guarantee those people in Arkansas know they have walked through the valley of the shadow of death—

I will fear no evil; for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

The attitude of the people in my State is, even though it has been a difficult week, their cup is overflowing and those blessings continue to come.

Surely, your goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Having that eternal perspective is going to get people through.

I thank the Presiding Officer and my colleagues for all the best wishes and the willingness to help and offers of assistance and all that makes up the Senate family.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I wish to respond to my good friend from Arkansas. Where he lives and where I live we know way more about tornadoes than we would like to know. Our friend from Louisiana knows about tornadoes and hurricanes both.

We had a massive tornado in Joplin, MO, not too far away from these tornadoes in the last week, in fact, in Baxter Springs and Quapaw, along with tornados in Arkansas and Mississippi, but that tornado was 3 years ago, I believe next week, and there was massive destruction. But the first responders were your neighbors. Before anybody else can get there, your neighbors are there, thinking of getting that man out of the garage with his three little girls and your neighbors beginning to help you collect those few things that are left—that may just be stuff, but it is your stuff. It is pictures and things that can't be replaced, but what can't be replaced are the lives which are saved, and what can't be replaced are the lives which are lost—and people will live with that strategy. No matter how resilient, that is a tragedy that lasts forever. For all those families affected this week, the ones Mr. PRYOR has talked to and others have talked to—in the hometown of two of our colleagues from Mississippi, Tupelo hit by a tornado—these are tragic moments when communities and families and neighbors come together. That and faith, as Senator PRYOR said, are what help people get through this.

CARING FOR AMERICA'S HEROES ACT

Madam President, this is National Mental Health Awareness Month. It just started today.

Senator STABENOW and I have introduced some legislation this week, Caring for America's Heroes Act, that would look at what we are doing in the military. We are looking carefully at the military as it relates to what we are doing to help our veterans and to help those who serve.

I was at Fort Leonard Wood, in Waynesville, MO, just a few days ago, talking to the hospital personnel there about mental health issues as they relate to the many new inductees who come there and as to the full-time force and the retirees who come there.

The act Senator STABENOW and I are introducing this week would treat mental health conditions like other health conditions for spouses, dependents, and for retirees who now have a limit on what can be done and how

many hospital days they can stay for mental health that is not the same limit for anything else. There is no justifiable reason for it not to be the same limit. I think we are going to have good support from the Defense Department as we work to try to get this done, to just simply ensure that military dependents and retirees who were covered under TRICARE, for instance, are treated in the same manner for inpatient mental health services as they would be for any other injury or any other kind of health issue. Bringing those to par with others is important.

The National Institutes of Health estimates that one out of four adults in American has a behavioral health problem and if diagnosed can almost always be treated. I asked the Surgeon General of the Army at a hearing just a few days ago if that one out of four would relate to the military as well. Her view was as follows: Yes, we recruit from the general population. We don't have any reason to believe those numbers aren't reflected in our population as well.

So as we move forward, we need to be sure, in Mental Health Awareness Month—and in a month where, as in every month, we should be always mindful of our veterans and retirees—that we are pursuing those solutions for them as we are for the country generally. Hopefully, we will be able to work with the Defense Department and get this one gap closed in the very near future.

HEALTH CARE

I wish to speak about where we are on health care. I know there was an attempt in recent days to take a victory lap, and maybe again today, over the number of people to sign up.

I will say one more time, I don't think that is the way you can measure this. I said when the Web site wouldn't work, we can't measure this by whether the Web site works because surely the Web site will eventually work. Frankly, we shouldn't measure this by how many people sign up because the people who sign up don't have any other option. Their option is to not sign up at all or to sign up. That is not much of a choice for most people. I am going to talk in a minute about a couple people who decided they don't have a reasonable choice, so they are not signing up for anything.

We need to be sure this government does what is necessary to create access to what has been the best health care system in the world. We all want people to have access to that system. The question truly is, Are we doing that the right way?

Polling clearly shows that people don't think we are doing that the right way. The President's numbers reflect that. The Kaiser Family Foundation poll shows that just 38 percent of people think the law is working as intended; 57 percent say it is not working the way the White House had hoped.

I would think 100 percent would think it is not working the way the White House had hoped. Surely, the rollout, the signup—we can talk all we want about how many people sign up. There is a debate going on right now over in the House of Representatives this week about they signed up, but did they pay.

According to the House Commerce Committee, insurers tell them that only two-thirds of the people who have signed up have paid. If they don't pay, they are not signed up and they don't have coverage. I don't think any insurance works that way.

That same committee's report said only 25 percent of paid enrollees are within the crucial age range, which is 18 to 34.

For this to work, we have to have people who are young and healthy sign up as well. Why isn't that happening? The original estimate was we need 40 percent. We appear to have 25 percent. What do we need to do?

Why is it the fact that insurance costs more relative to everybody else insured for young people than it ever has before by the law? That would maybe explain why young people aren't signing up. Prior to January 1 of this year, if someone were young and healthy, they might pay 20 percent of what the person at the other end of the spectrum was paying. Now they have to pay at least 33 percent. Maybe that is why those people aren't signing up.

Of course, the workforce impact of people who have part-time jobs because full-time jobs are covered, jobs of more than 30 hours—the House recently passed the Save America Workers Act to help increase these wages by saying: No, it is not a 30-hour standard. It should be a 40-hour standard. I am a cosponsor of the Senate bill that would do that same thing Senator COLLINS has been advocating for months now.

The unintended consequences in the workplace are not fair to American families. They are not fair to American workers. We could do something about one of those unintended consequences by just saying: Wait a minute. The 40-hour workweek that we have always said was full-time work should still be the 40-hour workweek, not the new 30-hour workweek.

The emergency contractor hired to repair the Web site said it is going to cost $121 million to repair the Web site, which is a whole lot more than the $94 million already spent to create the Web site. I wonder what would have happened if we had taken that many millions of dollars and bought insurance for the people we were trying to move from uninsured to insured.

I will give about three more examples. My time is limited on the floor today, and I have this down to a handful of examples of people we have heard from in the last few days about families who are dramatically impacted. Surely, there is a good story out there to tell, but there are lots of stories, and no matter what anybody says, these stories over and over turn out to be tragedies for families.

Randy and his wife from Mexico, MO, had a plan they liked, but they received a cancellation notice in October of last year. He went on to the exchange but found on the exchange he would have to pay over $600 a month more in premiums and face deductibles that were $3,500 higher than they had been in the past—so a $600 increase in premiums and $3,500 higher deductibles.

The cheapest plan available to Randy and his wife would have them paying $14,000 in premiums a year and they would have an $11,000 deductible before the insurance would pay anything—$25,000.

Randy and his wife decided: That is not insurance at all, so we are not going to have insurance. They found the best thing he could find, found what was available, and decided it clearly wouldn't work. And that wouldn't work for any us either. If it was going to cost $25,000 annually before a single thing was covered, we wouldn't think that was insurance, and that was the best thing Randy from Mexico, MO, could find.

Neal lost his job 2 years ago and decided to go back—Neal is from Raymore, MO. He decided to go back to school full time. He has nerve damage in his back and takes several medications. His doctor prescribed 120 pills a month, but his insurance plan will only pay for 100 pills a month.

Neal said not only does he have pain he didn't have before, but he says: There is nothing I can do about it. He says: Nobody wants to help. The doctor says I need 120 pills a month. The insurance says they are not going to let me have more than 100. I think he wishes this was between him and his doctor instead of between him and his insurance company.

Myron from Hannibal, MO, and his family have annual premiums that went from $2,200 to $6,500—a $4,300 increase. He found his doctor is no longer in the network. He doesn't want to have a new doctor. He liked his old insurance, but it was canceled, and he can't get to the doctors he used to use with his new insurance.

Campus problems: A young healthy son on campus. His insurance was $550 a semester last semester. This year it is $770 a semester so he can have the same insurance that in all likelihood he will not use because he is, after all, young and healthy, but the 40-percent increase is an increase the law almost requires. The law went from five different categories of people to be insured to three, and the top one can't pay more than three times what the bottom pays.

One final story. Dennis is from Dexter, MO, near Missouri's bootheel. He is

an insurance broker. He says he has lots of stories he could tell, but the one that came to mind that he told us about this week was people who had a nationwide network of doctors in a plan he used to sell now are transitioned to a network that is much smaller and it only works in the State you reside in.

Missouri has many States that touch it. As many as eight States touch our State, so almost everybody in our State lives on or near a border. If you live on or near the border in the exchange, you cannot go to the doctor or hospital, in all likelihood, that may be 10 miles from where you are because it is not in your State. When I was first told that, I simply didn't believe it, and the more we checked into it the more we found out that is what people were finding over and over. The policies they could get did not allow them to go a reasonable distance if they had to cross a border.

So we have work to do. I hope we can do it. I think there are ways we can work together, but the real thing we have to solve is better health care for families and affordable health care and health insurance for families. It is not happening right now. I hope we move to a better place.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Louisiana.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. VITTER. Thank you, Madam President.

I come to the floor again to urge consideration and a vote, and a positive vote, on my no-Washington exemption from ObamaCare proposal.

I think the first rule of American democracy should be that whatever Congress chooses to impose on America it lives by itself; whatever laws Washington passes, it lives by itself. That should be the rule across the board, and that should certainly include health care and ObamaCare. But that is not the case.

That is not the case at all, because there is a Washington exemption from ObamaCare. There are special-interest Washington subsidies under ObamaCare that the average American doesn't get in any way, shape, or form. As it relates to health care and ObamaCare, I think the rule should be simple: The baseline plan, the fallback position for all Americans is what we live by. Under ObamaCare that was first during the debate called the public option, but then it came to be known as the exchanges. That should be the plan we all live by and our staff live by and the White House and top members of the administration live by—no special exemption, no special deal, no special subsidy, no special treatment.

That was the intent of an amendment, and that is actually the clear language of an amendment that actually passed this body and passed the process and became part of ObamaCare, thanks to the leadership of Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY and others, and I certainly strongly supported the amendment. There was a clear amendment added to ObamaCare in the Senate that said every Member of Congress, all of our staff, have to go to the so-called exchanges for our health care. The problem is on the way to implementing that, after passage of the bill, folks around here understood what that meant and so they watered down and amended that language through the back door by administrative fiat in an illegal way.

They got the President and his administration to issue a special rule that took all of the sting out of that amendment. That rule did two things: First of all, it came up with a mechanism whereby a lot of congressional staff don't even have to go to the exchanges at all; and secondly, this illegal rule gave Members of Congress a special subsidy to go to the exchanges that no other American gets at comparable income levels, no one else gets, completely unique.

In addition, the administration, top members of the administration, such as Cabinet officials and top White House aides, have never been subjected to anything like the same rule.

Again, I think we should come back to what almost all Americans feel should be the first rule of American democracy: What is good for America has to be good for Washington. What is imposed on America needs to be imposed first and foremost on Washington, with no special exemptions, no special subsidies, no special carve-outs, no special deals, and that is what my no-Washington exemption from ObamaCare proposal is about. Every Member of Congress, our staff, and the White House and top administration officials should go to the exchanges for our health care, with no special deal, no special exemption, no special subsidies.

I have been fighting for simply a full debate and vote on this for 6 months now, and unfortunately have been completely shut out of any vote. This started as soon as the administration announced its special illegal rule to get around this provision of ObamaCare late last year, and as soon as that was announced, I said: This is wrong. We need to address this. We need to stop this. I proposed my clarifying language, and I brought up that language as an amendment on the floor as soon as I could. It was in September of last year on the Portman-Shaheen bill which is back on the floor now, and after a lot of back and forth, the majority leader finally agreed: Fine, we will have a vote on the Vitter amendment on this subject. In fact, Senator REID was quoted in The Hill on September 17 of last year: ''What I said I will do is we'll vote on Vitter,'' meaning my no-Washington-exemption language, '' . . . as senseless as that is.''

I appreciate that endorsement of the proposal.

''I mean, we'll go ahead and do that.''

So he agreed to that vote on Portman-Shaheen. That was reported the same day by Bloomberg on September 17:

> Reid said on the Senate floor that a vote would be allowed on the Vitter proposal as long as Republicans agreed to consider a yet-to-be unveiled Democratic counterproposal that would be offered as a side-by-side or second-degree amendment.

And also that same day in CQ:

> Reid said Tuesday he was willing to give Senator David Vitter, R-LA, a vote on his proposal to force more government workers onto health care exchanges and to pay the premiums themselves . . .

In addition, at the same time the next day, September 18, and the day following, September 19, Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN said the same thing. Senator SHAHEEN was on the Senate floor September 18 saying: Great, we will give Senator VITTER his vote. I have no problem with that. Senator PORTMAN, September 19, the same thing.

> My understanding is that there has been a general agreement to have a vote on the Vitter amendment. That is something I have heard on the floor from leadership.

Well, as we all know, that agreement never materialized, was never honored. I have never gotten that vote. It is now 6 months later, and I am simply asking for a full debate and a fair up-or-down vote on this important issue.

Look, it is a free country. People don't have to agree with me, but let's have a vote. We voted yesterday on something that we have voted and revoted multiple times at the majority leader's insistence.

I am asking for one vote on this important issue that the American people care about. We voted and revoted on things multiple times. I am asking for one clear vote on this issue. After the majority leader agreed to a vote on this amendment that I never got in September, a couple months later when I was revisiting the issue, he said: Okay. Well, you can have a vote, but it has to be the only vote in this Congress.

Well, I resisted that at the time, but I will take that one vote. Can we have one vote on this important issue this Congress? Can we have a modicum of free expression and open debate and an open amendment process on the Senate floor? Can we have one vote on this issue that the American people certainly care about? That is what I am asking. I am asking for the majority leader to honor his commitment. That is what I am pushing for. That is what I will continue to push for, which is why I am filing the amendment to the Portman-Shaheen bill. And again, I am filing it to this bill for one clear reason: That is the context in our previous

consideration of Portman-Shaheen where I was told we agreed to having a vote on this issue. We will have the vote. I am simply asking for that commitment to be honored.

I also care deeply about other important issues, including energy issues, moving forward with a very important jobs project for America, the Keystone XL Pipeline; and because of that, when I saw the majority leader's recent proposal that we move ahead on Portman-Shaheen with five energy-related votes, one of which would clearly be the Keystone XL Pipeline, I certainly took that very seriously. That is also an important issue and it deserves a vote. It has had votes in the past, but that needs to be addressed. So as soon as I saw that—and again, this is an offer by the majority leader—a hotline request that we now consider the Portman-Shaheen bill and limit considerations to five energy-related amendments, that would be chosen by the Republican leaders—as soon as I saw that hotline and that offer, I called the Republican leader to make sure of two points—two points that I care about quite a bit—No. 1, that one of those amendments would be a very substantive amendment on the Keystone Pipeline, not general, vague, sense-of-the-Senate language, but binding language that would approve, without the President's involvement, this very important jobs project; and No. 2, that at least one of the other amendments was an important matter within the jurisdiction of the EPW Committee on which I serve as ranking member.

The Republican leader absolutely agreed that was the case. Yes, absolutely, once we lock in this unanimous consent request by Leader REID, one of those votes would absolutely be a binding proposal about the Keystone Pipeline. Another would clearly be an important matter from the jurisdiction of the committee on which I serve as ranking member on EPW. So those are important matters and those are significant votes.

So I will set aside temporarily my pursuit of this no-Washington-exemption vote. I promise I will be back to it. I promise I will use every reasonable opportunity to get that vote which was promised to me last September, 6 months ago and counting; but I believe we should move forward with Majority Leader REID's proposal that he made as a hotline request this morning.

I offer that as a unanimous consent agreement, so we can lock it down and move forward, and move forward with this Keystone vote, move forward with these other energy votes, and then move forward beyond that, hopefully to a vote on the no-Washington-exemption language very soon. So I make as a unanimous consent request Majority Leader REID's own proposal, that there be a unanimous consent agreement on S. 2262, the energy efficiency bill; that we move to its immediate consideration; that the only amendments in order be five amendments to be offered by the Republican leader or his designee related to energy policy, with a 60-vote threshold on adoption of each amendment; and that following the disposition of these amendments, the Senate will proceed to a vote on passage of the bill as amended, if amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes in response to the Senator from Louisiana after I have responded to his unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I would only ask for the opportunity to respond to the response to the unanimous consent request before the assistant majority leader proceeds, but I have no objection otherwise to his speaking after that for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. MCCAIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. What is the request?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, first, reserving the right to object, what the Senator from Louisiana has characterized as the majority leader's position on the pending legislation, S. 2262, has not been stated by the majority leader, and I suggest that the Senator from Louisiana speak to his leadership and work with the majority leader to resolve differences on amendments. I object.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, reclaiming the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, let me read the exact text of the hotline. A hotline is a message that goes out to all Senators.

> The Majority Leader in consultation with the Republican Leader would like to enter into a unanimous consent agreement on S. 2262, the Energy Efficiency bill. The only amendments in order would be 5 amendments to be offered by the Republican Leader or his designee, related to energy policy, with a 60 vote threshold on adoption of each amendment. Following the disposition of these amendments, the Senate will proceed to a vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended.

That is clearly an expression of the majority leader's proposal in consultation with the Republican leader. That is what was sent to all Members of the Senate—at least on our side—after a personal discussion between the majority leader and the Republican leader.

Just to be crystal clear, my unanimous consent right now is that hotline request that has been clearly characterized as the request of the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I know the Senator from Arizona is waiting to take the floor. I have waited for the Senator from Louisiana to finish his lengthy statement about several issues.

I ask unanimous consent to speak for only 5 minutes—and maybe less—and then I will leave and turn the floor over to the Senator from Arizona.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I would like 2 minutes to respond. I don't mean to delay the Senator from Arizona, but I would like 2 minutes to respond.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the Senator from Louisiana's request?

Mr. VITTER. There is an objection, and I propose an alternative unanimous consent that the Senator from Illinois speak for up to 5 minutes followed by me for up to 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, reserving the right to object—and I will not object—but I ask unanimous consent that following the completion of what was just discussed that the Senator from South Carolina and I be allowed 20 minutes for time to speak.

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object, I think there is a vote scheduled at 1:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is correct; there is a vote scheduled at 1:45 p.m.

Is there objection to the request from the Senator from Louisiana?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, because my friend from Arizona has waited patiently, I will turn the 5 minutes into 3 minutes.

The question is health insurance for Members of the Senate and their staff. The Senator from Louisiana said that we should not be treated any differently than anyone else, and he is right. It turns out that Members of the Senate and their staff go to get their health insurance through the insurance exchanges, just like 8 million other Americans, and we buy our health insurance not from a special little company but from the same list—in my case—of 100 different policies available to anyone working in the District of Columbia.

My wife and I chose Blue Cross Blue Shield; that was our choice. We are

paying a monthly premium. Our employer, the Federal Government, is contributing toward that premium like every other family in America where the employer makes a contribution, in this case the Federal Government, and the employee makes a contribution, in this case the Senator and his wife. We are being treated like everyone else.

Now he wants to take away the employer contribution not just for the Members of the Senate but also for our staffers. All these poor hard-working people want is health insurance like every other family. The Senator from Louisiana is going to make a statement of principle here: They shouldn't get employer contribution for their health insurance. What a noble and courageous position.

The question is whether he is going to turn back any Federal subsidy for his health insurance. I don't know if he does or not. It would be a show of good faith if he did.

I will stand here and fight for the right of Members of Congress to be treated like everybody else—buying health insurance on the exchanges from private insurance companies from policies that are available to everyone else with an employer contribution. I will fight for staffers—Democrats and Republicans—to have that same right.

The Senator from Louisiana has held up a bill on the floor of the Senate all week because he wants to call that amendment. Isn't it about time we get to the business of the Senate and do something? We will leave today and come back next week. I hope he will have some second thoughts about holding up the Senate for another week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I had the feeling I would need to respond to whatever was said, and I was certainly right.

I have a couple of points to make in order to set the facts right. First of all, my proposal does mean Washington is treated like all other Americans with regard to ObamaCare. That is not going on now. Many members of our staff don't have to go to the exchange. All others and Members of Congress get a huge taxpayer-funded subsidy that no other American at the same income level gets—no other American. And the Obama administration—White House officials—doesn't fall under that requirement at all to go to the exchange. That is No. 1.

No. 2, I don't take that subsidy. The assistant majority leader is a little late to the game. I made that decision months ago and announced it, so I do not take a subsidy.

No. 3, the assistant majority leader has just rejected a proposal of the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader. I don't know why they can't take yes for an answer. They are complaining about my holding up a bill that is not on the floor yet, and I am asking for unanimous consent, which they initiated, with regard to energy amendments.

I will read the exact text of the hotline again.

The Majority Leader in consultation with the Republican Leader would like to enter into a unanimous consent agreement on S. 2262, the Energy Efficiency bill. The only amendments in order would be 5 amendments to be offered by the Republican Leader or his designee, related to energy policy, with a 60 vote threshold on adoption of each amendment. Following the disposition of these amendments, the Senate will proceed to a vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended.

I don't know why we can't take yes for an answer here. I'm holding up the bill? The bill is not on the Senate floor yet. I am asking for a unanimous consent that was a discussion and an idea of the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader and now that is being objected to by the same sources who proposed it. This is silly.

Let's get on with the important votes. Let's get on with this important Keystone vote—a binding Keystone vote—and then in the future let's get on with important ObamaCare votes, which certainly includes my no-Washington-exemption proposal.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, how much time is remaining before the vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Eight and a half minutes.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that immediately following the votes Senator GRAHAM and I be allowed 20 minutes to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF THEODORE DAVID CHUANG TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND—Continued

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays, and I yield back any remaining time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Theodore David Chuang, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland?

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 127 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—42

Alexander	Enzi	McCain
Ayotte	Fischer	McConnell
Barrasso	Flake	Murkowski
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Burr	Grassley	Portman
Chambliss	Hatch	Risch
Coats	Heller	Roberts
Coburn	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Vitter
Cruz	Lee	Wicker

NOT VOTING—5

Boozman	Rubio	Tester
Moran	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, earlier today, I voted against confirmation for Theodore David Chuang to be U.S. district judge for the District of Maryland because of his involvement in the State Department's response to Congressional inquiries into the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya. The State Department refused to comply with a subpoena from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee without citing any valid privilege. I cannot support any nominee who played a part in stonewalling attempts by Congress to uncover the truth surrounding the events in Benghazi on September 11, 2012.

NOMINATION OF GEORGE JARROD HAZEL TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the Hazel nomination.

Does anyone yield back their time?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of George Jarrod Hazel, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland?

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 128 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Barrasso	Grassley	Nelson
Begich	Hagan	Paul
Bennet	Harkin	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Pryor
Blunt	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Heitkamp	Reid
Boxer	Heller	Risch
Brown	Hirono	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Inhofe	Rubio
Cardin	Isakson	Sanders
Carper	Johanns	Schatz
Casey	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Chambliss	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Coats	Kaine	Sessions
Coburn	King	Shaheen
Cochran	Kirk	Shelby
Collins	Klobuchar	Thune
Coons	Landrieu	Toomey
Corker	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Lee	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Manchin	Vitter
Cruz	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	McCain	Warner
Durbin	McCaskill	Warren
Enzi	McConnell	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Menendez	Wicker
Fischer	Merkley	Wyden
Flake	Mikulski	

NOT VOTING—5

Boozman	Moran	Tester
Levin	Stabenow	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to have one more recorded vote. The next vote will be on Monday at 5:30. We will have two votes at that time.

NOMINATION OF JANICE MARION SCHNEIDER TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the Schneider nomination.

The legislative clerk reported the nomination of Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the nomination.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Heitkamp	Reid
Boxer	Heller	Risch
Brown	Hirono	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Cardin	Kaine	Schatz
Carper	King	Schumer
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coats	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Collins	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Coons	Levin	Walsh
Corker	Manchin	Warner
Crapo	Markey	Warren
Donnelly	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Durbin	Menendez	Wyden
Feinstein	Merkley	
Flake	Mikulski	

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Cruz	Isakson
Blunt	Enzi	Johanns
Burr	Fischer	Johnson (WI)
Chambliss	Graham	Kirk
Coburn	Grassley	Lee
Cochran	Hoeven	McCain
Cornyn	Inhofe	McConnell
Paul	Scott	Toomey
Portman	Sessions	Vitter
Roberts	Shelby	Wicker
Rubio	Thune	

NOT VOTING—4

Boozman	Stabenow	
Moran	Tester	

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF SUZAN G. LEVINE TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the LeVine nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Suzan G. LeVine, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the LeVine nomination.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Suzan G. LeVine, of Washington, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from South Carolina as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BENGHAZI

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, 19 months ago a terrible thing happened in Benghazi, Libya. Four brave Americans were murdered, and the issue has not only not been resolved but as each of the last 19 months has ensued, the issue of how and under what circumstances this heinous crime was committed continues. The Senator from South Carolina and I, the Senator from New Hampshire, and some others, have vowed we will never give up on this issue until the truth is known and the people who perpetrated it are brought to justice.

We have seen another page turn in this chapter of coverup and obfuscation by this administration by the belated—19 months later—release of the following emails. The first one we will not pay much attention to. This is from Benjamin Rhodes, who is supposed to be the public affairs officer for the National Security Council. In fact, he is obviously the propaganda organ. The goals, as he states them, are to underscore these protests are rooted in an Internet video and not a broader failure of policy.

I tell my colleagues that was not a fact. That was not a fact. There was no evidence these protests were rooted in an Internet video. In fact, the station chief before these talking points were made up sent a message that this is not—not—a spontaneous demonstration.

To show that we will be resolute in bringing people who bring harm to Americans to justice, and standing steadfast through these protests; to reinforce the President's strength and steadiness—that is all about the Presidential campaign. It is not about trying to find out who perpetrated this heinous crime. It is not about trying to respond to the people who committed these acts.

In fact, because of the coverup and the obfuscation and now 19-month delay, not a single person who was responsible for the murder of these four brave Americans has been brought to justice, as the President promised they would be.

Yesterday Mr. Carney said the release of this information had nothing to do with the attack on Benghazi. My friends, I have heard a lot of strange things in my time, but that has to be the most bizarre statement I have ever heard. This is all about a Presidential campaign. This is all about an effort to convince the American people the President of the United States had everything under control.

The next day, on the Sunday talk shows, Susan Rice said Al Qaeda had been decimated. False; that the embassy was safe and stable and secure. False. And of course the whole issue of blaming an Internet video lasted on and on for a couple of weeks when it was clear the evidence did not indicate that.

I yield to my friend from South Carolina on this issue, and then I will return.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. I thank my colleague.

To remind the body of what we are talking about, this email was released as a result of a lawsuit, and not voluntarily by the White House. In August of last year, the House of Representatives and the committees of jurisdiction subpoenaed all documents related to Benghazi and basically were stiff-armed.

Senators MCCAIN, AYOTTE, and I have written enough letters to destroy a small forest to the White House with virtually nothing to show for it. A private organization called Judicial Watch sued under the Freedom of Information Act, and an independent judiciary—thank God for that—ordered this White House to disclose this email just days ago. Knowing the email was going to come out, the White House provided it to the Congress a few days ago.

What does that tell us? That tells us they did not want anyone to know about this email. They talk about 25,000 documents they have provided. It doesn't matter the number of documents they provided to the Congress. They could have provided us with the Benghazi phone book. It is the relevance of the documents and the significance of the documents. The reason they did not want anyone—me and anyone else—to know about this email is because it is the smoking gun that shows that people at the White House level—these are people who work at the White House for the administration—were very intent on shaping the story about Benghazi away from what they knew to be the truth.

Here is the problem for the White House. This was 7 weeks before an election. President Obama had said repeatedly: Bin Laden is dead, Al Qaeda is on the run, the war is receding, my foreign policy is working. Many of us were critical of President Obama's foreign policy, particularly in Libya, because after Qadhafi fell, we really did nothing to secure the country.

Senator MCCAIN, myself, and a couple of other Senators—RUBIO—went in 2011 to Libya. We said in an op-ed piece if we don't get rid of these militias, Libya is going to become a safe haven for terrorists.

You have to understand this about the Benghazi consulate. It had been previously attacked in April of 2012.

The British Ambassador had been attacked in June of 2012. The British closed their consulate. The Red Cross closed their office because they had been attacked. And we have email traffic coming from Libya to Washington at the State Department level saying on August 16: We cannot secure the Benghazi consulate from a coordinated terrorist attack, and Al Qaeda flags are flying all over Benghazi.

What they did not want you to know is that the consulate in Benghazi was very unsecure, that everyone else had left the town, and that the numerous requests for security enhancements going back for months had been denied. They didn't want you to know because it would make the American people mad that the facility was so unsecure in such a dangerous area and people in Washington constantly ignored requests for additional security.

Here is what they wanted you to know:

. . . to convey that the United States is doing everything we can to protect our people and facilities abroad . . .

That, to me, is the worst of the whole email because they are trying to convey to the American people and the families of the fallen that: These things happened, but we did all we could to protect your family and those who served this Nation.

Nothing could be more untruthful about Benghazi than this statement that they did everything they could to secure the facility.

The question as to whether this email relates to Benghazi was the most offensive thing coming out of the White House in quite a while. No one else died. There was an attack on our Embassy in Cairo with property damage.

What did we think Susan Rice was going to be asked about on Sunday, 16 September? Everybody in the Nation wanted to know how our Ambassador and three other brave Americans died. To suggest they weren't trying to prepare her to talk about the deaths of 4 Americans is insulting to our intelligence, but the document itself tells us it was directed toward explaining Benghazi.

To show that we will be resolute in bringing people who harm Americans to justice . . .

That was part of what they wanted her to convey. No one else was hurt other than in Benghazi. So within the document itself, they are talking about reinforcing the view that we will go after those who harmed Americans. The only people who were harmed—the four people killed—were in Benghazi. So that is just a bald-faced lie. That is insulting our intelligence, and it really is disrespectful to those who died in the line of duty to suggest this email—which they would not give us without a court order—had nothing to do with the death of four Americans.

Mr. MCCAIN. I might add that all of the emails were supposed to be given to the Congress in return for the confirmation of Mr. Brennan as head of the CIA. They didn't do that.

Mr. GRAHAM. The bottom line is the goals set out in this email are to try to

convince the American people 7 weeks before an election: We had done everything possible to protect our people and facilities; ''to underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy.''

I am here to tell you—and I dare anybody to show where I am wrong—there is no evidence of a protest outside the compound that led to an eventual attack.

I have talked to the man in charge of security at Benghazi—the only survivor I have been able to talk to. He told me that when the Ambassador went to bed shortly after 9, there was nobody outside the compound. They would not have let him go to bed if there had been protesters, and they would have reported a protest up the chain of command.

Mr. MCCAIN. And the next day the station chief sent a message that there was ''not-slash-not spontaneous demonstration.''

Mr. GRAHAM. That was the 15th. So this is in real-time that people are reporting a coordinated terrorist attack. There was no protest. The video had nothing to do with this because there was no protest. And why would they suggest that? They would be far less culpable in the eyes of the American people and myself if, in fact, this was caused by a video we had nothing to do with, a protest we could not see coming. The truth is that this was a coordinated terrorist attack that you could see coming for months, and it was the result of a broader failure of policy. Why didn't they want to admit that? They were 7 weeks out. It undercuts everything they were trying to tell the American people about their foreign policy.

This is the smoking gun that shows they were consciously trying to manipulate the evidence to steer the story away from a coordinated terrorist attack of an unsecured facility and toward the land of an Internet video causing a protest. That, to me, is unacceptable and is clear as the sun rises in the east, for those who care.

I will end with this and turn it back over to Senator MCCAIN.

After this attack, President Obama said the following:

But everything that—every piece of information we get, as we got it, we laid it out for the American people.

I am here to tell you that statement has not borne scrutiny. The administration did not live up to this statement.

Here is another statement from Jay Carney:

I can tell you that the President believes that Ambassador Rice has done an excellent job as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, and I believe that—and I know that he believes that everyone here working for him has been transparent in the way that we've tried to answer questions about what happened in Benghazi . . .

If they were trying to be transparent about what was happening in Benghazi, why would they fail to provide the relevant information?

The information that we provided was based on the available assessment at the time.

I am here to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, they have not provided the relevant information. Why? Because the relevant information crumbles the story Susan Rice told on 16 September, crumbles the story of the President himself when weeks later he talked about a protest caused by a video that never happened. The reason they haven't shared this with us is because it exposes the lie of Benghazi.

I will end with this thought. We would not know today about an email on 14 September setting goals for Susan Rice to meet on 16 September to change the whole narrative if it were not for an independent judiciary and a private organization.

This White House has stiffed the Congress. Mostly, the media has been AWOL. But the reason we haven't stopped is because we met the families.

To any Member of the Congress who thinks Benghazi is a Republican conspiracy designed to help LINDSEY GRAHAM or anyone else get elected, why don't you go to the family members and explain to them what happened. Why don't you tell the family members that the government was up front and honest and see if they believe you.

This email that came from a court requiring the White House to disclose is devastating. It is devastating because it shows that 3 days after the attack, their goal was not to inform the American people of what happened but to shape the story to help the President get reelected. I hope and pray that matters to the American people, and I believe it does. And I hope and pray our friends on the Democratic side will start taking a little bit of interest.

I can tell you this about Senator MCCAIN and myself: When President Bush's policies in Iraq were crumbling, we did not have enough troops, and JOHN MCCAIN, to his credit, said that publicly and asked for the resignation of President Bush's Secretary of Defense because of failed policy.

When we discovered the abuses at Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib when it came to detainee policies, both of us said: The system failed. Don't believe it when they tell you this was a few bad apples.

Why did we do that? I have been a military lawyer for 31 years. It means a lot to me to adhere to the conventions we have signed up to.

Senator MCCAIN—if there were ever an American hero in the Senate, it is he. He has lived through a country that practices torture, and he did not want us to go down that road.

When we did those things, we were ''great Americans holding the system accountable and doing the country a service.'' Now, all of a sudden, we are ''just party hacks.''

I am here to say that what drove us then drives us now. When we ask people to serve in faraway places with strange-sounding names and to go out on the tip of the spear, we owe it to them to help them, to give them the best ability to survive. And if something bad happens, we owe their families the truth.

Just as in Iraq, they tried to shape the story in a fashion that did not bear scrutiny. It wasn't a few dead-enders; it was system failure that led to the collapse of Iraq. And thank God we changed tactics and we overcame our problems.

This Benghazi story is about a foreign policy choice called the light footprint that caught up with this administration. It is about an administration that said no to additional security requests because they didn't want to be like Bush. It is a story about an administration that is too stubborn to react to facts on the ground, that kept a consulate open when everybody else closed theirs, unsecured, believing that ignoring the problem would solve the problem.

We have now found evidence of their willingness and desire to change the narrative from a coordinated terrorist attack of an unsecured facility—something they really couldn't control, and they did the best they could 7 weeks before an election.

All I can say is if the shoe were on the other foot and this had been the Bush administration, it would be front-page news everywhere and our colleagues on the other side would be screaming. It is sad that it hasn't been news everywhere. It is sad that my Democratic colleagues in the House in particular have disdain for trying to find out what happened in Benghazi.

Mr. MCCAIN. And the fact is, I would say to my friend, the time has now come for a select committee. The time has now come because these talking points raise more questions than answers. It is time for a bipartisan, bicameral select committee to investigate the entire Benghazi fiasco and tragedy, and it needs to be done soon. The American people and the families of those brave ones who sacrificed their lives deserve nothing less.

My friend Senator GRAHAM mentioned the media. I would like to say thanks.

I would like to say thanks to FOX News. I would like to say thanks to some at CBS. I would like to say thanks to Charles Krauthammer and the handful of people who kept this alive when the ''mainstream media'' not only wanted to bury it but subjected, of course, as Senator GRAHAM just mentioned, him and me to ridicule.

I wish to go back for a second to this email. In response to questions yesterday by Mr. Carney, the White House Press spokesperson, if we look at this email and then look at what Mr. Carney said, it is an absolute falsehood. It is a total departure from reality. How does the President's spokesperson tell the American people something that is patently false?

The President's spokesperson, in regard to this email that says to show ''these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy''—what was he talking about? He says Rhodes' email ''was explicitly not about Benghazi.'' Well, then what was it about?

Then he goes on to say:

The fact of the matter is, there were protests in the region.

The talking points cited protests at that facility.

They didn't. The talking points did not cite protests at that facility—i.e, Benghazi.

The connection between protests and video—and the video turned out not to be the case—

It turned out not to be the case because it was never the case and no one ever believed it—

but it was based on the best information that we had.

He had no information that there was a spontaneous demonstration sparked by a video. That was manufactured somewhere. The American people and we need to know where those talking points came from that Susan Rice gave.

He goes on to say:

If you look at that document, that document that we're talking about today was about the overall environment in the Muslim world.

How could he say that and look at this email here? Talking about events in the Muslim world?

And of course he goes on to say, talking about Susan Rice:

She relied on her—for her answers on Benghazi, on the document prepared by the CIA, as did members of Congress.

Mr. Morell, the deputy head of the CIA at that time, said he was astonished to hear that there was reference made on all five Sunday morning shows that there was a hateful video involved.

So Mr. Carney is saying things that are absolutely false. The American people deserve better than that from the President's spokesperson whom they rely on for accurate information. When the bodies came home, and it was a moving event—I was there—the then-Secretary of State told members of the family and told me: We will get these people who were responsible for the hateful video.

That was a number of days later when it was absolutely proven to anyone's satisfaction there was no hateful video, and of course we still don't know what the final version of the talking points was that Susan Rice used on all the morning talk shows, who was the final arbiter of it. We know now that Mr. Rhodes played a very key role in that, and we need to know who gave her those talking points because they are patently false. If someone gave her those talking points, then why in the world did that person manufacture out of whole cloth information that was told to the American people?

There are a lot of points here, and we can get into some of the details, but the fact is that this is a coverup of a situation which was politically motivated in order to further the Presidential ambitions of the President of the United States. That is what this is all about. That is why comments and instructions were given in this email, because the narrative was: The tide of war is receding, Osama bin Laden is dead.

Secretary Susan Rice said at the time: Al Qaeda is decimated and the Embassy is safe and secure. None of those facts were true. Most importantly, we have five Americans who were killed. It is very clear that should not have happened, would not have happened if proper actions had been taken.

Most important now or just as important now is the fact that for the last 19 months this White House has been engaged in a coverup. It calls for a select committee to examine all of the facts, and as always happens in these kinds of scandals, the coverup is equally or sometimes worse than the actual action itself. The American people deserve to know the truth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Mr. President.

I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here, as regular viewers of the C–SPAN network know, for the 65th time, every week that the Senate is in session, to ask my colleagues in the Senate to wake up to the realities of climate change that surround us.

Here is what we know: We know the oceans and atmosphere are warming. By the way, that is measurement, not theory. We know sea level is rising. Again, that is measurement, not theory. We know oceans are becoming more acidic—again, a simple measurement. The potential that these changes have to disrupt economic growth and to disrupt global commerce is the subject of my remarks today, and it is those changes that make investors and corporate executives take climate change seriously.

We may not take climate change seriously, but corporate executives do. A world of shifting seasons and extreme heat hurts their bottom line. The world of drought-stricken farms and flooded cities, of raging wildfires and migrating diseases is not good for business. A recent article from the World Bank conveys the corporate outlook this way:

In corporate boardrooms and the offices of CEOs, climate change is a real and present danger. It threatens to disrupt the water supplies and supply chains of companies as diverse as Coca-Cola and ExxonMobil. Rising sea levels and more intense storms put their infrastructure at risk and the costs will only get worse.

Earlier this month executives from major American companies came to Washington for a roundtable discussion at the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change, which I lead with Congressman WAXMAN. Each of the companies present had signed the climate declaration of the Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy or BICEP. They see a low-carbon economy as a smart way to create new jobs and stimulate economic growth. More than 750 companies, nameplate American corporations such as eBay, Gap, Levi's, Nike, Starbucks, and many others have signed BICEP's climate declaration.

Kevin Rabinovitch is global sustainability director at Virginia-based candy company Mars, Incorporated, makers of the famous M&Ms, among other things. At the roundtable he told us Mars has a goal of eliminating fossil fuel energy use and greenhouse gas emissions companywide by 2040. In fact, just yesterday Mars announced it will build a 200-megawatt wind farm in Texas that will generate enough energy to power all Mars operations in the United States. I applaud this exciting step for Mars and the bold vision it represents.

But Mr. Rabinovitch told the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change:

. . . if other companies and governments don't adopt similar science based targets, our efforts will have limited effect on climate change. We cannot do it alone. This is why the business community needs Congress to get off the sidelines, to quit denying rudimentary science and abundant evidence. Improving energy efficiency reduces climate-altering carbon emissions, but it also—these businesses find—reduces operating costs.

Colin Dyer, the president and CEO of Jones Lang LaSalle, Incorporated, the second largest publicly traded commercial real estate brokerage firm in the world said:

Cost savings alone represent a compelling benefit of sustainable design, construction, and management. Jones Lang LaSalle put smart building management technology to work for the consumer goods giant Procter & Gamble.

According to Dyer:

P&G earned back its initial investment in the technology in three months and saw average energy cost savings of 10 percent annually. The program, which is being expanded,

also improved building systems reliability, supported the company's broader sustainability programs, and actually increased employee productivity.

Smart executives also understand how much their customers care about this. Rob Olson, vice president and chief financial officer of IKEA, said this:

From talking to our customers, we know that Americans are increasingly concerned about climate change as they experience events like Hurricane Sandy and the drought in California. They want to reduce the amount of energy they use in their home and they care about reducing waste and using less water.

This is not a new message from America's corporate sector. Last year the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change wrote to over 300 businesses and organizations about carbon pollution and climate change. The response was encouraging. Coca-Cola, headquartered in Georgia, wrote:

We recognize climate change is a critical challenge facing our planet, with potential impacts on biodiversity, water resources, public health and agriculture. Beyond the effects on the communities we serve, we view climate change as a potential business risk, understanding that it could likely have direct and indirect effects on our business.

Walmart, founded and headquartered in Arkansas, wrote this: ''We're committed to reducing our carbon footprint and we're working with our suppliers to do the same.''

Here is what Walmart said in its 2009 sustainability report:

Climate change may not cause hurricanes, but warmer ocean water can make them more powerful. Climate change may not cause rainfall, but it can increase the frequency and severity of heavy flooding. Climate change may not cause droughts, but it can make droughts longer. Every company has a responsibility to reduce greenhouse gases as quickly as it can. Currently, we are investing in renewable energy, increasing efficiency in our buildings and trucks, working with suppliers to take carbon out of products and supporting legislation in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Serious business leaders are looking for serious answers to the looming economic crisis of climate change. An article last month in the Harvard Business Review entitled ''How to Survive Climate Change and Still Run a Thriving Business'' outlines recommendations for companies looking to strengthen their supply chains and better understand their consumers.

Serious business leaders are also fed up with the denial apparatus that is run by the big carbon polluters. Major utilities PG&E, the Public Service Company of New Mexico, and Exelon all quit the U.S. Chamber of Commerce after a chamber official called for putting climate science on trial similar to the Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925. Large tech companies such as Apple and Yahoo also left the chamber.

One of the companies that came in to the Bicameral Task Force was North Carolina-based VF Corporation. You may not have heard of VF Corporation, but you have sure heard of their major brands. They make Lee, Wrangler, Nautica, North Face, and many other name brands. Letitia Webster is their director of global corporate sustainability, and they have a global perspective on climate change. Their customers around the world are concerned about climate change, particularly their younger customers, and VF wants to meet those customers' expectations for good citizenship. VF also needs cotton for all their clothing and they are worried about climate disruption to the cotton supply chain. ''Research tells us that continued climate change will make it more and more difficult for farmers to manage cotton crops and for companies to manage their supply chains.''

VF also provides very high performance clothing and equipment to high-performance outdoor athletes who train and compete in places where climate changes are already evident. Those athletes see the same changes as the 100 winter Olympic competitors from 10 countries who signed a letter of warning about climate change. Letitia Webster mentioned in particular the Khumbu Icefall which has closed Mount Everest to climbers for the first time. She is not the only one.

John All, a climber, scientist, and professor of geography at Western Kentucky University told the Atlantic magazine:

I am at Everest Base Camp right now and things are dire because of climate change. . . . The ice is melting at unprecedented rates and [that] greatly increases the risk to climbers. You could say [that] climate change closed Mt. Everest this year.

Tim Rippel is a climbing guide, and he blogged from Everest's base camp:

As a professional member of the Canadian Avalanche Association, I have my educated concerns. The mountain has been deteriorating rapidly the past three years due [to] global warming and the breakdown in the Khumbu Icefall is dramatic.

Ms. Webster warned of the costs of inaction, saying, ''It's too expensive not to take action.'' This is a North Carolina company, and I hope its message gets through to elected officials who represent North Carolina.

Senator HAGAN has already spoken passionately about the need to act on climate change. She gets it, but her colleagues on the other side of the aisle remain silent.

I visited North Carolina over the recess as part of a tour of the effects of climate change along the southeast coast. I flew out to where sea level rise is gnawing away at North Carolina's Outer Banks.

I visited the marine science facility at Pivers Island, where scientists from Duke University, the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State, East Carolina University, and of course NOAA, are studying aspects of sea level rise in North Carolina and the effects of ocean acidification on microbes that form the basis of the food web.

These are some of the world's leading scientists. They all know that these changes are driven by carbon pollution. There is no doubt. Unless North Carolina's elected officials think that their own universities are part of the big hoax some of our colleagues talk about, they had better pay attention to what is happening on the North Carolina coast.

I met with the North Carolina Coastal Federation at their coastal education center in Wilmington, NC. It was a bipartisan group joined together in concern over the exposure of their coastal communities to the rising seas. The ''North Carolina Sea-Level Rise Assessment Report'' prepared in 2010 by the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission's Science Panel on Coastal Hazards says:

The most likely scenario for 2100 AD is a rise of 0.4 meters to 1.4 meters (15 inches to 55 inches) above present.

By the way, that is what they call bathtub measures. That doesn't take into account what 55 inches of extra sea will do when it is heaped against the shore by a storm surge from a big tropical storm or hurricane.

I hope their congressional delegation in Congress is listening.

The biggest power producer in North Carolina is Charlotte-based Duke Energy. Duke worked through the U.S. Climate Action Partnership for climate change legislation. Duke actually pulled out of the National Association of Manufacturers because of that organization's denial of climate change. Duke's then-chief executive officer Jim Rogers said:

We are not renewing our membership in the NAM because in tough times, we want to invest in associations that are pulling in the same direction we are.

He said that NAM, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Republicans ''ought to roll up their sleeves and get to work on a climate bill. . . . '' Duke Energy might want to also consider whether North Carolina politicians are pulling in the same direction.

This is not complicated. Load up carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere and you load up heat in the atmosphere. We have known that since Abraham Lincoln was President. This is not a new discovery. Load up the heat, and the oceans warm up. That is not some theory either. You can measure it—with thermometers. When liquid warms, it expands, unless my colleagues want to repeal the law of thermal expansion. As the ocean expands and ice melts, up goes the sea level. It is up 6 inches at the tide gauge in Wilmington, NC, since 1954.

If my colleagues want to deny the 6-inch increase in the tide gauge in Wilmington, NC, let me explain to them what the North Carolina assessment

says about how you measure sea level rise:

[Sea-level rise] can be directly measured in a straightforward way. The longest record of direct measurement of sea level comes from tide gauges. A tide gauge is a device built to measure water level variations due to tides and weather, and to eliminate effects due to waves. A tide gauge can be as simple as a long ruler nailed to a post on a dock. More sophisticated instruments, like those used by NOAA, are usually placed in a stilling well, or a pipe, that protects a float connected to a recording device from waves. As tides rise and fall, the float's motion is recorded.

It is not complicated. Good luck denying that. When you fly over the North Carolina coast, you see lots of investment along the seashore. There are lots of houses, lots of hotels, condominiums, restaurants—an entire seafront economy that the larger North Carolina economy very much depends on.

What are my colleagues from North Carolina going to tell them about climate change: Don't worry. It is not real? Good luck with that. They are already measuring the sea level rise.

Those small businesses in North Carolina want to protect their storefronts from sea level rise just as VF Corporation wants to protect its cotton supply from drought. These North Carolina companies get the economic threat that climate change presents.

The frustrating thing here is that we can strengthen our economies and businesses by tackling the problem of climate change and sea level rise head-on, and we can leave things better, not worse, for the generations that will follow us—perhaps the simplest obligation that we hold, and one, by the way, at which we are presently failing. But if we are going to stop failing at that obligation and tackle this problem head-on, we have to wake up to reality. We have to put aside, once and for all, the toxic polluter-paid politics that infect Washington.

The denial campaign that is run by these polluters is as poisonous to our democracy as carbon pollution is to our atmosphere and oceans. America is suffering as a result of Congress being tangled in a web of lies and surrounded by a barricade of special interests. We have to break through that. It is a matter of truth, it is a matter of honor, and it is a matter of being effective at these real problems.

I yield the floor and thank the Presiding Officer, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2265

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, it is often said that foreign aid from America is to project American power and what America believes in. Unfortunately, over decades, the only thing consistent about foreign aid is that the money continues to flow regardless of the behavior of the recipients. This is extraordinary, and we have seen this decade after decade.

Studies will often show that 75 percent of foreign aid throughout many continents is simply stolen, taken in graft. The Mubarak family in Egypt is an example.

The point I would like to make today is if we are going to project what America stands for, if we want our money to go to people who are supporting activities that America is for, we should write that into the law. We have made attempts at this in the past.

Several years ago Senator LEAHY attached an amendment to foreign aid that says that countries need to be evolving towards democracy or showing an ability to go forward towards democracy. The problem is that every time we have restrictions on foreign aid, they are evaded. We always give an out. The President always has an out.

This week in Egypt, 683 people were condemned to death in one trial. Yet your money still flows to Egypt without interruption.

We have another contingency that says: If a country has a military takeover—if you have an election and then you have a military junta or a military takeover of the government—our aid should end. It didn't happen in Egypt when there was a military takeover.

The only consistency about foreign aid is that it flows to all countries regardless of behavior. It is the opposite of what many of the proponents say. Many of the proponents say that we do this so we can modulate behavior and try to improve and make things better around the world. Yet they steadfastly oppose restrictions on foreign aid.

I have a bill that I am going to ask—in a few minutes—for the Senate to unanimously approve. This is a bill that should be an easy lift for most Senators. This is a bill to support our ally Israel and to say to the Palestinian Authority that if you wish to continue to take American money—and many people don't realize this, but the American taxpayer gives hundreds of millions of dollars every year to the Palestinian Authority, and we supposedly have restrictions, but there is always an out. Guess what. They always get their money regardless of behavior.

What have I have been saying is, let's have some restrictions. If we are going to give money to the Palestinian Authority, shouldn't they agree to recognize the State of Israel? Shouldn't that be part of what goes on with this?

We now have a problem—and the reason this has become a more pertinent issue and something that has come to the forefront—because Hamas, a terrorist group in Gaza, is now aligning them with Fatah, the people who run the Palestinian Authority.

My question is: Are we now going to send money to a unity government? Part of the charter of Hamas is not only not to recognize Israel, but they are actually for the destruction of Israel.

This is what I would ask Americans and those who will object to the bill—because there will be an objection to my bill: How can you object to something that calls for the recognition of Israel as a state? How can you object to this and how can you continue to allow the flow of money to a group that calls for the destruction of Israel? They will say: Well, we have contingencies for that or we will stop it if they become part of or control the West Bank.

When I was in Israel a year ago, I asked everybody that question. I met with the Prime Minister of Israel, the President of Israel, the King of Jordan, and with the leader of the West Bank, Abbas. I met with all of these people and asked them: Can there be a separate peace? Can there be peace with the West Bank and peace with Gaza—a separate peace?

They all said: No, it has to be one peace.

I said to the Israeli side: If they are unified, will you negotiate with Hamas?

They said: No. They lob missiles at us. They are at war with us. They don't recognize our right to exist as a state. Not only that, they openly advocate for the destruction of Israel.

Realize that in the objection you will hear today, you will hear an objection that despite arguments to the contrary we will allow money to go to a unity government that will include Hamas.

I am simply asking that if we are going to send good money after bad—frankly, it is money we don't have. We have $1 trillion in debt. We have bridges falling down in our own country, and your government is sending hundreds of millions of dollars to the Palestinian Authority—which is now going to be unified with Hamas, without restrictions or with restrictions that have a hole so big you can drive a truck through them. This always happens.

Every contingency and every limitation on foreign aid that you think would be practical and reasonable always has an exception for the President to overcome. The President always does it so the only thing consistent about foreign aid is that money continues to flow.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we pass my bill, S. 2265, Stand With Israel. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 2265 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill

be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Reserving the right to object to Senator PAUL's request to discharge S. 2265 in the committee, this legislation Senator PAUL has been referring to has not been considered by the committee. It was just introduced in the last day or so, I think.

As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and on behalf of the Republican ranking member, Senator CORKER, who had to depart to return to Tennessee but otherwise would have joined me in making remarks, I come to the floor to express our opposition to an effort to circumvent the normal legislative process and deprive the members of our committee of the opportunity to decide whether to take up this legislation. The authorization to provide or cut U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority is clearly within the purview of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and it should have its members decide if it is appropriate, and it should be fully and openly considered by the committee.

This bill is a blunt-force instrument that would risk the collapse of the Palestinian economy in the West Bank. That is not in Israel's interests and it is not in our interests either. The bill would shift the burden of dealing with a failed state on its borders to Israel. That is certainly not my goal, and I hope it is not the goal of Senator PAUL either. Our goal should be to get back to a process and a negotiation toward a two-state solution that will allow Israel to live in peace and security.

We need to allow the parties—and particularly Mr. Abbas—the time to steer back toward a productive path to peace. To be clear, his time is limited. I am in agreement with Senator PAUL that President Abbas must ultimately choose between a future that envisions two States living side by side in peace and security or a destructive unity pact with a terrorist organization whose stated objective is to make sure there is no two-State solution.

A unity government—not a unity announcement but a unity government—between Fatah and Hamas has consequences that are clear under existing U.S. law. If Mr. Abbas definitely opens the door to Hamas exercising influence in the Palestinian Authority, I will encourage my colleagues to stand with me in exercising the existing legal authority to halt assistance to a government that includes parties that reject Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state and continues to support terrorism.

For those reasons, I must object to the Senator's request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Vermont.

DIFFERENCES OF OPINION

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, there has been a lot of criticism waged at the majority leader of the Senate, HARRY REID, for his discussion about the Koch brothers. That criticism of Senator REID is unfortunate. I think what Senator REID is trying to do is educate the American people about the disastrous Citizens United Supreme Court decision and what it has done by allowing billionaire families, such as the Koch brothers and Sheldon Adelson and others, to pump hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars into the political process in order to elect candidates in the House, in the Senate, and in the White House, who are working overtime against the best interests of the middle class and working families of this country and, at the same time, are working to provide even more tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires and large profitable corporations.

I think it is important, when we talk about the Koch brothers, not to make this discussion personal. It is not a personal discussion. It is a discussion about what the most powerful political family in this country believes. If they are spending hundreds of millions of dollars—and this is a family worth $80 billion, and they may end up spending, in fact, billions of dollars on campaigns—what is it they want? What do they believe? What do folks such as Sheldon Adelson believe, when they invite potential Republican candidates for President to come to Las Vegas for what has been called the Adelson primary, where he will listen to them and decide who he might support and spend hundreds of millions of dollars on in a Presidential campaign?

So I think it is important we know what the Koch brothers believe. Here is the best information I have. In 1980, as it turns out, David Koch, one of the two brothers, ran for Vice President of the United States on the Libertarian Party platform. What is interesting to me is to what degree the platform he ran on—which in 1980 got him 1 percent of the vote on the Libertarian ticket—to what degree that extremist set of positions has now become mainstream Republican today.

I want to take a few minutes to quote exactly what was in that 1980 platform so the American people can recognize to what degree ideas that at one point were considered extremist are now mainstream Republican. This is what was in the 1980 Libertarian Party platform upon which David Koch ran for Vice President:

> We urge the repeal of federal campaign finance laws, and the immediate abolition of the despotic Federal Election Commission.

What that means is the Koch brothers, and increasingly the Republican Party, now believe there should be no campaign finance laws, that Citizens United did not go far enough, and that the Koch brothers should be able to spend millions of dollars by giving that money directly to individual candidates. That is what the Koch brothers said in 1980. That is what many Republicans believe today.

Let me state an exact quote from the platform:

> We favor the repeal of the fraudulent, virtually bankrupt, and increasingly oppressive Social Security system.

There are many Republicans today who not only want to see cuts in Social Security but who ultimately want to privatize Social Security who believe it is unconstitutional for the U.S. Government to be involved in retirement benefits for seniors.

Libertarian Party platform, 1980:

> We oppose—

Listen to this one. This is really quite incredible:

> We oppose all personal and corporate income taxation, including capital gains taxes. We support the eventual repeal of all taxation.

Repeal of all taxation? That is the government. Basically, what they are saying, very boldly, straightforwardly—we have to respect their honesty—is they don't believe in government.

I have not heard any of my Republican colleagues say they want to abolish all taxation. That is not what they say and that is not what they believe. But on the other hand, it is important to note that the Ryan budget, just passed in mid-April in the House, provides a $5 trillion tax break over a 10-year period, mainly by cutting the top individual and corporate income tax rates significantly. In other words, at a time when the wealthiest people are doing phenomenally well at the same time as the middle class disappears and more and more people live in poverty, what my Republican colleagues believe is we should give more tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires.

The Koch brothers' position in 1980 was that they support—Libertarian Party platform:

> We support repeal of all laws which impede the ability of any person to find employment, such as minimum wage laws.

What does that mean?

Yesterday, we had a vote on the floor of the Senate which said that a $7.25 an hour minimum wage is a poverty wage; that people who are working 40 hours a week and are making $7.25 an hour are living in poverty; that they cannot bring up and raise families on those wages; and that if we raise the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour, we could increase the salaries of approximately 28 million Americans. On that vote to overcome a Republican filibuster, one Republican voted with members of the Democratic caucus, and we lost that vote.

What is interesting, it is not simply that almost every Republican voted against raising the minimum wage; what is more significant is that many

Republicans believe we should abolish the concept of the minimum wage.

Many of us know Senator TOM COBURN of Oklahoma to be an honest and straightforward guy. He tells it the way he sees it. This morning on the ''Morning Joe'' television show, this is what Senator COBURN said, and I quote from the transcript:

I don't believe you ought to interfere in the market. If there's to be a minimum wage—my theory is I don't believe there ought to be a national minimum wage. That's my position.

In other words, what Senator COBURN is saying today and, in fact, what many Republicans agree with him about, is we should abolish the concept of the minimum wage—something the Koch brothers were talking about 34 years ago.

What are the implications of that if we do as Senator COBURN suggested and just let the market work and don't have government interfere by establishing a minimum wage American workers should receive? What it means, quite simply, when we let the free market work, is that if people are in a high unemployment area and there are many workers competing for few jobs, an employer will say to a potential employee: I am prepared to hire you, good news, and I am going to pay $4.

The worker says: I can't live on $4 an hour. That is a starvation wage.

The employer says: That is OK, because I have 20 other workers who are prepared to accept that wage.

That is what happens when we abolish the concept of the minimum wage.

Many of us—and I think the vast majority of the American people—have a very different vision of where our country should go. We don't believe we should be abolishing the minimum wage. We don't believe we should be cutting or privatizing Social Security or transforming Medicare into a voucher program or making horrendous cuts to Medicaid.

What, in fact, the American people want is the Federal Government to start standing up for working families rather than millionaires and billionaires. In poll after poll, what the American people have said is they want us to invest in rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure and create millions of decent-paying jobs. That is what the American people want. They do not want tax breaks for billionaires but the creation of millions of jobs for rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure.

The American people, despite what Senator COBURN and others may believe, want us to raise the minimum wage. Poll after poll suggests the American people want us to raise the minimum wage to at least $10.10 an hour.

The American people do not want us to cut Social Security. In fact, more and more Americans want us to expand Social Security, to make sure when elderly people reach retirement age, they can live and retire with dignity.

I think there has perhaps never been a time in the modern history of this country where the political lines have been drawn as clearly as they are right now. If you listen to the Koch brothers, if you read the Republican Ryan budget in the House, their positions are quite clear: Tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires and significant cuts in the programs that are life and death for the middle-class and working families of this country.

That is not what the American people want, and it is time we began to listen to the American people. It is time we took on those people, those billionaires who are spending huge amounts of money electing candidates who represent their interests. And it is time we listen to the working families of this country, who are struggling to survive.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. I thank the Presiding Officer.

Mr. President, I appreciate the remarks of my friend from Vermont, who I know is in a hurry to leave the premises, as most Senators have already done. Perhaps he could relax and go out and have a Coke. Bad pun.

(The remarks of Mr. ROBERTS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2282 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to point out to my colleagues that more than 300 days have passed since we in the Senate passed bipartisan legislation that would secure our borders, hold employers accountable for hiring illegal workers, grow our economy, and provide a chance for people currently here illegally to get right with the law and earn legal status. But the House has failed to do anything to fix our broken immigration system—more than 300 days after we in the Senate passed bipartisan legislation.

To be clear, the problem is not that there is a difference of opinion between a House bill and a Senate bill on immigration that cannot be reconciled. The problem is that House Republicans have completely abdicated their responsibility to address important issues, such as fixing our broken immigration system.

Again, the problem is not that the House has passed laws that the Senate disagrees with. The problem is that the House will not put any immigration bills up for a vote, no matter what is in those bills. Now, why is that?

It is not because our immigration system is not broken. There is no Member of Congress who will stand and say: Our immigration system is great. Leave it alone. What is all the fuss about?

No one is happy with the present system. Finding a Member of Congress anywhere who will say we do not need to reform our broken immigration system is impossible.

The reason the House has done nothing on immigration is because House Republicans have handed the gavel of leadership on immigration to far-right extremists such as Congressman STEVE KING.

Congressman KING is not a mainstream Republican on this issue. You cannot even call him a conservative on this issue. He is an extreme outlier on the issue of immigration reform.

Every time any Republican has raised the possibility of action on immigration reform in the House, STEVE KING is there, in his own words, ''manning the watchtowers 24/7'' to make sure nothing can be passed to fix our broken immigration system.

When Republicans such as ERIC CANTOR, hardly a flaming liberal, talked early in 2013 about introducing a bill called the KIDS Act which would allow minors brought here through no fault of their own to earn legal status if they served in the military or obtained a college degree, KING said, ''For every child who's a valedictorian, there's another 100 out there who weigh 130 pounds and they've got calves the size of cantaloupes because they're hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert.''

The rhetoric of STEVE KING is beyond the pale. I am certain that the majority of Republicans in the House have their stomachs churn when they see STEVEN KING spew that kind of rhetoric. But rather than stand up to him, they give him the keys to the kingdom of immigration reform. Just look at what happened after KING protested. There was no KIDS Act introduced. Go look for the text of the KIDS Act on line. It does not exist. There is no bill. Not only was the KIDS Act never introduced, but House Republicans actually voted, nearly unanimously, to resume deporting minor children who had committed no crimes.

Another Republican, JEFF DENHAM, a Republican from California, who is also an Air Force reservist, recently proposed to let young people who came here illegally earn status by enlisting in the military. They love America so they would enlist in the military and risk their lives for this country. Here is what DENHAM said—paraphrasing him. He said: I know many of us do not want to vote on immigration. But we can at least tweak the Defense authorization bill to allow young people who were brought here illegally as minors through no fault of their own to serve in the military when they love this country and this is the only country they know.

To be clear, this measure is far short of comprehensive legislation that is needed to fix our broken system. This slight tweak is not even a drop of water in the Grand Canyon. Even for the small microscopic measure known as the ENLIST Act, STEVE KING responded, saying, ''Don't do it.'' And the Republicans did not.

Here is what KING said:

As soon as they raise their hand and say I'm unlawfully present in the U.S., we are not going to take your oath into the military, but we're going to take your deposition and we have a bus for you to Tijuana.

What happened when KING said this? He won. The ENLIST Act was stricken from the Defense authorization bill. So not only are Republicans catering to the views of KING and others on the far, far, extreme right on immigration by refusing to vote on any immigration reform, they actively promote anti-immigrant viewpoints by having passed a bill called the ENFORCE Act. You see, STEVE KING and his little group of far-right Members of Congress on immigration want to sue the Federal Government to require them to deport minor children, parents of U.S. citizens, and agricultural workers, rather than use all of its resources to focus on immigrants who are criminals, terrorists, and recent border crossers.

But Members of Congress, as most everyone knows, do not have standing to sue the Federal Government, because under our Constitution, Congressmen are not allowed to sue every time they disagree with a decision of the executive branch. Instead of thinking it was probably a good idea to focus our immigration enforcement resources on criminals, terrorists, and border crossers, once again STEVE KING said: Jump. And the Republican mainstream in the House said: How high? Republicans overwhelmingly voted to give KING and others the ability to sue the Federal Government every single time a decision on immigration enforcement is made with which they disagree.

There are Republican colleagues in the House who do not have the views of STEVE KING. We know that. They can offer other excuses they want for failing to do anything on immigration. For instance, they tried to blame the President. They say the President is to blame because he will not enforce the law. The record shows that he does enforce the law. In fact, many of the more liberal people, many of the immigration groups, are angry with him because they think he is enforcing the law too much.

But let's say you believe he is not enforcing the law. So we have said to them: Good. Pass a bill now and say it does not take effect, all of the enforcement and any of the rest of it, until 2017. We will have a new President. If Republicans cannot agree to pass a bill that goes into effect after the President's term, then we know that mistrust of the President is nothing but a straw man.

They say they really want to pass immigration legislation in their heart, but they are only one Member and it is not up to them. They can even have their leadership blame other Republicans for not holding a vote. But Bill Parcells, who used to coach for both the New York Giants and New York Jets, was famous for saying, ''You are what your record shows you are.''

What does the record show? The record on Republican immigration reform is clear. STEVE KING, a far-right, way-out-of-the-mainstream outlier, does not just spew hatred, he calls the shots. They listen to him. The Republican Party, the party of Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan and George Bush, all of whom had much different views on immigration than STEVE KING, is following STEVE KING on immigration.

Let me say, they are following STEVE KING over the cliff. Because not only are they hurting America, but because they are so afraid to buck this extremist—and he is extreme on immigration—they are going to make it certain that they will lose the 2016 Presidential election, that they will make sure that the Senate remains Democratic in 2016 and that the House turns Democratic.

It is amazing. The Republican record on immigration reform is clear. STEVE KING has three wins. The rest of the Republican Party and the rest of America is winless. Good for him. Terrible for us. Since House Republicans will not stand up to STEVE KING, KING is in the driver's seat on immigration reform. As long as he sits there, things will continue to be stuck in a rut.

America is growing weary of Republicans talking a good game on immigration while high-tech businesses cannot get the labor they need to grow and create American jobs. We are growing weary of all the talk while crops go unpicked because farmers cannot find labor. We are growing weary while Republicans talk and immigrants continue to come into our country illegally.

STEVE KING is calling the shots of the entire House Republicans on immigration. That is a shame. That is a disgrace. That is a singular lack of courage that we see in our dear colleagues across the way on the Republican side of the aisle. KING is not satisfied. He is warning that his colleagues have to man the watchtowers 24/7 to make sure nothing happens to fix our broken immigration system.

Where are the people in the Republican Party in the House of Representatives with the courage to stand up to STEVE KING and the far right? They know he is wrong. We know they know he is wrong. Where are the people in the Republican Party to stand up to STEVE KING and say: Enough is enough. We will not let our party or our country be hijacked by extremists whose xenophobia causes them to prefer maintaining our broken immigration system over achieving a tough, fair, and practical long-term solution.

If Republicans continue to kowtow to STEVE KING and the hard right on immigration, they will consign themselves to being the minority party for more than a decade or they can show some courage and say the STEVE KINGS in the world can say whatever they want, but they have no place in the modern Republican Party. They can move their party into the light by passing a bill that secures borders, holds employers accountable, grows our economy, reduces our debt, and heals broken families. The choice is theirs.

Speaker BOEHNER has occasionally said he wants to pass reform. Where are the rank-and-file Republicans who know STEVE KING is wrong to encourage Speaker BOEHNER? Where are they? I hope that for our sakes, the majority of Republicans in the House Republican caucus make the right choice.

But I will tell them this: For the country, no matter what choice they make, the ultimate outcome is undeniable. Immigration reform will pass this year with bipartisan support and a bipartisan imprint or it will pass in future years with only Democratic support and Democratic imprints, because Democrats will control the Congress and the White House. The right thing will ultimately be done. But hopefully Winston Churchill will not be right in saying that it will only be done after everything else is tried.

Republicans in the House, stand up to STEVE KING. You know he is wrong. You know you cringe when he says what he says. Do not let him dictate policy.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. The Republican-led filibuster of the minimum wage bill—which would raise the Federal minimum wage from $7.75 per hour to $10.10 per hour—means that an estimated 27.8 million Americans, including 91,000 Rhode Islanders, will not get a raise. It also means, according to estimates from the Economic Policy Institute, that our economy will miss out on a GDP boost of $22 billion by 2016, which would have supported over 84,000 additional full-time jobs.

Those 27.8 million workers who would have received a raise would have spent

it at local businesses, helping their local communities and spurring economic growth. Typically, minimum wage workers are those who, when they receive an increase in their paychecks, go out and buy things that are necessary. They are the ones who really provide the kind of local stimulus we need to grow the economy.

The Federal minimum wage has not been increased since 2009. Today an individual who works 40 hours per week 52 weeks a year at the Federal minimum wage earns $15,080 per year, and that is nearly $5,000 below the Federal poverty level for a family of three and almost $9,000 below the poverty level for a family of four. That means we have hard-working Americans putting in full-time work every week for the entire year and yet still living in poverty. That is not fair to these families who are just looking for a fair shot.

People who work hard for a living shouldn't have to live in poverty. That was not the case in the sixties when the minimum wage was such that it would lift you out of poverty, and that is what we have to do today.

When Congress last passed legislation to raise the minimum wage in 2007, it was a bipartisan undertaking, and 44 Republican Senators joined Democrats to send President Bush a bill that raised the minimum wage to its current level. That bipartisan effort should be emulated today in this Senate. In fact, one could argue that the needs are more pressing; that American workers have fallen further behind; and that the same logic that compelled President Bush to sign this bill and a bipartisan Congress to send it to him is even more compelling today.

Our constituents sent us here to work together to grow the economy and create jobs. It is disappointing that this bill to provide millions of hard-working Americans a raise—a raise they deserve through their own efforts—has been filibustered.

I hope my colleagues on the other side would find a way to work with us on this issue and come together to strengthen our economic recovery. I was particularly gratified, working with my colleagues on emergency unemployment insurance, that we did get bipartisan support to pass sensible and fiscally responsible legislation. Unfortunately, now it is in the House and it is not moving there. I hope it does.

But we have to do more of that, focus on what will actually help Americans individually and collectively move and grow our economy. We have worked together on emergency unemployment insurance and other issues, such as immigration reform. We can work together on this issue, and we must.

Again, I am at this point very disappointed that same bipartisan effort has not been translated into action by the House of Representatives when it comes to restoring emergency unemployment insurance. Speaker BOEHNER could call up our bill, which is fully paid for and which will affect, at this point, about 2.6 million Americans—and their families, so it is many more Americans who will benefit—and under the rules of the House could quickly have a vote within probably 24 hours. I am convinced and so is my colleague Senator HELLER of Nevada, who is my chief cosponsor, that bill would pass in the House today on a bipartisan basis. We have had Republican Representatives who have written to the Speaker and said: Bring it up for a vote. That would help. It would help not only 2.6 million Americans—and that grows each day—but it would also help our economy.

So, again, in a similar vein, we need bipartisan action on raising the minimum wage in the Senate, emulating the bipartisan action we took with respect to emergency unemployment insurance, and then we need that same bipartisanship in the House of Representatives to move these measures to the President for his signature.

Raising the minimum wage and restoring jobless benefits are the right things to do for the American people and for the American economy. I hope these policies, which traditionally have enjoyed strong bipartisan support, will eventually prevail in both the Senate and the House and be signed into law by the President of the United States.

Once again, I think it is important to emphasize that the last time we raised the minimum wage, it was a bipartisan effort signed by a Republican President. This is not an issue or should not be an issue of political ideology or political posturing. This should be an issue of what helps the American worker make his or her way through a very difficult economy. Viewed in that logic, it is clear to me that we should pass this legislation, not filibuster it, and that the House should pass quickly the emergency unemployment insurance compensation bill.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. HOEVEN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2280 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. HOEVEN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Connecticut.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I wish to tell the story of a 57-year-old man from Boyertown, PA. His name is Dean Angstadt.

Dean is a self-employed, self-sufficient logger. He is the kind of guy, similar to a lot of Americans out there, who has sort of grown up to believe he could do everything for himself; that he didn't need a lot of help from people around him in order to make a living, in order to provide for his family, in order to keep himself healthy.

He has been uninsured since 2009, and he had some particular thoughts about the Affordable Care Act. He knew he didn't want anything to do with ObamaCare.

In 2011 Dean had a pacemaker and a defibrillator implanted to help his ailing heart pump more efficiently. Not long after he got these two implants, the 6-foot, 285-pound guy was back out in the woods, but last summer his health worsened again. It was taking him about 10 minutes just to catch his breath after he felled a tree, and by the fall he was winded just traveling the 50 feet between his house and his truck. He said:

I knew that I was really sick. I figured the doctors were going to have to operate, so I tried to work as long as I could to save money for the surgery. But it got to the point where I couldn't work.

So he called his friend Bob who is a 55-year-old retired firefighter and nurse, and talked about the fact that he was having trouble. Bob said: Why don't you check out the Affordable Care Act? But every time he made that suggestion, Dean refused. Dean said:

We argued about it for months. I didn't trust this ObamaCare. One of the big reasons is it sounded too good to be true.

January came, and Dean's health continued to get worse. His doctor made it clear he urgently needed valve replacement surgery, and he was facing a choice: He either had to find a way to get health care or he was going to die. That was his choice, find a way to pay for health care or perish.

Luckily, his friend Bob finally convinced Dean to come over and at least take a look at the Affordable Care plans available to Dean. So he came over to his house, and in less than an hour the two of them had finished the application. One day later Dean signed up for the Highmark Blue Cross Silver PPO plan and paid his first monthly premium of $26.11.

All of a sudden, I'm getting notification from Highmark, and I got my card, and it was actually all legitimate. I could have done backflips if I were in better shape.

His plan kicked in on March 1, just in time to get the surgery he couldn't have afforded otherwise, that he couldn't have put off any longer. On March 31, after his surgery, he said without that surgery:

I probably would have ended up falling over dead. Not only did it save my life, it's going to give me a better quality of life.

For me, this isn't about politics. I'm trying to help other people who are like me, stubborn and bullheaded, who refused to even look. From my own experience, the ACA is everything it's supposed to be and, in fact, better than it's made out to be.

Dean's story is one of 8 million stories that can be told all across the country. Eight million people have enrolled in private health care plans under the Affordable Care Act. Why? Because there is a simple premise embedded at the foundation of the Affordable Care Act; that is, that you shouldn't get sick—in Dean's case, you shouldn't face death—simply because you don't have the money to afford surgery.

Dean was working. Dean was a logger, a salt-of-the-Earth kind of guy who was playing by the rules, obeying the law, had a job, but he just didn't have the money to afford that expensive surgery. He gets to live and he gets access to health care because of the Affordable Care Act—not because of a government handout but because of our collective decision to give Dean a discount on private health care, 1 of 8 million people all across the country.

That is just the number of people who have been insured on these private exchanges. Three million young people under the age of 26 have been able to stay on their parents' plans because the Affordable Care Act allows for that to occur. New numbers this week suggest more than 4.8 million people have enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP plans between October 2013 and March of 2014. Another approximately 1 million individuals gained coverage through an early expansion of Medicaid that happened in States before January 1, 2014.

Put that all together: Eight million people on exchanges, 3 million young people covered through their parents' plan, 5.8 million people on Medicaid. That is 16 million, 17 million people in this country who have health care who didn't have it before.

In my State the numbers are even more remarkable. We had a goal of signing up about 100,000 people, and we went out there and did everything we could to get the word out about the Affordable Care Act. We didn't sign up 100,000 people; we signed up 200,000 people. To be exact, we signed up 208,301 people in Connecticut. On the last day alone, on March 31, 5,900 people signed up in Connecticut. Connecticut is a small State. We only have a handful of 1 million people who live in our entire State, and we increased those who have insurance by 200,000 in a State of only a few million. That is probably why—the fact that in States such as Connecticut 200,000 people now have insurance, 15 million-plus across the country have insurance—the polling is starting to fundamentally change. A Washington Post poll from a few weeks ago showed that for the first time a majority of Americans support the Affordable Care Act. A new poll in battleground congressional districts shows that 52 percent of respondents want to implement and fix the Affordable Care Act, which is about 10 percent more than those people who want to repeal and replace the bill. That 52 percent number has increased beyond what the poll showed last December. The 42 percent number of those who want to repeal and replace is much less than the number from last December. People are starting to figure out that all the Republican spin and rhetoric about the Affordable Care Act is just that, spin and rhetoric, and the reality is that 15 million people have access to health care. The stories such as Dean's can be multiplied all over the country in every corner of this great Nation.

But here is the even better news: We are not only enrolling more people but we are saving money. We are enrolling people and saving money. Medicare spending growth is down. Medicare per capita spending is growing at historically low rates. In April, for the fifth straight year, CBO reduced its projections for Medicare spending over the next 10 years. This time they reduced it by another $106 billion.

This is what we always said was the problem with the American health care system. We always said we don't insure enough people. We still leave 30 million people without access to health care and we spend twice as much money as our other competitor first-world nations—less people insured, much greater cost. We all came down to the floor, the Senate and the House, and said the Affordable Care Act will tackle both problems, and now a few months into the full implementation of the law that is exactly what is happening.

It is actually costing less than we thought. The projections are that the Affordable Care Act is going to reduce the deficit by $1.7 trillion over the next two decades. Let me say that again. The Affordable Care Act will reduce the deficit by $1.7 trillion, meaning if you repeal the Affordable Care Act, as so many still want to do—as the House has tried to do 50 different times—you would increase the deficit by $1.7 trillion and the overall cost of the program is 15 percent less than what the initial projections were.

Insurers are starting to weigh in as well. The second biggest U.S. health insurer, WellPoint, increased its profit forecast after the ACA enrollment numbers boosted their quarterly results. Their chief executive officer said:

> The risk pool and the product selection seem to be coming in the manner that we hoped it would. It's very encouraging right now.

UnitedHealthcare, which had a pretty small footprint in these exchanges, has now changed its bias to increase the participation in exchanges in 2015 because it said it saw a positive response from consumers who enrolled in the plans they did offer in limited States in greater than expected numbers. Fifteen million people, including eight million people on private insurance plans, enrolled, saving money for taxpayers and for insurance companies. That is the real story of the Affordable Care Act.

Let me finish by sharing with you a couple more stories from Connecticut, and I am going to share them through the eyes of the enrollers because enrollers and assisters are the heroes of these last several months.

There was an embarrassing rollout of the Affordable Care Act in the fall of last year, a Web site that should have been working on day one that wasn't. But the fact is that thousands of people all across this country working in community health centers and emergency rooms, at nonprofits, decided to make this thing work in red States and in blue States and went out and enrolled in record numbers, shattering expectations for people on affordable health care. I had a few of these assisters together in Connecticut. They started telling me stories and I will finish with two of them.

Michael, who is an assister in Danielson, CT, tells this story, and he said: I recall a husband and wife who came into our health center and didn't have health insurance mainly because they indicated their employer's insurance plan was way too expensive. As I went along asking questions during the application the husband mostly complained about ObamaCare. He kept saying our government is making it so no one can afford insurance and that he and his wife heard that insurance plans were still too high, even after going through the exchange. After completing the application and showing them the plans that were offered, they were totally surprised by the minimal cost of the premiums as well as the deductible rates. I also helped them understand how certain plans were structured and what services the deductible applied to. They left that day choosing a plan that was right for them. Needless to say, they went home from our meeting feeling more confident about their choice, more educated about health insurance and less resentful of the Affordable Care Act.

Sean, who is an assister from Norwich, tells this story: I met one middle-aged man. He hadn't had insurance for over 5 years because all the plans were so high and unaffordable and he was over the income for the State Medicaid insurance program. He had a few prescriptions and had to pay out-of-pocket around $150 to $200 every month. We successfully completed an ACA application and selected an Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan with tax credits. The plan's monthly premium was only a fraction of what he would have paid every month for prescriptions and medical care, and the prescription drug copay was only about

$10. This man was ecstatic, and he said he would have to go home to figure out a way to spend all of the money that he would save every month with his new plan.

There are stories similar to his and Dean's all over the country, 8 million of them just when it comes to the people who have signed up for private health care, but for the rest of us who have health care, the news is good as well: $1.7 trillion off of the deficit, a program that is costing 15 percent less than we had expected, an overall Medicare inflation rate for taxpayers that is coming down, and for many of us the ability to sleep a little bit better at night because we know that the most affluent, most powerful country in the world has committed itself to the idea that somebody like Dean—a logger, going out and working the land—doesn't have to die simply because he doesn't have the money to pay for surgery. In so many ways the Affordable Care Act is working.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

CAMPAIGN SPENDING

Mr. KING. Madam President, there is an ominous tide rising in this country. It is not water. It is not oil. It is not any kind of substance. It is dollars. It is cash. It is a tide of dark money that is flowing in and threatens to dominate our political system.

Yesterday we had a very interesting hearing in the Rules Committee on the subject of disclosure and the rise of outside money in campaigns. We have developed a kind of parallel universe of campaign financing, where the candidates, you and I and other Members of this body, work hard to raise money from supporters so we can fund our campaigns. By the way, all of that money that is raised has to be under certain limits. There are limitations. There are disclosure requirements. If you get a contribution, it has to be disclosed who paid it and what do they do for a living and what is their address. All of that is public.

Yet on the other side is this parallel universe, as I mentioned, where a multimillionaire can come into your State or my State or anybody's State and put in an enormous amount of money, essentially unregulated and often totally anonymous. I think this is a danger to our country. I started the hearing off yesterday by saying I fear for my country. I fear for our democracy.

There are several basic points I wish to make. This isn't an evolutionary change. This isn't, OK, we are spending a few more dollars this year than we did last year and it is a little more of the same and it is no big deal. This is what is happening: This is nonparty outside spending starting back in the early nineties, and we see what happened in 2012. Now we don't have the numbers in 2012. Of course, 2012 was a Presidential year. What we see is it started to go up, the Presidential year in 2004, and then down. It goes up in 2008 in the Presidential year, down—but not so much—and then way up in 2012, and this gives the context of what is happening. This isn't evolutionary change; this is revolutionary change. This is a fundamental change.

I asked one of our witnesses yesterday at the hearing: Is this a very significant, great change that is going on? He said: Senator, it is an explosion.

It is an explosion. Here is what it looks like. This is nonparty spending, cycle to date, and the day was the day before yesterday. In other words, it is the outside party spending, the so-called independent expenditures comparing apples to apples as of April 29 of each year.

So here again, 2004 Presidential year, then it drops way down in 2006 midterms, again jumps up in 2008, down in 2010, big jump for 2012. But look where we are as of this date in 2014. Look at the comparison between this and the last midterm year. It is almost 10 times as much. This is a threat that is growing and it is going to overwhelm us.

Some of my colleagues have said we are bound for a scandal. Indeed, that is what has driven campaign finance reform throughout our history. The first major campaign finance reform was in 1907. It resulted from the Presidential campaigns in the late 1890s and the turn of the century, where Mark Hanna, a political operative, called the major corporations of America and said: You will give us this—and that is how the money was raised for those campaigns. We then passed the first campaign finance law under the leadership of Teddy Roosevelt in 1907 because he saw a scandal coming.

So this is nonparty outside spending. This is both disclosed and undisclosed, but look at this. This is spending by nondisclosure groups, cycle to date. Look where we are. This is the money that nobody knows where it comes from. If we start back in here, 2012, this is a Presidential year to date and here we are in 2014. It is an explosion, and nobody knows where that money is coming from. It is secret money.

What we have is the development of organizations and institutions engaged in what I call identity laundering. I am not going to attempt to explain this chart, but this is a chart that traces in 2012 one set of funds. It is about $400 million from three large organizations that go through all of these different entities and the whole purpose is to keep the names of the donors secret. So the public doesn't know who is trying to influence their vote. This isn't insignificant money. Fifty million dollars this line represents to something called the American Future Fund. They create these entities—and there is also the wonderful nomenclature here—there are even entities entitled ''undesignated'' or ''disregarded''—and the whole purpose of this is to hide the identity of the people who are supporting it.

I don't think that is consistent with the First Amendment. It is not consistent with our political traditions. It is not consistent with the whole idea of conveying information. If somebody wants to come and buy ads in Pennsylvania or North Dakota or New York or California, that is fine. They have a right to do that, at least under the current Supreme Court rulings, but they also ought to tell us who they are. That is part of the information the voters should have in assessing the validity of the message that is being delivered to them.

In Maine you cannot go to a town meeting with a bag over your head. If you are going to make a speech, if you are going to take your position on an issue, you tell who you are, and people can assess the validity of your views based upon in part who they know you are, what your interest is, what your stake is in this process, and we are denying the people of America the opportunity to know that.

It is important to realize in this whole area of campaign finance, which is unbelievably complicated, that the Supreme Court has significantly narrowed our ability in Congress or in the States to regulate campaign finance. They have essentially said that money is speech and that it can't be limited—at least in the aggregate, that is the McCutcheon decision. Under the Citizens United decision, the corporations are also people and have a right to free speech and can spend as much money as they want.

When you go back and read those key opinions—Citizens United and McCutcheon, which was just decided about a month ago—the Supreme Court said: We are going to strike down these limitations because they are limitations on free speech, but the basic reason we feel comfortable doing so is because the public still has disclosure and they will know who is talking, and that is our bulwark against abuse and corrosion of our system.

The problem with that reasoning is the bulwark doesn't exist, and clever campaign operatives have created this elaborate system which is designed to disguise who the contributors are, and that is the problem with our system.

The problem right now is that one party may think they are advantaged by the current system, but 2 years from now that advantage could disappear. Indeed, data we received just before our hearing indicates that 2 years ago 88 percent of the outside money was conservative. Indeed, this year—so far in 2012—it is closer to being balanced. It is 60–40 conservative over more liberal messages. I submit that once it gets to be 50–50, everybody on both sides of the

aisle will say that maybe we need to do something about it. I am suggesting we do something about it sooner rather than later.

The Supreme Court has invited us to do something about disclosure. I think it is the tool we know we have. There is discussion about a constitutional amendment, which is fine, and I am a supporter. That is a long-term solution. That could take 4, 5, 6 years, assuming the support could be achieved in the Congress and in the States. In the meantime, disclosure is something we could do next week, and it is something we should do. We owe it to the American people to allow them to know who it is that is trying to influence their vote.

Occasionally, there is an argument that people who make these kinds of contributions will be subjected to some kind of intimidation—crank phone calls, threats, and those kinds of things. Well, Justice Scalia—the Supreme Court Justice whom I used to know in law school—recently said: ''Requiring people to stand up in public for their political acts fosters civic courage, without which democracy is doomed.''

If people are willing to spend millions of dollars attacking someone else's character, integrity, and career, they ought to at least be willing to stand up and say: Here am I. I am making these statements.

They should not be allowed to hide behind something created by an army of accountants and lawyers to disguise their identity. I think this is something—and based upon the hearing we had yesterday and the work we did in preparing for it—we really need to attend to.

When I first got into this subject last year, I thought it was bad. Well, what I have learned over the last several months is that it is a lot worse than I thought. It is happening fast. It is a tidal wave, and it is going to engulf our system. Why do we care? Because it is corrosive and it undermines the confidence citizens have in us as their political leaders.

In the 1970s and 1980s, people had a perception that money was corrupting around here, even if it wasn't. But, boy, when we start to have unidentified, outside dark money and nobody knows where it is coming from, what could be more calculating to undermine public confidence in their leadership than a system like that? It is corrosive. It undermines the trust of our people. It is wrong, and I think it is something we should attend to. It is something we can do. We know we can do it constitutionally. We had an 8-to-1 majority vote. McCutcheon and Citizens United invited us to do this. I think we should be able to find a bipartisan solution to this subject because it will benefit this whole country, and I think it will be a great benefit to the institution of democracy itself. This is not what the Framers envisioned, and we have it within our power to do something about it so we can improve this situation and the flow of information—including the source of that information—to the people of America.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

UKRAINE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I take this time on the floor as the Chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission. The Helsinki Commission is the operating arm of the U.S. participation in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the OSCE. It has been in the press recently because of the circumstances in Ukraine, which is what I am going to talk about.

First, I will remind my colleagues that the United States, along with all the countries of Europe and Canada, formed the commission on security and cooperation in Europe in 1975. It was founded on the principle that in order to have a stable country, you need to deal not just with the direct security needs—the military needs—of a country and not just with its economic and environmental agenda, but you also need to deal with its human rights and its good governance, and all three of these are related.

Commitments were made by all the signatories to the OSCE about respecting the jurisdictions of the member states and dealing with the rights of your neighbors and dealing with the rights of your own citizens. The Soviet Union was a member of the OSCE, and now all of the countries of the former Soviet Union are members, including Russia and the countries of central Asia.

I am increasingly alarmed at the deterioration of the situation in Eastern UKraine, particularly in the Donetsk region, where Moscow-controlled pro-Russian separatists have seized 19 buildings and 14 cities and towns.

Late last week seven members of the German-led OSCE Vienna Document inspection team, charged with observing unusual military activities, along with five of their Ukrainian escorts, were kidnapped by pro-Russian militants. One observer has been freed, and the rest continue to be held hostage. Russia, an OSCE member, has not lifted a finger to secure their release. There is no doubt in my mind that if Mr. Putin gave the word, this hostage situation would cease to exist.

This hostage-taking of unarmed international monitors must continue to be condemned in the strongest possible terms, and everything possible must be done to secure their release.

In addition to the OSCE observers, 40 people—journalists, activists, police officers, and politicians—are reportedly being held captive in makeshift jails in Slovyansk.

Meanwhile, the violence in Eastern Ukraine continues. On Monday, several thousand peaceful protesters marching in favor of Ukraine's unity were attacked by pro-Russian thugs wielding clubs and whips, resulting in 15 seriously injured. That same day, Gennady Kernes, the mayor of Ukraine's second largest city, Kharkiv, was shot, underwent emergency surgery, and remains in serious condition. He is now in Israel for further medical treatment.

Furthermore, I am deeply dismayed at other flagrant violations of human rights by pro-Russian militants in Eastern Ukraine and in Russia's annexed Crimea. These include attacks and threats against minority groups, particularly Jews and Roma as well as Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians in Crimea. Supporters of a united Ukraine have been targeted as well, including a local politician and university student whose tortured bodies were found dumped in a river near Slovyansk.

The joint statement on Ukraine signed in Geneva on April 17 by the EU, the United States, Russia, and Ukraine calls on all sides to lay down their arms, vacate buildings, and begin the process of dialogue and de-escalation. That was signed just 2 weeks ago. That agreement provided a basis for de-escalation. Yet, over the course of the last days and weeks, we have not seen the Russians follow through on urging separatists to stand down in Eastern Ukraine. What have we seen? Kyiv, on the one hand, is taking concrete steps and making good-faith efforts to live up to the Geneva agreement, including vacating buildings and offering dialogue. Russia has done nothing. Instead of working to de-escalate the conflict, it is doing the opposite—fueling escalation. Russia continues to violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and flagrantly flaunts its commitments under the Geneva agreement.

The Geneva agreement also calls upon the parties to refrain from any violence, intimidation, or provocative actions and condemns and rejects all expressions of extremism, racism, religious intolerance, including anti-Semitism. Clearly, both the spirit and the letter of this agreement have been breached by Russia.

In recent days we have seen troubling manifestations against ethnic and religious minority communities. The distribution of flyers in Donetsk calling for Jews to register their religion and property is a chilling reminder of an especially dark period in European history. While the perpetrators of this onerous action have not been determined, one thing is clear: Moscow, which controls the pro-Russian separatists in Eastern Ukraine, is using anti-Semitism as an ingredient in its anti-Ukrainian campaign. Perhaps even worse, among the Russian special forces and agitators operating in

Ukraine are members of the neo-Nazi and other anti-Semitic groups.

Jewish communities in parts of Eastern Ukraine are not the only ones that have reason to be worried. In Slovyansk, armed separatists have invaded Romani homes and beaten and robbed men, women, and children. Ukrainian speakers—including Ukrainian-speaking journalists—have reportedly experienced intimidation in the largely Russian-speaking Donetsk area.

At the same time in Crimea, which Russia forcibly annexed, Crimean Tatars continue to be threatened with deportation and attacked for speaking their own language in their ancestral homeland. Moreover, the longtime leader of the Crimean Tatar community and former Soviet political prisoner Mustafa Dzhemilev has been banned from returning to Crimea.

It is important to underscore that Crimea is the ancestral home of the Crimean Tatars, who in 1944 were forcibly and brutally evicted by Stalin to central Asia and only allowed to return to their home in the early 1990s.

Additionally, the separatist Crimean authorities have gone after the Ukrainian community, announcing that Ukrainian literature and history will no longer be offered in Crimean schools.

These attacks and threats underscore the importance of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and other OSCE institutions in Ukraine in assessing the situation on the ground and helping to de-escalate tensions. They need to be permitted to operate unhindered—and most certainly not held hostage—in Eastern Ukraine and to be allowed access into Crimea, which Russia continues to block.

The actions against pro-Ukrainian activists and minorities are the direct result of Russia's unfounded and illegal aggression against Ukraine—first in Crimea and then in Eastern Ukraine. There is no doubt as to who pulls the strings. The Kremlin has been relentlessly flaunting their Geneva promises and has done nothing to rein in the militants they control. Mr. Putin needs to get Russian soldiers and other assorted military and intelligence operatives out of Ukraine.

We must not forget Crimea. We must never recognize Russia's forcible, illegal annexation of the Ukrainian territory, which violates every single one of the 10 core OSCE Helsinki principles. We must build on the punitive measures already undertaken against the Russian and Ukrainian individuals who so blatantly violated the international agreements in the Ukrainian and Crimean Constitutions. Violations of another nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty must not be tolerated. Russia's flagrant land grab of Crimea has set a horrible precedent for those countries harboring illegal territorial ambitions around the globe.

I welcome the President's stepping up of economic sanctions on seven Russian officials, including members of President Putin's inner circle and 17 companies linked to Mr. Putin. I also welcome the State Department and Commerce Department tightening policy to deny export license applications for any high-technology items that could contribute to Russia's military capabilities. I am confident Russia will feel the impact of these sanctions. These, along with the further targeted sanctions announced by the EU earlier this week, will only continue to have a growing impact.

Nevertheless, if the situation in eastern Ukraine continues to deteriorate, or even should the status quo persist, the United States needs to ratchet up these sanctions, and soon, including several sectoral sanctions against Russia's industries such as banking, mining, energy, and defense.

Of equal importance, we need to remain steadfast in helping Ukraine become a stronger democratic state and foster its political and economic stability. The millions of men, women, and children who demonstrated for months for human rights and human dignity spoke loudly and clearly, expressing the wishes of the vast majority of the Ukrainian citizens. The interim government has been working hard under exceedingly difficult circumstances to move Ukraine further on the path of economic and political reforms. We and our international partners need to keep making this progress our focal point. Ukraine needs a lot of help after the devastation wreaked on their economy by the incredibly corrupt and dysfunctional Yanukovych regime.

Ukraine has so many pressing needs. Among the most important are stabilizing the economy and preparing for the most important May 25 Presidential elections. Others include judicial reform, reform of the police and military, seeking justice and rehabilitation for the victims of the violence, including those suffering now at the hands of the pro-Russian militants, helping internally displaced people who are fleeing Crimea, and working to recover the billions in assets stolen by the previous regime.

I am pleased Ukraine's civil society, including Western-educated young people, is firmly committed to the rule of law and democracy and is playing a critical role in helping the Ukrainian Government work toward these ends. NGOs and think tanks have worked with the Parliament to pass a law on the independence of public broadcasting, a bill on public procurement, and one on how judges are appointed—all critical in fighting the scourge of corruption.

The United States is providing concrete assistance through a U.S. crisis support package for Ukraine, which includes support for the integrity of the May elections and constitutional reform, substantial economic assistance, energy security technical expertise, help to recover proceeds of corruptions stolen by the former regime, and other anticorruption assistance, and fostering greater people-to-people contacts. We need to be willing to provide more resources to the Ukrainians as they actively work to fulfill their aspirations.

Ultimately, these choices will lead to a more secure, democratic, and peaceful world, and that is something that reflects both American interests and American values.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Ms. LANDRIEU pertaining to the introduction of S. 2280 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Ms. LANDRIEU. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the motion to proceed to S. 2262 is now pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion that I would ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Jeanne Shaheen, Michael F. Bennet, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Bill Nelson, Tom Harkin, Martin Heinrich, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Joe Manchin III, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Angus S. King, Jr., Mark R. Warner.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO GLENN POSHARD

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank Dr. Glenn Poshard for his years of public service to Illinois.

Today, Dr. Poshard will be stepping down as president of Southern Illinois University, a position he has held with honor and distinction for more than 7 years. Under his leadership, Southern Illinois University has been able to keep tuition costs low and the university's finances sound, despite financial problems that have plagued the State.

Dr. Poshard has dedicated his life to working for the people of southern Illinois. In 1984, he was appointed to the Illinois State Senate until the people of the 22nd Congressional District sent him to the United States House of Representatives in 1989. I was fortunate to serve with Dr. Poshard for 8 years in the House of Representatives, where he was a strong proponent of campaign finance reform. Due to his commitment to reform, he limited individual donations to his gubernatorial campaign in 1998 and refused to accept contributions from political action committees.

Following his tenure in Congress, Dr. Poshard and his wife, Jo, founded the Poshard Foundation for Abused Children. For the last 14 years, the Poshard Foundation has worked to help abused, abandoned, and neglected children in southern Illinois.

After a 40-year affiliation with Southern Illinois University, Dr. Poshard is leaving his alma mater in good shape. He retires as the second longest-serving president in the history of the Southern Illinois University system, an experience he calls ''the greatest honor of my life.''

I congratulate Glenn on his outstanding career and thank him for his dedicated service to the people of Illinois. I wish him and his family all the best.

AFGHANISTAN AND UKRAINE SECURITY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I just returned from a trip to Afghanistan and Ukraine where I reviewed the security situation in each country as chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

In each country, I met with military leaders and with civilian leaders and representatives of civilian society. The overwhelming impression I came away with is that American leadership remains critical, that others who are struggling for democracy and freedom see us as an essential friend and ally, and support for those who share those values must remain a cornerstone of our foreign policy and as essential to our own security.

In Afghanistan, I met with senior leaders of both our military and the Afghan military, including General Dunford, the commander of U.S. and coalition forces, and Afghan Minister of Defense Mohammedi. They reported that the transition of security responsibility to the Afghanistan National Security Forces—ANSF—has gone even better than we had hoped, with no significant loss of security in the country despite the withdrawal of tens of thousands of American and coalition troops. U.S. and Afghan leaders alike expressed satisfaction with the ability of the newly built and much larger ANSF to successfully protect the Afghan people, to defeat Taliban forces in combat, and to secure a series of major public events, culminating in the April 5 Afghan presidential election.

Our military commanders emphasized that while these gains reflect the growing confidence of the Afghan security forces in their ability to provide security to the Afghan people, the challenge ahead is to put in place the final pieces needed to make the progress of the last decade sustainable. This includes logistics, maintenance, airlift, and building the institutions of the Afghan Army and police. Fundamental to any long-term effort on our part in Afghanistan will be the signing of the Bilateral Security Agreement as soon as possible with a new Afghan president. While President Karzai remains unreliable and his rhetoric offensive, all the major Afghan presidential candidates, including the two winners of the first round, support what we have done so far and look forward to signing the BSA promptly if elected.

In addition to meeting with the three leading presidential candidates, I met with Afghan government officials and with several groups of representatives of Afghan civil society. The Afghans I met with came from different backgrounds and spoke with different voices, but they shared a common message of pride in the achievement of their country as it has rebuilt and recovered from the devastation of decades of civil war and Taliban rule. They pointed to the revival of Afghanistan's education and health systems, the dramatic improvement in the role of women in the country, and the new life that the last 10 years have brought to the country's economy.

They also spoke of their frustration with the exceedingly negative picture of events in Afghanistan depicted in the U.S. press. A leading national paper writes about a ''deepening resentment'' of the American presence and a ''growing alienation'' between Afghanistan and the United States. But the Afghans I met and large majorities of Afghans, according to public opinion polls, are grateful for the sacrifices we have made on their behalf and are convinced they can continue to transform their country with our continued support. Their polls show that 64 percent of the Afgan people believe there has been significant progress in security. U.S. polls show the opposite, the product of an unbalanced, negative view in our media.

The Afghans I met spoke with pride of the election they held on April 5, in which 7 million Afghans braved threats and violence to get to the polls, voting at a higher rate than we achieve in our own elections. According to preliminary counts, more than 35 percent of the voters were women. This record vote was the culmination of a campaign in which the leading candidates held huge rallies, attended by tens of thousands of Afghans all over the country—including in areas that much of our press reports are controlled by the Taliban. All of the security for these events, and for the vote itself, was provided by Afghan forces. And every Afghan I spoke with said that he—or she—feels more secure today than a few years ago, in part because Afghan forces are providing security in Afghan cities and towns.

Although the vote was divided among a number of candidates and a run-off between Dr. Abdullah and Dr. Ghani will occur, Afghans say the act of voting itself sent a message that Afghans reject the Taliban and what it stands for. Our intelligence sources indicate that the Taliban leadership is concerned by its inability to disrupt the election and prevent Afghans from getting to the polls.

So, far from what we may read in much of our press, the Afghan people conveyed to me their optimism regarding their country's significant progress, their desire for democracy, and their gratitude for the assistance of the United States over the past decade.

In Ukraine, I met with Acting President Turchinov, Prime Minister Yatsenyuk, Defense Minister Koval, National Security and Defense Council Head Parubiy, and numerous other government officials, activists, and participants in the political process. Ukrainians faced down the heavily-armed security forces of a corrupt, repressive regime on the Maidan—their Independence Square—while they themselves armed with little more than rocks, tires, and sandbags. Now they face an even greater challenge in the form of tens of thousands of Russian troops massed on their borders. Already, the Russians have annexed Crimea and Russian Special Operations forces have organized sympathizers to occupy buildings in a number of Eastern Ukrainian cities and towns in an effort to disrupt and destabilize the

government, make an election on May 25 difficult to organize, and establish a basis for Russian occupation or a Russian-oriented breakaway State.

In the face of these challenges, the Ukrainians I met expressed gratitude for the solidarity and support our country has shown through the dark days of the Yanukovich regime and into the challenges they face today. They expressed their support for our values and their strong desire to be a part of the democratic West, rather than the authoritarian sphere of Putin's Russia and its allies. And they asked for our support in their effort to stabilize their country, fend off the Russian challenge, and hold free and fair elections as scheduled.

The Ukrainian people earned our support when they put their lives on the line at the Maidan and turned to face the Russian threat with both toughness and restraint. We should stand with the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian people because they share our democratic values, and because Russia's effort to dismember their country through the threat of force, if allowed to succeed, could undermine decades of stability and a peaceful, democratic, and united Europe.

Ukrainians understand there will not be American ''boots on the ground'' in their country. But there are a number of important steps we can take to support the Ukrainians in their struggle.

First, we must expedite the aid we have already promised them—including both financial assistance and nonlethal military equipment—to make sure it arrives as quickly as possible.

Second, we should provide additional support, including body armor and fuel, that the Ukrainians need to protect themselves. We should provide the Ukrainians with firearms and ammunition if they need them—but it appears that at this point they do not.

Third, we should make more robust use of the powers established in Executive Order 13661, which authorizes sanctions against the Russian financial, energy, metals, mining, engineering, and defense sectors, to ensure that the Putin regime pays a heavy price for its illegal actions. President Obama's action to sanction more wealthy individuals in Putin's circle, as well as businesses they own, is a wise one, but we can do more.

Fourth, we should ensure that Russian banks are subject to the significant tax penalties imposed on noncompliant banks by the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, or FATCA, the antitax evasion law set to take effect in July. Russian banks and financial institutions that fail to register with the Internal Revenue Service and obtain the required identification number by July 1 of this year will be noncompliant with FATCA and become subject to a 30-percent withholding tax on any U.S. investment earnings. We should not negotiate with either Russia or certain Russian banks on measures to provide relief from FATCA's sanctions until Russia honors its diplomatic commitments and takes steps to diffuse tensions in Crimea and eastern Ukraine, including by withdrawing Russian troops from the border region.

Finally, we should use the existing authorities to take on Russia's manipulation of energy prices and supplies which it has used to coerce not only Ukraine but also many of its neighbors. To be most effective, these actions should be taken in close coordination with our friends and allies in Europe, many of whom are directly affected by Russia's abuses and threatened by its actions. We must take concrete steps toward substituting energy from other sources for the countries that would be impacted by a reduction of Russian energy. We must actively become involved in energy development, diversification, and conservation, even if it means paying higher prices for fuel, to break Russia's iron grip on this market, and to prevent future acts of attempted political extortion by Russia from being effective.

The people of Ukraine are proud of their fight for freedom at the Maidan, as are the people of Afghanistan of the courage they showed, when they voted in record numbers to reject the Taliban in their April 5 election. Both countries are struggling for values that we, as a Nation, have always shared. They both deserve our support, and we should continue to give it to them.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my disappointment over yesterday's vote to increase the Federal minimum wage. It is vitally important that working families receive a long-overdue pay increase, but once again the Senate failed to move forward on a crucial piece of legislation.

At $7.25 per hour, today's Federal minimum wage fails to provide a living wage for many Americans. Working a standard 40-hour week, 52 weeks a year, with no time off and no sick days, the minimum wage pays just over $15,000 a year.

In many parts of the country, including California, that salary is nowhere near enough for an individual to subsist, let alone a family.

It is difficult to fathom how a single mother working a minimum wage job—or jobs—can survive. These are the Americans who would benefit from this bill.

To get a better idea of what the standard 40-hour-a-week worker must earn to meet basic necessities, I had my staff look at the cost-of-living in various California cities.

In San Francisco, a single adult with no children would need to earn over $12 an hour to meet basic necessities.

In Los Angeles, they would need to make over $11 dollars an hour. The same goes for San Diego. That amount only increases for families.

By one measure, a single mother with two children living in San Francisco would have to earn almost $30 an hour just to meet basic necessities.

I would add that we aren't debating an exorbitant increase. Moving from $7.25 to $10.10 would still leave many low-income working families well short of a living wage. But it is a start, and it would benefit millions of low-income working Americans.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the proposed minimum wage increase would increase incomes for 16.5 million low-wage workers; 97 percent of the low-wage working population would benefit from this increase; 900,000 low-wage workers would move above the poverty line; and the increase in the federal minimum wage could reduce demands on other Federal assistance programs.

A lot of attention has been given to CBO's estimate that increasing the minimum wage would lead to 500,000 job losses for low wage workers. It is important to note that CBO's estimate is the median in a wide range of estimates on the employment effects of increases in the minimum wage.

When you study the report, you find that most estimates of job losses related to increases in the minimum wage are clustered around zero, which means that most studies have found that increasing the minimum wage has a negligible effect on employment.

This isn't to say businesses won't have to make some adjustments. Some will have to raise prices, some might see slightly reduced profits, and some might slow hiring or choose to reduce their workforce.

But the effects will not be devastating, as opponents of the minimum wage increase suggest. In fact, cities and States throughout the country are natural experiments for the effects of a minimum wage increase on jobs.

The minimum wage in San Francisco is currently $10.79 per hour. Far from an economic catastrophe, San Francisco is enjoying a sustained period of economic growth and employment. San Jose, which has a similar minimum wage, also has a robust labor market.

Bloomberg has also researched the effects of minimum wage increases on employment and found that employment effects are negligible and, in general, States that have recently raised the minimum wage are actually creating more jobs than those that haven't.

Washington State increased its minimum wage in 1998 and tied the wage to increases in inflation. The minimum wage is currently the highest in the country.

Since that time, annual job growth in Washington has outpaced the rest of

the country, and the service industry has added thousands of jobs. There are many other examples of localities that exceed the Federal minimum wage and continue to experience sustained job growth.

It is clear to me that businesses are capable of adjusting for an increase in the minimum wage in a way that will allow them to thrive.

And a minimum wage increase would not only alleviate some of the burdens and obstacles facing the low wage work force, it would also put more than $30 billion in the pockets of workers struggling to get by, those most in need of a pay raise.

According to many economists, that additional income could spur local economies, more than offsetting any negative effects from a minimum wage increase.

In a time of nearly unprecedented income inequality—during which the wealthy have actually made even more money—it is vitally important that Congress enacts laws to allow all Americans to benefit from economic advancement.

Increasing the minimum wage is certainly not the only option. Congress should be looking elsewhere to do even more to ensure that children born into low income families aren't locked into a life of poverty. But increasing the minimum wage would be a step toward that goal. It would also serve as an indication that Congress appreciates the daunting challenges posed by income inequality and is willing to confront them.

Mr. President, I fully support an increase in the minimum wage and I hope that we can come together to find a way to reconsider the minimum wage bill and move it forward.

FORD ADMINISTRATION'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, this year marks the 40th anniversary of Gerald R. Ford taking the oath of office and becoming the 38th President of the United States. The Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids, MI will be commemorating this significant anniversary throughout 2014 by highlighting the impact of his service to our country.

Gerald Ford took the oath of office on August 9, 1974, in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, the Vietnam war, and President Nixon's resignation, a very tumultuous time in our Nation's history. He reflected this when he stated:

> I assume the Presidency under extraordinary circumstances . . . . This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts.

Although he was born in Omaha, NE, his family made Grand Rapids, MI, their home very soon after his birth. After high school, he attended the University of Michigan and played football for the Wolverines, earning the designation of Most Valuable Player. Choosing to attend law school instead of pursuing a professional football career, he completed his law degree at Yale University and then returned to Michigan, where he started a law practice.

After serving with the U.S. Navy during World War II, he returned to his home State where he became a partner in a Grand Rapids law firm and involved in the political scene. His experiences in the war led him to reject his previously isolationist leanings and adopt an outlook of internationalism. As a result, at the age of 35, he challenged the isolationist incumbent for Michigan's Fifth Congressional District in Congress and won.

He served his district, our State, and the Nation honorably. He was reelected 12 times, each with more than 60 percent of the vote. As a new Congressman, he quickly established a reputation for personal integrity, hard work, and the ability to deal effectively with both Republicans and Democrats, qualities that would define his entire political career. During his time in Congress, he was appointed to the Appropriations Committee and rose to prominence on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. He was well respected by his colleagues and was a leader in the Republican Party, serving as the minority leader for 8 years.

After the resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew, Ford was nominated by President Nixon and confirmed by Congress to fill the vacancy. Less than a year later, Nixon resigned and Ford became President, making him the first President who was not elected to either the Presidency or Vice Presidency.

As President, Gerald Ford was confronted with the challenges of dealing with inflation, reviving a depressed economy, solving chronic energy shortages, and trying to ensure world peace. He described himself as a moderate in domestic affairs, an internationalist in foreign affairs, and a conservative in fiscal policy. Respected for his integrity and openness, he worked to restore our country's trust and confidence in the Presidency.

One of his first acts as President was to pardon Richard Nixon before criminal charges were brought against him. Despite strong negative public reaction and political backlash, Ford maintained that this was the right thing to do for the good of the country, and history has borne this out. When the new President, Jimmy Carter, took the oath of office, President Carter summed up the sentiment expressed by many about Ford's Presidency by saying, ''For myself and for our Nation, I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land.''

Gerald Ford and his wife Betty continued to be active in the political process after leaving office. We are proud that Gerald Ford was from Michigan and an important part of the Ford legacy lives on through the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor, MI, and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing our 38th President and his outstanding contributions to our country on the 40th anniversary of his Presidency.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PLYMOUTH COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Plymouth County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Plymouth County worth over $11 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $1 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memories of working together have to include working with community leaders on the renovation of the American Legion building in LeMars. The funding allowed for a new glass block window and improvements to the existing front door to meet code on the first floor and the replacement of windows, repainting, and new signage on the second floor.

Among the highlights:

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all

across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics; it is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans.

Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like LeMars to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Plymouth County has earned $30,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings; they build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Western Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Plymouth County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Plymouth County, I have fought for funding for Head Start, school construction, and dialysis center projects worth more than $1 million, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants—for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Plymouth County has received $462,349 in Harkin Grants.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Plymouth County has received more than $3.4 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Plymouth County's fire departments have received over $325,229 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Plymouth County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Plymouth County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Plymouth County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

LYON COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. It has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Lyon County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Lyon County worth over $1.2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $6.2 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be our shared commitment to school construction and modernization. Iowa students cannot learn in buildings that are falling apart. Working together with State and local communities, this funding has ensured Iowa students are learning in schools that are safe and modern. It was an investment in Iowa communities and its kids, and I look forward to learning about the renovations made possible in Lyon County.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin Grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Lyon

County has received $1,197,251 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Lyon County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $34,181.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Lyon County has received more than $299,000 from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Lyon County's fire departments have received over $397,392 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Lyon County has recognized this important issue by securing $63,750 for wellness grants.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Lyon County, both those with and without disabilities. They make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Lyon County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Lyon County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. Of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

RECOGNIZING BULLET TOOLS

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, thousands of American businesses stem from simple ideas that are born in the living rooms, backyards, and garages of ambitious entrepreneurs. From humble beginnings, businesses mature to reach new customers and broader regions. I wish to recognize Bullet Tools, a small family owned business from my home State of Idaho, whose originality and hard work grew into a global success in a distinctive market.

In 1998, Bullet Tools started as a family operated assembly line in Dalen and Mary Gunn's double-wide mobile home in Hayden, ID. The words, ''It can't be done,'' fueled Mr. Gunn's determination to work through any obstacle. Seeking to advance the construction industry, Mr. Gunn discovered an enhanced method of installing flooring without the challenges associated with electricity, dust and constantly moving in and out of buildings.

Today, Bullet Tools is recognized as a world leading expert in fixed-blade cutting tools for the construction industry. The company has earned a worldwide reputation and serves an international market with unique custom installation needs. Fifty percent of its sales are exported to markets abroad, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Russia and the United Kingdom with an expectation for further growth in other international markets.

Bullet Tools has grown more than 300 percent over the past 5 years. In 2012, Dalen and Mary Gunn's son-in-law, Ben Toews, became president of the company. Mr. Toews' business expertise has allowed Bullet Tools to streamline its product lines and build upon existing manufacturing relationships, while Mr. Gunn continues to focus his energy on researching and developing new products. Today, Bullet Tools boosts over 70 products that may be found both in store and online at Home Depot and other retail distributors across the globe.

Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Gunn and Mr. Toews at their facility in Hayden, ID, with my colleague on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, chair MARIA CANTWELL. I was impressed by the company's strong commitment to its 25 employees and the greater Idaho community. Because of the team's dedication and the business's achievements, it is not surprising that the company has received various awards and endorsements. For example, Bullet Tools was selected as the recipient of the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2009 Northwest Small Business Administration Exporter of the Year Award, the 2010 Green Products Award by Building Products Magazine, the 2013 Pro Tool Innovation Award, and the Gold Hammer Award from Carpenter Magazine. In 2013, Ben Toews was individually recognized as one of North Idaho Business Journal's 30 Under 40 for his ongoing commitment to excellence as an executive setting the pace for outstanding achievement through his integrity and character.

Today, the Gunns' original mobile home continues to welcome visitors to the Bullet Tools' corporate office and manufacturing location, reminding us that with hard work and dedication, the American dream may be achieved in our own backyard. I congratulate the Gunn family and everyone at Bullet Tools on their continued prosperity, strong work ethic, and outstanding reputation for excellence. Bullet Tools epitomizes the finest characteristics of American innovation and is a tribute to both Idaho and the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE GRUBA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Stephanie Gruba, a legislative aide in my Washington, DC, office, for the years of hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Stephanie is a native of Milbank, SD, and is a graduate from the University of South Dakota. Upon graduation from USD, Stephanie moved from Vermillion, SD, to Washington, DC, to become a member of my office staff. In

her almost 3 years on my staff, Stephanie has served as a staff assistant, legislative correspondent, and as a legislative aide. Stephanie has worked tirelessly for my South Dakota constituents and as a loyal member of ''Team Thune.''

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Stephanie for her dedicated service in the Senate and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4486. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4486. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2280. A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5463. A communication from the Deputy Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution; Electrical Protective Equipment'' (RIN1218–AB67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5464. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the operations of the National Service Trust through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5465. A communication from the Regulatory Coordinator, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Sexual Abuse and Assault in Confinement Facilities'' (RIN1653–AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5466. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict), Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on the Activities of the National Guard Counterdrug Schools for Fiscal Year 2013''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5467. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5468. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5469. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5470. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5471. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Evidence that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5472. A communication from the HR Specialist (Executive Resources), Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Small Business Administration, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2014; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–5473. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Size Standards: Construction'' (RIN3245–AG37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–5474. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Government Contracting, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Acquisition Process: Task and Delivery Order Contracts, Bundling, Consolidation'' (RIN3245–AG20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–5475. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Size Standards: Utilities'' (RIN3245–AG25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–5476. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Surety Bond Guarantee Program'' (RIN3245–AG56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–5477. A communication from the HR Specialist (Executive Resources), Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Small Business Administration, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2014; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–5478. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Liquidity and Contingency Funding Plans'' (RIN3133–AD96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5479. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Amendment 14; Correction'' (RIN0648–AY26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5480. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Modifications to Identification Markings on Fishing Gear Marker Buoys'' (RIN0648–BD66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5481. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Tripoli Flight Information Region (FIR); Extension of Expiration Date'' ((RIN2120–AJ93) (Docket No. FAA–2011–0246)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5482. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to Class B Airspace Area; Detroit, MI'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0079)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5483. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification, Revocation, and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Charlotte, NC'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0915)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5484. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0977)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5485. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (88); Amdt. No. 3581'' (RIN2120–AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5486. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (150); Amdt. No. 3582'' (RIN2120–AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5487. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (62); Amdt. No. 3579'' (RIN2120–AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5488. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (121); Amdt. No. 3580'' (RIN2120–AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5489. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualification, Service, and Use of Crewmembers and Aircraft Dispatchers'' ((RIN2120–AJ00) (Docket No. FAA–2008–0677)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5490. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; Final Rule To Revise the Code of Federal Regulations for Species Under the Jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service'' (RIN0648–XC659) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5491. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Part 95 Instrument Flight Rules; Miscellaneous Amendments (4); Amdt. No. 512'' (RIN2120–AA63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5492. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V–625, Arizona'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0093)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5493. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Requirements for Chemical Oxygen Generators Installed on Transport Category Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AK36) (Docket No. FAA–2012–0812)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5494. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2011–1253)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5495. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0169)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5496. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LLC Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1057)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5497. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0326)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5498. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1012)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5499. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V–626, Utah'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0094)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5500. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0171)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5501. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0835)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5502. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held By Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No.

FAA–2013–0822)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5503. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0798)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5504. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0545)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5505. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0872)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5506. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0555)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5507. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0642)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5508. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0554)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5509. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0789)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5510. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0689)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5511. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held By Eurocopter France)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2011–1158)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5512. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0826)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5513. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0573)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5514. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0477)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5515. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0796)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5516. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1023)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5517. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0331)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5518. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0089)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5519. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–1019)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5520. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; the Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0174)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5521. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0976)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5522. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1019)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5523. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rockwell Collins, Inc. Transponders'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0966)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5524. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1015)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5525. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2012–1318)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5526. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Continental Motors, Inc. Reciprocating Engines With Superior Air Parts, Inc. (SAP) Cylinder Assemblies Installed'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2007–0051)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5527. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0542)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5528. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0327)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5529. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0369)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5530. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0740)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5531. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Procedures for Closeout of Grants and Cooperative Agreements'' (RIN2700–AE06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5532. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD099) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5533. A communication from the Chief of the Policy and Rules Division, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules to Permit Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U–NII) Devices in the 5 GHz Band'' ((ET Docket No. 13–49) (FCC 14–30)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5534. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Track Safety Standards; Improving Rail Integrity'' (RIN2130–AC28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5535. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Railroad Workplace Safety; Adjacent-Track On-Track Safety for Roadway Workers'' (RIN2130–AC37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5536. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness Regulations'' (RIN2130–AC33) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5537. A communication from the Director of the Office of Financial Reporting and Policy, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''FY 2013 Agency Financial Report''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5538. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Connect America Fund'' ((RIN3060–AF85) (FCC 14–5)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5539. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Seaway Regulations and Rules: Periodic Update, Various Categories'' (RIN2135–AA33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5540. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Single Family Housing Loans and Grants'' (RIN0575–AC97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5541. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program and Interstate Movement of Farmed or Captive Deer, Elk, and Moose'' (RIN0579–AB35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5542. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Restrictions on Sales of Assets of a Covered Financial Company by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation'' (RIN3064–AE05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5543. A communication from the Associate Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Syrian Sanctions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 542) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5544. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Labeling of Pesticide Products and Devices for Export'' ((RIN2070–AJ53) (FRL No. 9908–82)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5545. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5546. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Nitrogen Oxide Combustion Turbine Alternative Control Requirements for the Milwaukee-Racine Former Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9908–93–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5547. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Mondelez Global LLC, Inc.—Richmond Bakery located in Henrico County, Virginia'' (FRL No. 9910–04–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5548. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air

Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan'' (FRL No. 9910–06–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5549. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plan Revisions; Revisions to the Air Pollution Control Rules; North Dakota'' (FRL No. 9909–86–Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5550. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Technical Amendments to Inadvertent Errors in Air Quality Designations for Fine Particles, Ozone, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide'' (FRL No. 9909–24–OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5551. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Idaho Amalgamated Sugar Company Nampa BART Alternative'' (FRL No. 9909–37–Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5552. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Colorado; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions'' (FRL No. 9907–58–Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5553. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Special Exemptions from Requirements of the Clean Air Act'' (FRL No. 9909–18–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5554. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Redesignation of the Milwaukee-Racine 2006 24-Hour Fine Particle Nonattainment Area to Attainment'' (FRL No. 9909–50–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5555. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; Revisions to Fossil Fuel Utilization Facilities and Source Registration Regulations and Industrial Performance Standards for Boilers'' (FRL No. 9800–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5556. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendments to Delegation of Authority Provisions in the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program'' (FRL No. 9909–19–OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5557. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revision for GP Big Island, LLC'' (FRL No. 9909–60–Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5558. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New York State; Redesignation of Areas for 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter and Approval of the Associated Maintenance Plan'' (FRL No. 9909–65–Region 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5559. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan El Dorado County Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 9909–66–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5560. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Secretary of the Army's report relative to the Walton County, Florida hurricane and storm damage reduction project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5561. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Department of Energy's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Regulations'' (RIN1904–AA32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5562. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of Notice 2012–45 Treatment of Income from Certain Government Bonds for Purposes of the Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules'' (Notice 2014–31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5563. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Annual Price Inflation Adjustments for Contribution Limitations Made to a Health Savings Account Pursuant to Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code'' (Rev. Proc. 2014–30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5564. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Applicable Federal Rates—May 2014'' (Rev. Rul. 2014–13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5565. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revenue Procedure: Purchase Price Safe Harbors for sections 143 and 25'' (Rev. Proc. 2014–31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5566. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''2013 Actuarial Report on the Financial Outlook for Medicaid''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5567. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Interim Report to Congress on the Medicaid Health Home State Plan Option''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5568. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting proposed legislation entitled the ''Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America Act''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5569. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; South Dakota; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions'' (FRL No. 9909–08–Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5570. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; States of Arkansas and Louisiana; Clean Air Interstate Rule State Implementation Plan Revisions'' (FRL No. 9909–56–Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5571. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

law, a report entitled ''Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts'' covering the period August 7, 2013 to February 6, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5572. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period December 31, 2013 through January 31, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5573. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the implementation of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5574. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, for the six months ending June 30, 2013''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5575. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Linuron; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Corrections'' (FRL No. 9908–83) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5576. A communication from the Counsel to the Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, General Services Administration, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5577. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Financial Report of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5578. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–307, ''Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5579. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to compliance by the United States courts of appeals and district courts with the time limitations established for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Elisebeth Collins Cook, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2020.

Deirdre M. Daly, of Connecticut, to be United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut for the term of four years.

James Walter Frazer Green, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2275. A bill to expand project eligibility to certain public infrastructure projects under chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2276. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to mental health services under the TRICARE program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COATS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mr. BURR):

S. 2277. A bill to prevent further Russian aggression toward Ukraine and other sovereign states in Europe and Eurasia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2278. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act so as to eliminate the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to limit the ability of medical providers to conduct lawful business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 2279. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate certain energy tax subsidies and lower the corporate income tax rate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. LEE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. COATS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HELLER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. TESTER, and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. 2280. A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; read the first time.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2281. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make technical improvements to the Net Price Calculator system so that prospective students may have a more accurate understanding of the true cost of college; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2282. A bill to prohibit the provision of performance awards to employees of the Internal Revenue Service who owe back taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2283. A bill to encourage enhanced security cooperation with European allies and continued enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2284. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish new standards for automobile hoods and bumpers to reduce pedestrian injuries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 2285. A bill to help small businesses access capital and create jobs by reauthorizing the successful State Small Business Credit Initiative; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WALSH:

S. 2286. A bill to provide for greater oversight of Department of Defense service contracts; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. Res. 432. A resolution recognizing the efforts of the National Park Service and others in restoring and repairing the Washington Monument; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 433. A resolution condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 279

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 279, a bill to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, and for other purposes.

S. 323

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 323, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, supra.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 557

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 896

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 896, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve operations of recovery auditors under the Medicare integrity program, to increase transparency and accuracy in audits conducted by contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1622

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to support early learning.

S. 1992

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1992, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2094

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2094, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 2132

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2132, a bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2178, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2223

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S. 2244

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2244, a bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2252, a bill to reaffirm the importance of community banking and community banking regulatory experience on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, to ensure that the Federal Reserve Board of Governors has a member who has previous experience in

community banking or community banking supervision, and for other purposes.

S. 2255

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2255, a bill to remove the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan from treatment as terrorist organizations and for other purposes.

S. 2263

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2263, a bill to appropriately limit the authority to award bonuses to employees.

S. 2265

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2265, a bill to prohibit certain assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 364

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 364, a resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

S. RES. 421

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 421, a resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and military achievement by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending them for leadership and valor in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

AMENDMENT NO. 2752

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2752 intended to be proposed to S. 1982, a bill to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. LEE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. COATS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HELLER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. TESTER, and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. 2280. A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; read the first time.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I filed an updated bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline project. That bill is at the desk. What this legislation does is it approves the project congressionally, which is authorized under the Constitution of the United States. Section 8 of article 1 of our Constitution expressly gives Congress the authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations. That is the determination we are looking for here from the President on this pipeline project. The decision is simply: Is the project in the national interest or is it not?

The President and his administration have been considering this project, and this decision—is it in the national interest or not—for more than 5 years. We are now in the sixth year. It was our expectation the process would be completed on or about the first week in May. The final environmental impact statement came out at the end of January and, as the prior environmental impact statements had determined, this environmental impact statement said there is no significant environmental impact caused by the project. This is a study done over years by this administration's Department of State. For the fourth time the report came out with no significant environmental impact created by this project. So as I say, it was the expectation of this Senate and really of Americans across the country that sometime in May the President would make a decision because all along he said he was following the process, and once the process was completed he would make a decision. A little over a week ago, on the afternoon of Good Friday—a time that I believe was selected in order to minimize the news coverage—the President or the administration made the announcement they would now delay this project indefinitely—indefinitely. Not a statement of: We are just going to follow the process, which is what had been said before. Even though the President, in a meeting with me and our conference, came out and said we would have a decision before the end of 2013. That is what he told us. That didn't happen because then he changed it to: We are going to follow the process. Now it is not even going to follow the process. He is just going to delay a decision indefinitely.

The rationale for that is that there is litigation in Nebraska as to whether the public service commission in the State of Nebraska has the right to determine the route of the pipeline through Nebraska or whether in fact the legislature does.

Some time ago, right at the beginning of 2012, we had passed legislation in this body, which I sponsored, that required the President to make a decision on the project within 90 days. We passed that bill and, in fact, he then made a decision to decline the project based on the route in Nebraska. So Nebraska went through the work of rerouting the pipeline in the State, and that new route was approved by the legislature and it was approved by the Governor. But opponents of the project decided to sue on the basis that, no, the PSC should make a decision as to the route in Nebraska.

So be it. That can be adjudicated in Nebraska, as can any other issue that somebody may choose to file a lawsuit over. But that really has nothing to do with the decision the President needs to make. The decision the President needs to make is a very simple decision: Is this pipeline project in the interest of the United States or is it not? This is after his State Department has said there is no significant environmental impact created by the project not once, not twice, but four times. So it is a simple decision.

It is a decision of whether we should have more energy that we produce in our country and that is produced in Canada, our closest friend and ally, or whether we should keep getting energy from the Middle East. It is a decision about whether we should have more jobs. The State Department says 42,000 jobs are created in constructing the pipeline. It is a decision about economic activity. This creates economic activity, with hundreds of millions in tax revenue to help reduce the deficit and debt without spending one penny of Federal money.

That is the decision before the President. But he refuses to make it. So it is long past time—long past time, as we are now in year 6—for this body to step forward and make the decision. As I said just a minute ago, we have the authority to make the decision. Section 8

of article 1 of the Constitution of the United States gives Congress the authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations. So we need to make the decision. The time is long past when we can continue to wait.

How can we continue to wait when the President says it will be an indefinite time period before he will even consider making a decision?

So the bill we have put forward is a very simple, straightforward bill. As a matter of fact, I am going to take a couple minutes and read it because it is three pages. It is an updated bill to a bill I provided on a bipartisan basis earlier. We had 27 cosponsors of the earlier legislation. We now have 56 Republicans and Democrats on this bill, and we are working very hard to get 60 so there is no procedural way to stop this legislation, but I will take just a minute and read it because it is self-explanatory, it is simple, it is straightforward, and it is common sense.

A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

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

SECTION 1. KEYSTONE XL APPROVAL.

IN GENERAL. TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. may construct, connect, operate, and maintain the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in the application filed on May 4, 2012, by TransCanada Corporation to the Department of State (including any subsequent revision to the pipeline route within the State of Nebraska required or authorized by the State of Nebraska).

So we have expressly put language in there to address the litigation. The litigation the President is concerned about we expressly address in the bill.

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement issued by Secretary of State in January 2014, regarding the pipeline referred to in subsection (a), and the environmental analysis, consultation, and review described in that document (including appendices) shall be considered to fully satisfy—

(1) all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 . . .

and

(2) any other provision of law that requires Federal agency consultation or review (including the consultation or review required under section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 . . . with respect to the pipeline and facilities referred to in subsection (a).

(c) PERMITS.—Any Federal permit or authorization issued before the date of enactment of this Act for the pipeline and cross-border facilities referred to in subsection (a) shall remain in effect.

(d) FEDERAL JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any legal challenge to a Federal agency action regarding the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, that are approved by this Act, and any permit, right-of-way, or other action taken to construct or complete the project pursuant to Federal law, shall only be subject to judicial review on direct appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

(e) PRIVATE PROPERTY SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act alters any Federal, State, or local process or condition in effect on the date of enactment of this Act that is necessary to secure access from an owner of private property to construct the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a).

That is it. It is that simple. It is that simple.

So our President has been deliberating on this now for 6 years, and that is the decision. Are we going to produce energy in this country, are we going to work with Canada to get our energy, are we going to create jobs, are we going to generate economic activity or are we going to continue to rely on oil from the Middle East?

It is not as though there is no precedent to do it. Look at this chart. The red line is the Keystone Pipeline. I don't know how many people realize it, but we have already built the Keystone Pipeline—not the Keystone XL Pipeline for which we are seeking approval but the Keystone Pipeline. The project under consideration is a sister project to one that has already been built. It brings oil from Canada into the United States. That is the Keystone project. It has been permitted and built. It is in operation now.

The Keystone XL Pipeline, the sister project, brings oil from Canada into the United States; then North Dakota and Montana put light sweet Bakken and crude oil in it as well, and that oil goes to our refineries. Does it seem like a complicated decision, a difficult decision? Does it seem like something that requires 6 years of study?

The point is this body can approve it. That is what this is all about. We have 56 Senators—56 Senators, Republicans and Democrats—saying: Give us a vote. Give us a vote. Let this Senate do its job. Let's approve this project. It is a very straightforward decision.

Is this decision going to be made for special interest groups? Is this decision going to be blocked? Are we not going to get a vote because special interest groups are opposed to something the American people want? In the most recent poll, 70 percent of Americans want it built. What does it take?

One of the arguments I heard is: It is a pipeline. It has to be studied for 6 years because it is so complicated and difficult.

There are the pipelines we have in this country. We have millions of miles of pipeline, but it is so difficult to figure out whether we should build one more that produces energy and jobs for our country? A lot of these pipelines are old and we have millions of miles of pipelines all over this country. We can't decide whether we should build one more that is state-of-the-art?

What are we saying to our friends and neighbors in Canada? They very much want this project. They feel they have dealt with our country in good faith. What are we saying to Canada?

Some might say, if the pipeline isn't built, then that energy will not be produced from the oil sands area in Canada.

Really? Is that right? Then what is this pipeline moving? Oil from the oil sands in Canada. What is moving on our railroads all over this country?

If we don't build this pipeline, that oil is either going to China—and then we end up continuing to get our oil from the Middle East—or it is going to move by rail. If it moves by rail, that is 1,400 tanker cars a day on our railroads, 14-unit trains of 100 cars a day on our railroads. Does that seem like a better way to move it than a state-of-the-art pipeline? That is the decision.

I could put the decision in front of anybody in this country and I don't think it would take them 6 years to decide and I don't think it should take our President not only 6 years to decide, but now he said indefinitely—an indefinite delay.

It is time to vote on this important issue. I wish to thank the Senators who have stepped up and supported this legislation—certainly Senator LANDRIEU, who will be down here to talk about it in a minute, and Senator HEITKAMP, my fellow Senator in North Dakota, and many others on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats.

It is not a partisan issue. It is an issue of whether we are going to make this decision for the people of this country and build an energy future for this country—energy security for this country—where we produce more energy in North America between the United States and Canada than we consume so we don't have to rely on energy from the Middle East or from Venezuela or other countries that may not share our beliefs, our views, and our interests. That is the decision or is this going to be a decision for special interest groups?

If the President refuses to make that decision, we in this body have a responsibility to do it, and we put forward a bill to approve it.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their hard work on this bill, and I ask others to join us. Let's make this decision, and let's make it for the American people.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I am going to speak very briefly this afternoon about a very timely and important subject. My colleague and partner, Senator HOEVEN, came to the floor earlier—I was unable to come at that time—to speak about a bill for which he has actually provided extraordinary leadership.

I wish to thank the Presiding Officer, and Senator HOEVEN for his leadership as well, to try to help bring to the floor of the Senate a vote to help construct the Keystone Pipeline. It is an issue a group of us have been working on now for quite some time. I wish to thank the Presiding Officer again. I wish to also thank the other Democratic leaders who have been so supportive and

helpful to us in this effort: Senator PRYOR from Arkansas, Senator MCCASKILL from Missouri, Senator TESTER from Montana, who agreed to cosponsor the bill, Senator WARNER from Virginia, Senator HAGAN, Senator BEGICH, Senator MANCHIN, Senator DONNELLY, and Senator WALSH. I really want to thank them and other colleagues who have decided they may not want to cosponsor the bill that will be introduced later tonight, but they very well may vote for it, and I appreciate it.

I know this has been a very contentious issue for many, because people have very strong feelings about this particular pipeline called the Keystone XL Pipeline. Some of us who support it have a little trouble understanding why it is such a big deal, but I appreciate there are strong feelings on the other side of this issue. For those of us from States such as Louisiana and Texas and Oklahoma and North Dakota, particularly, that are affected by this pipeline, it is clear that the technology—and we should be proud of it—is extraordinary, it is exploding and, in some ways, unprecedented and unexpected. The technology is creating a real opportunity for America and for North America. That opportunity is for us to produce more oil and gas. The opportunity is to continue to maintain coal supplies that are clean and appropriate for the environment—or advanced coal technologies, I should say—and provide the kind of energy, including as well alternative energies that are emerging, such as wind and solar, and maintaining our nuclear and strategic advantage as part of our electric grid. It provides a real opportunity for us to go from a major country that was scrambling to plan where our energy was going to come from and really concerned about it—paying very high prices sometimes at the pump and through our electric grid—to now a country that gets to actually say, my gosh, look at the resources we have right here in America and the resources we potentially have with our partners and our allies. One of the strongest allies we have in the world is Canada, and an emerging ally—emerging in its relationship with us—is Mexico: The North American continent. I think there is so much potential for Canada, the United States, and Mexico—and others share my view—to become completely not only energy independent but an energy powerhouse for the world—a world in which the North American continent, at least, wants to promote freedom, democracy, and human rights. Senator CARDIN was just on the floor talking about how important that issue is for our Nation and world. He has given literally his life as an expert on human rights around the world and is leading the Helsinki Commission. He was just talking with us about the importance of this and what is happening in Ukraine and in Russia and in Europe recently.

So the issue of freedom and private enterprise and opportunity and education and energy self-sufficiency are goals we treasure and it is possible for the rest of the world and our allies around the world.

But what signal does it send if America is not willing to do its part when it comes to production right here in America and transporting oil and natural gas and other emerging fuels—alternative fuels, alternative sources of electricity—when we are not doing our very best?

I know it is contentious, but I come to the floor to talk about this issue. Senator HOEVEN gave an excellent defense of why the Keystone Pipeline is important. But I want to underscore that in terms of jobs and the economy. I want to underscore the process. Because there are a lot of Democrats and others in my caucus—friends and colleagues—who have said: Well, has the process been complete? Has the process been thorough?

I want to review for the record a couple of very interesting aspects. Before I start, I want to point out, again, this, shown on this map I have in the Chamber, is the Keystone XL Pipeline.

There is already a ''Keystone Pipeline'' that has been constructed and has been operating for quite some time. This is an existing pipeline that is operating from Canada down to the refineries in Texas technically, but very close to the Louisiana border. We are very proud of our industry in Texas and Louisiana—the refining capacity we have, the ability to generate resources this country and the world need. Hopefully, if we can open exports appropriately—which is happening, as we speak. Permits are being issued. The jobs that are created here, the opportunity for creating jobs in every one of our 50 States, including Hawaii and Alaska, and in our territories and in our first nations, as they are called, in our tribal territories, is almost without peer in the last several decades.

But this XL Pipeline is an alternative route, and it has been debated for quite some time. There have been these permits I am going to talk about in a minute that have been reviewed and will put that into the RECORD because there is some concern: Have we really reviewed what we need to do? Have the environmental studies been met?

So into the RECORD I want to put: On April 16, 2010, the Department of State issued its Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It opened a 45-day comment period, which extended for additional days.

Then, a year later, on April 15, 2011, the Department of State issued a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and opened another 45-day comment period. At that time, there were 280,000 comments that were received. Those comments were read, responded to, and absorbed into the process.

On August 26 of that year—2011—the Department of State issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement and opened an additional 90-day review period. The agency continued to accept public comments.

Then, on March 1, 2013, the U.S. State Department issued its Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Keystone XL Presidential Permit application, which includes the proposed new route through Nebraska because there were some questions earlier in the process whether it should go through Nebraska.

Let me say, as strongly as I support the Keystone Pipeline, I also support States—whether it is Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Nebraska, or North Dakota—to make determinations according to their own laws and their own constitutions about the takings of private property, which is sometimes required for projects such as this. Those processes cannot be shortchanged and they cannot be ignored.

One of the court cases right now in Nebraska is because—the courts have ruled this—the Governor there overstepped his bounds and he, according to the court in Nebraska, took actions that were contrary to the law in Nebraska and the constitution.

So these laws I am not dismissive of—the rules and regulations. Nebraska still has some issues that have to be resolved. But the rest of the pipeline to the south here has already been constructed. This part is being worked on. There are other parts of the pipeline that can be started while Nebraska finishes its very legitimate decisions between its courts, its public service commission, and its legislature about the issues in Nebraska—which, let me say, the landowners have valid concerns, and the courts have ruled so.

But, nevertheless, on January 31, 2014—this year—the State Department issued its Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the permit application, confirming that the project is safe and will have limited environmental impacts. The report reflects that TransCanada has agreed to incorporate 59 special safety conditions recommended by the pipeline safety commission.

So to my colleagues who say: Have we given ample time to review, I would say the answer is clearly yes. Is it time to build the pipeline? Yes. And should we get about a vote on the Senate floor to express strong support for a piece of America's infrastructure—North American infrastructure that is critical to the future growth of our economy and to the promise of opportunity, economic opportunity for our citizens? I think the answer to that is yes.

This group of Democrats—of which the Presiding Officer, Senator WARNER from Virginia, is a part—has been working on this now for several years.

One other point I would like to make: the comparison here of other pretty well-known and very large public works projects or private developments—some of them are public and some of them are private—that have been constructed.

The Hoover Dam—very well known—took 5 years to complete, from 1931 to 1936. From planning, design, to completion—5 years.

The Pentagon took 2 years to complete, from 1941 to 1943.

The Space Shuttle Discovery took 4 years to complete, from 1979 to 1983.

The Ambassador Bridge between the United States and Canada—3 years to complete. Design, build, and complete—from 1927 to 1929.

The Theodore Roosevelt—4 years to complete, from 1968 to 1972.

America and Canada: Together we have been building major projects for many years—complicated, tough projects that require tremendous cooperation between agencies, and dealing with environmental protection rules and regulations, and meeting citizens' concerns.

This is not anything new. We have been doing this in America for a long time. It is time to stop studying and stop waiting and start building this Keystone XL Pipeline.

Now, again, the legislation we have introduced today—Senator HOEVEN, Senator LANDRIEU, and 10 other Democrats, and several other Republicans—to build this pipeline would simply say it is time to stop studying; start building. With all due respect, the process is complete. We just acknowledged the process is done.

We also acknowledge there is still an outstanding issue in Nebraska. Nothing in this bill will affect the court decisions, the timeframe in Nebraska. But what it will send is a signal that this other section can start to be built and constructed. And then, of course, Nebraska will take—we do not know. It could be 6 months, it could be a year. We do not know when that process will finally be resolved.

But we can start now. It is going to take several years for this to be completed. If we wait another year, it is pushing this even further back for no good reason.

Let me mention a third argument.

I think some people are under the mistaken impression that this is maybe the first time we have built infrastructure with Canada. Nothing could be farther from the truth. There are 100 cross-border permits that have already been approved for oil and natural gas and electric transmission facilities crossing the U.S.-Mexico or the U.S.-Canadian border. Of these 100 are 21 oil pipelines crossing the border.

So this is such a basic, important point of building infrastructure between Canada, America, and Mexico that some of us who support these kinds of things fairly routinely are having difficulty understanding why 5 years and five permits and five reviews is not satisfactory to build something that has been basically built multiple times before.

Some people may say: Oh, but the difference is, this is connecting the oil sands. The oil sands in Canada are a very important resource, not just for Canada but for the United States. I am glad these oil sands are here as opposed to in Venezuela or I am glad the oil sands are here as opposed to in Cuba. I am glad the oil sands are here as opposed to in the middle of Russia with everything else they have.

I am happy Canada has resources. I am happy. They are a friend and a neighbor and close to us. I am also really impressed with Canada's environmental standards, which are, by my calculations—not in depth, but just a broad review, after speaking to so many industry and government leaders there—very rigorous. I do not think there is anyone in this Chamber who would counter that.

It is well known and understood that Canada has very high standards. They understand, accept climate change. They believe carbon is affecting the climate in a negative way. They believe they can reduce the amount of carbon coming out. They are sensitive to that. But they know what we know—that the world is going to need oil and gas for decades to come. It is not going to stop in 5 years or 10 years. We need oil and gas for decades. Why not use our own? Why not use the oil and gas from Canada, America, and Mexico—creating jobs right here at home, instead of importing it from places around the world that we do not even get along with or places around the world that do not share our values or places around the world that can use the price of oil or gas to hurt our economy. Why don't we take charge of our own economy?

So when some people complain about the oil sands in Canada, I am, frankly, glad they are there. I am glad we can tap into them with extraordinary new, cleaner technologies to have oil and gas and energy for this country that has a very bright future.

So with the reviews—five over 5 years—hundreds of thousands of comments from business, industry, citizens, environmental groups that have been taken into consideration, the Department of State has issued its final review, and that final review said it is safer and more environmentally in tune with our environmental rules and regulations to transport this oil through a pipeline than through rail or highway.

For those of us who live in places that do a lot of production, we always say we are proud of the industry, and we are—the industry makes mistakes, and when they mess up, they have to clean up—but I also have to say, I am very conscious, as most Americans are, of the traffic on our highways, of the backups on our rail system. I hear complaints from businesses, manufacturers: We cannot get our products fast enough.

So here we have a chance to move a commodity under the ground, safely through a pipe, but know if we do not build this pipeline, it is going to move by rail or truck, which congests our highways, congests our rail lines, and causes even more impact on our environment.

I think the record is clear. I think the arguments are in. I think there is no question that this is right for the environment, right for the country, and clearly in the interests of the United States. This will benefit not just the gulf coast where the refineries are, but it is going to create jobs throughout our entire country. Suppliers to this project exist everywhere.

There is a terrific map that I have shown before where suppliers from all over the country are providing either labor or support for the construction of this pipeline and much other similar infrastructure in the Nation.

We already have 2.9 million miles of pipeline in America. This piece we are speaking about today is 1,000 miles. We already have 2.9 million miles of pipe. Yes, some of it needs to be upgraded. Yes, not every inch of it is safe. We are working on that. But this is probably going to be the safest pipeline ever built in the history of America. It has been reviewed so many times. I cannot wait to look at the details of what has been required. I am positive that it is going to be the safest pipeline ever built. It has taken 5 years to get it.

So that is what our bill does. I am going to end with again thanking the Democrats who have joined with me to support the Keystone XL Pipeline. I thank the caucus for at least the opportunity. Hopefully, we will introduce this bill tonight. Hopefully, we can get a vote on this bill. Let me say that the vote will be in connection with the energy efficiency bill that will also be brought to the floor. The reason, as chair of the energy committee, I think that is so important is that while neither one represents a comprehensive energy plan for the country, which I hope to develop with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—I just stepped into this position in the last month—these are two important energy-related pieces that need resolution.

The energy efficiency bill has now been worked on by Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN—bipartisan—for 5 years, almost as long as the Keystone Pipeline has been under consideration by the administration. We have had an energy efficiency bill worked on by Republicans and Democrats that will create thousands of private sector jobs.

It is supported by the Business Roundtable, the Real Estate Roundtable, the Chamber of Commerce, labor leaders all over our country, building owners, and retail establishments. The energy efficiency bill is a terrific piece of legislation. Again, it came out of our committee 18 to 3. There are very few things that have come out of the energy committee that are that impactful. There are little bills that come out that really do not mean much to anybody. They may come out unanimously. It means a lot to the person who is sponsoring it, but it does not have national impact. This has national and international impact—all positive.

Senator SHAHEEN has been a champion of trying to bring this bill to the floor. We have been rebuffed and rebuffed and rebuffed by the Republican side for no reason because some of them are wanting to debate health care and some of them want to debate Iran sanctions. I said: Let's just talk about energy. It is important for the country to focus at least a few hours of the Senate's attention on energy.

America is focused on it. They want it to be affordable. They want it to be as clean as possible. They do not want to have to buy it from countries they do not share values with and do not appreciate. They want less imports to America, more domestic production of alternatives and oil and gas. So let's get about that business.

So efficiency is basically doing a lot more—a lot more with a lot less—saving taxpayers and saving huge sums of money. The example that everyone is becoming more familiar with is the Empire State Building in New York, an extraordinary private sector effort to take one of our most iconic buildings that we all know and which many millions of Americans have actually visited, and to take an old building that was constructed in the 1930s, retooling it with private money—not public grants, private money—and saving the building owners and the tenants of that building millions and millions of dollars as an example of what can be done in commercial buildings throughout this country.

That needs to be unleashed with the legislation of JEANNE SHAHEEN—that power, that promise, to do more of that is going to be unleashed by this bill that Senator PORTMAN and Senator SHAHEEN have carefully put together and Senator WYDEN also when he was chair, with Senator MURKOWSKI's help, and they got it out of the committee.

I committed when I stepped into the leadership of the committee to build on their good work and to do my very best to get that bill to the floor. We have an energy bill with Keystone. I thought the two of them, working together, Republicans and Democrats, we could get a good compromise by working on both of them at the same time. We are capable of doing it. They are clearly broadly supported. It will help create jobs in America.

We will begin with two important steps—not the only ones. There is more that can be done. People come to me and say: Senator, we should do this, we should do that. Yes, we can work on coal. We can work on propane. We had a hearing on propane today. We can work on additional rail for the country. We can work on pipeline safety. We can work on alternative fuels. We can work on strengthening our relationship with Israel and China. We can work on new kinds of automobiles.

But that is for another day. We cannot do all of it at one time. But what we can do is what is before us. We can do what is before us. We can do what is clearly timely. The energy efficiency bill, for 5 years, has been waiting for action by this Senate. The House has already passed an energy efficiency bill.

The pipeline has been waiting 5 years and has been reviewed five times. It is time to move forward on both and create the kinds of jobs for America that we need—high-paying, middle-class jobs—and to begin to help build America and North America as the energy powerhouse that it can be, doing it together. We can recognize the transport of oil and gas, and the production is important, but also alternative and focusing on efficiency and conservation, and many of our Democrats are very proud of the work in that area.

I am sorry to keep the Senate. I think I might be the last speaker of the evening. But I thank the leadership for providing the time, and again, I want to thank Senator HOEVEN for his leadership.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2282. A bill to prohibit the provision of performance awards to employees of the Internal Revenue Service who owe back taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, this is a speech—these are some remarks—that I really should not have to make, but late this afternoon, I rise to discuss more amazing actions from our Nation's tax collector. This is, unfortunately, an agency that is fast becoming the gang that cannot shoot straight—the folks who brought us the partisan suppression of free speech, who piled onto that with proposed rules to shut down political action by groups with which they disagree or do not favor, and the same team that shares confidential taxpayer information with their allies outside of government. Obviously, I am talking about the Internal Revenue Service.

Here is a great deal: Break the law you are required to enforce and get a cash bonus and free time off.

What on Earth is this all about?

Well, last week, the Treasury Department's Inspector General for Tax Administration issued a report, which I have here, on the Internal Revenue Service bonuses that were awarded to personnel who have violated the tax laws or who have been subject to serious infractions of employee policy.

This is a lot like hiring someone to work for you, and then they steel money from you or acted in ways that are very inappropriate. Would you give them a bonus? I do not think most businesspeople would do that. According to the inspector general, close to $3 million was awarded to staff with violations on their records, with about half of that amount going to people who had violated the Tax Code.

Other personnel at the IRS received cash bonuses or other awards despite being cited for—listen to this—drug use, making violent threats, fraudulently claiming unemployment benefits and misusing government credit cards. Still they got bonuses—up to $3 million.

In fact, the report indicates that close to 70 percent of IRS personnel receive some sort of performance award—70 percent of the IRS. That is rather remarkable when you think about the sorts of problems your average taxpayer has in getting help from that particular agency.

This is flatly outrageous—if not appalling or atrocious—and cannot be tolerated. It also makes me wonder what you have to do to be disqualified from an award.

More disturbing, these awards, even for people breaking the law, are perfectly acceptable under current IRS and government-wide guidelines. Let me repeat that. These awards, even for people breaking the law, are perfectly acceptable under current IRS and government-wide guidelines.

Indeed, the IG report makes it clear that under the terms of the collective bargaining agreement with the main union for IRS employees, these awards are appropriate and cannot be taken away because of such violations.

The distribution of these awards at a time when the IRS is under scrutiny for its actions concerning the political activity of conservative groups, when its performance of basic taxpayer service functions has drastically worsened, and when it is calling for additional funding, calls into question the agency's commitment to fair enforcement of our tax laws.

The IG report recognized that these awards—while not technically prohibited—appear to be in conflict with the IRS's charge of ''ensuring integrity of the system of tax administration.'' Well, no kidding. Thank goodness for the inspector general.

That is what we call an understatement—maybe the understatement of the year.

This is another fox in the henhouse story. Not only is the fox in the henhouse, but he is now being rewarded for eating the chickens.

These performance awards are just plain wrong and should not go to anyone who breaks the law, particularly the laws which the agency enforces.

These bonus awards weaken public confidence in the Nation's tax enforcement agency and are a sign that the agency has indeed run off the rails.

The inspector general report recommended that the IRS create a new policy to take disciplinary actions into account when awarding bonuses.

It seems to me we need to do more than set up a new policy or guideline. We need something more concrete and more immediate. That is why today I am joining with my friends—Senators ENZI, CORNYN, RUBIO, TOOMEY, THUNE, JOHANNS, ISAKSON, and Leader MCCONNELL—to introduce the No Bonuses for Delinquent IRS Employees Act—a bill that really should be unnecessary. I thank my colleagues for joining me and, more especially, Senator ENZI, who has done a great deal of work on this and helped expose this from the first.

Our bill is pretty simple. It will prohibit the IRS from providing any performance award to any IRS employee who owes an outstanding Federal tax debt for failing to pay their taxes.

Nobody likes to be audited. Nobody likes to get that phone call from the IRS. Nobody likes to see the taxman at the door. And then if the taxman says: I am sorry, you owe X for a violation of Y, and you find out this individual got a performance bonus even though he or she fails to meet the tax obligations they face, that is rather incredible.

Given what we know about recent IRS actions—and the growing discontent with the agency I hear from Kansans every day—continuing to award personnel bonuses to employees who have outstanding tax liabilities or have violated the tax laws is beyond comprehension and outrageous and should be stopped.

This is not a partisan issue. It is just plain common sense. The IRS should not be in the business of awarding bonuses to its agents who are unable or unwilling to abide by the tax laws they are directed to uphold—simple as that.

So I call upon all my colleagues to support the No Bonuses for Delinquent IRS Employees Act and will ask for its immediate consideration.

In closing, I would like to point out this issue has been well-documented in a 26-page report by the inspector general. I thank the inspector general for the work he has done. Right on the first page it says: ''The Awards Program Complied With Federal Regulations, but Some Employees With Tax and Conduct Issues Received Awards.'' Most IRS employees complied with Federal regulations, but some employees with tax and conduct issues still received awards. That is an oxymoron.

Then, if you skip to the back, there are some recommendations. The recommendation is for corrective action. This is what it says:

The IRS Human Capital Officer—Daniel Riordan is the IRS Human Capital Officer—will conduct a feasibility study. But they do not have to take action right away. They just want to discuss the feasibility of a study—by June 30 of this year—just a couple months away—for the implementation of a policy requiring management to consider a policy change.

It does not say just to do it; it says just consider whether conduct issues resulting in disciplinary actions should be made part of the performance evaluation, especially the nonpayment of taxes owed to the Federal government, prior to awarding performance and discretionary awards.

Daniel Riordan has received marching orders from the Inspector General to conduct a feasibility study by June 30, to determine whether the IRS should even consider whether disciplinary actions, including the nonpayment of taxes owed to the Federal Government, should be part of the evaluation as to whether an employee should be eligible for a performance award.

We really do not need this legislation. We have introduced it to force action. The inspector general says: Let's have action. On 26 pages, he says: Let's have action.

So to Daniel Riordan, I have the following advice—before we get 60 people on this and pass a bill, why don't you just go ahead and do it. Do not conduct a feasibility study. We have all the evidence right here. If you would just change the current policy, it would remove yet another problem, another unfortunate asterisk when we think of the IRS.

I want to thank my colleagues for cosponsoring this legislation and again ask for its immediate consideration.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 432—RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND OTHERS IN RESTORING AND REPAIRING THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 432

Whereas the employees of the National Park Service work tirelessly to maintain the beauty of the 401 national parks of the United States, revitalize communities, preserve local history, celebrate local heritage, and create outdoor recreation for children and families;

Whereas the Washington Monument was built between 1848 and 1884 to commemorate George Washington, the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War and the first president of the United States;

Whereas the Washington Monument is a symbol of unity and freedom in the United States and is the distinguishing feature of the skyline in Washington, DC;

Whereas the Washington Monument is admired by more than 25,000,000 individuals who visit the National Mall each year;

Whereas the Washington Monument was closed for over 2½ years for necessary repairs after being damaged by an earthquake in 2011;

Whereas engineers examined each of the 9,040 marble stones on the exterior of the Washington Monument and many of the more than 10,000 granite stones on the interior of the monument to ensure that the repair of the monument was sound and complete;

Whereas during the rehabilitation, the Washington Monument was covered with scaffolding, markedly altering its appearance;

Whereas although the Washington Monument was closed during rehabilitation, the 488 lights on the scaffolding of the monument illuminated the night sky of the United States capital and provided visitors and residents with a sight of unexpected beauty; and

Whereas the repair of the Washington Monument would not have been possible without the vision and dedication of the National Park Service, contractors of the National Park Service, and generous philanthropic support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) pays tribute to the National Park Service, contractors of the National Park Service, and all individuals who contributed to the restoration of the Washington Monument; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to recognize the hard work of the National Park Service in preserving the monuments of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 433—CONDEMNING THE ABDUCTION OF FEMALE STUDENTS BY ARMED MILITANTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE NORTHEASTERN PROVINCE OF BORNO IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 433

Whereas, on the night of April 14, 2014, as many as 234 female students, most of them between 16 and 18 years old, were abducted by armed militants from the Government Girls Secondary School, a boarding school located in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Whereas the militants burned down several buildings before opening fire on soldiers and police who were guarding the school and forcing the students into trucks;

Whereas, according to local officials in Borno state, about 43 students were able to flee their captors, and the rest remain missing;

Whereas all public secondary schools in Borno state were closed in March 2014 because of increasing attacks in the past year that have killed hundreds of students, but the young women at the Government Girls Secondary School were recalled to take their final exams;

Whereas the group popularly known as ''Boko Haram'', which loosely translates from the Hausa language to ''Western education is sin'', is known to oppose the education of girls, has kidnapped girls in the past to use as cooks and sex slaves, and is thought to be responsible for the April 14th kidnapping in Borno state;

Whereas there are reports that the abducted girls have been sold as brides to Islamist militants for the equivalent of $12 each;

Whereas Boko Haram has targeted schools, mosques, churches, villages, and agricultural centers, as well as government facilities, in an armed campaign to create an Islamic state in northern Nigeria, prompting the president of Nigeria to declare a state of emergency in three of the country's northeastern states in May 2013;

Whereas, according to the Brookings Institution, Boko Haram burned down or destroyed 50 schools and killed approximately 30 teachers in Nigeria in 2013, leaving tens of thousands of children unable to attend school;

Whereas, on April 14, 2014, hours before the kidnapping in Borno state, Boko Haram bombed a bus station in Abuja, Nigeria, killing at least 75 people and wounding over 100, making it the deadliest attack ever in Nigeria's capital;

Whereas Amnesty International estimates that more than 1,500 people have been killed in attacks by Boko Haram or reprisals by Nigerian security forces this year alone, and the Council on Foreign Relations estimates that almost 4,000 people have been killed in Boko Haram attacks since 2011;

Whereas the Department of State designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in November 2013, recognizing the threat posed by the group's large-scale and indiscriminate attacks against women and children;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, girls' education is a major challenge in Nigeria;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), some 4,700,000 children of primary school age are still not in school in Nigeria, with attendance rates lowest in the north;

Whereas a study conducted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) found that school children in Nigeria, particularly those in the northern provinces, are at a disadvantage in their education, with 37 percent of primary-age girls in the rural northeast not attending school, and 30 percent of boys not attending school;

Whereas, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, Nigeria is ranked 106 out of 136 countries based on women's economic participation, educational attainment, and political empowerment;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, women held only 6.7 percent of the seats in Nigeria's parliament in 2013;

Whereas the advancement of women around the world is a foreign policy priority for the United States;

Whereas, according to the United States Agency for International Development, ''Broader, more equitable access to education encourages political participation, enhances governance, strengthens civil society, and promotes transparency and accountability.'';

Whereas a 100-country study by the World Bank shows that increasing the share of women with a secondary education by 1 percent boosts annual per capita income growth by 0.3 percentage points;

Whereas, according to UNICEF, adolescent girls that attend school are less likely to be married as children, ''are less vulnerable to disease including HIV and AIDS, and acquire information and skills that lead to increased earning power. Evidence shows that the return to a year of secondary education for girls correlates to a 25 percent increase in wages later in life.'';

Whereas, according to the World Bank, ''The benefits of women's education go beyond higher productivity for 50 percent of the population. More educated women also tend to be healthier, participate more in the formal labor market, earn more income,. . . and provide better health care and education to their children, all of which eventually improve the well-being of all individuals and lift households out of poverty. These benefits also transmit across generations, as well as to their communities at large.''; and

Whereas women and girls must be allowed to go to school without fear of violence and unjust treatment so that they can take their rightful place as equal citizens of and contributors to the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its strong support for the people of Nigeria, especially the parents and families of the girls abducted by Boko Haram in Borno state, and calls for the immediate, safe return of the girls;

(2) condemns Boko Haram for its violent attacks on civilian targets, including schools, mosques, churches, villages, and agricultural centers in Nigeria;

(3) encourages the Government of Nigeria to strengthen efforts to protect the ability of children to obtain an education and to hold those who conduct such violent attacks accountable;

(4) encourages efforts by the United States Government to support the capacity of the Government of Nigeria to provide security for schools and to hold terrorist organizations, such as Boko Haram, accountable;

(5) urges timely civilian assistance from the United States and allied African nations in rescuing and reintegrating the abducted girls;

(6) recognizes that every individual, regardless of gender, should have the opportunity to pursue an education without fear of discrimination;

(7) reaffirms its commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, and to pursuing policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls worldwide;

(8) recognizes that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked to the potential of countries to generate economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security; and

(9) encourages the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and the Department of Defense to continue their support for initiatives that positively impact the ability of women and girls to fully access their human rights.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 1, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SR–328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Importance of Regional Strategies in Rural Economic Development.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 1, 2014, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 1, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 1, 2014, at 11 a.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''President Obama's 2014 Trade Policy Agenda.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 1, 2014, at 10 a.m., in SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 1, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Margot Hecht, a member of my legislative staff, during today's session of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2280

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2280 introduced earlier today by Senators LANDRIEU and HOEVEN is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2280) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Mr. REID. I ask for a second reading but object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; and that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be two rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 5, 2014, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

PAMELA PEPPER, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN, VICE CHARLES N. CLEVERT, JR., RETIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE SERVING AS THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8037:

To be lieutenant general

BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER F. BURNE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARSHALL B. WEBB

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. RAYMOND A. THOMAS III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEPHEN G. FOGARTY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MARGARET C. WILMOTH

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN L. GRONSKI

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. THOMAS S. ROWDEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN F. KIRBY

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JON M. DAVIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. KENNETH F. MCKENZIE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ROBERT B. NELLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOHN A. TOOLAN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. PATRICK J. HERMESMANN
COL. HELEN G. PRATT

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

ROBERT J. TRAINER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 1211:

To be major

PHILANDER PINCKNEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

ELIZABETH JOYCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be colonel

JASMINE T. DANIELS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

JAN S. SUNDE

To be major

SHRUTI P. MUTALIK
HIMANSHU PATHAK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOSEPH L. CRAVER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

CHARLES E. VARSOGEA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

LOUIS J. LAZZARA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

TARA M. MCARTHUR–MILTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

TODD W. BOEHM

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 1, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

THEODORE DAVID CHUANG, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.

GEORGE JARROD HAZEL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUZAN G. LEVINE, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JANICE MARION SCHNEIDER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Seaside, California. Over the course of the last half century, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church has become a community pillar of the Monterey Peninsula. Service and love are the hallmarks of its congregants and leadership. I can say with unshakeable confidence that the people of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church will continue to be a beacon of service, compassion, and faith in God for another sixty years and beyond.

In 1954, several leaders from Seaside and surrounding communities came together to found a new church. They included Mrs. William Irving, Amy Robinson, Lenora Bean, members of the Felix family, the late Reverend G.E. Ellis, the late Reverend W.F. Bailey, and the Reverend J.W. Harris. The late Reverend G.E. Ellis offered prayer and the group selected the name for the new church that had been suggested the late Sister Edna Felix.

In April 1954, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church services commenced under the leadership of its first Pastor, the Reverend J.W. Harris, at its first Seaside location at 1251 Broadway. The late Reverend J.W. Paige then assumed helm of the Church and helped it grow its congregation and acquire property for a permanent location. Two additional pastors followed in quick succession. The Reverend A.E. Johnson and the Reverend Elroy Day each brought their own particular gift to the Church community, including helping the Church move to 390 Elm Avenue, Seaside, the location that it still calls home today.

In 1961, the Reverend H.H. Lusk, Sr. assumed the pastoral duties of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. The Church community was still small at that time, just 60 members. Under his spiritual and temporal leadership, the Bethel family found many new members. It quickly outgrew its facilities and in 1975, under Reverend Lusk's leadership, the old sanctuary was demolished and replaced with the current sanctuary and classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church is a great American story of a family of faith growing from humble beginnings to become a pillar of the community. I know I speak for the whole House in congratulating Reverend H.H. Lusk, Sr. and the whole Bethel Missionary Baptist Church family on 60 years of success and I look forward to many more.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SENIOR COMPANION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this year, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Senior Companion Program. This important program pairs senior volunteers with frail seniors or disabled adults who are homebound. By providing companionship, taking care of routine chores and providing transportation to medical appointments or the grocery store, Senior Companions are often the only reason that frail seniors or disabled citizens are able to remain in their homes. The program helps over 60,000 Americans continue living on their own, which not only benefits the individuals but saves the federal government millions of dollars. Other Senior Companions provide assistance and friendship to seniors who would otherwise be isolated.

I was responsible for bringing the first Senior Companion program to my home state of Oregon back in 1977. After being elected to Congress in 1986, I kept up my commitment to Senior Companion and other Senior Corps programs like RSVP and the Foster Grandparent Program. These programs have improved the quality of life for the citizens of my district and across the country. By mobilizing seniors to volunteer their skills and experience, vital community needs are met at a lower cost and senior volunteers reap the mental and physical benefits of remaining active in their communities.

After 40 years of success, we need to maintain our commitment to our nation's seniors. I have built a bipartisan coalition and led the fight against misguided proposals to defund Senior Corps and dismantle the current structure of the program in this year's budget debates. We must continue to utilize the talents of seniors and work to improve and protect vital Senior Corps programs like the Senior Companion Program.

HONORING THE STORY INN OF BROWN COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Hoosier innovation and small business entrepreneurship help drive the economic engine of the state. Indiana small businesses are a source of pride for towns and cities across the state for the distinctly local, high quality goods and services they provide. One such small business is the Story Inn of Brown County. Located at "one inconvenient location since 1851," the Story Inn is a snapshot of Indiana's frontier past and melds modern convenience with a rugged atmosphere.

The Story Inn is a staple in southern Indiana with a unique history. The village of Story, Indiana was established through a land grant from President Millard Fillmore to Dr. George Story in 1851. The village grew to support a sizeable population and embodied the small-town Hoosier experience. When the Great Depression crippled the nation, citizens of Story left in droves to search for economic opportunity elsewhere. The small Indiana town never fully regained its pre-depression population, but the lack of development and construction after the economic collapse was a benefit in disguise. Story remained a vintage tribute to Indiana's frontier past, relatively untouched by the modern era, complete with wooden cabins, cattle barns, and an old-fashioned general store.

The general store was converted to a bed and breakfast in the 1980s by aspiring entrepreneurs. In 1998 the town of Story was purchased by Richard R Hofstetter and Frank Mueller. It is still owned by Mr. Hofstetter and today, the bed and breakfast occupies the entire village. A peaceful getaway nestled in the rolling hills of Brown County Indiana, the Story Inn caters to those who wish to revel in breathtaking sights, enjoy culinary delights, or escape the bustle of city life. Guests can relax in a variety of cozy rooms that have elements of modernity but seamlessly blend into the luscious forests that surround the Inn. Even Indianapolis radio personality Greg Garrison purchased a cabin that overlooks the town and is available to guests. "The Garrison" cabin is the epitome of Brown County style: the walls are paneled in pine and the balcony provides an expansive view of the Brown County wilderness.

Guests can enjoy authentic Hoosier cuisine at the Inn's restaurant which features delicacies like locally-raised pork and beef, garden-grown herbs, spices, and fresh local produce, all complimented by a crisp glass or two of fine wine. The Story Inn's commitment to elegant simplicity drives visitors from across the state to this quaint bed and breakfast.

The Story Inn of Brown County continues to offer excellent service with a local taste to any and all desiring a serene getaway. Whether one is embarking on a nature trail, wishing to sample local cuisine, yearning to enjoy the scenery, or just passing through for a visit, the Story Inn is an amazing getaway and a remarkable part of Indiana's history. I would like to thank the Story Inn for its cultural impact on the state, and most importantly, for continuing to exemplify the Hoosier spirit. I wish all involved—including the Blue Lady—continued success for many years to come!

HONORING RESACA MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winners of the 2013–2014 Verizon Innovative App Challenge, team ''Hello Navi'' from Resaca Middle School in Los Fresnos, Texas. I commend the team for their hard work and dedication to the competition. These students exemplify the ingenuity and creativity found amongst South Texas students.

The Verizon Innovative App Challenge encourages middle school and high school students to use knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects to develop an original mobile app concept to address a need in their school or community.

Los Fresnos students Cassandra Baquero, Grecia Cano, Caitlyn Gonzalez, Kayleen Gonzalez, Janessa Leija, Jacqueline Garcia Torres, along with their faculty advisor Maggie Bolado, pioneered an app to help the blind navigate any building, including Resaca Middle School.

Their exemplary leadership and creativity encourages other students to improve our world with technological developments. Projects such as this that increase student interest and knowledge in STEM subjects are extremely important to our region and our country given the high demand for STEM college graduates.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize these outstanding students for winning the 2013–2014 Verizon Innovative App Challenge and look forward to their future accomplishments.

HONORING GENERAL WILLIAM M. FRASER III

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to pay tribute to an exceptional Air Force leader, General William M. Fraser III, Commander, United States Transportation Command.

General Fraser is retiring after honorably serving this great nation with an incredibly distinguished 40-year career. General Fraser graduated from the Texas A&M University ROTC program in 1974. As a command pilot with more than 4,300 flying hours, General Fraser has held command and staff positions at the squadron, group, wing, major command, and Department of Defense levels and is considered one of the finest strategic logistics experts in the nation.

USTRANSCOM serves as the key logistics synchronizer for the Department of Defense. It provides global mobility for rapidly projecting national power and influence, anywhere, anytime. Whether sustaining our combat troops in remote parts of Afghanistan, ensuring critical cargo moves through ports in the South Pacific, or re-supplying our forces at the South Pole, General Fraser and his command have shown the world why we truly are an exceptional nation. No other nation can project power globally or sustain its forces in every far corner of the globe as we can, and we have achieved this ability largely through General Fraser's leadership and the efforts of his command.

Equally important, General Fraser cultivated trust with our allies and forged bonds that will endure for many years. These relationships are reaping diplomatic, economic, and geopolitical benefits that contributing directly to regional security and stability and enabling our military to remain effective and efficient as we downsize and rebalance our forces.

General Fraser will tell you that his accomplishments were due to the hard work from the men and women of USTRANSCOM, but we know they were highly inspired by his leadership. We, in Congress, will miss his ''Giddy Up'' and ''Aggie'' persona and his proactive approach to keep us informed and to help us understand the impact of our work. But most of all, we will be forever grateful for General Fraser's unwavering support to our men and women in the Armed Forces, their dependents, and our entire nation.

Mr. President, while we recognize General Fraser for his 40 years of service, I also wish to recognize his wife, Beverly, and wish her the very best for the future, as well as their son Mac who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and their daughter, Ashlee, a military spouse of an Air Force officer. The Air Force will lose not one, but two, exceptional people upon General Fraser's retirement. Will and Bev, we wish you well in your future endeavors and pray that those who follow in your footsteps may continue the legacy of your unprecedented support for our great nation.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF PATRICK G. EMMANUEL OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the dedicated service and contributions of Patrick G. Emmanuel on the occasion of his retirement from Emmanuel Sheppard and Condon, one of the oldest law firms in Pensacola, Florida. For 67 years, Mr. Emmanuel proudly served the law profession and Northwest Florida with passion and integrity.

Prior to his career in law, Mr. Emmanuel served our Nation with honor and distinction as an officer in the United States Armed Forces. As a U.S. Army major, he earned the Bronze Star for his service as part of a tank battalion unit during World War II.

Upon graduating from the University of Florida College of Law in 1946, Mr. Emmanuel began his long and decorated legal career. His countless accolades attest to his expertise as an attorney. Mr. Emmanuel has been listed in each prestigious volume of The Best Lawyers in America from 1983 until present, was rated by Martindale Hubbell as an A–V attorney, and was the recipient of the Florida Bar Foundation's ''2001 Medal of Honor Award.'' He also served as a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the American Bar Association. His vast list of memberships include: The Florida Bar, President, 1985–1986; Florida Bar Foundation, President, 1971–1973; Federal Judicial Nominating Commission of Florida, member and Chairman, 1974–1981; American Bar Association, Delegate, 1986–1989; Society of the Bar of the First Judicial Circuit, President, 1967; and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Delegate, 1986–1990.

In addition to serving his profession, Mr. Emmanuel also maintained an honorable level of commitment to the Northwest Florida community. For 20 years, he was a pro bono attorney for the Northwest Florida Crippled Children's Home, as well as served on their Board of Directors. Mr. Emmanuel was Chairman of the Advisory Board of Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola for a decade, was appointed by the Governor to the Florida Children's Commission, chaired the Legal Division of the March of Dimes, and was a member of the James Baroco Foundation, Inc. His extensive pro bono work earned him the recognition of the Florida Bar and their President's Pro Bono Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire United States Congress, it is an honor to recognize the impressive career and achievements of one of Northwest Florida's most accomplished attorneys, Patrick G. Emmanuel. My wife Vicki and I congratulate Mr. Emmanuel, and we wish him and his family all the best for continued success.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SENATOR MARGARET CRAVEN

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Maine State Senator Margaret Craven.

A native of Galway, Ireland, Senator Craven immigrated to Massachusetts at the age of 17 and later moved to Maine where she adopted Lewiston as her home city. Senator Craven was first elected to the Maine House of Representatives in 2002 and later to the Maine Senate in 2008.

Senator Craven currently serves as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and as a member of the Government Oversight Committee, and has previously served on the Appropriations Committee.

During her time in the Maine Legislature, Senator Craven has fought tirelessly on behalf of Maine's most vulnerable citizens, including veterans, the elderly, the disabled, women and children. Among her most significant accomplishments is her work on the Commission to Study Long-Term Care Facilities, which provided recommendations for addressing long-term care challenges in Maine.

In addition to her service in the Maine Legislature, Senator Craven has served her community through other means as a hospice volunteer and board member for several organizations, including Lewiston Public Library, Healthy Androscoggin, and Community Concepts.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Maine State Senator Margaret Craven for her service to the state of Maine and in wishing her the best of luck in future endeavors.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, millions of Americans at home and around the world will gather together and pray for our nation in observance of the National Day of Prayer. More than 30,000 services will take place on the steps of county courthouses, in conference rooms of small businesses, and in church sanctuaries.

Since the first call to prayer by the Continental Congress in 1775, prayer has played a significant role in our history. Our forefathers founded this great nation on Christian principles. They believed that every American should be able to practice his or her faith freely and pray for wisdom and guidance for our country and its leaders.

Throughout our nation's challenges and achievements, the American people have united around prayer. Since President Harry Truman signed a Congressional resolution in 1952, we have come together on an annual basis to give thanks and ask God to bless our nation and the American people. I encourage every American to take time today and ask the Lord to guide our nation forward.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF MILTON CITY COUNCILMAN RALPH ''CLAYTON'' WHITE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and dedicated service of Northwest Florida's beloved Milton City Councilman Clayton White. Councilman White was a veteran, successful business owner, and committed public servant. The entire Northwest Florida community mourns the loss of a great man.

Councilman White was a native of Spencer County, Indiana, who first came to Milton, Florida, in 1951 during his service in the United States Navy. Like so many who come to Northwest Florida through military service, Councilman White was immediately struck by the Gulf Coast's natural beauty and the friendly nature of its residents and decided to remain in the area after completing his service. Councilman White and his wife Betty settled in Milton, where they opened a local appliance store, Tops TV and Appliance in 1957, which remains in business today and is run by their son, Barry. Tops quickly became known in the area for its quality selection, customer friendly service, and the store's wall of televisions, which Councilman White left on at night for the public to watch.

Councilman White also became involved in Northwest Florida's civic society and politics. He served on the Santa Rosa Elections Commission, as well as the Navarre Beach Board, before being appointed to a seat on the Milton City Council in 1979, which he held until 1994. In 2000, Councilman White decided to rejoin the council and was elected by the people of Milton to the council, where he continued to serve the community until his recent passing. Councilman White was known as an outstanding councilman with an assiduous work ethic and natural leadership abilities. Councilman White was also a long-time member of the local Kiwanis club, and he served on the Santa Rosa Tourist Development Council.

In addition to his business success and political service, Councilman White was also a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather and a member of First United Methodist Church of Milton. Councilman White was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Betty, who passed away last December. To some Councilman White will be remembered as a dedicated public servant and to others as a successful businessman. To his family and friends, he will always be remembered as family man guided by his faith.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to recognize the life and dedicated service of Councilman Clayton White. My wife Vicki and I extend our prayers and sincere condolences to his sons, Scott, Barry, and Brian; grandchildren, Randall, Emily, Clay, Bailey, Brennan, Brady and Raina; great-grandson Dylan; and the entire White Family.

HONORING ALYSSA KNOBEL ON RECEIVING THE DIRECTOR FOR LIFE AWARD AND RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE JEWISH COUNCIL FOR YOUTH SERVICES

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a dedicated community servant and an outstanding community organization in the suburban Chicago district I represent. The Jewish Council for Youth Services (JCYS) will present Alyssa Knobel with the Director for Life Award at its 2014 Annual Gala.

Both Alyssa and JCYS embody a commitment to service and a dedication to enriching the lives of children that strengthens our community and lays a foundation for the future success of the next generation.

In the time I have known Alyssa, I have consistently been impressed with her energy, her enthusiasm and her passion for helping others. Her many activities are as diverse as they are inspirational, and her work with JCYS, in many roles, has helped boost the confidence and expand the imaginations of countless children.

JCYS is a tremendous organization that understands the fundamental principle that our generation's success will best be measured by the quality of opportunities we provide the next generation. Its steadfast commitment to educational, recreational and leadership development and activities offers many extraordinary opportunities for kids throughout our community.

I also would like to take this opportunity to welcome John Thomason as the new Executive Director of JCYS, and wish him only great success in his new role.

With people like Alyssa and John leading the way, I know JCYS will achieve great new heights and will continue its work inspiring and empowering generations of children for years to come.

STORM DAMAGE IN ARKANSAS, MISSISSIPPI, OKLAHOMA, KANSAS, TENNESSEE, AND ALABAMA

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to be joined here by my colleagues from Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Kansas, Tennessee, Alabama and the states that have been impacted by the devastating storms that occurred earlier this week. While we had hoped that the entire Mississippi and Arkansas delegations could join us, Representatives GREGG HARPER and ALAN NUNNELEE from Mississippi, and Representative TIM GRIFFIN from Arkansas, are back home today coordinating with the federal, state and local officials who are organizing disaster assistance efforts. Tomorrow Representative GRIFFIN will be touring the devastation in Arkansas' second district with Secretary Johnson from the Department of Homeland Security.

All these delegations have spent hours keeping close contact with one another and with officials in Arkansas, in particular regarding the tornado that ripped through Vilonia, Mayflower, El Paso and Perrin, leaving a path of destruction in central Arkansas and the same is true for the other affected states. The destruction we've witnessed is heartbreaking and our prayers go out to those affected by all these devastating storms, especially those who lost loved ones. All of us would like to thank the first responders, volunteers and neighboring communities for all their assistance, donations, prayers and tireless efforts during this difficult time. Their hard work and dedication has saved countless lives. We also urge those who can to continue to help in any way they can to assist in the recovery and rebuilding of neighborhoods and communities that were impacted by these storms.

We also honor and remember those we lost. Representative GRIFFIN asked that I share a story of one of his constituents, U.S. Air Force

Master Sergeant Daniel Wassam, who served as load master instructor with the 138th airlift wing at the Little Rock Air Force Base. The master sergeant lived in Vilonia, Arkansas with his wife, Suzanne, and his two young daughters. According to reports, Master Sergeant Wassam sacrificed his own life to shield his 5-year-old daughter from falling debris. His example of selflessness and bravery during this disaster is one all Americans and Arkansans can admire.

I now ask for a moment of silent prayer to honor all the victims of those recent tragic events.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 180, I was predisposed at this time. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

RECOGNIZING CHILDHOOD APRAXIA DAY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, today marks the second annual Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day, during which we will raise national awareness about Childhood Apraxia of Speech, a particularly difficult, persistent, and severe speech and communication disorder in youngsters.

Today I want to recognize the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA), whose mission is to strengthen the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia. CASANA offers information and support related to CAS on its website, www.apraxiakids.org.

Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) causes children to have extreme difficulty planning and producing the precise, highly refined and specific series of movements of the tongue, lips, jaw, and palate that are necessary for the production of proper speech. It is among the most severe of speech and communication problems in children.

While the act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with apraxia endure an incredible and lengthy struggle. Although not life threatening it is life altering as families are left to cope with the emotional, physical, and financial challenges of having a child diagnosed with CAS. Additionally, without appropriate intervention, children with CAS are at high risk for secondary impacts in literacy and other school-related skills.

We encourage states, insurance providers, and schools to recognize the critical need to provide adequate speech therapy and other services so that the impact of this disorder can be minimized and so that affected children can grow into productive, contributing adult citizens.

Every child should be afforded their best opportunity to develop speech. With early intervention and appropriate therapy, most children with CAS will learn to communicate with their very own voices. These children, as well as their families, deserve our highest respect for their effort, determination and resilience in the face of such obstacles.

Let's use Childhood Apraxia Day to raise awareness about CAS and support the goals of Better Hearing and Speech Month.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 180, I was not able to get to D.C. by the time votes were called due to a personal conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

CONGRATULATING RONDOUT SCHOOL DISTRICT 72 ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rondout Elementary School in the suburban Chicago district I represent as it celebrates its sesquicentennial. For 150 years, Rondout School has educated children with a commitment to the Rondout Way: Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Kindness.

Honoring these principles, Rondout School strives to focus its ''collective professional expertise to deliver the highest quality instruction to our students and to measure their academic and social learning . . . one student at a time.''

This is the Rondout School mission, and it is this mission that the talented, dedicated teachers, employees and administrators of District 72 carry out.

Good education is the foundation of all of our future success in the 21st Century, and all kids, regardless of zip code, deserve the opportunity to pursue an excellent education.

Outstanding schools like Rondout Elementary exemplify the character and vision that our educational system needs.

Whether it is in the classroom, during the summer, through social and emotional learning or at one of Rondout's extracurricular activities, students are engaged, stimulated and challenged in rewarding and enriching ways.

I am proud of Rondout Elementary School's commitment to excellence, and I am so pleased to congratulate Rondout School District 72 on 150 great years.

CELEBRATING DOROTHY ''DOT'' WIEKAMP'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Mrs. Dorothy ''Dot'' Wiekamp, who reached the milestone of her 100th birthday on March 15, 2014. Mrs. Wiekamp is a truly remarkable woman who is known in our community as an outstanding volunteer, community leader, philanthropist, mother, and grandmother.

Dot met her late husband Darwin at Mishawaka High School and the two married in 1936, forming what many have called ''the perfect team.'' Together the Wiekamps began a family, built a business, and created a legacy in our local community.

In 1945, the Wiekamps founded the Owners Discount Corporation in Elkhart, Indiana. The business serviced customers who were overlooked by other banks, specializing in small loans for cars and new businesses. After purchasing the West End State Bank of Mishawaka in 1966, Owners Discount continued to grow, changing its name several times, until finally becoming National City Bank.

The Wiekamp's business success gave way to their philanthropic efforts. The couple played an instrumental role in the building of Memorial Children's Hospital in South Bend and also generously gave their time and money to the construction of the Schwartz Wiekamp Medical Center in Mishawaka. These efforts continue to play a key role in ensuring that local children have access to quality healthcare.

In regards to higher education, the Wiekamps have contributed to numerous institutions and scholarships. The couple helped fund the main classroom building, Wiekamp Hall, at Indiana University—South Bend. They built the Wiekamp Athletic Facility at Bethel College and the Dorothy Wiekamp Demonstration Kitchen at Ivy Tech Community College. In addition, the couple provided funding for the Schwartz Tennis Center at Purdue University.

Mrs. Wiekamp was also instrumental in the construction of a new auditorium at the Northern Indiana Center for History, as well as the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

Throughout her life, Dot has been involved in numerous community organizations. She served on the board of trustees for the Northern Indiana Historical Society, as president of the Mishawaka Visiting Nurses Association, and is a founding member of the Mishawaka YMCA.

From philanthropic support to countless charities and educational institutions to leadership on the boards of our community's most important organizations, the Wiekamps have left a legacy in our local community. I am forever grateful for their service and dedication.

It is a privilege to recognize Dot Wiekamp, a woman whose admirable service and commitment to the local community is truly inspirational. On behalf of Indiana's Second District, I wish her a happy 100th birthday and many more to come.

WORKER'S MEMORIAL DAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the workers who have lost their lives on the job. It is an honor to join The Builders' Association and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today in recognizing these men and women, alongside their colleagues and families.

At the turn of the 20th century, it is estimated that more than 100 American workers died on the job every day, with few laws in place to protect them. Today, over 4,000 workers are killed on the job annually, and 3.3 million suffer a serious injury, leaving much work to be done to provide all workers a safe work environment.

In an effort to address this challenge, trade unions and workplace health and safety organizations world-wide have concentrated on the issue of workers' health and safety on April 28th of each year. Helping lead the charge is OSHA, who has worked to reduce workplace injuries and death for over forty years. In 2001, OSHA and The Builders' Association, through the Build Safe Partnership Program, developed cooperative partnerships designed to protect and promote the safety and health of construction workers in the Midwest. I would like to personally thank The Builders' Association/Kansas City Chapter, AGC, and the Region 7 OSHA office for your continued efforts to keep worker safety a priority.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the local workers who lost their lives. We must never forget them, and we must respect their memory by continuing to work to improve standards for workplace health and safety.

RECOGNIZING THREE ILLINOISANS TRAGICALLY KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sorrow at the deaths of three Illinoisans, killed in an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan last week. The three—John Gabel, Gary Gabel, and Dr. Jerry Umanos—were shot at CURE International's Hospital, which provides critical medical care to the people of Afghanistan.

John Gabel, a visiting lecturer at Kabul University's information technology department, was shot along with his father, Gary Gabel. Both were from Palatine, Illinois and members of the Orchard Evangelical Church in Arlington Heights. Pastor Colin Smith of the church described John as a ''computer genius with a perfect mind'' who was living out his faith through his service in Afghanistan. Amy Dillman, who worked with John while he was at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, said, ''I think John just had a calling and he could see where the work he was good at—the programming and the information technology—could be useful and of service to other areas and other parts of the world that really needed that infrastructure.''

Like his son, Gary Gabel was an active member of his church, working with youth groups and leadership teams. His wife, Teresa, was wounded in the attack but is recovering.

Dr. Jerry Umanos, a pediatrician who had practiced at the Lawndale Christian Health Center in Chicago, was serving at CURE's Hospital. Dr. Umanos was dedicated to providing essential medical care to Afghan children. According to his colleague Dr. Art Jones, ''. . . you can't count the number of children that Jerry's impacted, the lives he's saved on his own, and with the doctors he trained. That's who he was. He was driven by the kids.''

As we mourn the loss of John Gabel, Gary Gabel, and Jerry Umanos, we also reflect on their dedication to working to improve the lives of others. I want to send my condolences to their families and friends.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE LATINO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COUNCIL

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous work of the Latino Children and Families Council and their programs for the Latino community in Wisconsin's Second District.

The Latino Children and Families Council hosts El Día de los Niños, an annual event in Madison, Wisconsin for Latino children and their families. This event includes music, food and plenty of games and educational activities for youth to enjoy. Also featured are opportunities for parents to receive information about childcare, parenting, and the resources available to them in our community. The day culminates with a parade of Latin American Nations which allows the children to showcase their talents and celebrate their heritage.

Through education and advocacy, the Council continually promotes the success and well-being of Latino children and families. The Council promotes strong partnerships between community organizations and works to ensure our schools provide quality education that is inclusive of all students and the unique backgrounds from which they come and the diverse languages that they speak. The Council also provides leadership, giving a strong voice to the concerns of the Latino community.

I am proud to celebrate Saturday, May 3, 2014, as ''El Día de los Niños.'' I thank the Latino Children and Families Council for their efforts to engage with and support the Latino community in Madison. This recognition is a most fitting honor of the important work that they do, not just today but throughout the year.

TO RECOGNIZE CENTRAL BUCKS SOUTH'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2013/2014 Central Bucks South High School ice hockey team who won the Pennsylvania double-A High School Ice Hockey Championship on March 22nd on the campus of Penn State University.

After wrapping up their regular season with a record of 14–3–1, the Titans entered the 2014 Flyers Cup tournament as the second seed. After emerging as the champions from the eastern side of the state, they'd go on to beat western Pennsylvania's Bishop Canevin High School by a score of 5–2 for the state title.

The players, coaches, and managers involved with this year's team should be extremely proud—not only of their accomplishment on the ice, but also of the pride they've brought to their school and area.

Legendary Philadelphia Flyers coach Fred Shero once said, ''Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion. You must first set yourself on fire.''

Hockey, like life, requires hard work and dedication in order to succeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 187 on Final Passage of H.R. 4486, the Fiscal Year 2015 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, April 28, 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote 178, and ''yea'' on rollcall vote 179.

I was also absent for the following votes on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, and May 1, 2014, to participate in immigration events. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall vote 184, ''yea'' on rollcall vote 185, ''yea'' on rollcall vote 186, and ''yea'' on rollcall vote 187 in support of final passage of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

On May 1, 2014, I would like the record to show that had I been present, I would have

voted, "nay" on rollcall vote 188, "nay" on rollcall vote 189, "nay" on rollcall vote 190, "nay" on rollcall vote 191, and "yea" on rollcall vote 192. Finally, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 193 in support of final passage of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act.

HONORING BROOKE JACKSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brooke Jackson. Brooke is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Venturing Crew 2883, and earning a most prestigious recognition, the Venturing Silver Award.

Brooke has been very active with her troop, participating in many activities. Over the years Brooke has been involved with scouting, she has not only earned numerous awards, but also the respect of her family, peers, and community. The Venturing Silver Award is the equivalent of obtaining an Eagle Scout and recognizes the high level of achievement Brooke has accomplished through the Venturing program.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brooke Jackson for her accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Silver Award.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Older Americans Month. Each May, we celebrate the contributions and sacrifices that the older members of our communities have made to our nation.

The theme for this year's Older Americans Month is "Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow." We must encourage older adults to protect themselves from injury and remain active. Unfortunately, unintended injuries to our population of older Americans result in 6 million medically treated injuries and more than 30,000 deaths each year.

We must emphasize safety in public and private settings. Falls are a leading cause of injury and subsequent hospitalization for older Americans. In order to keep the older population in our country contributing to society, we must ensure their health and safety.

Older Americans Month lets us celebrate the achievements of our parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors. Seniors across the country deserve our recognition because they have built our strong foundation.

Please join me in celebrating Older Americans Month during May. Our seniors, a continuously growing number of Americans, deserve our recognition and our care.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 181, I was predisposed at this time.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was unable to return in time for votes due to a personal conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE SERVICE OF REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL CAREY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Representative Michael Carey.

A native of Leeds, Maine and graduate of Dartmouth College, Michael Carey has served the State of Maine through four terms in the Maine House of Representatives as well as through his membership on the board of several community organizations and local businesses.

Representative Carey currently serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and as Chair of the House Committee on Elections. He has also served on the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, Transportation Committee, as well as the special committees on Regulatory Fairness and Reform and Maine's Energy Future during his time in the Maine Legislature.

Representative Carey's long list of legislative achievements includes playing an instrumental role in the development and passage of the state's biennial and supplemental budgets. He has also sponsored successful legislation to strengthen penalties for violations of election laws, improve the Freedom of Access Act, preserve Code Enforcement Officer Training and Certification, improve lobbyist disclosure policies, help nonprofit organizations take part in the legislative process, and assist local towns in providing tax relief to residents.

In addition to his legislative accomplishments, Representative Carey has served Maine through his membership on the board of several local organizations and businesses, including Community Concepts, AVESTA Housing and Androscoggin County Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Representative Michael Carey for his service to the State of Maine and in wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ALEXANDER MEYER BLACKBURN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Meyer Blackburn. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1393, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alexander has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alexander built a fire pit for Heartland Presbyterian Center, a conference and retreat facility in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Meyer Blackburn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING 16 PALM BEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO PLAN TO ENLIST INTO THE MILITARY AFTER GRADUATION

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 16 high school seniors from Palm Beach County who plan to enlist into the military after graduation this spring. Their maturity and courage are a testament to their dedication to our country, and they rightfully deserve our recognition and admiration.

I am proud to represent a district that is home to such a large number of men and women in the military, veterans, and their families. I feel tremendous gratitude to those who fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and to a new generation of heroes from the gulf war, Iraq, and Afghanistan. My father, Bernard Deutch, volunteered to fight in World War II as a teenager where he earned a Purple Heart at the Battle of the Bulge. It was his example of service to our nation that motivated me to serve in Congress.

Congratulations to Christopher Barnikel, Arturo Ipina, Jr., Jose Pascual Tomas, Justin

Grad, Adam Pendleton, Jason Marlin, Charles Green, Alexander Costello, Marc Velazquez, Sumer Boardman, Mauricio Alvarez, Trystan Anderson, Aprilday Lytal, Samuel Steinhouse, Elyzae Reina, and Shereek Powell for their service.

HONORING MICHAEL KAISER, PRESIDENT OF THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 15 years, Michael Kaiser has served excellently as President of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in our nation's capital. Throughout his distinguished career, Michael's talents and devotion to the arts have helped establish the Kennedy Center as one of the nation's premiere performance venues, a destination for artistic talent and a bustling hub of creativity. This weekend, the Kennedy Center community will gather to pay tribute to Michael's outstanding leadership as he steps down from his post later this year.

Since he took the helm in 2001, Michael Kaiser has enthusiastically and passionately embraced the mission of the Kennedy Center, always maintaining, as President Kennedy once said, that ''The life of the arts . . . is close to the center of a nation's purpose—and is a test to the quality of a nation's civilization.''

Under Michael's leadership, the Kennedy Center has featured voices and visions across the disciplines of the performing arts. He has produced wonderful theatrical works that received national acclaim—some of which have garnered Tony Award nominations when they appeared on Broadway. He has presented multiple international festivals that showcased arts from around the world and established the Center as a model for cultural diplomacy. He has hosted every major national and international dance company. Most recently, he oversaw the Center's merger with the Washington National Opera, ensuring that our nation's capital will continue to experience the wonders of the opera.

Michael has embarked on an extensive effort to train arts managers across the country and throughout the world. Acknowledging that great art demands great managers, he conceived a program to bring the next generation of arts leaders together to learn best practices for directing cultural institutions, small and large. He launched a program called ''Arts in Crisis'' to provide free consultation to arts managers across the country. As part of this effort, he traveled to all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia to lead arts management symposia.

Michael has a unique vision that advances both artistic expression and cultural diplomacy—the power of the arts to connect peoples, communities, and nations. He has dedicated himself to enriching artistic expression and disseminating it in a way that builds bridges across borders and fosters international good will.

Michael's intellect, enthusiasm, and passion helped the Kennedy Center grow and thrive. We thank him for his years of leadership and wish him the best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 186, had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

IN MEMORY OF HARRY HARMAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Midlands of South Carolina recognized a life of service to fellow citizens by Lexington County Coroner Harry O. Harman who was one of South Carolina's first Republican county public officials of the Twentieth Century.

The following obituary was published April 24, 2014, in the Lexington County Chronicle & The Dispatch News:

HARRY O. HARMAN, JR.

Funeral services for Harry O. Harman, Jr., 79, will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church with Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle and Rev. Dr. Dennis R. Bolton officiating. A reception will be held in the social hall immediately after the service. Private burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, at Caughman-Harman Funeral Home, Lexington Chapel. Honorary pallbearers are the staffs of Caughman-Harman Funeral Home, Lexington County Coroner's Office led by Chief Deputy Coroner Randy A. Martin, and Lexington Medical Center Pathology; the SC Funeral Directors' and SC Coroners' Associations; and Congressman Joe Wilson, Sheriff James R. Metts, Solicitor Donald V. Myers, Judge Knox McMahon, Jake Knotts, Mickey Lindler, and Lyman Whitehead.

Pallbearers are Josef E. Clark, Trevor P. Crocker, Alexander Harman, T. Brett Harman, George P.W. Harmon, Dr. R.B. Harmon II, Samuel H. Hendrix, Lester B. Hite, Joe Wayne Rauch, Walter ''Sonny'' Sanders, Franklin B. Waites, and Coroner Gary Watts.

Mr. Harman passed away on Friday, April 18, 2014. A native of Lexington, SC, Mr. Harman was born on March 30, 1935, and was the son of the late Sarah Clark Harman and Dr. H. Odelle Harman. He was predeceased by brother, Arthur C. Harman.

Mr. Harman graduated from Lexington High School, attended Newberry College, and was a graduate of Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. In 1961 he started a successful business, Harman Funeral Home, which became Caughman-Harman Funeral Home in 1966 when he formed a partnership with the late Stephen Hampton Caughman. He spent more than 50 years counseling bereaved families.

Mr. Harman was first elected Coroner of Lexington County in 1976. He was instrumental in developing a countywide disaster plan and disaster-response team, 24-hour pathologist availability, and employing educated individuals to meet the demands of changing technology. He sought to establish strong working relationships with all law enforcement, EMS, fire services, physicians, pathologists, and nurses. He also helped obtain burial plots and grave markers to ensure dignified burials for indigent citizens of Lexington County.

Mr. Harman was a lifelong member of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and longtime member of the Lexington County Chamber of Commerce, Lions' Club, Jaycees, and SC Coroners' and SC Law Enforcement Associations. He was a past member of the Lowman Home Board of Directors, as well as many other civic groups, and past president of the SC Funeral Directors' Association.

A man of many accomplishments, Mr. Harman was, most importantly, a servant. He took great pride and care in serving the people of his beloved Lexington County. With a strong sense of compassion and respect, he wanted to help families at times of crisis and sadness. This desire began with his work as a funeral director and continued with his service as Coroner. The people of Lexington County elected him as Coroner ten times, an honor he accepted with much gratitude and humility.

While Mr. Harman's service touched many lives, he was always, first of all, a dedicated son, brother, father, and grandfather who loved his family, especially his daughters and grandchildren, selflessly and unconditionally. His extraordinary sense of humor, unfailing empathy, understanding, and devotion will always be treasured and remembered by his family and friends. Mr. Harman is survived by his daughters, Sally H. Plowden (Russell) and Charlotte H. Stormer (Chris), both of Columbia; his sister, Elizabeth H. Caddell and brother Paul E. Harman (Gale) of Lexington; six grandchildren, Sarah Caroline Plowden, William Christian Stormer, Samuel Harman Stormer, Grace Zimmerman Plowden, Sarah McIver Stormer, and Anne Brailsford Plowden; many nieces and nephews; his loyal business partner and devoted mother of his two daughters and grandmother of his six grandchildren, Daisy Wilson Harman; and his special friend, Sandra Rauch White.

The Family wishes to extend a special thank you to the staffs of Lexington Medical Center, LMC Extended Care, and DayBreak; Doctors Michael Roberts, Christopher Marshall, and Richard Murray; and dear friends Bernice Gibson and Lettie Winston.

Memorials may be made to St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 119 N. Church St., Lexington, SC 29072; Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, 3000 S. Beltline Blvd., Columbia, SC 29201; or a Hospice group of one's choice.

HONORING BRAEDYN HAUSDORF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Braedyn Hausdorf. Braedyn is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 174, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Braedyn has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Braedyn has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Braedyn has led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader and become a member of the Order of the Arrow. Braedyn has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Braedyn coordinated and constructed a quarter-mile walking trail within a park in Canton, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Braedyn Hausdorf for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY FLORES, LUPE F. FLORES AND OUR LADY OF LORETO CHAPEL

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Flores and Lupe F. Flores and their contribution to Our Lady of Loreto Chapel in Goliad, Texas.

The beautiful chapel has been in continuous use since the 1700s and is one of the oldest churches in Texas.

In 1946, Corpus Christi artist Antonio Garcia, who was known as the Michelangelo of South Texas, was commissioned to paint a fresco behind the chapel's altar. Mary Flores and Lupe F. Flores, both in high school at the time, posed for the artist during multiple sessions after school. Their likenesses were used to depict the annunciation scene from the Bible where the Angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary and explains that she will become the mother of Jesus.

The stunning fresco, which Mary Flores and Lupe Flores helped to create, is uniquely Texan and includes a cactus and rattlesnake in the background.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Mary Flores, Lupe F. Flores and their contribution to Our Lady of Loreto Chapel. I appreciate you and the House of Representatives joining me in recognizing the beauty and history of Our Lady of Loreto Chapel and Goliad, Texas.

UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES ENLISTEES FROM FLORIDA'S 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seventy-five high school seniors in Florida's 22nd District who have decided to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of these seventy-five, twenty-two have joined the Army; their names are Daryl Flowers, Stanly Ramirez, Jonathan Belman-Otero, Wilfredo Colon, Jeanette Cox, Dalenjie Jeanty, Cory Chobot, Kendall Gonsalves, Jamile Hill, Devon Petchner, Gage Morgan, Mario Valenzuela, Jr., Vanessa Sheika, Jackenson Toussaint, Jeffrey Edano, Krista Ramirez, Julianna Guerra, Caylah Murray, Kamyra Johnson, Daniel Castillo-Hernandez, Matthew Smith-Mullaly, Matthew Woods. Thirty-three have joined the Marines; their names are Kevin Cobty, Andres Cifuentes, Jimmy Octave, Frank Barker, Timothy Murray, Nicholas Nixon, Emilio Perez, Devonta Battles, Rock Joseph, Artem Solomakin, Arnulfo Vasquez, Gabriel Figueredo, Brian Sauls, Thales Rodrigues, Richard Lemus, Manuel Gonzalez, Bailey Ochoa, Collin Murphy, Julian Sosa, Leandra Sinclair, John Newkirk, Alexander Averhart, Bryant Mercely, Jace Bowes, Eric Morzella, Dylan Pierre Louis, Emmanuel Rivera, Argelis Hernandez, Jacob Quickel, Victor Stremel, Christian Pontier, Jonathan Vallejo, Devon McCarthy, Jr. Three have joined the National Guard; their names are Jimmy Lopez, Shalena Higgins, Kenneth Talvo. Fifteen have joined the Navy; their names are Jason Bagnall, Bobby Thomas, Raymond Brooks, Alec Johnston, Max Joseph, Xavier Owens, Christian Peraza, Ariah Pickering, Victoria Umpierrez, Christina Coder, Christopher Gibb, Jose Lopez, Charles Tookes, Maria Valdes, and Nehemie Jean-Charles. Two have joined the Air Force; their names are Gabrielle Etheradge and Aubrey Amorer.

It is in thanks to the dedication of patriots like these that we are able to meet here today, in the United States House of Representatives, and openly debate the best solutions to the diverse issues that confront our country. On behalf of myself and all of my constituents in Florida's Twenty-Second District, thank you for your service and best of luck as you pursue this challenging endeavor.

ON THE OCCASION OF COACH ALBERT FRACASSA'S RETIREMENT AS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH FROM BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL IN BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Al Fracassa as his family and the Greater Detroit community celebrate his retirement as Head Coach of the Brother Rice Warriors football team in Birmingham, Michigan. Capping off a 57 year career in football coaching, Coach Fracassa leaves the field as the winningest high school football coach in the State of Michigan's history having compiled 430 victories.

Long before his days as coach, Fracassa played football in high school and college—where he earned All State honors at Detroit's Northeastern High School and later joined the Michigan State University Spartans. At Michigan State, he was part of the school's dominance in colligate football during the early 1950s. While playing with the Spartans, Coach Fracassa was part of a team that won the National Championship in 1952 and played in the Rose Bowl in 1954. During his senior year, Coach Fracassa was honored with the highly coveted Fred Danziger Award. Praised by his teammates for his contributions both on and off the field, they describe Coach Fracassa as a dedicated athlete whose leadership inspired the best in his teammates—qualities that would continue to inspire while he worked the sidelines as a coach.

After his graduation from Michigan State, Coach Fracassa joined the coaching staff at Royal Oak's Shrine High School and became head coach several years later. In 1969, he went on to become head coach at Brother Rice High School in Birmingham, where he has served for 45 years and built a dynasty of dominance in Michigan high school football.

In football, so many important metrics of performance are measured by statistics, numbers which tell an incredible story of success for the Warriors under the direction of Coach Fracassa. With nine Michigan High School Athletic Association Championships—including three in the last three years, 16 Catholic League Championships, four teams that have been ranked national by USA Today and 430 victories over his career, Coach Fracassa has built an incredible program at Brother Rice. He is the recipient of many awards throughout his career, including the 2013 Coach of the Year Award by USA Today.

However, statistics do not tell the entire story of Coach Fracassa's success—the inspiration he instills in his players through his leadership and dedication to overall well-being. A constant throughout his career, Coach Fracassa is praised by his players for his inventiveness in play calling, his support of their development both on and off the field, and his genuine love for the sport of football. And as a testament to the long-term impact of his coaching, many of his players have gone on to excel in college and the National Football League.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Coach Al Fracassa for the incredible impact he has made on the Greater Detroit community and the State of Michigan. For 57 years, he has demonstrated leadership and dedication that have truly inspired his players to reach for their maximum potential. Coach Fracassa leaves an incredible legacy at Brother Rice—45 years of success and hundreds of students who he has helped develop both in personal character and in skill on the football field. I know his leadership on the field will be greatly missed and I wish Coach Fracassa and his wife, Phyllis, the very best as they embark upon a new chapter in their lives.

CONGRATULATING WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE 100 BEST CORPORATE CITIZENS

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Weyerhaeuser Company on

being recognized as one of best corporate citizens in the nation. Weyerhaeuser ranked sixth on Corporate Responsibility Magazine's 100 Best Corporate Citizens 2014 list.

Since 1957, Weyerhaeuser has been an important part of communities throughout eastern North Carolina. Weyerhaeuser employs 1,051 North Carolinians and helps sustain families and businesses in rural communities across the state. More than 545,000 acres of land in North Carolina is owned or leased by Weyerhaeuser. The company's Softwood Lumber Mill in Plymouth and the Carolina Timberlands and GHW Operations Center in Washington are essential economic drivers for North Carolina's First Congressional District.

North Carolinians benefit from Weyerhaeuser's presence in our state. The company is an important economic contributor through job creation and business development, but importantly serves as an environmental steward and engages in philanthropy throughout the state. Over the last six years Weyerhaeuser has donated more than $2.5 million to philanthropic causes in North Carolina communities. Nationally, Weyerhaeuser and its employees have donated more than $215 million since 1903 to support education and youth development, affordable housing and shelter, human services, civic and cultural growth, and environmental stewardship.

Corporate Responsibility Magazine's 100 Best Corporate Citizens 2014 list evaluates companies based on climate change, employee relations, environment, finance, governance, human rights, and philanthropy. I am proud to represent Weyerhaeuser and am grateful for their extraordinary efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the outstanding efforts of Weyerhaeuser employees in North Carolina and across the country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EDELSTEIN FAMILY

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Edelstein family and their contributions to the Brownsville community.

In 1906, Lithuanian Immigrant Morris Edelstein opened Edelstein's Best Furniture store in Brownsville, Texas. By the 1930s, Mr. Edelstein had expanded his furniture business to include 12 stores throughout the Rio Grande Valley. In the 1940s, Morris Edelstein's sons, Ruben and Ben, took over the family furniture business. Together, they operated the chain of stores for more than 60 years and would grow the company to employ 260 people.

Morris Edelstein taught his children the importance of giving back to the Brownsville community. Ruben started the first United Way in Brownsville, served as mayor of Brownsville, and was the first director of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board. Additionally, he worked with Washington policymakers to secure funds to build the Brownsville Community Health Center.

In 2008, the Edelstein family sold its 12 Edelstein's stores but retained two Designer's Showroom stores, managed by Ruben Edelstein's daughter, Julie Edelstein-Best. This summer, Ms. Edelstein-Best will be closing the two remaining stores due to changing market conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor the Edelstein family and their commitment to Brownsville for more than 100 years.

CONGRATULATING THE HONOREES OF THE MAINE SPORTS HALL OF FAME'S 39TH ANNUAL INDUCTION BANQUET AND SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARDS CEREMONY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the Maine Sports Hall of Fame's Annual Induction Banquet and Scholar-Athlete Awards Ceremony.

This Sunday, the Maine Sports Hall of Fame will honor Maine athletes and sports figures who have exemplified a tireless commitment to their sport and to their community. Recognition awards and scholarships also will be presented to five of Maine's outstanding high school scholar-athletes. Each of the honorees have distinguished themselves on and off the field and are most deserving of this recognition.

This year's inductees to the Maine Sports Hall of Fame are: Julia Faith Dawson Clukey, Augusta; Jack W. Cosgrove, Bangor; Joseph L. Ferris, Brewer; Edward J. Flaherty, Portland; William (Bill) Green, Cumberland; Eleanor D. Logan, Boothbay Harbor; George J. Mitchell, New York City; Steven M. Pound, Greenville; and Abigail L. (Abby) Spector, Waterville.

This year's scholar-athlete honorees are: Carsyn Koch, Washburn District High School; Ian Lee, Madawaska High School; Alexandra Logan, Cheverus High School, Portland; Mikayla Turner, Messalonskee High School, Oakland; and Rayne Whitten, Massabesic High School, Waterboro.

The President's Award is presented to ''an individual who has bettered sports and athletics and has become a leader at state and national levels.'' This year's recipient is William E. Haggett of West Bath.

Each of these honorees is among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and their incredible commitment to their sport, to their communities, and to our state, Maine is a better place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating each of the award recipients on their outstanding achievements and service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 183, I was predisposed at this time.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 184, I was unable to make votes due to a personal conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Borough of Woodland Park, located in Passaic County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

The Borough of Woodland Park was created on May 1, 1914. The area which now encompasses the Borough began as a section of the Township of Little Falls, called ''West Park.'' In 1905, the residents of West Park, concerned that they were not being fairly represented within the township initiated a fight to create their own Borough.

On January 7, 1913, the organization proposed the establishment of the ''Borough of West Paterson.'' The proposed name of the new town was chosen in recognition of its location next to the City of Paterson, America's first industrial center and the birthplace of the American silk industry.

Little more than a year later, on March 25, 1914, New Jersey State Senator Peter J. McGinnis' bill, ''An Act to Incorporate the Borough of West Paterson,'' received final approval by Governor James F. Fielder. On May 1, 1914, a referendum was held, and the voters overwhelmingly approved the creation of the new Borough, by a vote of 194 to 20. Twenty four days later, the town elected its first Mayor, Councilmen, Tax Collector, Constables, and two Justices of the Peace.

In its early years, West Paterson's major economic activity was agriculture. The rich, verdant farm lands produced an abundance of dairy products, fruits, and vegetables. The neighboring City of Paterson, which was home to numerous wealthy silk manufacturers, began to see many of its most prominent citizens move to West Paterson to take advantage of its bucolic, small town atmosphere.

The presence of the Passaic River, which is a major natural resource for the region, helped attract many hotels, ball fields, amusement parks, and a racetrack to its banks in West Paterson. At the time, one of the leading amusement parks of the town was Idlewood Park. Other amusement parks also located themselves on Garrett Mountain, on the east side of the Borough, where the Garret Mountain Reservation is today.

As the Borough grew, the population continuously rose. In 1920, the population was 1,858. By 1950, it had jumped to 3,931, and more than doubled over the following decade, to 7,602 by 1960. As of 2010, the Borough's population had grown to 11,819.

As the Borough grew, the township's necessary municipal services did as well. Many of these services were and are made possible due to residents volunteering to carry them out. Woodland Park has a long history of active volunteer commitment to the community, reflecting the value that its citizens place on their town and their desire to continue to make it a great place in which to live and work. Over the past several decades, many townhouse and condominium units were built to accommodate the influx of people wishing to make this desirable community their home.

In 2008, the Borough of West Paterson changed its name to the Borough of Woodland Park. Supporters had been attempting to change the town's name for 20 years, and were successful during the General Election of November 4, 2008. On December 17, 2008, the governing body approved Resolution R08-253, making the town's official name the Borough of Woodland Park, effective January 1, 2009.

Today, the Borough consists of a mixture of retail, office, residential, and industrial properties. A significant portion of the Borough consists of municipal parkland, county parks, and two reservoirs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Borough of Woodland Park as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

SANDY AND MARCIA COHEN

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sandy and Marcia Cohen, who are being honored at the 2014 Susquehanna Tzedakah Society Dinner for their selfless dedication to the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Jewish community.

Mr. and Mrs. Cohen, both Harrisburg natives, are well known throughout our community for their selfless devotion to Jewish philanthropies and activities. Mr. Cohen, CEO of Cohen Produce Marketing, and Mrs. Cohen, a pharmacist at Holy Spirit Hospital, each credit their parents for instilling a strong sense of devotion to helping the Jewish community in any way possible. In their many years of service, the Cohens have always accepted requests for their assistance and in doing so have set a high standard of excellence for others to emulate. Not unmindful of providing for future generations, the Cohens made sure to encourage a strong dedication to tzedakah in their four children, no doubt ensuring their legacy will inspire and benefit many members of the community for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, tonight as the Harrisburg community honors the Cohens at the 2014 Susquehanna Tzedakah Society Dinner, I join in commending them for their outstanding commitment to bettering the Jewish community and thank them and their family for their selfless dedication.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHRYN STONER O'CONNOR

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathryn Stoner O'Connor and her commitment to historical preservation.

Mrs. O'Connor was born on February 11, 1883, on her family's ranch in Victoria County, Texas. In 1905, she married Thomas O'Connor, a prominent rancher in South Texas.

In 1963, Mrs. O'Connor donated approximately $1 million to restore the Presidio La Bahía in Goliad, Texas. The Presidio, which lies along the San Antonio River, was constructed in 1749 by the Spanish army.

During the Texas Revolution, the fort came under siege by a group of Texans lead by Colonel James Fannin. Following the Battle of the Alamo, General Sam Houston ordered Colonel Fannin to abandon the fort. However, Fannin and the more than 300 soldiers under his control were met by the Mexican army and subsequently surrendered, believing they would not be harmed. Fannin and his men were imprisoned at La Bahía. On Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836, Colonel Fannin and more than 300 soldiers were executed in what has become known as the Goliad Massacre.

By the early 1900s, the fort had fallen into disrepair. Thanks to Mrs. O'Connor's generosity, the fort was rebuilt to its 1836 appearance based on archeological evidence. In 1967, Presidio La Bahía was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Today, thanks to Mrs. O'Connor's generous donation, Presidio La Bahía is one the best examples of a Spanish ecclesiastical building in North America and hosts an annual living history event, which includes battle reenactments.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Mrs. O'Connor. I appreciate you joining me in recognizing Mrs. O'Connor's generosity, which preserved the Presidio La Bahía in Goliad, Texas for future generations.

IN HONOR OF VELVET ICE CREAM AND THE ENTIRE DAGER FAMILY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Velvet Ice Cream in Utica, Ohio upon its 100th anniversary.

In a quintessential American story, 15-year-old Joseph Dager came to America from Lebanon in 1903 without knowing a word of English. Eleven years later he started his ice cream business in the basement of a local confectionary. His hand-cranked ice cream batches set his family and Central Ohio on a path that would make Velvet Ice Cream and Central Ohio famous.

Although they no longer hand-crank ice cream in a basement, the company strives to maintain its connection to those by-gone years. In homage to Velvet's adherence to old time values and tradition, Velvet is now housed in a refurbished grist mill from the 1800s. The ''Ye Olde Mill'' now manufactures ice cream, plays host to thousands of visitors and marks the center of activity during each annual Utica Sertoma Ice Cream Festival.

Thousands stream into Utica each year for the festival. Having attended many myself, I know the joy locals and outsiders alike find in a bowl of good, old-fashioned ice cream. In a way, the festival commemorates the simple beginnings of a business started by an immigrant named Joseph Dager. Like so many other enterprises, Velvet Ice Cream started humbly but grew into a Central Ohio institution. America is richer for Velvet's founder's contributions to our country and Central Ohioans are grateful he chose to settle here.

As the fourth generation of the Dager family carries Joseph Dager's legacy into its 2nd century, Central Ohio proudly celebrates one man's vision, hard work and sweet legacy.

HONORING DANIEL PUGH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Pugh. Danny is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 177, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Danny has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Danny has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Danny has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Danny cleaned and cleared a city lot near the town square in Bowling Green, Missouri, that had been abandoned for a decade.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Pugh for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MICHAEL FERRITER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and Commanding General, Installation Management Command, for his distinguished service to the United States of America. Lieutenant General Ferriter will be retiring from the United States Army after nearly 35 years of service. He will be honored at a retirement ceremony on Friday, May 2, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at McGinnis-Wickham Hall at Fort Benning, Georgia.

LTG Ferriter graduated from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina in May 1979, and was commissioned in the Infantry as a Second Lieutenant. After the Infantry Officer Basic Course, his first troop assignment was Platoon Leader, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, Fort Riley, Kansas. From there, he successfully completed numerous command and staff assignments at Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Benning, Georgia; and Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

LTG Ferriter's first Joint Staff assignment was as Deputy Director for Operations and Plans before he became Executive Assistant to the Commander of the United States Joint Forces Command. In June 2004, he was called to duty as Assistant Division Commander of Operations of the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He completed a combat tour in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment; two tours in Iraq as Deputy Commanding General (Operations), Multi-National Corps, Iraq; and one tour as Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training), United States Forces—Iraq.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a respected and compassionate leader when LTG Ferriter was appointed Commanding General of the United States Army Infantry Center and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning. He became a close friend and confidant as he served in my district and when he was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and Commanding General, Installation Management Command, he demonstrated tremendous support for the Congressional Military Family Caucus, which I co-chair with Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS (R–WA). LTG Ferriter and Mrs. Ferriter graciously participated in the CMFC's annual Military Family Summit held at Fort Benning in 2012, demonstrating strong support for our nation's military families.

LTG Ferriter's service to his country is but a small testament of the high caliber of character that he embodies. As the head of a family heavily involved in the military, he recognizes the challenges that face service members, veterans and military families across the nation. Throughout his tenure, he has worked tirelessly to find and implement solutions to these challenges.

LTG Ferriter has certainly excelled in all areas of life, but none of this would be possible without the love and support of his wife, Margie Ferriter. LTG Ferriter's motivation also comes from being a role model to his four children Dr. Meghan Ferriter, MAJ Dan Ferriter, CPT Paddy Ferriter, and former CPT Mary Whitney Whittaker. Mary Whitney and her husband, Garret, are the proud parents of Parker, LTG Ferriter's and Margie's first grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, the nearly 700,000 people in Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter, a ''Soldier's Soldier,'' and Mrs. Ferriter, upon the occasion of his retirement from a stellar career of 35 years in the United States Army.

RECOMMENDATION TO REJECT NORWEGIAN AIR INTERNATIONAL'S APPLICATION FOR A FOREIGN AIR OPERATORS CERTIFICATE

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues concerned about our nation's aviation industry and the delicate balance in our international relations to the pending decision by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx regarding the application of Norwegian Air International for a Foreign Air Operators Certificate.

This important issue was addressed with utmost clarity recently by my friend, former U.S. Congressman Jim Oberstar in the following letter to Secretary Foxx. Jim Oberstar served in the U.S. House from 1975 to 2011 and was for many years Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He is known as the nation's leading expert on Domestic and International Transportation issues. Former Congressman Oberstar urges Secretary Foxx to reject the Norwegian Air International Application.

APRIL 28, 2014.

Hon. ANTHONY FOXX,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation, New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have watched with great interest the public debate over the application of Norwegian Air International (NAI) for a foreign air operator's certificate from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). As a former chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, it is my strongly held view that the approval of NAI's application would run contrary to the U.S.-EU Air Transport Agreement and the labor article embodied in the agreement, and contrary to the best interests of U. S. commercial aviation. I respectfully urge you to reject NAI's application.

During my 36 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives on the committee of jurisdiction over international aviation trade issues, I witnessed dramatic changes in the U.S. and global airline industries. Beginning with deregulation in 1978 and continuing through the modern era of mergers, code sharing, anti-trust-immunized alliances, and expansive Open Skies agreements, much of the airline industry today is globally interconnected; U.S. airlines and their employees are directly impacted by the actions of foreign competitors more than ever before. During my tenure of watchfulness over the U.S. aviation industry, I sought to ensure that liberalization was pursued in bilateral agreements which assured a balance of benefits with our international trade partners, protecting the integrity, safety, and competitiveness of the U.S. aviation system.

In the early 1990s, the U.S. government began negotiating bilateral Air Transport, or Open Skies agreements that were intended to open aviation markets, promote competition and tourism, create jobs and increase consumer choice for international travel. These Open Skies agreements are qualitatively different from other trade agreements which deal with services in that they are almost exclusively bilateral. As such, they reflect a balance of benefits for the U.S. and our trade partner, often with in-country and beyond operating rights, and they are overseen by the Departments of State, Transportation, and Justice, rather than the United States Trade Representative. Given the complexity and size of the U.S. aviation market—which accounts for over half of the world's aviation marketplace—retention of this model is necessary to ensure that the exchange in air traffic rights is done in a way that promotes strong safety, labor and working condition standards, while also ensuring an equitable competitive environment for U.S. airlines. Critical to achieving this goal has long been the continued enforcement of U.S. foreign ownership and control and cabotage laws, along with strong U.S. DOT and DOJ regulatory oversight.

The negotiation of the U.S.-EU Open Skies agreement, which began in the middle of the last decade, presented many unique challenges. While the European Union is an economic and political union of 28 member states, each of these states has retained its respective governmental aviation regulatory authority. Therefore, rather than dealing with a single aviation regulatory body and one set of labor and social laws as we had with previous agreements, we were dealing with multiple aviation regulatory authorities and sets of labor and social laws. While there are base standards for safety and labor laws, the individual nation-state laws still differ widely.

Given the unique nature of negotiating with the EU, many of my colleagues and I were concerned about proposed changes in regulatory structure that would allow any EU airline to operate from any point in the EU to any point in the U.S. and to establish subsidiaries in other EU states. Despite this ''European status'' for operating and corporate rights, there was no EU-wide law that governed key labor-management relations aspects of these airlines. Instead, these aspects—such as selection of bargaining representatives and contract negotiations—were, and continue to be, subject to the national labor laws of the respective European countries.

During the negotiations, EU representatives expressed concern that such an arrangement could lead to ''forum shopping'' where European airlines would seek to operate out of countries with less robust labor and social laws. This could allow airlines to seek the lowest common denominator in terms of labor and regulatory standards thereby lowering their own operating costs but driving down standards throughout the EU. In other words, the EU was concerned that new airlines could be launched using a NAI-like business model.

This concern led negotiators to include in the agreement Article 17 bis (''Social Dimension''), which states that ''the opportunities created by the Agreement are not intended to undermine labour standards or the labour-related rights and principles contained in the Parties' respective laws.'' It further states that ''the principles in paragraph 1 shall guide the Parties as they implement the Agreement.'' The fact that there was no equivalent to Article 17 bis in any of the previous Open Skies agreements with EU member states is a direct acknowledgement of the challenges posed by the regulatory and legal arrangement within the EU.

Article 17 bis was a critical factor in the ''Agreement''. I applauded its inclusion as an important and necessary step in protecting against the use of market-opening aviation trade agreements to lower labor standards throughout the transatlantic aviation market: the largest aviation trade market in the world.

Today, in light of NAI's application for a foreign air operator's certificate, as well as the plethora of public comments that the DOT has received on this application, I believe that the inclusion of Article 17 bis and the concerns that led to its inclusion were particularly prescient.

Mr. Secretary, you and the DOT International policy staff are familiar with the details of NAI's application and business model, but key facts are worth repeating: NAI is a subsidiary of Norwegian Air Shuttle (NAS), a low-cost European carrier based out of Norway. When Norway became a signatory of the U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement in 2011, NAS was afforded the same access to air traffic rights under that agreement as other EU carriers. Rather than expand its operations with its existing corporate structure, its workforce and collective bargaining agreements, NAS created NAI and proceeded to register its long-haul aircraft in Ireland and obtain an Irish Air Operator's Certificate—effectively becoming an Irish airline despite the fact that it has no announced plans to operate in Ireland.

This move allowed NAS to expand its long-haul operations through NAI, but also to escape Norway's social laws and to evade existing collective bargaining agreements with its Norwegian pilots and flight attendants. For example, NAI's pilots are based in Thailand and employed under individual employment contracts that are covered by the laws of Singapore. These pilots are then contracted to NAI. The individual employment contracts prevent collective bargaining, and allow NAI to drastically reduce labor costs and gain an unfair competitive advantage over U.S. and European carriers who currently operate in the transatlantic market. The workforce arrangement for flight attendants is still evolving, but what I have learned is that NAI is hiring and basing its cabin crewmembers outside of its home country in what is clearly a plan to secure substandard wages and working conditions and to blatantly evade its collective bargaining obligations in Norway. NAI is pursuing, quite simply, what in maritime law is called a ''Flag of Convenience'' strategy.

NAI has not denied that it registered in Ireland to avoid the application of Norwegian labor laws to its crews. Other economic justifications presented for selecting Ireland over other possible places to incorporate, the validity of which also have been effectively rebutted by several opponents, appear to be intended to distract from this central and undisputed motivation. The company is thus taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement in order to lower its own labor costs and undercut the competition, the very scenario that EU negotiators feared when Article 17 bis was included in the U.S.-EU agreement.

I believe that the evidence and arguments submitted in the public docket provide the Department with ample justification to deny the application.

During my years of service on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, conducting vigorous oversight of international aviation trade, I learned that liberalization and market expansion could provide numerous benefits to consumers, open business opportunities for U.S. carriers and create jobs. But I also observed that effective market expansion required the thoughtful and careful approach of balancing reduced trade barriers with the assurance of fair competition and the public interest. We understand the strategic and economic significance of the U.S. airline industry to our nation's well-being, and further understand the unique challenges inherent in implementing the expansive and complicated U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement in a productive and responsible manner.

With this background, I believe that this is an important inflection point for how we as a nation project and secure America's role in the global aviation marketplace. The negotiators for both sides in the U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement negotiations understood the risks and adverse consequences that irresponsible liberalization could pose to the airline industries and workforces on both sides of the Atlantic. They resisted deliberate efforts to dismantle the U.S. ownership and control and cabotage laws, and they included, for the first time ever, a labor article in the final agreement. In doing so, they made an unmistakable statement that the terms of competition must not be set by those who would seek to gain an unfair advantage at the expense of quality jobs and high labor standards.

The Department should implement the Agreement in the spirit of Article 17 bis and concern for both fair competition and balanced trade benefits. Were NAI to be allowed to operate as proposed, the dynamic of transatlantic aviation competition will be changed for the worse, creating a situation where Flags of Convenience become the norm, not the exception.

I urge you to reject the NAI application, and thereby uphold the spirit and intent of the U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement and Article 17 bis. Thank you for your consideration of my views on this vital international aviation policy issue.

Sincerely,

JIM OBERSTAR, M.C.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,447,321,527,551.15. We've added $6,820,444,478,638.07 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING CARMEN VELASQUEZ OF CHICAGO FOR HER LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO THE UNDERSERVED LATINO COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a dear friend of mine, Carmen Velasquez of Chicago as she retires from her position of executive director at Alivio Medical Center, for her incredible dedication to the medical community and the underserved Latino community of Chicago.

Carmen devoted her life to the care of others in her community, advocating for health, education, civil rights, and equitable heath access for all in Chicago. As founder of the Alivio Medical Center, a bicultural nonprofit health center and extremely respected advocacy organization, she has dedicated over 25 years to expanding the reach of health care to low-income residents of Chicago. Because of Carmen's determination and perseverance, regardless of income, insurance, or ethnicity, over 20,000 individuals have received the best quality care in the greater Chicago community in over 6 clinics with plans for two new health clinic sites this year.

Coming from a family of hardworking Mexican immigrants, she became a social worker, community organizer, and bilingual education specialist after earning degrees from both Loyola University Chicago and the University of the Americas in Puebla, Mexico. As a member of Chicago's Board of Education, she saw firsthand the disparities in both education and health for Chicago's neglected Latino population. In 1988 Carmen found herself in a muffler shop parking lot, marking the beginning of her campaign to raise $2.1 million for the construction of her first of many health clinics. One year later, Carmen's passion manifested in the first Alivio Medical Center and she has been serving the otherwise unrepresented and overlooked community since.

Carmen has been recognized on numerous occasions for her renowned work, including recent recognitions at halftime by the Chicago Bears and the National Football League's Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award, the MALDEF Lifetime Achievement Award and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leadership Award. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn has honored her as the Latino Heritage Month ''Trailblazer of the Day.''

It is an understatement to say that Carmen Velasquez is a true champion for Chicago's Latino community. Her undying fervor, commitment, and care for giving back to the low-income and at risk groups have had profound effects on the health and wellbeing of Chicago. On behalf of all who have benefited from her initiative and the entire medical community, I'd like to thank and congratulate Carmen for her lifelong dedication to others and wish her well in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, I missed four votes as I was returning home to Arkansas to continue my work in dealing with the aftermath of the devastating storm that hit my district over the weekend, including a scheduled tour of the affected areas in Mayflower and Vilonia with the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, who subsequently postponed his visit.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote No. 184, ''no'' on rollcall vote No. 185, ''no'' on rollcall vote No. 186, and ''yea'' on rollcall vote No. 187, for final passage of H.R. 4486, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 181, I was unable to be in town for votes due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

MORTON AND ALYCE SPECTOR

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Morton and Alyce Spector who are being honored at the 2014 Susquehanna Tzedakah Society Dinner for their devotion to bettering the Jewish community of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Spector have committed their lives to improving the community for their friends and neighbors. Mrs. Spector, a former teacher and executive director of the National Kidney Foundation of Central PA, and Mr. Spector, a founder of D&H Distributors and current co-owner of Design Kitchens and Appliances, have worked with dozens of boards and organizations across the Harrisburg region and are known by all for their ''can do'' attitude and willingness to lend a hand whenever it's needed. The Spectors credit their parents as their role models, instilling in them the importance of charitable efforts from an early age. Today, they themselves have become role models and are credited with raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Jewish community.

Mr. Speaker, tonight as the Harrisburg community honors the Spectors at the 2014 Susquehanna Tzedakah Society Dinner, I join in thanking them for their outstanding commitment to bettering the Jewish community, and I commend them and their families for their hard work and dedication.

HONORING RICHARD DAVID KANN MELANOMA FOUNDATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation of Palm Beach County, Florida. The foundation will recognize Melanoma Awareness Day on May 5, an important opportunity to raise awareness of skin cancer prevention and treatment.

Malignant melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. In fact, one American dies from Melanoma every fifty minutes. In Florida, residents are especially vulnerable to excessive exposure to the ultraviolet radiation of the sun. Unfortunately, our sunny state has the second highest incidence of the cancer in the country.

That is why it is critical that Floridians, and all Americans, take steps to reduce their likelihood of developing melanoma. These include avoiding peak sunlight hours when the sun's rays are most intense, seeking shade, applying sun block with an SPF of at least 30–50+ every two hours, and wearing protective clothing such as long-sleeved pants and sunglasses.

In honor of the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation, I am proud to recognize Melanoma Awareness Day. I would also like to thank them for their tireless work in preventing and detecting skin cancer and wish them the best as they continue this daunting but important endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was predisposed at the time.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 183, I was unable to make votes due to a personal conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Lupus Awareness Month. Each May, we recognize lupus as the cruel, mysterious autoimmune disease from which an estimated 1.5 million Americans suffer.

Lupus comes in many shapes and sizes and does not discriminate against only one part of the body. The chronic disease can affect nearly any part of the body including the skin, lungs, heart, joints, kidneys, and brain. Lupus is often misdiagnosed several times over several months before an accurate diagnosis can be made. This is because lupus is known as the ''great imitator,'' mimicking many other illnesses and no single test can diagnose a patient.

Treatment for lupus can be very expensive because of its multi-faceted nature. Annually, lupus costs our nation about $31.4 billion. The annual cost for treatment for an individual with lupus is an estimated $20,000 and for an individual with lupus nephritis, kidney inflammation caused by lupus, could be as high as $62,000 per year.

Lupus is far more common in women and in men, particularly among African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Americans. The cause for lupus' prevalence in minorities is unknown and extensive research is necessary. Without additional research dollars, scientists searching for causes and treatments will inevitably be delayed.

This May, we must promote lupus awareness. Nearly three-fourths of Americans aged 18 to 34 have never heard of lupus and those who fall in that age bracket are at the highest risk. We must build awareness for this chronic condition and simultaneously work to increase funding for research to improve the diagnosis of this disease that disproportionally affects minorities and women in the prime of their lives. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lupus Awareness Month.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Friday, May 2, 2014*

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 2, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Cara Spaccarelli, Christ Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of all nations, You have called all people to lives of righteousness and justice.

Bless now those who gather in this place. To those who lead here, grant the patience of cooperation. To those who debate here, grant clarity of thought. To those who decide here, grant the courage for truth.

Keep ever before us the broken places of our life together, that we may find ways to speak hope into one another's lives. Set our hearts to beat in rhythm with Yours, and knit us together with all people of goodwill, both in this place and beyond, in order that Your will may be done.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable SANFORD D. BISHOP, Jr., Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 30, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for both documents and testimony in a civil case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

SANFORD D. BISHOP, Jr.,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JAMES E. CLYBURN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JAMES E. CLYBURN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 30, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for both documents and testimony in a civil case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JAMES E. CLYBURN,
Member of Congress.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 12 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5524. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting FY 2015 Budget Amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, the Interior, and State, as well as the National Science Foundation and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia; (H. Doc. No. 113—106); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

5525. A letter from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Annual Report of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5526. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to ICBC Financial Leasing Co., Ltd. of Beijing, China; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5527. A letter from the Director, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting NCUA 2013 Financial Statement Audits for Temporary Corporate Credit Union Stabilization Fund; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5528. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Reasonable Further Progress Plan and 2002 Base Year Emission Inventory [EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0117; FRL-9908-51-Region 1] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5529. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Clean Data Determination for the Baton Rouge Area for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0145; FRL-9909-53-Region 6] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5530. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R01-OAR-2009-0451; FRL-9908-53-Region 1] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5531. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter [EPA-R06-OAR-2011-0500; FRL-9909-57-Region 6] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5532. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation

of Implementation Plans; State of Alaska; Revised Format of 40 CFR Part 52 for Materials Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R10-OAR-2012-0942; FRL-9908-23-Region 10] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5533. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's annual report for 2013 on Voting Practices in the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5534. A letter from the EEO Director, Office of Special Counsel, transmitting the Counsel's report for Fiscal Year 2008 pertaining to the Notification and Federal Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5535. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0554; Directorate Identifier 2012-SW-009-AD; Amendment 39-17774; AD 2014-05-01] received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5536. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0872; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-012-AD; Amendment 39-17784; AD 2014-05-11] received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5537. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Currently Held by Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0573; Directorate Identifier 2012-SW-042-AD; Amendment 39-17781; AD 2014-05-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5538. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0826; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-046-AD; Amendment 39-17788; AD 2014-05-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5539. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0477; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-015-AD; Amendment 39-17780; AD 2014-05-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5540. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0796; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-111-AD; Amendment 39-17082; AD 2014-05-30] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5541. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 03949; Amdt. No. 512] received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5542. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1023; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-042-AD; Amendment 39-17797; AD 2014-05-24] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5543. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Implementation of an Agreement between the United States and China on Science and Technology; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Science, Space, and Technology.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4429. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the subpart F exemption for active financing income; with an amendment (Rept. 113–427). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4464. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the look-through treatment of payments between related controlled foreign corporations; with an amendment (Rept. 113–428). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4453. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations; with an amendment (Rept. 113–429). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4454. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain rules regarding basis adjustments to stock of S corporations making charitable contributions of property; with an amendment (Rept. 113–430). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4438. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit; with an amendment (Rept. 113–431). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4457. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–432). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROYCE: Committee on Foreign Affairs. H.R. 2548. A bill to establish a comprehensive United States government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty alleviation and drive economic growth, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 113–433, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

The Committee on Financial Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2548 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4563. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for certain expenses relating to applying to college; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JORDAN (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CAMP, Mr. ISSA, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mr. GOWDY):

H. Res. 565. A resolution calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 566. A resolution condemning Dalit untouchability, the practice of birth-descent discrimination against Dalit people, which is widely practiced in India, Nepal, the Asian diaspora, and other South Asian nations, and calling on these countries to recognize the human rights of the Dalit people and end all forms of untouchability within their borders; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4563.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 797: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 1154: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1199: Mr. HOYER.
H.R. 1303: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 1331: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 1677: Ms. HAHN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. KIND, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1838: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1878: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 2139: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 2366: Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 2499: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 2504: Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 2548: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MESSER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 2648: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2939: Mr. NUNES, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 2959: Mr. GARDNER.
H.R. 3344: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 3494: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 3530: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 3654: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 3747: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3929: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4065: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4079: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4325: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 4348: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4398: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 4438: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 4543: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Res. 503: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 547: Mr. POMPEO.
H. Res. 561: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. TURNER, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. HANNA, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mrs. BLACK, and Mrs. WAGNER.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHARLES W. JOHNSON III FOR HIS FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles W. Johnson III for his 50 years of service to the House of Representatives.

Charles W. Johnson III was appointed as an Assistant Parliamentarian by Speaker John W. McCormack on May 20, 1964. After a 30-year apprenticeship, Charlie was appointed Parliamentarian of the House on September 16, 1994 and served in that role until 2004. He has served as a consultant to the Office of the Parliamentarian from 2004 to the present.

Following his tenure as Parliamentarian, Charlie has devoted his considerable talents to scholarship—working on the precedents of the House and comparative parliamentary procedure. In 2010, Charlie and his British counterpart, Sir William McKay, authored a comprehensive examination of the U.S. House and the British House of Commons. That book entitled ''Parliament and Congress'' analyzes the constitutional background and procedural history of the legislative bodies of the United States and the United Kingdom. Charlie's editorial contributions are now represented in over 45 separate parliamentary works. In the most recent volume of the House precedents that bear his name, Charlie's commentary chronicled procedural changes under seven successive Speakers of the House.

Charlie's expertise is recognized far beyond the halls of Congress.

He has the unique distinction of testifying before three U.S. congressional committees, a U.S. federal district court, and a joint committee of the British Parliament. In 2011, Charlie was the first witness called by the prosecution in the perjury trial of star pitcher Roger Clemens. In 1999 and 2013, he gave evidence on parliamentary privilege to the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege of the British Parliament.

Charlie's long-term commitment to international parliamentary exchanges was a driving force behind the creation of the House Office of Interparliamentary Affairs in 2003. He has spent considerable time assisting emerging democracies through work with the House Democracy Partnership. His early efforts with the HDP in Kenya in 2006 were a model for legislative strengthening efforts that now encompass 16 partner countries.

I want to thank Charlie for his exemplary service to the institution over his long and distinguished tenure.

H. CON. RES. 51

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I, as no doubt all of you, have been shocked by images of horrific human rights violations, including summary executions, torture, rape, and chemical weapon attacks in Syria. Since the Syrian Civil War began, perhaps as many as 150,000 people may have been killed and more than 9 million people have been forced to leave their homes, 6.5 million of them internally displaced. By the end of last year, it is estimated that neighboring countries such as Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq were holding nearly 3 million Syrian refugees.

Who is culpable for such heinous acts, and how can they be held accountable, be they members of the Assad regime or Islamist radicals from neighboring countries? Those who have perpetrated human rights violations among the Syrian Government, the rebels, and the foreign fighters on both sides of this conflict, must be shown that their actions will have serious, predictable, and certain consequences. They need to learn the lesson that Charles Taylor learned when he got a 50-year sentence when he was brought to trial and convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

H. Con. Res. 51, introduced on September 9, calls for the creation of an international tribunal that would be more flexible and more efficient than the International Criminal Court to ensure accountability for human rights violations committed by all sides.

Such a tribunal would draw upon past experience, creating a justice mechanism robust enough to hold perpetrators accountable for the most egregious wrongs, yet nimble enough not to derail chances for peace due to rigidity.

Beginning with the Nuremburg and Tokyo tribunals, a body of law has developed concerning war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Since the end of the Cold War, we have seen examples of ad hoc tribunals in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and hybrid mechanisms such as the Special Court for Sierra Leone. As chair of the subcommittee on human rights, especially during the 1990s, as well as the Helsinki Commission Chairman, I held a series of hearings on the Yugoslav courts, and those that were in Sierra Leone and Rwanda, and often had the chief prosecutors testify at those hearings, including Carla Del Ponte from the Yugoslav court and others from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, including David Crane. We brought David Crane back this past October 30 to ask him what his view would be on such a court, and he gave riveting testimony, as did other experts, as to the absolute need for the immediate establishment for this kind of flexible court.

Each of these tribunals has achieved a level of success that has escaped the International Criminal Court. The Yugoslavia tribunal has won 67 convictions, the Rwanda tribunal has won 47, and the Sierra Leone tribunal has won 16 convictions. Meanwhile, the ICC—costing about $140 million annually—has thus far seen only one conviction.

One thing we do not want to do is go down the ICC route. The ICC process is distant and has no local ownership of its justice process. It is far less flexible than an ad hoc tribunal, which can be designed to fit the situation. The ICC requires a referral. In the case of the President and Deputy President of Kenya, it was Kenya itself that facilitated the referral. That is highly unlikely in the case of Syria. Since Syria is a Russian client state, this U.N. Security Council member would oppose any referral of the Syria matter to the ICC, but might be convinced to support an ad hoc proceeding that focuses on war crimes by the government, as well as the rebels—one that allows for plea bargaining for witnesses and other legal negotiations to enable such a court to successfully punish at least some of the direct perpetrators of increasingly horrific crimes. And Syria, like the United States, never ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC, which raises legitimate concerns about sovereignty with implications for our country, which this panel also addresses.

There are issues that must be addressed for any Syria war crimes tribunal to be created and to operate successfully. There must be sustained international will for it to happen in a meaningful way. An agreed-upon system of law must be the basis for proceedings. An agreed-upon structure, a funding mechanism and a location for the proceedings must be found. There must be a determination on which and how many targets of justice will be pursued. A timetable and time span of such a tribunal must be devised. And there are even more issues that must be settled before such an ad hoc tribunal can exist.

Those who are even now perpetrating crimes against humanity must be shown that their crimes will not continue with impunity. Syria has been called the world's worst humanitarian crisis. One might reasonably also consider it the worst human rights crisis in the world today. Therefore, the international community owes it to the people of Syria, and their neighbors, to do all we can to bring to a halt the actions creating these crises for Syria and the region.

We have the opportunity to give hope to the terrorized people of Syria. The subcommittee I chair held a hearing last October 30 where we heard from some of the most experienced voices concerning international justice mechanisms. We have met several times with the State Department, and we have worked diligently with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs—especially Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL and Chairman ED ROYCE—in shaping a

lean, muscular resolution that can be adapted to address the situation in Syria as it currently exists, providing broad latitude for the administration to conduct foreign policy.

The suffering of the Syrian people must end, and we have the opportunity to help achieve that. H. Con. Res. 51 is a means to that end, and again, those who are committing these horrific crimes need to know that they face the certitude of punishment.

HONORING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week, we observe Holocaust Remembrance Day—Yom HaShoah or the Day of Destruction—to remember those lost in the tragic genocide during World War II. I join with all Americans, as well as people around the world, to honor the tens of millions of lives that were lost. While this day is primarily an occasion to remember those who were lost, it also serves as a warning that we cannot let these atrocious acts of violence happen again.

On Yom HaShoah in Israel sirens ring out, and no matter what they are doing, people stop and reflect for two minutes. We too pause and remember those who perished as well as recommit ourselves to never again turn a blind eye to the precursors that led to this mass genocide. The Nuremberg Laws passed in 1935 capitalized on anti-Semitism's already widespread growth. These restrictions were followed by the destruction of Jewish communities, the construction of death camps, families torn apart, and lives lost.

As we reflect on the 6 million Jews lost 70 years ago, we must also remember the victims from other senseless genocides throughout history. From working towards the recognition of the Armenian genocide to today's atrocities in Sudan and the Central African Republic, we must be committed to saying ''never again.'' The violation of basic human rights cannot be ignored and we must come together to stand up for those who do not have the voice to stand up for themselves.

I ask all Members to join me in remembering those lost in the genocide and pledge that this senseless violence will never be forgotten or repeated.

NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representative GUS BILIRAKIS, my co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, and our caucus members Representatives MADELEINE BORDALLO, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, TONY CÁRDENAS, DONNA CHRISTENSEN, BLAKE FARENTHOLD, LOIS FRANKEL, TULSI GABBARD, ALAN GRAYSON, JANICE HAHN, COLLEEN HANABUSA, JOE HECK, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, MICHAEL HONDA, JARED HUFFMAN, WILLIAM KEATING, ANN KIRKPATRICK, BILLY LONG, CYNTHIA LUMMIS, KRISTI NOEM, STEVE PEARCE, PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, SCOTT PETERS, BILL POSEY, DAVE REICHERT, BOBBY RUSH, GREGORIO SABLAN, LORETTA SANCHEZ, STEVE STIVERS, PAT TIBERI, DINA TITUS, JUAN VARGAS, and FREDERICA WILSON, we offer our support in celebrating this year's National Travel and Tourism Week.

The week of May 3 through 11, 2014 is designated as National Travel and Tourism Week in the United States. This commemorative week reminds us that travel is a major driver of U.S. economic growth and prosperity as well as an important business tool that promotes efficiency and productivity.

America's travel industry accounted for $2.1 billion in economic output in 2013, supported nearly 15 million U.S. jobs and generated nearly $134 billion in local, state and federal tax revenue. Travel and tourism account for 2.7 percent of U.S. GDP and travel is America's No. 1 U.S. industry export.

Travel is a pillar of economic growth. One out of every nine jobs in America depends on travel and tourism. Travel is among the top 10 industries in 49 states, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia in terms of employment. Travel is currently creating jobs at a 17 percent faster rate than other economic sectors. 84 percent of companies in the travel industry are classified as small businesses.

When U.S. travelers spend money in other countries, their purchases are counted as imports. When international travelers visit the United States, the goods and services they purchase here are counted as exports. U.S. travel exports totaled $181 billion in 2013, generating a positive balance of trade of more than $57 billion.

Travel, in the context of business meetings, events and incentive travel, constitutes a core business function that helps companies strengthen business performance, educate employees and customers and reward business accomplishments. Business travel yields a return on investment of $9.50 in increased revenue for every dollar spent.

The majority of all trips taken to and within the United States involve leisure travel, which benefits every state and territory in the country, and was valued at $621.4 billion in 2013, and generated $91.9 billion in tax revenue. Leisure travel can be educational, increase historical and cultural awareness of our country and the world, stimulate creativity and productivity, and enhance longevity by allowing us to recharge our batteries and improve our health and wellness.

We strongly support National Travel and Tourism Week as an opportunity to express to the Nation the importance of travel in creating economic growth and opportunity, and enhancing the quality of life in the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO ANTOINETTE BEAUMONT TOMASEK

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Antoinette ''Toni'' Beaumont Tomasek, an extraordinary and talented Foreign Service officer who passed away on June 29, 2013, at age 41 due to complications from a car accident in Haiti.

Born in Manhattan Beach, California, Toni served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay before embarking on a career that took her all over the world working on international public health. Prior to her work in Haiti, Toni served as a USAID Development Leadership Initiative Officer in Indonesia, establishing what USAID has called a ''groundbreaking program'' that works with local organizations to prevent and treat tuberculosis.

At the time of her death, Toni served as a health services team leader at the USAID mission in Port-au-Prince and was making a difference every day in lives of the Haitian people. She died following serious injuries suffered in a car accident as she returned to the American Embassy from a visit to a health clinic.

Toni was a loving wife, mother, daughter, and sister. She is survived by her husband, Adam, and their two young children, Alexandre and Amelie; her parents, Marilyn and William; and her brother and sister, Billy and Jeannie.

On Friday, May 2, Toni is being honored at the annual American Foreign Service Association's Memorial Ceremony at the U.S. State Department for her exceptional service to our nation. I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Toni Tomasek and extending our deepest condolences to her family for their terrible loss. Our nation and the entire world owe a great debt to Toni for her tremendous commitment to making the world a better place and for her indefatigable work to improve the lives of the least among us.

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: FROM ''PRE-GENOCIDE'' TO GENOCIDE?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that I held earlier this week addressed an extremely critical topic: the worsening crisis in the Central African Republic, where untold lives hang in the balance and the window for action is narrowing each day.

It was not the first hearing we have held on the CAR. It follows up a hearing that we held last November when the situation already appeared dire, as well as numerous meetings and interventions with bishops, humanitarian NGOs, diplomats, and interested parties. At our November hearing, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert Jackson stated that the CAR was in a ''pre-genocide'' stage.

Since the time Mr. Jackson last spoke to us, the situation appears to have gotten demonstrably worse. We will hear again today from Mr. Jackson, who will update us not only on the situation on the ground, but also on a change of policy that I believe reflects a course of action that we had recommended the administration undertake last November, namely, that United Nations peacekeepers be introduced into the country as the existing African Union force has been serving too many vested interests.

Hopefully, such an intervention will not come too late, because as we are witnessing a country in rapid disintegration, apparently descending from a ''pre-genocide'' stage to one characterized by a word almost too painful to articulate: genocide.

In a country that for decades had been characterized by brutal misrule and brazen corruption, we are seeing for the first time sectarian divisions such have never existed before. Economic tensions and rivalry over land used for grazing versus planting have always existed, but these have given way to butchery based on religious and ethnic affiliation.

This is happening at a time when we mark the twentieth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda. When that country was being turned into a massive killing field, the world stood idly by. Both President Clinton and then-U.N. Peacekeeping Chief Kofi Annan had actionable intelligence information that could have prevented or at least mitigated the Rwandan genocide but chose callous indifference that enabled slaughter of unprecedented proportions. When the blood stopped flowing, the world looked at the corpses piled high and was shocked, ''never again'' was the phrase that was on everyone's lips.

It is happening again. The question before us is whether the phrase ''never again'' is one that we simply use to pay lip service while doing nothing, or whether we are going to act.

We had two witnesses from the U.S. Government at the hearing, as I mentioned, Acting Assistant Secretary Jackson, and also Anne Richard, Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees and Migration. While the State Department sending two people to testify is encouraging, as it shows a heightened commitment to the issue, the questions I asked them to answer were not only about ''what are we doing,'' but also whether or not ''we are doing enough?''

In 2012, the Obama administration, to much fanfare, created an Atrocities Prevention Board, following a Presidential Study directive which stated that ''Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States.'' The APB is supposed to provide early warning of mass atrocities, and mobilize interagency resources to stop such atrocities.

But where has this Board been? Did we take our eyes off the ball in the CAR, perhaps because we are confronted by so many other crises?

While we have taken some steps, including authorizing $170 million in humanitarian and peacekeeping aid—are such resources adequate given the magnitude of the problem?

We have a situation where in a country with a population of roughly 5.2 million people, 1.3 million are in risk of starvation, while 2.5 million in total are estimated to need some form of humanitarian assistance. That is nearly half the country.

We are seeing ethnic cleansing, whereby whole villages are being emptied and the countryside laid waste. There are more than 600,000 internally displaced persons in the CAR, plus more than 320,000 others who are refugees in neighboring countries. Illustrative of how the situation has worsened, the total number of those displaced has doubled since the time we held our hearing last November.

We are told that an estimated 2,000 people have been killed since December, but I believe that number is a conservative estimate.

What reports we do receive, however, are bloodcurdling. Human Rights Watch reported on an attack on a Muslim neighborhood in the town of Guen in the early morning hours of February 1 by so-called anti-Balaka forces. A father recounted how as the family was fleeing he saw his ten-year-old boy shot in the leg and fall down. The child was set upon by men with machetes, who hacked at him until he was dead. Four days later, in what was reminiscent of the massacre in the former Yugoslavia, anti-Balaka forces came upon a group of Muslims who were hiding. They separated the men from the women and small children, and executed the men: 45 of them, using machetes and then shooting those who lay wounded.

Though for decades the CAR has been beset by violence and misrule, such religious based violence is something that is a new phenomenon.

But how did the country get to this point?

What began as a political coup d'etat in March 2013 against former President François Bozizé by Michel Djotodia quickly took on religious and ethnic overtones.

As was detailed in our November hearing, Djotodia—who, thankfully, has now been replaced by interim President Catherine Samba-Panza—came to power with the military backing of Seleka, a militia of about 25,000 men, up to 90 percent of which come from Chad and Sudan and therefore constituted a foreign invasion force in the eyes of many. They did not speak the local language, and are Muslim in a nation that is over 80 percent Christian or otherwise non-Muslim. They destroyed churches, executed priests and stirred up sectarian hatreds where little to none had existed previously.

What we began to see happening last November in response to Seleka was a reactionary backlash by anti-Balaka, self-defense gangs. Since then, retaliatory outrages committed by anti-Balaka forces have escalated, and Muslim civilians who had nothing to do with Seleka became targets. As in the case of Guen, whole neighborhoods in the capital city of Bangui, and whole villages, have been cleansed of their Muslim populations.

As we heard from our witnesses, there are numerous causes contributing to grievances, including a fight for control over conflict minerals. Guen, for example, is in a mining area, and thus there are economic motives at work as well.

Insofar as the conflict can be described as religious on one level, it is also true religious fervor and dedication that provides the greatest hope for peace in the Central African Republic.

Some of you will recall how a few months ago three great religious leaders came to Washington and New York to meet with Congressional and U.S. Government leaders, as well as United Nations officials. One was a Muslim imam, another an evangelical Christian leader, and a third the Catholic Archbishop of Bangui—Imam Omar Kobine Layama, Archbishop Dieudonné Nzapalainga, and the Rev. Nicolas Guérékoyame-Gbangou. The three of them spoke with one voice about their efforts to preach reconciliation in their country and to end the violence. They also asked for our help before it became too late.

Finally, I want to relate to you a story about another man of God, someone whom those of you who attended our November hearing, will remember. Two weeks ago was Holy Week, and on Holy Thursday, Bishop Désiré Nongo of the Diocese of Bossangoa and one of the witnesses at our last hearing, was visiting an outlying parish along with three of his priests.

The car he was traveling in was stopped on the road by Seleka gunmen whose leader had for a period occupied Bossangoa. He accused Bishop Nongo of having thwarted his plans and working with international peacekeepers. He then sentenced him and the other three priests to death. The gunmen removed his Episcopal ring and the large pectoral cross which you might remember Bishop Nongo wore. The four men were placed in a truck and were to be driven north to the border with Chad for the order to be carried out.

On the way to the gallows, their truck was stopped yet again by Seleka gunmen, this time commanded by another warlord who also knew Bishop Nongo and his good work in Bossangoa, where the Bishop provides care for over 35,000 people displaced by the violence. He ordered the Bishop and his priests freed and, through the efforts of international aid organizations and the peacekeepers, they were helicoptered back to Bossangoa in time for Good Friday.

This story really hit home with me. Here is someone who shared coffee with me in my office, who sat in that witness chair over there and gave a powerful defense of the weakest and most vulnerable, someone I especially know and deeply admire and respect, who just two weeks ago today was about to be killed until Providence intervened.

But be it a bishop or a farmer, every precious life has value. Far too many have died, and, unless we act, far too many more will likely die.

Recall the words of the Presidential Directive I cited earlier: ''Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States.'' I believe this is true, but such sentiments are empty if they are not backed up by action.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF EULESS MAYOR PRO TEM LEON HOGG

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Honorable Leon Hogg who is retiring from his position on the Euless City Council after 18 years of service.

Mayor Pro Tem Leon Hogg has served on the City Council since 1996. His dedication to the City of Euless, Texas, has ensured happier and healthier lives for its citizens, and his commitment to enhancing the infrastructure of the city has been vital to the area's prosperity and growth.

Mayor Pro Tem Hogg has a long-standing history of serving in leadership roles. He currently presides on the Animal Shelter Advisory Board and the Crime Control and Prevention District Board. Prior to his existing leadership positions, he served as the Council representative to the HEB Economic Development Foundation and as a member of the Half-Cent Sales Tax Education Committee. For 12 years, he served on the Parks and Leisure Services Board; furthermore, for eight of those years he presided as the chairman.

Mayor Pro Tem Hogg is involved in various community and civic groups. He graduated from the inaugural class of the Euless Citizens Fire Academy, and he is a graduate of the 12th class of the Euless Citizens Police Academy. Additionally, he is a charter member of the Euless Citizens Fire Alumni Association. He has represented the City of Euless in the National League of Cities where he served on the Program Committee in 2005 and the Community Development Policy and Advocacy Committee in 2006. He has also represented the City of Euless in the Texas Municipal League, serving on the Resolutions Committee in 2004 and 2005, and the Legislative Policy Committee on General Government in 2006.

In 2003, Mayor Pro Tem Hogg was inducted into the Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD Sports Hall of Fame. The recognition was in honor of his positive impact on the community and HEB ISD students.

Mayor Pro Tem Leon Hogg is a retired businessman who has owned several businesses over his lifetime. He and his wife, Jan, have been married for over 55 years. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking the Honorable Leon Hogg for his years of service on the Euless City Council.

INCOME INEQUALITY IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves five decades since the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as well as the onset of the War on Poverty and still, race and economic empowerment remain entangled in stark and distinctive ways throughout the nation. Not only has income inequality persisted over the years, but perhaps even more daunting is the wide and growing gulf in wealth inequity between Black and White America. Wealth, that is what one owns minus what one owes, anchors families. It provides a layer of stability in times of economic distress, and serves as an intergenerational stepping stone to prosperity. It is wealth that families often rely on to provide a critical means of support for higher education, downpayments for home purchases, capital for starting a business, or direct wealth transfers to heirs via cash inheritances. So while income is vital for meeting daily needs, wealth moves families beyond survival mode and opens up critical doors of opportunity that are necessary to thrive economically over the long haul.

Historically, discriminatory practices have played a significant hand in manifesting wealth differentials within Black and White communities. Everything from housing policies and practices that made it more difficult for communities of color and particularly African Americans to gain access to homeownership as early as their White peers, to tax policy which overwhelmingly favor affluent households, much of the gap in wealth acquisition that we've witnessed over the long haul is not reflective of a natural order of responsible and irresponsible money management, but instead, is the result of centuries of policy actions that have advantaged some, while simultaneously disadvantaging others. The fallout from these practices remain, providing perpetual advantages and disadvantages relating to wealth acquisition, transfer, and growth.

In recent years, however, the Great Recession took a heavy toll on most. But while few families escaped the sting of wealth loss following this world-wide economic disruption, even fewer were more strikingly impacted than African Americans. In fact, according to the Pew Research Center, over half of the wealth amassed among African Americans was lost in just four years as a direct result of this historic recession. After which, the already tremendous racial wealth gap actually widened. In fact, as it stands today, for every dollar in wealth held by Whites, Blacks hold a shockingly meager 5 cents.

Recent research has examined the reasons behind the widening of the racial wealth gap. After tracing the same households over 25 years, including the most recent period in which we've witnessed the widening of this gap, it was determined that primarily five factors are at play: (1) Years of homeownership; (2) Household Income; (3) Exposure to Unemployment; (4) Higher Education Acquisition; and (5) Inheritances or other sources of financial support from family or friends.

In briefly examining each of these issues we know that historical residential segregation starkly limited opportunity for home equity acquisition among African Americans. We know too, that Whites are more likely than Blacks to receive inheritances or receive large financial gifts from family members that can then be used for home downpayments, and thus, create a situation where Whites are perpetually better positioned to transition into homeownership. And finally, we know that Blacks were disproportionately impacted by subprime mortgage vehicles during the run up to the housing crisis, thus increasing their risk of foreclosure, and limiting their equity acquisition potential.

Further Blacks have historically and continue to suffer wage gaps as compared to Whites across both genders and every level of education. Blacks are also more likely to experience unemployment at some time during their working lives and when unemployed, are more likely to experience longer bouts of joblessness than their White counterparts. As a result, Blacks are more apt to tap into any available wealth reserves they may have at their disposal in order to meet survival needs during disruptions in their income stream.

While home ownership, income and unemployment greatly influenced the wealth differentials, so too did access to higher education. As we all know, post-secondary education provides a pathway to higher income, and ultimately more substantial wealth portfolios. According to this research, just as impactful as higher education is access to inheritance. Together, these five factors alone accounted for fully ⅔ of the wealth gap increase we've seen between these two populations in recent years.

In correcting this unfortunate trend, it then becomes clear, that strong policy action is needed in order to address the wide and growing wealth gap that continues to disadvantage the Black community. Moving forward, there must be a concerted emphasis on expanding access to homeownership within the Black community. While the nation and the world was rocked by the mortgage crisis that intricately interconnected with the Great Recession, few were impacted more profoundly than the Black community. Moving forward we know that home ownership is still a key conduit to wealth acquisition for most Americans. As such, special efforts need to be put in place to ensure more Black families have access to this key wealth building tool.

Additionally, policies which expand employment opportunities for jobs that pay good wages are especially important to the Black community. Such a focus can help to alleviate both the persistent wage disadvantage experienced by this community as well as the lingering problem of elevated unemployment rates. Finally, making college affordable and improving elementary and secondary education so that Black children are both prepared for college and can afford to stay there through degree completion is key for providing a foundation for success that could later result in greater access to wealth building vehicles.

Beyond these measures, protecting and strengthening Social Security remains a key need for the Black community as this program is especially important to a population that is disadvantaged when it comes to access to employer provided retirement plans and is less likely than Whites to hold other assets from which they can draw upon to meet their needs in their retirement years.

In sum, Mr. Speaker, the persistent economic wealth disadvantage that continues to plague the Black community did not come about as mere accident of circumstance or

broad scale pathologies as it relates to financial mismanagement. Instead, these differences came about from centuries of policy action that served in the interest of some and to the disadvantage of others. Despite this nation's bold attempt to correct this injustice decades before, the lingering effects of these policies remain. Moving forward, it is our responsibility to fulfill the promise of the historic Acts, including the 1964 Civil Rights Act, put in place fifty years prior by taking bold and substantive action today to finally make real the promise of an America that truly provides equal opportunity for all.

HONORING JUDY CREMER'S 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Judy Cremer, Livingston County Circuit Clerk, and to recognize her many years of devoted service to the citizens of Livingston County and the State of Illinois.

Mrs. Cremer has worked in Livingston County government for 50 years. Judy started her service in the State Attorney's office in 1964 and later moved over to the Circuit Clerk's office where she has been a dutiful employee since 1980. She has been a constant presence in Livingston County and helped make countless improvements in the Circuit Clerk's office throughout her years of service.

I would like to thank Judy for all she has done for the residents of Livingston County. She has been a leader and an integral part of Livingston County government these past 50 years. I know that the people of Livingston County are thankful for her service and efforts to improve the lives of those in the area.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to Judy Cremer for her commendable service and dedication to the people of Livingston County and the State of Illinois for the past 50 years.

EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY: TIER RANKINGS AND THE TIP REPORT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I held a hearing on the power of holding countries accountable in the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, including its tier rankings, for government successes or failures in the fight against human trafficking.

Experts have observed that there are more slaves in the world today than at any previous point of human history. With the Trafficking in Persons Report and tier rankings, the United States is also ensuring more accountability and progress than ever before in the fight to rid the world of slavery.

Many of those who attended the hearing have been in this fight for more than a decade from the year 2000 when a law I authored—the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act (TPVA)—created a comprehensive policy that not only established the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Department of State, but also the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

The success of the TIP Report and rankings is beyond anything we could have hoped for at the time. From presidential suites to the halls of parliaments to law enforcement assets and police stations in remote corners of the world, this report focuses anti-trafficking work in 187 countries on the pivotal goals of prevention, prosecution, and protection.

Much of the praise for the success of the TIP Report is due to the incredibly effective Ambassadors-at-Large who have led the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) and their highly dedicated staff. Ambassador Mark Lagon is one of them and he testified at our hearing this week.

Each year, the trafficking office evaluates whether the government of a country is fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, or, if not, whether the government is making significant efforts to do so.

The record is laid bare for the world to see and summarized in a tier ranking narrative. Tier 1 countries fully meet the minimum standards. Tier 2 countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant effort to do so. Tier 3 countries do not meet the standards and are not making significant effort to do so. Along with the embarrassment of being listed on Tier 3, such countries are open to sanction by the U.S. government.

Over the last 14 years, more than 120 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws and many countries have taken other steps required to significantly raise their tier rankings. Some countries openly credit the TIP report as a key factor in their increased and effective anti-trafficking response.

We created the Tier 2 Watch List In the 2003 TVPA reauthorization. This list was intended to encourage good-faith anti-trafficking progress in a country that may have taken positive anti-trafficking steps late in the evaluation year.

Unfortunately, some countries made a habit of last minute efforts and failed to follow through year after year—effectively gaming the system. To protect the integrity of the tier system and ensure it worked properly to inspire real progress in the fight against human trafficking, Congress in 2008 created an ''automatic downgrade'' for any country that had been on the Tier 2 Watch List for two years but had not taken significant enough anti-trafficking measures to move up a tier.

The President can waive this automatic downgrade for two additional years if he certifies ''credible evidence'' that the country has a written and sufficiently resourced plan, which if implemented, would constitute significant effort to meet the minimum standards.

Last year was the first test of the new system—and it worked. China, Russia, and Uzbekistan ran out of waivers and moved to Tier 3, which accurately reflected their records. In the hearing, we evaluated whether these countries have made any significant progress over the last year.

I am particularly concerned that China's trafficking crisis continues unabated. The recent U.N. Commission of Inquiry Report on North Korea provides horrifying evidence of the trafficking of North Korean women to China—for sex, brides, or labor. An estimated 90 percent of North Korean women seeking asylum in China are trafficked for these reasons. Thousands of women a year leave desperate situations in North Korea only to end up in a brothel or forced marriage—a tragic and astonishing fact.

China's response has not been to provide protection for victims or to prosecute traffickers, it is to hunt down and repatriate North Koreans, sending them back—to hard labor, long imprisonments, and possible execution.

North Korean women are not the only victims. By 2020, more than 40 million Chinese men will be unable to find wives in China because of China's short-sighted and abusive one-child policy, which, coupled with modern abortion technology, has triggered the mass abortion of tens of millions of baby girls. A human rights abuse in and of itself, sex-selective abortions have also created a huge trafficking magnet, pulling victims into forced marriages and brothels from countries in proximity to China and beyond.

China's extremely modest and overly hyped suggestion that it might relax the draconian one-child policy for some couples is unlikely to mitigate the disaster and may be further counteracted by the spread of abortion sex selection technology to more of rural China. Whether the birth limitation is one-child or two-child in special cases, birth limitation policies constitute abuse, cruelty, and exploitation without precedent or parallel for baby girls and society.

The Government of China is failing not only to address its own trafficking problems but is creating an incentive for human trafficking problems in the whole region. Although she could not join us in person at the hearing, renowned author Mara Hvistandahl, author of Unnatural Selection, Choosing Boys over Girls and the Consequences of a World Full of Men, submitted testimony for the record specifically on the effect of the sex ratio imbalance as a cause of human trafficking and the proliferation of ''marriage agencies'' in China, which traffic women from poorer countries into China and sell them into marriage.

During the hearing, we also looked at a second set of countries that, this year, must be automatically downgraded unless they have made significant efforts to fight human trafficking. These countries include Thailand, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Chad, Barbados, and Maldives. Burma may receive a Presidential waiver in order to avoid downgrade to Tier 3 but the facts on the ground don't justify that course of action.

Cutting across Burma, Thailand, and Malaysia is the tragic plight of the Rohingya minority. Rohingya are leaving Burma by the thousands to escape religious persecution. However, according to a report put out by Reuters, Thai authorities are selling Rohingya to human

traffickers, where they are held in ''tropical gulags'' until relatives pay ransom. Those who cannot pay the ransom are sold into sex slavery or hard labor and many die from abuse or disease. Thai authorities have done little to stop this practice, their efforts at prevention and prosecution are said to be ''losing steam.''

Rohingya are often trafficked to Malaysia where they are exploited for labor. The sad fact is that many Rohingya, a persecuted Sunni Muslim minority in Burma, hope to find refuge in Malaysia, a majority Muslim country.

Burma is the source of Rohingya trafficking in the region. Policies of discrimination, child limitation, forced birth control, and violence push the Rohingya minority to leave Burma and leave them vulnerable refugees. The Burmese government is culpable in Rohingya trafficking and the regional problems their policies create.

The Burmese Government also has done little to stop trafficking of Rohingya within Burma. Reports indicate that authorities profit from the sale of Rohingya to traffickers, Rohingya women are held at military bases as sex slaves, and Rohingya men are used for forced labor. Though these practices have gone on for many years, they are underreported in the State Department's TIP Report.

Displaced by war with the Burmese military, women and children from the Kachin tribe in Burma are also subject to trafficking. Roi Ja, an 18-year-old woman living in IDP camp in northern Burma, was lured to China with a promise of a restaurant job. Once in China she was bused to a rural village and locked in a room. According to her testimony, she cried for three days and begged those around to let her go. She was told to just ''give up'' and was sold as a bride for $5,312.

We hear constantly about Burma's success democratic reforms, but peel away the layers of good news, and many of the same human rights problems and human atrocities remain. I understand that the administration has started a ''Human Trafficking Dialogue'' with Burma. Diplomatic engagement is important, but not enough to warrant an upgrade in Burma's status. For that we have to see concrete results, not Rohingya trafficked for sex and labor.

The importance of accurate Tier rankings and TIP Report country profiles cannot be overstated. Again and again, we have seen countries turn 180 degrees and begin the hard work of reaching the minimum standards after the TIP Report accurately exposed—with a Tier 3 ranking and truthful country report—each country's failure to take significant action against human trafficking. By the same token, a premature boost to Tier 2 may not only undermine progress, but fail to inspire it among countries actually doing the hard work.

I won't deny that there are at times diplomatic costs to accurate tier rankings—but it is the price of freedom for the men, women, and children caught in human trafficking. They remind us that each of their lives is priceless and must be protected.

SENATE—*Monday, May 5, 2014*

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, who has ordained that we live our lives within the bounds of time and circumstances, use Your omnipotence to accomplish Your purposes on Earth. Through the labors of our lawmakers, bring to pass the triumph of Your sovereign will. Lord, empower our Senators to face life's challenges with the strength You so generously provide. Let them not repeat the mistakes of yesterday in the life of today, nor in the life of today set any bad examples for the life of tomorrow. Fill us all with Your joy and peace, which no circumstance can take from us.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency legislation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in morning business until 5:30 p.m. this evening. At that time there will be up to two rollcall votes, the first on confirmation of the Moritz nomination to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, and the next on confirmation of the nomination of Peter A. Selfridge to be Chief of Protocol with the Department of State.

ELECTION OF ANDREW B. WILLISON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now send a resolution to the desk and ask unanimous consent that it be considered.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 434) electing Andrew B. Willison as the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. This resolution, sponsored by Senators REID of Nevada and MCCONNELL, is important.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 434) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

NOTIFYING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

NOTIFYING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID. I send two resolutions to the desk and ask unanimous consent for their immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolutions by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 435) notifying the President of the United States of the election of a Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

A resolution (S. Res. 436) notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions, en bloc.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 435 and S. Res. 436) were agreed to.

(The resolutions are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just moments ago we passed a resolution appointing Drew Willison as the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate. The importance of this appointment cannot be overstated. While Senators and their staffs come and go, the office of the Sergeant at Arms provides much needed stability to support this great institution.

To put things in perspective, Drew Willison is only the 39th Sergeant at Arms in the entire history of the Senate. That is 230 plus years. By contrast, there have been 1,950 Senators who have served in this body since its inception.

As the Senate Sergeant at Arms, Drew's duties include the security and safety of the 6,500 Senate employees, as well as the millions of visitors who come to the Capitol each year. Drew's predecessor, Terry Gainer, did a phenomenal job as Sergeant at Arms, and Drew is left with his big shoes to fill. Terry Gainer was not a partisan, nor is Drew Willison. That is how this office should function. I know he is up to the task.

As Booker T. Washington said, ''Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.''

Even though Drew did not seek this position, it has come to him because of his hard work. He will thrive in the Sergeant at Arms office because of his work ethic. I know because I have witnessed his work over the years. He first came to my office a long time ago, in 1997. He was a fellow for the Environmental Protection Agency. His talents were seen very quickly by me and my staff. So then, rather than going back to the EPA, he became a member of my personal staff. Again, his talents were recognized immediately. I decided it would be important that he move to the Appropriations Committee. He became the chief clerk on our Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and did a remarkably good job.

I mention his nonpartisan approach to what he did. During those years of his working for me—I can't speak for when he was there after I became inactive on that Appropriations Committee—but while I was there those many years—I was either the chairman or the ranking member of that committee for years. The person opposite me was Pete Domenici from New Mexico. It didn't matter who the chairman was, quite frankly. We worked so well together in those days when we worked together. We would finish the energy and water bill on the floor in one day. We would bring it out of committee and finish it in one day. We worked together. Drew Willison was the chief clerk, and when he wasn't the chief clerk, he was the second in command—whatever that is. We just breezed through that subcommittee—billions and billions of dollars, the safety and security of the nuclear arsenal we

have, and so many different issues in that subcommittee that were important to the country, as they are today. But now we can't even—we have such difficulty at getting a bill passed. We did it then in one day—in just a few hours many times.

So Drew is really a talented man. He is a very quick learner. Everyone who has worked with him over the years came to the realization very quickly: Tell him what you want him to do; he did it with a smile, he did it well, and he did it right.

During my tenure with this good man, now the Sergeant at Arms, his talents were invaluable to the success of my office. For 5 years he has been the Deputy Sergeant at Arms. He has been Chief Gainer's right-hand man, and that is an understatement. He has done such a remarkably good job because of his hard work and his diligence. In the process, he has helped make this Capitol a better and safer place to work and to visit.

Now, as the mantel of leading the Sergeant at Arms office falls to him, I have no doubt that he will, once again, prove himself.

The Senate and the many people who visit and work in the Capitol are in good hands with Drew Willison at the helm. I wish him the very best. All I say to Drew Willison is to continue to be the person he has been and he will be a success as the Sergeant at Arms.

NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

Mr. President, this week is National Travel and Tourism Week. As a Senator from Nevada, I know how important the travel and tourism industry is to this Nation. Las Vegas alone attracts more than 40 million visitors each year, and 8 million come from across the globe. All told, travel and tourism generates $45 billion in revenue for the Las Vegas economy while employing 400,000 Nevadans.

This industry's impact is not unique in Nevada. People go to the Presiding Officer's State of Maine year-round. It slows down a little in the wintertime, but people go there year-round because of the beauty of the State of Maine. I have only been to Maine on one occasion, but I went as a tourist. I wanted to see that beautiful State, and I was able to do that. It is the same in virtually every State in America. Tourism is the No. 1, No. 2 or No. 3 driving economic influence of every State.

So recognizing Travel and Tourism Week is more than just simple talk; it is important to do that. Annually, travel and tourism contribute more than $2 trillion to the national economy. It supplies 15 million jobs to Americans, and these are jobs that don't ship overseas. In fact, tourism is the Nation's No. 1 export.

While it is important to recognize National Travel and Tourism Week, just mentioning the industry's strength is not enough. As with any profitable business, investment helps. It will do the same in tourism, and we have proven that over the last few years.

A small investment in travel and business does great things for America. As I recall, there were about five filibusters we had to overcome on this legislation, but we did overcome them, and we finally passed it in 2010. President Obama signed this into law. It is called the Travel Promotion Act.

After we passed the law, this entity was led by a man named Stephen Cloobeck. Stephen Cloobeck is a businessman, and he has been a successful businessman. He is now extremely successful in the time-sharing business and in other areas. But he was really a good leader of that entity when it was first created, and that wasn't easy. There were a lot of bumps in the road. But being the exceptionally good businessman that he was and is, it worked out well. His leadership was phenomenal.

In countries all over the world, Brand USA—that is what it is called, Brand USA—advertisements come at no cost to the American taxpayers, and these entice foreign travelers to visit America.

By any measure, the Travel Promotion Act has been an incredible success. But don't take my word for it. An independent analysis found that Brand USA helped to generate more than 1 million new visitors to the United States, and it is only going to get better. Those international visitors spent $3.4 billion last year. Increasing international tourism and visitation to the United States creates jobs. On average, our international visitors stay longer in our Nation's hotels and they spend more money in our stores and restaurants than domestic travelers. One out of every four visitors who come to Las Vegas comes from outside the United States. Nearly 20 percent of all visitors, which is obvious from those numbers I just gave, come to Las Vegas from abroad.

So it is clear that Brand USA is helping our Nation's tourism industry, and it is helping our Nation capitalize on this growing market of tourism. That is why the Senate passed an immigration bill that is currently stuck in the House of Representatives. This legislation includes a permanent reauthorization for the Travel Promotion Act and Brand USA.

Unfortunately, the House of Representatives has so far refused to take up an immigration reform bill. We did our work, and it was led by four Democrats and four Republicans. The four Democrats: Senators SCHUMER, DURBIN, MENENDEZ, and BENNET; the four Republicans: Senators RUBIO, FLAKE, MCCAIN, and GRAHAM. They did good work. It could not have been done without them.

Our Nation's travel industry, though, needs us to do more. Recognizing the importance of tourism, it is so important we proceed and help the tourism industry by passing the immigration reform bill.

I mentioned the good work done by these eight Senators. The current president of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority and former chairman of the U.S. Travel Association—his name is Rossi Ralenkotter—has stressed the need for investment in our Nation's infrastructure.

As we invest in airports, rail, and roads—we certainly do not do enough, but when we do, we are effectively opening this Nation's doors to our visitors. By providing safe, efficient travel for tourists, we can also ensure that the American travel industry has a reliable flow of business.

Our commitment to bolstering tourism must amount to more than just concrete and metal. We must ensure that not only do we invite people here—and they come from across the world—but that we are also facilitating their arrival and their departure.

In the Senate immigration bill we make it easier for tourists to come to America by increasing the number of Customs and Border Patrol agents who process international visitors. We hope as tourists from foreign nations become more comfortable with traveling to the United States they will do so more frequently.

We are fast approaching the anniversary of the immigration bill's passage in the Senate. Yet this bipartisan bill sits idling in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, and the Republicans seem to be content to continue to ''idle,'' a code word for doing nothing.

There are many urgent reasons we must pass the immigration bill and travel promotion is one of them. We cannot be content to do nothing in promoting the United States to the world because ultimately travel promotion is job promotion. It is about creating jobs. It is about growing our economy. It is about keeping the United States competitive in the world travel business.

So this week as we consider the incredible impact of travel and tourism on our Nation's economy, I invite my colleagues in Congress to continue to invest in this vital industry. If we are successful, we will make sure America remains the ultimate tourist destination for decades to come.

I see on the floor the distinguished senior Senator from Minnesota. Her work on getting this Travel Promotion Act passed was superb. Her efforts continue to make sure it is working well in the immigration bill. No one has helped more than the senior Senator from Minnesota. She is a good legislator, and she has proven that to me many times. Her work on this legislation reminds me how tenacious she is.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I would like to thank the leader for his superb leadership on tourism. Anyone who represents the State of Nevada understands how important tourism is to our States and to our country. The leader knows it is not just about Las Vegas, it is also about places such as the Mall of America in Minnesota or all of those great bed and breakfast and fishing operations in the States of Maine or Arkansas or Missouri.

Senator BLUNT is the lead Republican head of this bill, along with myself, and we now have 26 authors on the reauthorization of the Travel Promotion Act, Brand USA; in addition, of course, to the immigration bill, which would allow us to not just reauthorize the Travel Promotion Act but also the JOLT Act, which creates all kinds of new ways to add more jobs to America by speeding up the visa process, by creating some more visa waiver countries and other things.

We will be talking more about that later.

NIGERIAN SCHOOLGIRLS ABDUCTION

Today I am here on a very important matter. I rise to discuss the outrageous abduction of 276 schoolgirls by the terrorist group Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria. Now we have reports that these schoolgirls, some as young as 15 years old, are being sold into forced marriages with militants.

I know this sounds like something that might be in some kind of a late-night movie or in a strange book, but in fact this happened. This happened this last month, that these 276 schoolgirls were abducted from their school by a terrorist group in Nigeria.

With Boko Haram's leader now appearing on video vowing to ''sell them in the market,'' let's call this what it is: one of the most brazen and shocking single incidents of human trafficking we have seen in recent memory. As Secretary of State John Kerry said this weekend, it is ''not just an act of terrorism. It's a massive human trafficking moment and [it is] grotesque.''

This heinous crime demands that we take action immediately to help bring these girls home to their families and bring their kidnappers to justice. This is a test of our own country's commitment to fight human trafficking and modern-day slavery, and we must step up and help Nigeria with this challenge.

On the night of April 14, a gang of heavily armed militants attacked the dormitory of the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, a town in Nigeria's Borno state. They shot the guards, loaded 276 girls into trucks, and drove them away into the forest.

That was 3 weeks ago today, and since then there has been disturbingly little action to find these girls and to get their captors. Local police say around 53 of the girls have escaped, but that still leaves at least 223 held hostage in the hands of Boko Haram. That is almost as many people as were aboard Malaysian Airlines Flight 370. That was 239 passengers and crew, which we all know about and is a horrible tragedy and the subject of intense media coverage and a massive international search, costing tens of millions of dollars. But I have a feeling many people who are watching this right now or who are in this Chamber probably have not even heard about these girls in Nigeria.

In Nigeria no one seems to know where these girls are, and until this past weekend no one seemed inclined to do much about it. The most determined pursuit of the kidnappers had come not from the Nigerian military but from the families of the abducted girls. Some of the family members, armed only with bows and arrows to fight terrorists armed with assault rifles, rode into the forest on motorcycles to try to find their girls. That is the best the world could do so far and that is shameful.

Now the situation is more desperate than ever. The girls are reportedly being married off or even sold for as little as $12 to be wives to Boko Haram militants. Just this morning a video surfaced featuring a man claiming to be a Boko Haram leader, taunting Nigeria and the world with this shameful statement claiming responsibility for the attack. He said this:

> I abducted your girls. I will sell them in the market, by Allah. There is a market for selling humans. Allah says I should sell. He commands me to sell. I will sell women. I sell women.

That Boko Haram would target these girls is actually not a surprise. The group's very name means ''Western education is sinful,'' and it systematically targets schools and kidnaps and kills children, especially girls, who are guilty of nothing more than seeking a better life for themselves through schooling.

The Nigerian Government estimates the group has destroyed over 200 schools. In February, 59 students were shot and hacked to death at the Federal Government College in the nearby town of Buni Yadi. The government had actually closed the schools in the region in the face of these ruthless attacks.

But these girls wanted to go to school. They wanted to get an education. Their school, which had been closed for 1 month, was reopened so they could just take their final exams—something my daughter is doing right now at college, something high school kids the age of these girls are doing all over the United States right now. They were just trying to take their exams.

These are girls who should be the next generation of leaders in their community and their nation—not sold off to a band of thugs.

Fortunately, after this weekend the world is finally paying attention, and I hope this Chamber pays attention. With the families reaching out through social media, using the Twitter hashtag #BringBackOurGirls, protests have spread across the world, calling for the Nigerian Government to take stronger action and for the international community to help.

The United States should help lead that international effort. I was encouraged that Secretary Kerry said this weekend that ''we will do everything possible to support the Nigerian government to return these young women to their homes and hold the perpetrators to justice.'' But we need actions to back up those words, and I would like to suggest three actions we should take to help marshal a global response to this heinous crime.

First, the United States should seek a resolution from the U.N. Security Council condemning this attack and calling for member countries to extend all appropriate assistance to Nigeria and neighboring countries to help locate the victims of Boko Haram's abductions and bring them home.

Second, we should move as quickly as we can to provide intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets to contribute to the search for the missing girls. The countries of the region have limited resources, and American support with aerial and satellite surveillance, similar to what we have provided to the hunt for Joseph Kony and his so-called Lord's Resistance Army in Central Africa, could make a significant difference in their ability to liberate Boko Haram's hostages.

Finally, we should work to strengthen the capabilities of local authorities in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and other countries in the region to counter Boko Haram, protect children, particularly girls, in their education systems, and combat human trafficking.

I led a delegation last month to Mexico focused on fighting human trafficking, and one of the lessons I took away from that was the critical importance of training local law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges to recognize trafficking when they see it. A sharp-eyed police officer in one of these countries can make all the difference in finding these girls.

Make no mistake. How we respond to the abduction of the schoolgirls of Nigeria will send a message about our Nation's commitment to human rights and the fight against modern-day slavery.

Human trafficking is a stain on the conscience of the world. It is one of the reasons I became involved in this issue, having been a prosecutor and seeing the devastation that prostitution and trafficking and sex trafficking wreaks on these girls.

In the United States we have our own problems; 83 percent of our victims in

the United States are from the United States. We have had several prosecutions in my own State. We have had prosecutions in North Dakota. It is one of the reasons I introduced a bill with Senator CORNYN. We have multiple authors who go after this crime to look at a smarter way to handle these cases, which is modeled after the safe harbor law, which Minnesota uses, as well as 12 other States.

The idea is to treat these girls as victims. Their average age is 13 years old—not old enough to drive, not old enough to go to their high school prom. It takes that concept, puts it into a comprehensive sex-trafficking strategy, and goes after this in our own country.

It is now the world's third largest criminal enterprise—human trafficking—right behind drugs and guns. So do not think this is just something that people are talking about. It is not. It is happening right now.

Nicholas Kristof and his wife Sheryl WuDunn wrote a book called ''Half the Sky,'' named for the Chinese proverb ''women hold up half the sky.'' It is about human trafficking. It uses examples from all over the world. In it they argue that ''it is not hyperbole to say that millions of women and girls are actually enslaved today.'' They estimate that 2 million disappear each year. In fact, this book was written long before this happened in Nigeria, and one of the examples they use is a girl being abducted in Nigeria. One of the examples they use is girls being abducted in Moldova, one of the poorest countries in that region. Senator MCCAIN just went to Moldova and came back. When he was there he asked: Where are all the young girls and women? The officials there told him: Many of them have been trafficked to other countries—trafficked to Russia.

This is happening right now, and these girls in Nigeria need our help. The girls abducted and apparently sold into forced marriages in Nigeria are as young as 15 years old. They are being forced to endure what no one, let alone a young girl, should ever have to experience.

Simply put, this is a barbaric practice that must be extinguished from the world. In the book Kristof and his wife wrote they liken the imperative of abolishing human trafficking today to what the British bravely did in the early 1800s when Britain abolished slavery.

They note that what mattered most in turning the tide against slavery was the British public. It was not the abolitionists' passion and moral conviction, as important as that was, but instead what turned the tide was what they called the ''meticulously amassed evidence of barbarity''—the human beings packed into the hold of slave ships, the stink, the diseases, the corpses, the bloody manacles.

We cannot close our eyes to the clear ''evidence of barbarity'' unfolding before us in Nigeria. This is one of those times when our action or inaction will be felt not just by those schoolgirls being held captive and their families waiting in agony, but by victims and perpetrators of trafficking around the world. Now is the time to act.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be given enough time to complete my speech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

FREE SPEECH

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, it is no secret that our Nation faces a number of critical problems. We have a national debt that currently stands at $17.4 trillion. We are in the midst of an entitlement crisis that threatens to balloon our debt and swallow funding for the rest of our government. We have a still-struggling economy, which was once again confirmed last week with the announcement of lackluster growth numbers. These are just some of the problems we are facing. There are numerous others.

With all the challenges in front of us, you would think the Senate majority and the President of the United States would be focused on solving at least one or two of these problems. Sadly, that is not the case. In this heightened partisan climate, my friends in the majority are far more often than not focused on two things: shoring up their political base and marginalizing their political critics. In other words, it is all politics all the time.

It is pretty easy to find examples of the Democrats' efforts to solidify their progressive base. Indeed, we have seen it in just the last few weeks. Why else do you think we have had show votes on bills such as the so-called Paycheck Fairness Act and minimum wage, especially since we already have laws that say women should be paid fairly? Why else did we have to endure the all-night speech fest on climate change a few weeks back? None of these efforts were rooted in any kind of policy justification. They certainly weren't aimed at benefiting our economy or creating jobs. If anything, they would do exactly the opposite. In fact, the CBO confirmed that the Democrats' latest gambit here on the floor—the minimum wage—would actually cost our economy somewhere upward of at least half a million jobs.

All of these endeavors were aimed at driving turnout for the Democratic base in November, but that is just half of the Democrats' equation. The other half is silencing their critics. Indeed, over the past few years we have seen a pattern coming from the other side—both in the Senate and in the White House—of using whatever tools are available to intimidate critics and marginalize opposition.

It started, of course, with the IRS targeting scandal. I know a little bit about it, being the ranking member on the Senate Finance Committee. The IRS has admitted that in the runup to the 2010 and 2012 elections it was improperly targeting conservative groups applying for tax-exempt status by harassment and intimidation. Now, for obvious reasons, President Obama has tried to sweep this scandal under the rug, but the record is pretty clear on the matter. The IRS singled out conservative groups—groups that were critical of the President and his policies—for extra scrutiny. These conservative groups were subjected to delays in their applications. Some still haven't gotten their approval after years of trying. In several cases they were asked a number of intrusive and harassing questions about their activities and goals. There is no getting around this; that is exactly what happened. This turn of events has left a black cloud over the IRS as an agency and seriously damaged the public's trust in government.

Let's be clear. The IRS did not engage in these activities in a vacuum. On the contrary, they were cheered on by some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who, rather than simply dealing with criticism they didn't agree with, urged the IRS to apply more scrutiny to these conservative organizations.

Unfortunately, after the political targeting scandal, the IRS wasn't finished. The pattern continued. Late last year the agency unveiled a regulatory proposal designed to limit the ''political activities'' of 501(c)(4) organizations. If finalized, these regulations would effectively silence grassroots organizations across the country. They

would no longer be able to engage in activities as innocuous as voter registration drives or candidate forums without those activities being labeled ''political.''

The purpose of these regulations is very clear. The administration does not want grassroots organizations educating the public on the issues of the day. They certainly don't want them informing people about candidates' positions on matters of public policy. This regulation is designed specifically to put a stop to all of that.

It is no surprise that this proposal has been condemned by groups across the political spectrum. Indeed, any objective observer would call this what it is: an affront to free speech and fair debate.

But, as I said, there is a pattern here. It is an ongoing effort on the other side to undermine free speech and impose limits on Americans' participation in the political process, and it has not stopped with the IRS regulations. Just last week it was announced that the Senate majority plans to hold a vote on a constitutional amendment that would limit the scope of the first amendment and allow Congress to impose limits on political speech—just last week. It is difficult to imagine that we have come to that, but here we are.

Political speech is critical to our democracy. Indeed, this principle is at the very foundation of our Republic. It is one the Supreme Court has upheld time and time again, including very recently. Yet, when confronted with speech they don't like, my friends on the other side of the aisle are willing to use every tool at their disposal to even change the text of the Constitution itself in order to silence it.

In a marketplace of ideas like the one the Founders intended, disagreeable speech can easily be met with additional speech, and in the end the truth will almost certainly prevail. But, alas, my friends don't appear to be interested in the truth or a marketplace of ideas. They only want one store that will only sell ideas with which they happen to agree. It is truly mind-boggling, but that is where we are.

This isn't the end of the pattern. In fact, the pattern of hostility toward free speech and the effort to intimidate and silence critics continues virtually every day here on the Senate floor. Almost every day Democratic Senators, including members of the Senate Democratic leadership, come to the floor to call out American citizens by name and demonize them for having the audacity to participate in the political process. They use the Senate's time and resources to single out individuals whose only crime is that they happen to have different views on public policy. I suppose their other crime is that they are successful, which is more often than not enough to draw the ire of my friends on the other side. When you couple success in the economy with criticism of Democrats and their policies, it is apparently too much for my colleagues to bear. Day after day Democratic leaders come to the floor to call out these Americans by name in order to attack them. They spread falsehoods about these Americans and their intentions, and they malign the entire conservative movement and Republican Party as guilty by association.

Even if this type of demagoguery weren't unbecoming of the Senate—which it is—these attacks would be shameful in their own right. After all, how are these unjustified attacks on American citizens going to help our struggling economy? How are these attacks going to create jobs for the middle class?

And, how are these attacks on American citizens going to rein in our already out-of-control national debt? They are not, and they are not intended to.

As I said, these days Democrats have two missions: No. 1, to solidify their base and, No. 2, marginalize their opposition, and when they come to the floor every day to make bogeymen out of individual Americans, they are doing both. They are not, as they claim to be, trying to take money out of the political equation. If they were, they would be just as concerned with those on their side who spend millions bankrolling liberal causes and Democratic candidates. I am talking, of course, about the labor unions, trial lawyers, and billionaire environmentalists who have pledged to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in this campaign cycle alone. Instead, they are trying to scare up votes.

Apparently they believe if they can make scapegoats out of those who choose to participate in the political process, they can cover up the fact their policies have failed to get our economy moving and that they don't have any real answers to the real problems plaguing our country. Perhaps more importantly, they think if they can attack certain individuals for their political activities, others will be afraid to get similarly involved. Once again, this is a pattern of hostility against both free speech and against any Americans who speak out against the policies of the Democrats. Quite frankly, it is simply shameful that it has gone this far.

We need to have a different conversation. We need to talk about ideas and proposals that will actually help the American people. I hope in the coming months my friends on the other side of the aisle will be willing to have this conversation rather than simply relying on underhanded tactics that, in the view of many, demean our government and the Senate in particular. That is the type of debate the American people want to see, and I think they are smart enough to see through anything the other side wants to offer in its place.

I have never seen it this bad in the Senate. I have never seen this body so ineffectual in my 38 years in the Senate. I have never seen such politics played in this awful manner. I have never seen people's free speech rights being criticized and demeaned as is going on right now. That is not to say we have not had some faults on our side too, but I do have to say what is going on here is unbelievable.

Since they broke the rules to change the rules, the Senate has not functioned as a great legislative body at all. It won't be functioning until we get those rules back. I believe when some of our colleagues on the other side, many of whom have never been in the minority, finally get in the minority—and I believe that is going to happen sooner rather than later—they are going to realize these rights are very important. They are going to realize we should be doing more in the Senate than trying to protect our side from any possible repercussions that could occur, which seems to be the major aim of our colleagues—or at least the leadership—on the other side at this time.

This is a great body. We have great people whom I deeply admire on both sides of the floor. There were Senators, who are now gone, on the other side of the floor whom I deeply admired. Never have we had, as far as I can remember in my 38 years, this type of stultification of free and fair and open debates. It is a disgrace. I think they know it is a disgrace, but they don't care; they are more interested in power than they are in doing what is right.

The way they have singled out various conservative individuals by name on the floor is deeply troubling to anybody who is fair. The fact is the Democrats have never liked money. They try to blame Wall Street for everything, but Wall Street is run primarily by Democrats. We do have an occasional Republican up there, but an awful lot of them are Democrats who are giving big dollars to the Democratic side. They have a right to do it if they want to without being demeaned on the Senate floor. I hope we will have not only free and open debate, but that we will have better and more honest debate in the future.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEFENSE ACQUISITION REFORM

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, as consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015 proceeds in earnest, and with the recent release and annual assessments of the Department of Defense major procurement programs by the Government Accountability Office and the Pentagon's Director of Operational Testing and Evaluation, we are, once again, reminded of the DOD's chronic inability to rein in costs associated with its largest and most expensive weapon and information technology systems.

This is, of course, a problem the DOD—the Department of Defense—has struggled with for years. During every one of these years, I brought this problem to the attention of the American people, both in the Senate Armed Services Committee and here on the floor of the Senate.

So I need not go over again the frustrating litany of costly procurement failures at the Department of Defense. At this point we are all aware of the future combat system, the Army's ''transformational'' vehicle and communications modernization program, in which the military and the U.S. Army wasted almost $20 billion developing 18 vehicles and drones, only one of which actually went into production. In other words, they blew $19 billion. As had been done on other programs, on the Future Combat Systems, the Army held a ''paper competition'' to select contractors far in advance of fielding any actual prototypes. But it awarded control to two separate companies and let them, not the government, hold their own internal competitions to determine who would test and build the vehicles and systems—encumbering the program with a dizzying array of conflicts of interest and preferred-supplier preferences that chipped away at the program from the inside out.

As for the Air Force, its Expeditionary Combat Support System—the ECSS program—wasted over 1 billion taxpayer dollars attempting to procure and integrate a ''commercial off-the-shelf'' logistics IT system. That effort resulted in no usable capability for the Air Force, and taxpayers were forced to pay an additional $8 million in severance costs to the company that failed in its mission. The Marine Corps, in turn, spent 15 years and $3 billion on its Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle before canceling the program in 2012—another $3 billion down the drain.

While there are so many other failures, we shouldn't forget the VH–71 program—the presidential helicopter program—with which the Navy attempted to procure a new presidential helicopter. Before that program's cancellation in 2009, taxpayers were forced to pay $3.2 billion and got exactly zero helicopters.

Our ''joint service'' programs have also faced profound difficulties. Even though the Department of Defense has not completed development testing on the F–35 Joint Strike Fighter, that program is already well into production, exposing it to the risk of costly retrofits late in production.

While today the Joint Strike Fighter Program is on a more stable path to succeed, during a recent Airland Subcommittee hearing on tactical aircraft programs, I asked the head of the program, Lt. Gen. Chris Bogdan, what lessons the DOD learned from that program's costly failures. By the way, it is the most expensive weapons system ever—a $1 trillion weapons system. He identified three lessons: the danger of overly optimistic initial cost estimates, the importance of reliable technological risk estimates, and the complexity and costs of building next-generation planes while still testing them.

That is, of course, a post mortem that we are all very familiar with, including on some of the failed acquisition programs to which I just alluded. For that reason, Congress enacted the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009. That law instituted reforms to make sure that new major weapons procurement programs start off right, with accurate initial cost estimates, reliable technological risk assessments, and only reasonable ''concurrency,'' and stable operational requirements.

While the Government Accountability Office found this law had a ''significant influence'' on requirements, cost, schedule, testing, and reliability for the acquisition of new major weapons systems, there is still much to do, especially on the so-called ''legacy'' systems already well into the development pipeline. According to the Government Accountability Office, the cost of the Pentagon's major weapons systems—that is 80 systems in total—have swollen to nearly one-half trillion dollars over their initial price tags and have average schedule delays of more than 2 years.

I will repeat that for the benefit of the Pentagon, my colleagues here in the Senate, and the American people. The Government Accountability Office says the cost of the Pentagon's major weapons systems, of which there are 80 in total, have swollen to nearly one-half trillion dollars—that is T, trillion dollars—over their initial price tags—their initial cost estimates—and have average schedule delays of more than 2 years. That is not acceptable. That is not acceptable to the American people, it should not be acceptable to Members of Congress, and it sure as heck shouldn't be acceptable to the people who are responsible for these cost overruns. That is the Pentagon and that is these manufacturers.

Against this backdrop, I will briefly discuss two critical aspects of how the Department of Defense procures major systems—real competition and accountability. In my view, it is no coincidence that the period of remarkably poor performance among our largest weapons procurement programs has coincided with a dramatic contraction in the industrial base, due, in large part, to consolidation among the Nation's top-tier contractors. For this reason the Department of Defense must structure into its strategies to acquire major systems true competition—not like fake competition—as we saw in the Future Combat System or as proponents for an alternate engine for the Joint Strike Fighter once advocated. According to the Government Accountability Office, in fiscal year 2013, only 57 percent—I repeat, 57 percent—of the $300 billion the Department of Defense obligated for contracts and orders was actually competed. In other words, only in a little over half of the $300 billion—roughly $150 billion—in contracts and orders was there actually any competition. Unacceptable. Competition should be driven through the subsystems level, and it should be reflected in approaches that foster innovation and small business participation throughout a system's entire lifecycle.

Especially within the Navy's ''shipbuilding and conversion'' account and the Air Force's ''missile procurement'' account, costs associated with the Ohio-class replacement submarine and the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle—that is our space effort—those programs respectively, will severely pressurize other procurement priorities within these same aspects of Pentagon spending.

So within these particular areas, harnessing competitive forces to drive down costs and keep them down will be enormously important. There can, however, be no doubt that during a year of declining budgets and, therefore, fewer opportunities to support an already diminished industrial base, this will be extraordinarily difficult. So we should be embracing competition—even the prospect of it—wherever and however we find it.

In the Littoral Combat Ship Program, the Navy's strategy to bring competition into the construction of the follow-on ships' seaframes successfully drove down those costs after the cost to complete construction of the lead ships' seaframes exploded—the costs exploded. While doing so resulted in a dual-award block-buy contract, which I thought, and continue to think, was ill-advised, and serious problems persist with the Littoral Combat Ship's mission modules—in other words, the ship's ability to carry out its assigned missions—there can be no doubt that competition was just what the program needed.

After having found in 2012 that competition for the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, i.e., our space program, could lower costs for the government, the Government Accountability

Office reiterated the importance of competition generally in a report released today, stating that, ''[c]ompetition is the cornerstone of a sound acquisition process.''

Remember those words by the Government Accountability Office, as I go on: Competition is the cornerstone of a sound acquisition process.

It is exactly for this reason I have been concerned with what I have seen in the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, a critical national security space launch program. In the absence of competition and amidst a highly suspect effort to minimize internal Pentagon and congressional oversight of the program, which I corrected just a couple of years ago, the costs of this program have exploded. There are higher inflation costs for this program than any other program in the entire program. Only after that program critically breached cost thresholds under Federal law—the so-called Nunn-McCurdy—in other words, after the inflation of the costs were so high Federal law threatened its existence—did the Department of Defense finally recognize the value—indeed, the need—for competition.

Yet despite a directive by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to the Air Force to ''aggressively'' introduce competition into the program, and just weeks before the Air Force knew—the Air Force knew—that a prospective new entrant to the program would qualify as a bidder, the Air Force awarded a 3-year sole-source block-buy contract to the incumbent contractor. Just weeks before they knew there would be competition, they allowed and awarded a program to the one bidder, sole source, at a huge cost. The Air Force did so in a way that exposed only those launches designated for competition to the greatest risk of delay or cancellation. Then, just a few weeks ago, in connection with its budget request for fiscal year 2015, the Air Force proposed to cut the number of launches designated for competition in half. They gut the number of launches designated for competition to half, in part to satisfy the Air Force's existing obligation to the incumbent contractor under the sole-source block-buy contract.

Why the Air Force made all those decisions in that program, which so desperately needs competition, is unclear. But the evidence of incumbency favoritism I have seen to date was strong enough for me to refer the matter to the Department of Defense Inspector General for investigation. That favoritism apparently extended to the DOD's failure to ensure that the incumbent contractor's efforts to import rocket engines from Russia—we are importing rocket engines for our space launch program from Russia in a noncompetitive contract—did not run afoul of the President's Executive order sanctioning certain Russian persons in connection with Russia's activities in eastern Ukraine. It took a prospective bidder—not the Pentagon, but a prospective bidder; that is, a possible competitor—to file a lawsuit in Federal court to ensure compliance with the President's Executive order. We all look forward to the inspector general's findings.

In addition to the EELV, I will also be monitoring the Army's modernization program to build nearly 3,000 armored personnel carriers. This program too appears to lack any meaningful competition, having obtained a waiver to skip over building working prototypes and thereby ignoring the acquisition best practice of fly before you buy.

Way back many years ago when Ronald Reagan became President of the United States, our then-Secretary of Defense Cap Weinberger said: Fly before you buy. Fly before you buy.

It is clear. I do not think anybody builds anything in America today if they do not test it out before they purchase it en bloc or produce it en bloc. Yet the Pentagon continues to ignore the fundamental principle of fly before you buy.

There is also clearly more that needs to be done to ensure accountability in how the Department of Defense procures major weapons and information technology systems. Ensuring accountability means having in place the right acquisition managers when large procurement programs start instead of bringing them in years after those programs have foundered. Those managers must see and be willing to enforce affordability as an operational requirement and know how to effectively incentivize their industry partners to control costs.

Also, within a system that better aligns their tenure with key management decisions on their programs, those managers—trained to be as competent and skillful a buyer as their industry counterparts are sellers—need to be empowered to make those decisions in their best professional judgment, and they need to do so within an overall system that holds them accountable if they are wrong and rewards them if they are successful.

Regrettably, that is not our defense acquisition system. In our system, instead of accountability, a systemic misalignment of incentives reigns—incentives that assign a premium to overly optimistic initial cost estimates and technological risk assessments. In our system, what is all-important is getting activity ''under contract,'' ''keeping the money flowing,'' and maintaining budgets. Our system allows the Department of Defense to start programs that are poorly conceived or inherently unexecutable with the aim of getting them ''on rails''—into the development pipeline—and, if possible, simultaneously into production.

At that point, given the extent to which they have been engineered so that their economic benefits are distributed among key States and congressional districts, those programs become notoriously difficult to terminate or meaningfully change. Why? Because our system keeps them alive, often at an exorbitant cost and, in the worst cases, without ever providing meaningful combat capability.

My friends, it is called the military-industrial-congressional complex. Dwight David Eisenhower, in his last major speech, warned us of the military-industrial complex. It is now the military-industrial-congressional complex. It is a politically engineered, ill-defined, massive ''transformational'' procurement program, with an unlimited tolerance for excessive concurrency, largely funded on a cost-reimbursable basis, with the prime contractor allowed to maximize profit without necessarily delivering needed capability to our service men and women on budget or on time.

To say that such a system is unsustainable is charitable. It is a system that, if allowed to continue unabated, will have us bestow on our children and theirs de facto unilateral disarmament for which they will have no say and from which our Nation will have no recourse.

Rather than wallow in discouragement, however, we must let that odious proposition motivate us to reform the current system with meaningful change, in particular to the Pentagon's culture of inefficiency that has eluded us for a generation.

One thing is clear: Today we have a choice. Tomorrow we will not.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FLORIDA FLOODING

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, we have had a severe act of Mother Nature in Florida and a number of other Southeastern States, where skies of Biblical proportions in dumping rain have occurred. In Pensacola, FL, there was close to 25 inches of rain that fell within a 24-hour period. The counties of Escambia and Santa Rosa in Florida were particularly hard hit, and just today the Governor of Florida requested a major disaster declaration from the President and sought assistance for that part of Florida. I passed along the Governor's request to the White House and asked that it be approved as soon as possible.

Right now the State of Florida government and local governments as well

are assisting people in need, and they are surveying the damage to assess the extent of the storm's impact. We are going to do everything we can to make sure the people have the assistance and the help they need during this very difficult time. Of course, it was not just in Florida that these storms hit; it was a number of States—Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia. As the storm proceeded on upwards, it occurred in a lot of the Southeastern United States. But particularly those States plus ours, in northwest Florida, is where it really hit the hardest.

Many people have worked around the clock to save lives and to provide support in the immediate aftermath of the storm. Thank goodness there is a Florida National Guard that is as experienced as it is, and it is experienced because we are accustomed to storms, particularly hurricanes. But we are not accustomed to 25 inches in 24 hours, and all emergency personnel are down there helping.

According to Florida's request for Federal assistance, in addition to the spinoff tornadoes, some parts of the panhandle received this enormous amount of rain, and another indication is that in just 1 hour, 5.68 inches of rain fell—in 1 hour—in the city of Pensacola.

It brought floods. It destroyed homes, roads. It destroyed essential infrastructure. If you have seen any of the views on television, then you have seen the devastation, you have seen people being pulled out of the water, cars completely submerged, portions of roads taken out. It has occurred in multiple States.

Responding to a disaster such as this is a critical responsibility for not only government in general but for the Federal Government and the unique things and people and services the Federal Government can provide. It is one of those things government is supposed to do for people. It is supposed to help in times of emergency. The President has already declared a disaster in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama, making Federal resources available there. I hope the President is going to do the same for Florida. Sometimes challenges are just too great for any one local community or State to take on alone. The unique position of the Federal Government in a time such as this is to coordinate resources and people across the Nation to solve our biggest challenges. A lot of that is done through FEMA, and who better to have the help ready than the head of FEMA, who is a Floridian and who was the head of Florida's emergency department before President Obama tapped him to be the head of FEMA.

With this terrible toll on people's lives, I hope this will serve as an example of how we can all come together when people are in need. Clearly, our hopes and prayers and thoughts are with the people who are affected by these storms.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOLD SCAM

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, while I had the opportunity on the floor, I wanted to call to the attention of the Senate that the Special Committee on Aging, which I have the privilege of chairing, held a hearing last week on scams particularly affecting senior citizens—but not limited to senior citizens—in the selling of precious metals, in particular gold.

Basically, the bottom-line takeaway from the hearing is if you are an American getting a cold call suggesting to you that you should invest in a precious metal such as gold, more than likely it is a scam and you are about to be robbed of your money if you play along and start investing in this fictitious investment in gold. The testimony showed that most of the time the scammers do not even purchase the gold and certainly are not storing it—even though they are charging the poor victim, often a senior citizen, storage fees for this fictitious gold.

I was astounded. We are accustomed to getting telemarketer calls—unless you are on the Do Not Call list—but telemarketers still call through the Do Not Call list. That is another giveaway. If you are on the Do Not Call list and you are getting one of these calls to invest, they can make it sound so good.

We had a man who was about to be sentenced and was one of the telemarketers. Why do these scams often end up being from South Florida? But it is true—not only these kinds of scams, but also Medicare and Medicaid fraud. It is concentrated in South Florida. This man was a part of this scam calling unsuspecting Americans to get them to invest in something that sounds too good to be true, only it is the gold standard. People fell for it, and then they sent him money. He showed us. They have four different stages: someone who first gets you interested, someone who comes in and closes the deal, another person who comes along and then gets up the deal, and then others who keep you hooked into the scam until you find out that you don't have any gold that is being held in trust for you in storage but, in fact, it is all a sham.

I wanted to share with folks what the Senate Special Committee on Aging found out. If you get a cold call and they want you to invest in gold, chances are it is a scam and it is not real. It is a word to the wise: Beware. Don't fall for it.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOB CREATION

Mr. COATS. Madam President, all 100 of us, Republicans and Democrats, are concerned about our fellow citizens who are unemployed, struggling to pay their bills, and desperate to find meaningful work. We are concerned about the lack of opportunities in many of America's communities and the urgent need for more good-paying jobs across the United States.

There are Hoosiers and citizens across this country hurting in this economy, and it seems as though a new negative economic headline comes out every day. Consider some of the recent discouraging reports we have heard. According to a new USA Today/Pew research poll, Americans by a 2-to-1 margin rate the Nation's economic conditions as poor, and just 27 percent say there are enough jobs available where they live.

A few days ago, the Commerce Department estimated that between January and March of this year, the U.S. economy grew a shocking 0.1 percent. That is .1 percent from no growth whatsoever and just .2 percent from racking up a first quarter of recession.

It takes two quarters back to back to qualify for recession, but we are in the recovery period from one of the deepest recessions since World War II. Now we are into the fifth year, close to the sixth year, of a stagnant economy growing at half the rate it normally does after a recession, and Americans are still out of work.

In addition, the U.S. labor force participation rate is at its lowest point in 36 years. Not since the days of Jimmy Carter has such a low percentage of Americans been in the workforce.

In fact, another shocking headline: Over 800,000 Americans dropped out of the labor force last month alone. Let me say that again. Over 800,000 Americans dropped out of the labor force in just 1 month—800,000. That is enough people to fill Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, home of Super Bowl XLVI and the Indianapolis Colts, one dozen times.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics calls many of these 800,000 ''discouraged workers,'' and they join over one-third

of all working-age Americans no longer seeking work. It is not only those who are earnestly out there every day trying to find a job, any job, this is a staggering number of people who have simply given up, saying: It is not worth the effort; I can't find a job; the jobs simply are not there.

Even those young Americans starting their careers, just entering the workforce, are not entering at the traditional level, the level which they are qualified for, have trained for or have been educated for. They are being forced to accept positions that they are overqualified for at wages way below what they expected to make after all their efforts preparing themselves through education and skills training to join the labor force in America.

Given years of growth at half the expected level and high unemployment, it is not surprising but it is very disheartening to hear this news continue well into the fifth year after the recession. But rather than point fingers or assign blame, I am here today to seek, hopefully, a consensus that the Senate needs to propose, needs to debate, and needs to support measures that will increase economic growth and provide economic opportunity for those who are seeking to join the labor force.

It is time for us to start talking about maximizing opportunity. Webster's dictionary defines opportunity as ''a good chance for advancement or progress.'' That is what American workers at all levels of skill and income deserve, but many of us have introduced our own ideas about job creation and economic growth.

Earlier this year I put forward a detailed 10-point plan that I call The Indiana Way. Based on stories and suggestions from Hoosiers, these are commonsense solutions to some of our Nation's biggest problems. Many of my proposals incorporate ideas that have gained bipartisan support.

We are not in the Senate arguing against each other, we are trying to find solutions, proposals, to debate together, to support together, and to move this country forward.

The Indiana Way includes commonsense proposals to reform our broken Tax Code, reduce regulations that are crippling industries and business, unlock American energy sources, and support community banks, credit unions, and those who are providing the tools for investment and the tools for growth.

I welcome the chance to discuss how these ideas will help Hoosiers and Americans who are struggling in this economy, and I know many of my colleagues are also eager for the opportunity to discuss and debate real solutions to help our workforce. There are a number of proposals that have been brought to this floor by my colleagues.

Senator PORTMAN, who sits at a desk next to me, and others have put forward meaningful proposals we ought to be debating. We shouldn't be talking about: Well, nothing is going to get done because it is an election year.

We ought to set that aside and say for the sake of the future of this country and for all of those seeking work and don't have it, let's debate the real issues. Let's work together to pass something that will make our country stronger and our economy better.

It was one of my former colleagues and friend Jack Kemp who once said:

> Our goals for this nation must be nothing less than to double the size of our economy and bring prosperity and jobs, ownership and equality of opportunity to all Americans, especially those living in our nation's pockets of poverty—

And especially those who are earnestly seeking work and simply can't find it. Today that goal remains worthy of our time and efforts. Let's join together and have a conversation about real solutions that will make our country stronger, improve the lives of all American citizens, and build a better future for the next generation. This should be our goal. This is the goal that should unite us, and it is long past time for us to get serious about it and take action.

With that, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

ENERGY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, all year I have been coming to the floor to urge Senate Democrats to work with us to help the middle class. So far they haven't seemed too serious about it. We saw that last week when they insisted on pushing legislation that could cost—not create but cost—up to 1 million jobs. Seventeen thousand of those jobs would be lost in Kentucky alone.

I am hoping Senate Democrats are finally willing to turn the page. I am hoping they are finally willing to get serious about helping the middle class, because if they are, here is the energy debate we should be having right here this week: We should be having a debate about how to develop policies that can actually lead to lower utility bills for squeezed families, policies that can put people back to work in America's coal country, policies that can help the kind of well-paying jobs our constituents want and deserve, and policies that can lead to a more effective use of North American energy supplies, that can help stabilize the world at a time when energy has become a weapon of states that do not hold our interests at heart.

Middle-class Americans struggle every day just to make ends meet. For many, the rising cost of energy is a big part of that. The price of electricity has been rising over the last decade, jumping by double digits in many States, and that is even after adjusting for inflation.

So it is unacceptable that it has been 7 years since we have had a real debate about energy jobs, energy independence, and energy security in the Democratically led Senate.

Republicans have a lot of good ideas about ways to help alleviate pressure on the middle class, and we have good ideas about how to create new opportunities through the use of our country's abundant energy supplies. I am sure our Democratic friends have some good ideas, too, and we would all love to hear them because these days we haven't heard a lot of serious energy talk from our friends on the other side.

We haven't heard many concrete Democratic proposals that would effectively alleviate the real concerns and anxieties and stresses that my constituents and theirs deal with on an everyday basis. That is what we would like to hear from them this week, and that is what the American people deserve to hear.

We know Washington Democrats tried and failed to push a national energy tax—cap and trade—through Congress back when they had complete control of Washington. We know President Obama hasn't given up on that idea, even after the people's representatives refused to go along with it—in a Congress that was controlled entirely by his party.

That is why we see the Obama administration trying to do an end run around Congress to get what it wants: to impose through the bureaucracy massive new regulations that would make things even harder for already squeezed middle-class families.

So what Republicans are saying is this: Our constituents deserve a voice in what Washington Democrats are planning to do up because they are the ones whose lives and livelihoods will be most affected by these decisions, and through legislation this very week our constituents should be able to weigh in on these kinds of Democratic plans.

For instance, my constituents in Kentucky should be able to weigh in on an EPA rule that would negatively impact existing and future coal plants. Kentuckians deserve a say on ongoing regulatory efforts to tie up mining permits and the redtape that is stifling the creation of good jobs in the coal industry and coal country.

The American people deserve a debate on how we can best tap our own extraordinary natural resources to achieve energy independence here at home and how we can help our allies overseas through increased exports of American energy too.

These are what we should be voting on this very week—serious energy policy proposals that can jolt our economy, boost middle-class incomes and jobs, and improve America's energy security in the world.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, Dinyal New was sitting in her church in Oakland, CA, and she was asked a question which she repeated back knowing there was no way to answer it. She said: What is it like to bury both of my kids?

Ms. New lost her two sons in episodes of gun violence not more than 3 weeks apart in January of this year.

Her youngest son was an eighth grader. He was walking down the street one day. The description says that surveillance cameras actually show him almost skipping down the street. He was walking home from the bus stop. He usually called his mom to pick him up, but his cell phone battery had died that day. On the video we can see a gunman approach carrying a semiautomatic rifle and shoot little Lee, an eighth grader, 28 times.

He wasn't in a gang. Frankly, it shouldn't matter whether he was in a gang, but he wasn't in a gang. He loved to play drums. His neighbors said he was a great kid. He stayed home a lot playing video games or he hung out often at the Boys and Girls Club while his single mom worked as a social worker. Nobody knows why Lee was targeted.

After Lee died, his mom begged his older brother Lamar to leave town, that it was just too dangerous. Not knowing exactly what went on, she didn't want Lamar to get caught in the crossfire. Lamar had had a little more difficult life, but he had straightened out his life after some occasional runins with the law. He was taking classes at a local community college, and he had dreams of becoming a musician or starting his own business, but 3 days after his little brother's funeral, on January 19 his mom asked Lamar to run an errand for him. So being a dutiful son, just days after the family was grieving at his brother's funeral, he went 2 blocks from home to do an errand. He was in his car and a suspect got up on top of the car and started shooting into it, killing Lamar. Within 3 weeks she had gone from having two sons to having no sons. Those two homicides are among the 31,672 that happen annually through gunfire and gun violence all across the Nation, part of 2,639 gun deaths every month, part of the 86 a day that happen all across the country. My State is no exception. In March of this year on the same night, March 24, two half-brothers were shot, leaving one dead and the other in the hospital. The surviving brother was a student at Hamden High School and the principal there talked about the fact that this is now the eighth shooting victim at Hamden High School in the principal's short tenure there. Hamden is not a town that is known in Connecticut for high rates of violence, but in just that one high school alone this one principal has seen eight shooting victims.

They had the funeral which was attended by hundreds for Taijhon. Taijhon was a great kid. All kids have troubles, but Taijhon was trying to get his life straight. He had just enrolled in the New Haven Job Corps Program. Anyone who knows about Job Corps program knows it is an avenue to get kids' lives turned around, gives them real skills that they can go out and succeed. Taijhon was enthusiastic about having started this Job Corps Program, but now we will have no idea what Taijhon's life was going to be like because he is not with us any longer, and his half-brother—who was initially in critical condition—his life will be changed forever.

The funeral for Taijhon was especially poignant because for the family this was just the latest tragedy. Two of Taijhon's cousins, Dallas and TJ, were also shot to death in New Haven. So in cities such as New Haven and Oakland, the misery is cascading because it is not just one death with family members of that immediate family affected, it is multiple brothers, it is brothers and cousins, it is entire families being targeted and sometimes wiped out by this epidemic of gun violence—an epidemic of gun violence that this body refuses to do anything about.

As you know, I try to come down to the floor every week, if I can, to give some voices to the victims of gun violence, because if these statistics will not move this place to action, maybe the stories of those young men and women—but mainly young men who are dying all across this country due to gun violence—maybe it is their stories that will move us to take some action. I know we couldn't get the 60 votes required to pass an expansion of background checks in this Senate, but maybe there is something else we can do.

Maybe we can lend more mental health resources to these cities that are struggling to keep up with these high rates of gun violence. Maybe we can fix the existing background check system to ensure that the right records get loaded in and there is actual enforcement of gun dealers who aren't actually asking their customers to go through background checks. Maybe there is something we can do on a bipartisan basis, but the reality is a lot of States are moving in the opposite direction.

Recently there was a lot of attention on a piece of legislation that passed in Georgia. This bill was dubbed the most extreme gun bill in America. It allowed people to carry weapons in bars, in government buildings, in places of worship, in school safety zones, at school functions, on school-provided transportation, all apparently under the theory that if we make enough guns available out in the public to both good guys and bad guys, hopefully, through a process of gun control Darwinism, the good guys will eventually shoot the bad guys.

The problem is that is not how it works. All of the data and evidence tells us that exactly the opposite occurs when you flood a community with guns and that more people die, not less. We don't know all of the reasons why a 19-year-old FedEx package handler walked into a facility in Kennesaw, GA, and injured six people before killing himself, but what we do know is that town has a law on the books that requires every single head of household to own a firearm. Kennesaw, GA, has a law on the books requiring every head of household to own a firearm. That didn't stop the episode of mass violence from happening inside of that FedEx facility. More guns does not equal safer communities in the end.

In my community of Newtown, Adam Lanza's mother had guns in the house because she thought it would help protect herself and her son who lived alone in the house. In the end it didn't help. It got her killed and it got 20 people killed as well.

Think about what it would be like to be a 7-year-old girl waking in the middle of the night, with your 2- and 4- and 5-year-old siblings still sleeping in the house, and walking into the living room and finding your mother and father dead. That is what happened just about 2 weeks ago in Memphis, TN, when a 7-year-old girl awoke to find that both of her parents had been shot and killed in the living room. Three other kids were home at the time. The 7-year-old then called the police who responded and identified the victims.

James Alexander, her father, was described as a landscaper and a great father. Her mother was described as athletic and very protective of her children. Her parents were junior high school sweethearts and they had just married in February. One hundred people packed the corner Friday evening

in front of James and Danielle Alexander's home to remember the couple 1 day after they were murdered.

A friend of the deceased said: ''It still doesn't feel real, I still feel like they are just sitting in their house.''

Another family friend said:

I don't wish this on my worst enemy, but it has happened. Now we have to look out for the kids.

That is the reality: parents gone in an instant, a brother and half brother in 1 night in New Haven, CT, two sons of a mother in Oakland dying because of gunfire within 19 days. These are the voices of the victims we are losing all across this country.

Maybe we don't have the votes to put together the big package that will provide some comprehensive approach to gun violence, but maybe between now and the end of the year we can show these families, we can show these communities that we can at least move forward a couple inches, a couple feet, to send a message that silence will no longer be interpreted in these communities as complicity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time is up.

Mr. MURPHY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank the Chair.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Tonight we will be voting on the nomination of Justice Moritz, a nominee for the Tenth Circuit. During her legal career, Justice Moritz handled a wide variety of cases both in the private sector and while serving as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Kansas for over 9 years. She also served on the Kansas City Court of Appeals and is currently a Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court. Justice Moritz has significant appellate experience, and I expect she will be confirmed tonight.

Before we vote on that nominee, I wanted to update my colleagues on where the Senate stands in regard to judicial nominations. After tonight's vote we will have confirmed 243 of President Obama's district court and circuit court nominees. To put that in perspective, at this point in President Bush's Presidency, the Senate had confirmed 235 district and circuit court nominees, 8 less than we have approved for President Obama.

During President Obama's second term and including tonight's nominees, we will have confirmed 72 of President Obama's district and circuit court nominees. By comparison at this point in President Bush's second term, the Senate had confirmed only 32 district and circuit court nominees. So you can see a difference between 72 approvals for President Obama versus 32 approvals for President Bush in the second term. Despite this record, it seems to me that no matter how many judges we confirm, the other side, along with some confused commentators outside of the Senate, cannot help but complain about our progress.

Last week one member from the Judiciary Committee accused Republicans of obstructing and slowing the nomination process through the President's entire term, but as I just pointed out, the Senate has confirmed more of President Obama's judges than we had at this point during President Bush's term. Another way to put it is all but two of President Obama's nominees have been approved, so that is a 99-plus percent approval. These complaints just do not ring true.

Even the Washington Post, which was never a friend of George W. Bush, now recognizes how well President Obama is doing on judges. A recent article entitled, ''Obama overtakes George W. Bush on judges confirmed,'' noted that ''the Senate has confirmed more Obama nominees to the federal branch than were confirmed at this point in Bush's second term.''

The Washington Post has also conceded that President Obama's confirmation rate essentially matches that of President Bush and President Clinton.

I also heard one of my colleagues complain about the President's vacancy rate, but the reason the vacancy rate is marginally higher than during President Bush's term is because President Obama has simply had more vacancies and more work to do in filling these vacancies during his Presidency. There have been more judges retiring now than during the last administration, which obviously creates more vacancies.

As you have heard me say many times on the floor of the Senate, we cannot deal with nominees until they come to the Senate. In other words, the President has to do his work before we can do our work.

The bottom line is that we are confirming judges at the same rate. It takes time to process and review each nominee who comes before us. This is simply the way the Senate works in its role to advise and consent on judicial nominees.

It isn't just lately that the Senate has worked its will in making sure these nominees are good ones to approve. That is the way it has been done for a long period of time. In other words, we simply don't have the President submit somebody and bring it before the Senate. It takes a lot of homework to make sure that not just their qualifications but all the other evidence that comes from the White House is reviewed adequately.

So there is simply no basis to say Republicans are not giving this President fair treatment. In fact, just last week the Senate confirmed nine judges. That is the most judges confirmed in 1 week this entire Congress. In fact, we haven't confirmed nine judges in 1 week since December 2010, when we needed to vote on a Sunday to get nine judges confirmed during 1 week.

So I take this time just to remind my colleagues of the excellent work the Senate is doing on confirmations, and of course I do it to set the record straight.

I congratulate tonight's nominee on her anticipated confirmation, a confirmation for which I will vote.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NANCY L. MORITZ TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT—Resumed

NOMINATION OF PETER A. SELFRIDGE TO BE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND TO HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, and Peter A. Selfridge, of Minnesota, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service.

VOTE ON MORITZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Moritz nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, we will vote to confirm Nancy Moritz to fill a vacancy in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Nancy Moritz is currently a justice on the Kansas Supreme Court, where she has been serving since 2011. She has the qualifications and has the support of her two Republican home State Senators, Mr. PAT ROBERTS and Mr. JERRY MORAN. She was also reported from the

Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote this past January.

The Republicans continue to object to votes on all judicial nominations, even for completely noncontroversial nominees such as Justice Moritz. Cloture was finally invoked on Justice Moritz's nomination last week. There is no reason her nomination should have been filibustered given the bipartisan support that she has.

In fact, Justice Moritz should and could have been confirmed last year. She was first nominated last August, but her hearing was delayed until mid-November because of the Republican shutdown of the Federal Government. Senate Republicans then refused to vote on her nomination in committee at the end of last year and her nomination was returned to the President. As a result, the President had to renominate Justice Moritz and the Judiciary Committee had to reprocess her nomination this year. When we finally confirm Justice Moritz today, her nomination will have taken more than 9 months. It should not take this long to process noncontroversial nominees.

Justice Moritz has now served on the Kansas Supreme Court for nearly 4 years. Prior to joining the Kansas Supreme Court, she was an appellate judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals from 2004 to 2011. Before becoming a judge, she spent nearly 10 years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Kansas City and Topeka offices. From 1989 until 1995, she was an associate at Spencer, Fane Britt & Browne, LLP in Kansas City and Overland Park. From 1987 to 1989, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Patrick F. Kelly, U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. Her breadth and depth of experience as both a practitioner and a jurist will make her well suited to serve on the Tenth Circuit.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote to confirm this excellent nominee.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield back time on this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time for debate is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth District?

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Gillibrand	Moran
Baldwin	Graham	Murkowski
Barrasso	Grassley	Murphy
Begich	Hagan	Murray
Bennet	Harkin	Nelson
Blumenthal	Hatch	Paul
Blunt	Heinrich	Portman
Booker	Heitkamp	Pryor
Boxer	Heller	Reed
Brown	Hirono	Reid
Burr	Hoeven	Roberts
Cantwell	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Cardin	Isakson	Rubio
Carper	Johanns	Sanders
Casey	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Chambliss	Kaine	Scott
Coats	King	Sessions
Cochran	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Collins	Landrieu	Shelby
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Corker	Lee	Tester
Cornyn	Levin	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCain	Walsh
Enzi	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	McConnell	Warren
Fischer	Menendez	Whitehouse
Flake	Merkley	Wicker
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—3

Coburn	Crapo	Risch

NOT VOTING—7

Ayotte	Kirk	Vitter
Boozman	Schatz	
Johnson (WI)	Toomey	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SELFRIDGE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Selfridge nomination.

Mr. DURBIN. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Peter A. Selfridge, of Minnesota, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislation session.

The Senator from Minnesota.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 149

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass the Stopping Tax Offenders and Prosecuting Identity Theft Act of 2013.

Before we have another year—yet another year—of criminals stealing the tax returns of millions of hardworking Americans, we need to pass this bipartisan bill.

Let me tell you from the start this is a bill that I introduced with Senator SESSIONS of Alabama. This is a bill that made it through the Judiciary Committee 18 to 0. After a number of amendments were considered and rejected, this bill made it through the Judiciary Committee—in which there are many different people of ideological views—18 to 0.

So what is this about? We have a problem in this country, and it is a problem I think people would be very surprised about if they knew how much money it involved. Criminals are increasingly filing false tax returns using stolen identity information in order to claim victims' refunds.

What does this mean? How much money are we talking about?

In 2012 alone, identity thieves filed 1.8 million fraudulent tax returns, almost double the number confirmed in 2011. The numbers in the documents in these cases may be forged, but the dollars behind them are real.

In 2012, there were another 1.1 million fraudulent tax returns that slipped through the cracks, and our U.S. Treasury paid out—are you ready for this—$3.6 billion in fraudulent returns, $3.6 billion at a time when we have a debt. At a time when we are cutting programs and doing everything we can to make the government more accountable, we paid out $3.6 billion in fraudulent returns. That is taxpayers' dollars going down the drain.

But when the criminals file these fake tax returns, it is not only the Treasury that loses out. Everyday people are the real victims, forced to wait months—sometimes even years—before receiving the refunds that are owed to them, and it can take years to fix the problems when you have your identity stolen.

In 2012, Alan Stender, a retired businessman from the 5,000-person town of Circle Pines, MN, was working to file his taxes on time, just as so many Americans did this past month. After completing all the forms and sending in his tax returns, Alan heard from the IRS that there was a major problem.

Someone had stolen his identity and used his personal information to fraudulently file his return and steal his tax refund.

Last month, 25 people were arrested in Florida for using thousands of stolen identities to claim $36 million in fraudulent tax refunds. This included the arrest of a middle-school food service worker who stole the identities of more than 400 students. Those victims are just kids. Yet criminals are stealing their identities to get fake tax returns.

Attorney General of the United States of America Eric Holder had his tax ID stolen. Two young adults used his name, date of birth, and Social Security number to file a fraudulent tax return. They got caught and they got prosecuted. But when our own Attorney General of the United States is a victim of tax fraud—people stealing his identity—I think it is time to admit we have a problem. From a retired man in Minnesota, to middle-school students in Florida, to the Attorney General of the United States, it is clear identity theft can happen to anyone.

We also know this crime can victimize our most vulnerable citizens—seniors living on fixed incomes or people with disabilities depending on tax returns to make ends meet. These people cannot financially manage having their tax returns stolen. There is a lot at stake here, and bipartisan action is needed. That is why I put forward this bipartisan piece of legislation along with Republican Senator JEFF SESSIONS to take on this problem and crack down on the criminals who are committing this crime.

The critical legislation—which, by the way, has a similar version that passed in the House last year—will take important steps to streamline law enforcement resources and strengthen penalties for tax identity theft. The STOP Identity Theft Act will direct the Justice Department to dedicate resources to address tax identity theft. It directs the Department to focus on parts of the country with especially high rates of tax return identity theft and boosts protections for vulnerable citizens such as seniors and veterans. We also urge the Justice Department to cooperate fully and coordinate in investigations with State and local law enforcement agencies.

Identity thieves have become more creative and have expanded from stealing the identities of individuals to stealing that of businesses and organizations. My bill recognizes this change and broadens the definition of tax identity theft to include businesses, nonprofits, and other similar organizations. This is something that came to us from law enforcement. This is a bill that passed through the Judiciary Committee of the Senate—not an easy journey—18 to 0.

Finally, we need to crack down on the criminals committing this crime. The bill would strengthen penalties from tax identity theft by raising the jail sentence. I believe this bill would go a long way in helping law enforcement use their resources to more efficiently and effectively go after these crimes. It is time to pass it through the Senate. As I said, it passed through the House of Representatives.

In recent weeks, we have made significant progress by passing this bill out of, as I said, the Senate Judiciary Committee. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We had votes on amendments in the Judiciary Committee, which some may hear about soon, that were rejected but were heard out. We had very good discussions and arguments, and I believe that is why I got the support of the people who were putting those amendments forward. Senator HATCH himself said one of those amendments belonged in the Finance Committee. In any case, we came together in the Judiciary Committee, voted for this bill 18 to 0, and it is now time to get it through the Senate.

With an 18-to-0 vote, I should have been able to bring this bill to the full Senate, but I know my colleague from Texas has some concerns, even though he is on the record supporting this bill in committee. The time is now to pass this bipartisan piece of legislation to crack down on identity thieves and protect the hard-earned tax dollars of innocent Americans.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 316, S. 149, the STOP Identity Theft Act, the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2066 AND S. 2067

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I commend my friend from Minnesota for her very good bill. This bill is good policy. It is supported by both Democrats and Republicans, as she noted. It passed unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee. I was proud to vote for this piece of legislation.

However, at the time the Judiciary Committee took up the bill it also considered amendments—in particular, two amendments I introduced that are both relevant and germane to this bill. This bill is addressing the IRS. We have seen in the past year abuses from the IRS that sadly this body—the Senate—has been unwilling to address.

It has been the practice under the current majority leader to prevent the minority from introducing amendments, preventing the minority from having a voice, and so the only avenue for the minority to have a voice is to use tools such as denying consent to try to raise issues that are relevant to the American people.

When it comes to the IRS targeting of individual citizens, it was roughly 10 months ago the Inspector General at the Department of the Treasury concluded the IRS had wrongfully targeted conservative groups, tea party groups, pro-Israel groups, and pro-life groups. The day that news broke, the President of the United States said he was outraged. He said he was angry, and he said the American people have a right to be angry. That same day Attorney General of the United States Eric Holder said he too was outraged and, indeed, the President pledged to work hand in hand with Congress.

Ten months have passed, and in the 10 months that have passed we have discovered not a single person has been indicted. In the 10 months that have passed, many of the victims of this illegal targeting have not even been interviewed by the Department of Justice. In the 10 months that have passed, we have discovered that one of the lead lawyers leading the investigation at the Department of Justice is a major Obama donor who gave over $6,000 personally to support President Obama and the Democrats. In the 10 months that have transpired, Attorney General Eric Holder has turned down my request that he demonstrate the same impartiality, the same fidelity to the law that has been a bipartisan tradition for Attorneys General under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

Indeed, as I pointed out to the Attorney General, when credible allegations of wrongdoing against Richard Nixon arose, his Attorney General Elliott Richardson, a Republican, appointed Archibald Cox to investigate those allegations, free of political pressure. Likewise, when credible allegations of wrongdoing against Bill Clinton arose, his Attorney General, a Democrat, Janet Reno, appointed Robert Fiske as an Independent Counsel to get to the bottom of it.

Sadly, when I asked Eric Holder if he was willing to follow that same tradition of impartiality, of independence, of fidelity to law, of insulating the Department of Justice from political pressure, the Attorney General gave a flat-out answer of no. He was perfectly content; he saw no reason why anyone should doubt the integrity of an investigation led by a major Obama donor.

As I asked the Attorney General, Would you trust John Mitchell to investigate Richard Nixon? Of course you wouldn't. So it is in the context of this abuse of power—this abuse of power of the administration—that rather than working hand in hand as the President has pledged, they have stonewalled it—that I introduced two amendments.

The first amendment was simply to make it a criminal offense for an IRS

employee to target people based on their political beliefs. I will note the text of the language I introduced made it a criminal offense to willfully act with the intent to injure, oppress, threaten, intimidate, or single out for the purpose of harassment any person based solely on the political, economic, or social positions held or expressed by that person or organization.

When the IRS targeting was revealed, it was condemned in bipartisan language. If that language was real, this provision should pass this body unanimously. To make the law reflect that it is criminal for the IRS to willfully target someone based solely on their political beliefs ought to be a proposition that passes this body 100 to 0. Yet I am sorry to say that when I introduced this amendment in the Judiciary Committee it was voted down on a straight party-line vote. Every Democrat who had given speeches against the IRS targeting, when given the opportunity to actually codify a prohibition against it in committee, voted against it.

Likewise, the second amendment I introduced was an amendment to stop the IRS from its attempt at codification of this persecution of political views. The IRS promulgated new rules that would have put in place its targeting of political views. The response from the citizenry was record-setting. Indeed, I would note what the ACLU said about the IRS's proposed rules. The ACLU—not exactly a bastion of rightwing thought—said:

> The proposed rule threatens to discourage or sterilize an enormous amount of political discourse in America.

The ACLU went on to say:

> Most social welfare organizations—on both the left and right—serve exactly that function as they see it—the promotion of social welfare and community good. Based on their respective visions, they advocate for the powerless and the voiceless. They promote fiscal responsibility and good government. They serve as a check on government overreach, or as a cheerleader for sound public policy.

I can say in this respect that I agree emphatically and wholeheartedly with the ACLU. So I while I am perfectly happy to assent to the bill of my friend from Minnesota, if only the same reciprocal courtesy will be so and the remainder of the body will assent to these commonsense bills that make it a criminal offense to willfully target people based on their political views, and that keep the IRS out of the business of persecuting people for their political views.

I ask this body to stand with the ACLU. I ask this body to stand with the words of President Obama, if not the actions. I ask this body to stand with the American people to protect them from being wrongfully singled out by the abuse of power in the IRS.

Accordingly, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 311, S. 2066, and Calendar No. 312, S. 2067 en bloc; I further ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Texas?

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, the bill I put out on the floor is a bipartisan bill. It is a bipartisan bill that passed the Senate Judiciary Committee 18 to 0. It is a bill that last Congress passed under suspension in the House with the support of Republican Representative LAMAR SMITH and got through the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives, which tends to sometimes be a rather partisan place, was able to pass that bill. We cannot let this bill, when we are bleeding $3.6 billion in fraudulent tax return payments, die on the floor because my friend from Texas is trying again to put on these amendments.

I have no problem in having this amendment come up through the Finance Committee. By the way, Senator HATCH, the ranking Republican on the Finance Committee, said on the record during the Judiciary Committee hearing that S. 2067 should be considered first by the Finance Committee; that it was in the Finance Committee's jurisdiction. Yes, he voted for it in the end, but that is what he said. That is why this was problematic, and that amendment failed. We had a full discussion about this amendment.

In addition, there is a rulemaking on this issue, with 76,000 comments before the IRS. That is the issue.

As for the other amendment that my friend from Texas has put out there as 2066, also considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee, also debated in the Judiciary Committee—we didn't close off the amendment. We had an amendment, we had a discussion, and that amendment failed by 10 to 8.

There are several laws, as we know, that are already on the books that could be useful in this case, and there may be further discussion of this in the future. But this bill has nothing to do with that. Just because it has the word ''tax'' in it doesn't mean it has anything to do with the IRS employees and the amendments that my friend from Texas put forward.

What is this bill about? This bill is about how, in 2012, identity thieves filed 1.8 million fraudulent tax returns, almost double the number confirmed in 2011. That is 1.8 million Americans having their tax ID stolen in 2012. There were another 1.1 million that slipped through the cracks, and our own U.S. Treasury is paying out $3.6 billion from fraudulent returns.

Our own Attorney General of the United States of America had his tax ID number stolen. If Eric Holder can have his tax ID number stolen—and they were able to catch the guy and prosecute him—what happens to the poor guy in Minnesota. That guy wasn't caught. What happens to the people that have their tax ID stolen and then they take years to be able to get back their identity.

This is why this bill went through the House of Representatives without messing around with these amendments. This is why this bill went through the Judiciary Committee, where we had the discussion and the votes on amendments.

All I am trying to do is take this 18-to-0 Judiciary vote—which I was very pleased that the Senator from Texas supported in the Judiciary Committee and said good words about this bill—all I am trying to do is to get this bill passed, instead of having a debate about an amendment that clearly should have gone through the Finance Committee, as stated by the ranking Republican on the Finance Committee.

It is time to get this bill passed. That is why I object to the amendments raised by the Senator from Texas and ask that this bill be passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the request of the Senator from Texas.

Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Minnesota?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I wish to note very briefly to my friend from Minnesota that her bill is good policy. It is policy on which I hope this body can come together.

I will note a path forward. If my friend from Minnesota can prevail on the majority leader simply to allow a vote on the Senate floor on the two amendments I have introduced, then I will withdraw my objection. The reason I have to make this request is, under this majority leader, the minority of this Chamber is shut out of the ability even to have votes. I would note this request is less than what I asked in my unanimous consent. It is not a request to pass. It is simply a request that there be a vote, and if there is a vote, that gives an opportunity for every Member of this Chamber—Republican and Democrat—to go on record and to see if every Democrat in this Chamber is willing to do what every Democrat in the Judiciary Committee did, which is vote affirmatively against making it an offense for IRS employees to willfully target Americans based on their political views.

Any Democrat who votes that way can no longer stand and say they are upset about the IRS's abuse of power because once you voted against prohibiting, you have made clear that you are

unwilling to do anything to protect the American people.

The requests from the Republican side to the majority leader to have votes scheduled fall on deaf ears. Perhaps my friend from Minnesota will have more sway with her party's leaders than we will. But in the interim, we are obliged to use whatever tools we can to press for the American people, to stop the abuse of power that is stifling their First Amendment rights. For that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Ohio.

ENERGY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise this evening to urge my colleagues to support the energy legislation we hope to bring to the floor this week. We are still working through some of the possible amendments on that, as well.

This is good legislation that has been on the floor before. Actually, about 6 months ago we took this up on the Senate floor. Since that time we have actually added about 10 bipartisan amendments to the bill, making it even stronger.

But it is a bill that is good for jobs. It is good for American energy security and therefore good for our national security. It is good because it is going to save taxpayers a lot of money, and it is also good because it is a bill that actually helps to grow the economy while improving the environment.

I have been working on this bill for about 3 years now with Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire. We also have other cosponsors on both sides of the aisle—6 Republicans and 6 Democrats—who have been part of this process. We hope to be able to get this legislation on the floor this week because it is a good bill and it deserves to be passed.

When we have come to the floor before and we have talked about it, we have talked about the fact that it helps manufacturers in Ohio and around the country to take advantage of energy savings techniques and the best technology, allowing them to save more money so they can invest more in plants and equipment and in people, adding more jobs. That is why, by the way, over 270 businesses and business organizations—from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the National Association of Manufacturers—and a lot of other trade groups on both sides of the political spectrum—have endorsed this legislation.

We have also come to the floor and talked about how provisions in this legislation will save the equivalent of taking 80 million homes off the grid by the year 2030—a cumulative energy savings, by the way, of up to $100 billion. It is called the Energy Security and Industrial Competitiveness Act. Again, it makes a lot of sense.

We talk about how taxpayer dollars will be saved because we require the Federal Government to practice what it preaches; in other words, to make the Federal Government, the largest energy user in the United States, much more efficient in its own energy practices.

The time for talking about this legislation, however, has gone. It is now time to pass it. When we do, we can then work with the other body—the House of Representatives—because they have already passed significant parts of our legislation earlier this year. We can bring together the legislation we would pass here on the floor with the House legislation and send it to the President for signature.

At a time when people are understandably concerned about the partisan gridlock here in the Senate, and in Washington in general, this is an example of something we can actually get done. Again, it has been bipartisan from the start. It came out of the committee with a big vote—18 to 3. It is one to which we have added more bipartisan support over the last 6 months by adding more amendments.

Let's do something that will actually surprise the American people. Let's do something that will help move our country forward, create more jobs, help the environment be cleaner, also helping our energy security and therefore our national security, and saving taxpayers a lot of money.

Some of my colleagues on this side of the aisle are skeptical of any energy legislation they have seen in the past, that this Senate and the Congress have passed some proposals that are top-down proposals that impose mandates on the American people. They have also seen costly legislation that funnels subsidies to preferred industries, companies, technologies, distorting the market and ending up in what have sometimes been some very expensive failures. That is not this legislation.

This legislation on energy efficiency contains no mandates. The bill is about giving people access to information they can use, not about making the American people or businesses do something.

Not only does it have no mandates, but it does not add to our deficits. Every authorization contained in this bill is fully offset by savings elsewhere in the budget. In fact, the reforms made in this legislation will save taxpayers a lot of money.

Some of it can be scored. There is a $10 million savings, for instance, on the mandatory side by some of the legislative changes we are making. A lot of it won't get a score because it is additional savings we will see by having the Federal Government be much more energy efficient, which saves money for us all as taxpayers.

Unlike some of these previous energy initiatives which were costly and I think inappropriate, this legislation relies on the market and on the States—not the Federal Government—to drive efficiency improvements.

There is a reason this legislation received this strong vote out of the energy committee, 19 to 3. It has been improved since then with the addition of these 10 bipartisan amendments. It is going to create new jobs, it is going to save money for the taxpayers, and it is going to help with regard to the environment.

By the way, our economy is going to be helped because we rely on affordable and reliable energy in this country. It is our responsibility to do everything in our power to secure more affordable and more reliable energy by adopting what a lot of people talk about is an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

To me, that means producing more energy—yes, including oil and natural gas. In my own State of Ohio, we have a great opportunity there. It also includes being sure that we are using the coal resources we have, nuclear power, and renewables. We should be making it easier to take advantage of these resources and to bring more of these resources to market at lower costs.

But at the same time, we should be taking steps to reduce waste. This is complementary. This is not something that should be either you are for producing more energy or you are for more energy efficiency. We should be for both. We should be producing more and using less. That helps grow the economy, create jobs, and makes us more competitive in the global economy in which we find ourselves.

Energy efficiency, by the way, of all those energy sources, is the lowest-hanging fruit. Think about it. It is the least expensive form of energy—the energy we don't end up having to use.

I think this is a commonsense approach which should be able to be debated on the floor in an honest way, with other energy-related amendments; and then, after that process, to pass it here in the Senate, get it over to the House, work on a compromise with the House with their legislation and our legislation, get it to the President for signature, and actually move on with an opportunity to truly begin the process of putting in place a national strategy that has this all-of-the-above approach—producing more and using less.

I look forward to working with my colleagues this week on engaging in this debate, passing this legislation, and helping the constituents whom we represent on issues that are important to them—jobs, saving taxpayer money, making the environment cleaner, ensuring that America has a secure energy future, which is important to our national security.

I thank the Presiding Officer for allowing me to speak, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY GAINER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Terry Gainer, the Senate's skilled and energetic Sergeant At Arms, is leaving the Senate family, after 8 years of devoted service to the Senate and the Nation in this vital role.

Overseeing the Senate's largest administrative office, Terry Gainer has led during a difficult time of change, as the Senate has continued to adjust to a wide range of challenges, from burgeoning technology, to budget squeezes, to the shadowy threat of terrorism. I have watched the way he has handled these duties, and I have admired not only his talent and ability but also the style of his leadership. He has been a credit to this body.

Terry Gainer is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam war. He was a captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and he went on to serve as an accomplished law enforcement officer.

Appointed to the post of Sergeant At Arms in 2006, Mr. Gainer came to the Senate with an admirable record of public service. He cut his teeth as a homicide detective on the streets of Chicago, and while working on the Chicago force he earned both a master's and a law degree. From there, he rose through the ranks to be appointed as director of the Illinois State Police.

In 2002, he assumed the role of chief of the U.S. Capitol Police. It was just a few, short years later, when the Senate was attacked with ricin poison, that Terry Gainer's calm disposition, professionalism, and experience guided the Senate through a malicious act of terrorism.

Chief Gainer then carried over this experience as he took on his new role as the 38th U.S. Senate Sergeant At Arms. Frequently described as a jack-of-all-trades, he fit right in. From overseeing security, to escorting foreign dignitaries, and leading the largest administrative office in the Senate, Terry Gainer was a valued leader and a trusted presence within the Senate family.

As he returns to the private sector, Marcelle and I offer Terry, his wife Irene, and the Gainer family our thanks and all best wishes in the years ahead.

WASHINGTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to call the Senate's attention to the work of the Washington Electric Cooperative, which provides power and electricity to thousands of Vermonters, including to Marcelle and me at our home in Middlesex. This year the co-op, as it is better known to Vermonters, celebrates its 75th anniversary. The co-op formed in the midst of the rural electrification movement of the 1930s. On December 2, 1939, my predecessor in the Senate, then-Vermont Governor George Aiken, flipped the switch that brought electricity to 150 farms. I doubt that anyone could have imagined back then that the co-op would grow to serve the 11,000 members it serves today, covering about 2800 square miles in parts of 41 towns in north-central Vermont.

The Washington Electric Co-Op has indeed grown, from the setting of the first poles on the McKnight Farm in East Montpelier, to operating 1200 miles of distribution lines with eight substations today. I am proud of the Washington Electric Co-Op, both as a customer and as a Vermonter.

In honor of this important occasion, I ask that the article ''How the Washington Electric Co-op Began'' from the 1964 Washington Electric Co-op annual meeting be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HOW THE WASHINGTON ELECTRIC CO-OP BEGAN

(REMINISCENCE BY A CO-OP MEMBER PRINTED IN THE 1964 WEC ANNUAL REPORT)

One July day Harmon Kelly called on Lorie and Elizabeth Tarshis to suggest their writing to Washington to ask about rural electricity. Raymond Ebbett and Lyle Young met with them. They decided to try to form an REA Co-op. Meetings followed in people's living rooms. On July 14th the first public meeting, conducted by Harmon Kelly, was held in the Grange Hall, Maple Corner. It had been hard to get people to come. Meetings had been held before about getting Green Mountain Power and had always ended in disappointment. As Mr. Kelly talked, people became optimistic and began to suggest sources of water power. We even considered the radical idea of a diesel engine. Several strangers sat listening in the dark shadows at the back of the lamp lit hall. One made a long rambling speech against socialistic schemes ending: ''And you'll have to admit I told you.''

We found out who our visitors were when they went to the owners of the best farms and promised them Green Mountain Power within three weeks if they would ''give up this nonsense.'' Harmon Kelly was told to give it up or lose his job. Neither bribes nor threats worked. On July 29th the REA Co-op was formed with Harmon Kelly, Lyle Young, and Elizabeth Kent Tarshis as incorporators.

My diary for October 7th 1939 reads: ''Autumn color splendid. Electricity booming. Stakes set to mark where poles will be.'' On October 12th, the first pole was set on the McKnight farm in East Montpelier. I remember it, well braced, standing black against a cold sky with bright leaves whirling in the wind and a man from Washington saying: ''You folks don't know what you've started. I wouldn't be surprised if you had a thousand members some day.'' The first hundred looked at each other in disbelief. No one imagined there would be more than three thousand in 1964.

On a May night in 1940, for the first time since the power was turned on, I drove along the County Road. In houses, dark last year or with lamps dimly burning, every window was a blaze of light. There was music everywhere—cows listening to records, housewives to radios. I stopped, found one friend happily running a new vacuum cleaner over an already immaculate rug. I hurried on to my own dark house and turned on every one of our new 100 watt bulbs. The miracle had come.

BUDGET COMMITTEE SUBMISSIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 passed in December not only provided relief to families and the economy from the harmful effects of sequestration but also put an end to the recent fiscal crises and uncertainty by establishing a bipartisan congressional budget for 2 years. Specifically, the act authorizes the chairmen of the Senate and House Budget Committees to file allocations, aggregates, levels, and other enforcement mechanisms in the Senate and the House for budget years 2014 and 2015.

On January 15, I filed the first of the two budgets in the Senate for fiscal year 2014. Today, pursuant to section 116 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, I am filing the budget in the Senate for fiscal year 2015. Specifically, for the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, section 116 directs the chairman of the Budget Committee to file: allocations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for the Committee on Appropriations; allocations for fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2015 through 2019, and 2015 through 2024 for committees other than the Committee on Appropriations; aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2014 and 2015; aggregate revenue levels for fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2015 through 2019, and 2015 through 2024; and aggregate levels of outlays and revenue for fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2015 through 2019, and 2015 through 2024 for Social Security. That authority to file allocations, aggregates, levels, and other enforcement tools exists from April 15 through May 15.

In the case of the Committee on Appropriations for 2014 and 2015, the allocation shall be set consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in the Bipartisan Budget Act, which imposes limits only on the amount of budget authority and divides those limits on budget authority between the revised security category and the revised nonsecurity category.

In the case of allocations for committees other than the Committee on Appropriations and for the revenue and

Social Security aggregates, the levels shall be set consistent with the most recent baseline of the Congressional Budget Office. The CBO last updated its baseline on April 14, 2014.

In the case of the spending aggregates for 2014 and 2015, the levels shall be set in accordance with the allocation for the Committee on Appropriations and the allocations for committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, as described previously.

Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocations to the Committee on Appropriations and the spending aggregates can be revised for certain adjustments specifically authorized by section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. The authorized changes include adjustments for overseas contingency operations and the global war on terrorism, disaster funding, emergency appropriations, and program integrity initiatives in the areas of continuing disability reviews and redeterminations and health care fraud and abuse control. These adjustments will be made after the reporting of a bill or joint resolution or the offering of an amendment thereto or the submission of a conference report thereon that includes language that qualifies for one or more of the authorized adjustments.

In addition, section 116(c) of the Bipartisan Budget Act authorizes the filing for fiscal year 2015 of deficit-neutral reserve funds included in sections 114(c) and (d) of the act, updated by 1 year to match the new enforcement windows. Accordingly, I am hereby filing and updating by 1 year each of the reserve funds included in sections 114(c) and (d) of the Bipartisan Budget Act. The reserve funds are updated to cover the period of the total of fiscal years 2014 through 2024 in the case of the reserve fund authorized in section 114(c) and the period of the total of fiscal years 2014 through 2019 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2014 through 2024 in the case of the reserve funds authorized in section 114(d). In the case of section 114(d), the reserve funds filed and updated here include sections 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 338, 339, 340, 341, 344, 348, 349, 350, 353, 354, 356, 361, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 371, 376, 378, 379, and 383 of S. Con. Res. 8 (113th Congress), as passed by the Senate.

Section 114(a) directs the chairman of the Budget Committee also to reset the Senate pay-as-you-go scorecard to zero for all fiscal years. Pursuant to section 114(a), I am notifying the Senate and including the revised scorecard as part of the submission on revised enforcement for budget year 2015.

Finally, section 112 of the Bipartisan Budget Act establishes a point of order in the Senate against appropriations bills that provide advance appropriations. That act includes limited exceptions to this prohibition including up to $28.852 billion in advance appropriations for programs, projects, activities, or accounts included in a statement submitted by the chairman of the Budget Committee in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Pursuant to section 112, the list of allowable advance appropriations subject to the limit is as follows:

Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations—

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education: Employment and Training Administration, Job Corps, Education for the Disadvantaged, School Improvement, Special Education, Career, Technical, and Adult Education.

Financial Services and General Government: Payment to Postal Service.

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development: Tenant-based Rental Assistance and Project-based Rental Assistance.

Mr. President, my counterpart, the chairman of the House Budget Committee, Congressman RYAN, similarly has filed allocations, aggregates, and levels in the House. The two filings will allow the House and the Senate to extend budget enforcement measures for 2015, an important principle of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.

I ask unanimous consent that the following tables detailing enforcement in the Senate for budget year 2015, including new committee allocations, budgetary and Social Security aggregates, detail on discretionary spending limits, and the Senate pay-as-you-go scorecard, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BUDGETARY AGGREGATES, PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 311 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

$s in millions	2014	2015	2015–19	2015–24
Spending:				
Budget Authority	2,842,558	2,939,993	n/a	n/a
Outlays	2,819,514	3,004,163	n/a	n/a
Revenue	2,288,175	2,533,388	13,882,333	31,202,135

n/a = Not applicable. Appropriations for fiscal years 2016–2024 will be determined by future sessions of Congress and enforced through future Congressional budget resolutions.

SOCIAL SECURITY LEVELS—PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 311 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

$s in millions	2014	2015	2015–19	2015–24
Outlays	698,267	736,572	4,174,029	9,952,032
Revenue	743,395	771,692	4,209,544	9,372,018

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

In millions of dollars	Allocation/limit*	Adjustments	Adjusted allocation/limit
Fiscal Year 2014:			
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority**	605,882	0	605,882
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority**	504,843	0	504,843
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	1,201,186	0	1,201,186
Memorandum: Total Discretionary Budget Authority	1,110,725	0	1,110,725

*The allocation to the Committee on Appropriations shown above incorporates adjustments to the discretionary spending limits made pursuant to section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 for overseas contingency operations, program integrity initiatives, and disaster relief. For more information on these adjustments, see pp. S361–S363 of the Congressional Record (January 15, 2014).

**The amount allocated to the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2014 reflects CBO's estimate of P.L. 113–76, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. An adjustment has been made to ''unassigned to committee'' to offset the difference between the Congressional Budget Office's April 2014 estimate of discretionary spending and the Congressional Budget Office's estimate of P.L. 113–76. For enforcement purposes, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations is considered to be at current level for fiscal year 2014.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

In millions of dollars	Initial allocation/ limit	Adjustments*	Adjusted Allocation/limit
Fiscal Year 2015:			
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority	521,272	0	521,272
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	492,356	0	492,356
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	1,160,500	0	1,160,500
Memorandum: Total Discretionary Budget Authority	1,013,628	0	1,013,628

*Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT BUDGET YEAR 2014

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Appropriations:				
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority*	605,882	n/a		
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority*	504,843	n/a		
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	n/a	1,201,186		
Memo: on-budget	1,105,600	1,195,796		
off-budget	5,125	5,390		
Mandatory	849,184	836,182		
Total	1,959,909	2,037,368		
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	14,053	14,161	119,970	107,456
Armed Services	145,908	146,180	100	95
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	12,324	−9,548	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	26,710	21,759	1,460	1,570
Energy and Natural Resources	1,908	4,722	62	65
Environment and Public Works	41,959	2,290	0	0
Finance	1,292,745	1,285,443	618,414	618,200
Foreign Relations	27,890	27,855	159	159
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	106,887	103,825	20,498	20,498
Judiciary	11,429	9,963	817	787
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	3,356	11,515	4,004	3,895
Rules and Administration	38	8	24	24
Intelligence	0	0	514	514
Veterans' Affairs	3,114	3,315	83,058	82,815
Indian Affairs	827	1,087	0	0
Small Business	−780	−780	0	0
Unassigned to Committee*	−800,594	−834,259	104	104
Total	2,847,683	2,824,904	849,184	836,182

*The amount allocated to the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2014 reflects CBO's estimate of P.L. 113–76, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. An adjustment has been made to ''Unassigned to Committee'' to offset the difference between the Congressional Budget Office's April 2014 estimate of discretionary spending and the Congressional Budget Office's estimate of P.L. 113–76. For enforcement purposes, the allocation to each Committee is considered to be at current level for fiscal year 2014.

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT BUDGET YEAR 2015

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Appropriations:				
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority*	521,272	n/a		
Revised Nonsecunty Category Discretionary Budget Authority*	492,356	n/a		
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays*	n/a	1,160,500		
Memo: on-budget	1,008,146	1,155,120		
off-budget	5,482	5,380		
Mandatory	873,284	864,401		
Total	1,886,912	2,024,901		
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	8,018	8,190	114,937	107,310
Armed Services	150,600	150,412	107	104
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	24,537	5,071	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	15,506	11,140	1,576	1,580
Energy and Natural Resources	4,548	5,413	62	62
Environment and Public Works	42,894	3,258	0	0
Finance	1,387,460	1,376,610	643,216	642,308
Foreign Relations	27,208	26,621	159	159
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	109,890	107,189	20,839	20,839
Judiciary	20,582	12,269	846	837
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	2,180	6,074	4,075	4,038
Rules and Administration	40	8	25	25
Intelligence	0	0	514	514
Veterans' Affairs	1,018	1,262	86,821	86,519
Indian Affairs	732	1,207	0	0
Small Business	0	0	0	0
Unassigned to Committee	−736,650	−730,082	107	106
Total	2,945,475	3,009,543	873,284	864,401

*Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT 5-YEAR: 2015–2019

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	58,115	57,023	587,774	532,574
Armed Services	805,266	804,736	526	516
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	114,495	−4,264	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	82,886	59,979	8,784	8,742
Energy and Natural Resources	23,650	25,444	310	310
Environment and Public Works	213,617	15,993	0	0
Finance	8,300,957	8,290,424	3,711,730	3,709,606
Foreign Relations	126,459	123,509	795	795
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	593,877	580,572	109,735	109,735
Judiciary	67,285	71,752	4,503	4,486
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	16,997	32,485	22,398	22,084
Rules and Administration	195	50	136	136
Intelligence	0	0	2,570	2,570
Veterans' Affairs	4,334	5,205	468,914	467,444
Indian Affairs	3,173	5,078	0	0
Small Business	0	0	0	0

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT 10-YEAR: 2015–2024

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	111,731	109,661	1,188,348	1,079,673
Armed Services	1,756,596	1,754,927	1,050	1,030
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	206,853	−56,229	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	168,434	119,655	20,047	19,932
Energy and Natural Resources	49,697	52,232	620	620
Environment and Public Works	422,694	33,513	0	0
Finance	20,308,332	20,297,926	8,772,526	8,769,114
Foreign Relations	235,490	231,546	1,590	1,590
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	1,292,529	1,262,703	237,985	237,985
Judiciary	122,841	127,325	9,717	9,685
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	45,975	64,666	48,100	47,402
Rules and Administration	361	104	304	304
Intelligence	0	0	5,140	5,140
Veterans' Affairs	6,700	8,463	1,003,084	1,000,104
Indian Affairs	7,098	8,957	0	0
Small Business	0	0	0	0

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 114(a)(2) OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013

$s in millions	Balances
Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019	0
Fiscal Years 2015 through 2024	0

GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, listening to your doctor is just common sense. That is why it is important for Congress to take note that this April, the American College of Physicians, ACP, our Nation's largest medical-specialty organization and second largest physician group, released an important diagnosis: that our Nation is trapped in an epidemic of gun violence. Fortunately, it also includes a treatment: a set of policy positions and recommendations to reduce gun violence in our country.

The ACP report begins with recognition that ''firearm violence is not only a criminal justice issue but also a public health threat.'' The statistics are undeniable: Guns kill over 32,000 individuals in our Nation every year—about 88 lives stolen, every day. But those are only the fatal shootings; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have estimated that more than 73,000 nonfatal firearm injuries occur in the United States every year. And what is a ''nonfatal'' injury? Anything from a bullet grazing someone's shoulder, to a domestic abuser taking aim at a spouse's heart and striking the arm, to a child accidentally shooting him or herself in the stomach and barely surviving. ''Nonfatal'' gun injuries may evade the first sad statistic, but they can be devastating all the same. These statistics also belie the collateral damage the families, friends and communities shattered by a pull of the trigger.

The ACP report surveyed the highly trained and clinically minded internists whom we entrust with our health and well-being, along with that of our families, children and communities. Direct experience with the problem was widespread, with 63 percent of surveyed internists reporting having had patients who were injured or given fatal wounds by a gun. Other results showed overwhelming consensus: that 85 percent of surveyed internists believe firearm injuries are a public health issue; 95 percent support mandatory background checks on all firearm purchases; 86 percent support a ban on military-style assault weapons; 85 percent support a ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines; and 86 percent support the creation of requirements that all firearms include child-proof safety features. 76 percent of respondents agreed that gun safety legislation would ''help to reduce the risk for gun related injuries or deaths.''

Responding to this consensus, the ACP report includes several recommendations to reduce gun violence in our society. It argues that all gun sales should be ''subject to satisfactory completion of a criminal background check,'' and supports enactment of ''a universal background check system to keep guns out of the hands'' of dangerous individuals. Fortunately, there is legislation pending in this Congress that would do just that.

It also supports the ''enactment of legislation to ban the sale and manufacture for civilian use of firearms that have features designed to increase their rapid killing capacity (often called assault weapons.)'' Legislation pending in this Congress would also accomplish that goal.

In addition, the report argues for ''strong penalties and criminal prosecution for those who sell firearms illegally and those who legally purchase firearms for those who are banned from possession of them''—so called ''straw'' purchases. And yes, there is legislation pending in this Congress to do that too.

Mr. President, our Nation's medical community agrees with our law enforcement community, and the 90 percent of Americans who support sensible gun safety reforms. I urge my colleagues to listen to these important voices and to pass the commonsense pieces of legislation already pending

before this body. The cost of inaction is just too high.

DATA ACT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to commend my colleagues in the Senate and House for coming together last month to pass the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, which is known as the DATA Act. The measure enjoyed near unanimous support in both bodies, and I expect President Obama to sign the DATA Act into law shortly.

This legislation seeks to ensure that Federal agencies have a framework in place to standardize their financial data, and will better ensure that expenditure data for all of our agencies is accessible to taxpayers and Congress. This will represent an important step toward a more transparent and responsive government.

Passage of the DATA Act, though, is merely the first step towards improving transparency into how the Federal Government spends taxpayer dollars. Now comes the hard part—implementation. I know that Federal agencies and the Office of Management and Budget will face challenges in implementing the bill. To that effect, I have received a letter from Beth Cobert, the Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget, expressing concern about implementing the bill without additional resources.

As with any legislation, our job does not end when the President signs the bill. I believe that those of us here in Congress have the responsibility to work with the administration to ensure that laws—such as the DATA Act—that we enact have the support they need to be implemented. That is why I will work with my colleagues on the Appropriations committees to help make sure Federal agencies have the resources they need to meet the requirements of the bill. I invite my colleagues who worked so hard to pass this legislation to join me in this continuing effort.

With that being said, I ask unanimous consent that Ms. Cobert's letter be printed in the RECORD in its entirety.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2014.

Hon. THOMAS R. CARPER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CARPER: The Administration recognizes and appreciates your commitment to Government transparency and accountability, and appreciates the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs' leadership on these issues.

The Administration supports the objectives of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) which would establish Government-wide data standards for financial data and assist in making Government-wide spending more accessible. The Administration appreciates the bill's support for establishing data standards and we additionally appreciate the bill's statement of confidence in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Treasury (Treasury). The Administration is currently working to improve Federal spending transparency. For example, we will soon roll-out a refreshed USAspending.gov with better search capabilities and functionality to manipulate the data and issue guidance to improve USAspending.gov's data quality. Additionally, we completed the transition of USAspending.gov to the Department of Treasury to take advantage of its core functions on agency financial reporting and ongoing work with other initiatives related to transparency in Federal spending.

To implement the legislation, Executive branch agencies will need to work to redesign the structure of existing financial systems, adopt new data standards, and review future budgetary requests to ensure compliance with the new definitions. However, the legislation does not provide funds to OMB, Treasury, or any agency to develop and implement new data standards under the timeframes prescribed. Without specific appropriations, this bill's requirements would require that agencies either divert agency resources from other mission critical activities, or implement requirements based on current funding and the timeframes that permits.

Also, the bill requires agencies to report information by ''program activities.'' The FY 2015 President's Budget includes 1,275 executive budget accounts that track Federal agencies' spending. Currently, Executive Branch agencies' Federal financial systems are not designed to report by ''program activity'' as defined by the legislation. ''Program activities'' can and do change from year to year as a result of Congressional or other action. To avoid public reporting of information that is incomplete or potentially inaccurate, Executive Branch agencies will implement these requirements initially through reporting at the budget account level. We commit to implement the statute by working on efforts to report below the budget account level in a manner that clearly links to the spending data in agency financial systems. We share a common goal with data transparency, however, OMB needs to ensure that our approach considers the realities of the funding environment and reflects how funds are currently tracked through the budget process and in agency financial systems.

We look forward to working with you to pursue our shared goal of improving Federal spending transparency.

Sincerely,

BETH COBERT,
Deputy Director for Management,
Office of Management and Budget.

SCRIPPS FLORIDA INSTITUTE

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I rise to recognize an important meeting taking place this week at the Scripps Research Institute in my home State of Florida that coincides with Older Americans Month. Leaders in the field of aging and medical research are gathering at this internationally renowned research facility to discuss their latest research at a symposium, the first of its kind, entitled, ''Therapeutic Approaches for Extending Healthspan: The Next 10 Years.''

Headquartered in California, the Scripps Institute has long been recognized as a leader in biomedical sciences. Establishing an additional Scripps research facility in Florida in 2009 represents an extension of this tradition of world-class research excellence to our State. Scripps Florida is working on finding answers to some of the most critical biomedical questions that confront us today through six academic departments targeting the areas of cancer biology, chemistry, infectious diseases, molecular therapeutics, neuroscience, and the relationship between metabolism and aging. Hopefully, this symposium will lead to a series of gatherings where experts can forge collaborative partnerships and work toward improving the quality of life for aging adults.

Over the past decade, Scripps has advanced existing knowledge on aging-related diseases such as blindness, atherosclerosis, deafness, and amyloid diseases that cause Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's Diseases, among others. This forum will focus on novel research in the field of aging and establish a path for research into the next decade. Though the field shows enormous promise for the future, barriers still exist in translating research into clinical applications. Experts participating in this symposium will discuss how to overcome these challenges to provide meaningful medical solutions for our aging Nation.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am aware of the daily challenges faced by many older Americans. Like the roundtable hosted by the Aging Committee last October to discuss the state of aging research, I believe these opportunities to bring our Nation's best scientists, physicians, and researchers together are essential if we are going to conquer aging-related diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia. As such, we must continue to support research that drives innovation, advances current knowledge, and encourages collaboration among our Nation's greatest thinkers.

As the number of older Americans continues to grow, we must support research efforts that provide paths to treatment or prevention so our Nation's seniors can enjoy living out their golden years with dignity.

REMEMBERING ISAAC GREGGS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished former Southern University Director of Bands who passed on April 28, 2014, at the age of 85 in Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Greggs was the third child born in Shreveport,

LA on January 22, 1929 to Sarah and Isaac Greggs. Dr. Greggs was baptized in the Bethel Baptist Church in Frierson, LA and later joined the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. He was a visionary, who created and led the Southern University Marching Band, affectionately known as the Human Jukebox for 36 years.

Dr. Greggs graduated from Central Colored High School in Shreveport, LA and at 15 years of age enrolled in Southern University and A & M College in Baton Rouge, LA. where he received a B.S. in music education. He received a M.S. in music education from Vander Cook College in Chicago, IL. Later, he entered the University of Peru to complete his doctorate degree in music. He was then drafted into the U.S. Army. His service in the Army was honored with and dedicated to playing in the Army band, 4th Division, 4th Infantry, APO 39, and to playing early morning reverie. While in Germany, he received the Occupational Medal.

After his return from service in the U.S. Army, he began teaching at J. S. Clark Junior High School and Notre Dame High School in Shreveport, LA. He and his family later moved to Baton Rouge, LA where he taught and directed the band at the Southern University Laboratory School. During his tenure at Southern University, Dr. Greggs directed countless future band directors, musicians, and myriad of industry leaders outside of music. He attracted thousands of students to Southern, who were drawn as a result of his unmatched leadership and lyrical genius. Under his leadership, the Human Jukebox performed at six Super Bowls, four Sugar Bowls and three Presidential inaugurations. His grueling practices were well known throughout Louisiana and the discipline that Dr. Greggs instilled in his musicians produced exceptional results year end and year out. Dr. Greggs retired in 2005.

With pride, the State of Louisiana honored Dr. Greggs in 2013 by inducting the legendary band leader into the Louisiana Black History Hall of Fame for his commitment to serving African American students for nearly four decades. He was also the recipient of the Key of Life Award at the 31st NAACP Image Awards; an award created in honor of Stevie Wonder and presented each year to a musician who embodies Wonder's ''inner vision.''

Dr. Isaac Greggs was a true inspiration to all that had the great privilege of knowing him. I am grateful and honored to have known him. He will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences go out to his wife of 58 years, Rose Audrey Metoyer Greggs; his children: Audree Greggs Vaughn (Percy), Colette Greggs, Dedrick Jon Greggs (Carla), and Mark Eric Greggs (Tricia); grandchildren: Kirsten Vaughn Watson (Benjamin), Kory Greggs Vaughn MD, Jamal Greggs Russell, Kyle Greggs Russell, Daniel Isaac Greggs and Casey Daniel Greggs; great-grandchildren Grace Makayla Watson, Naomi Love Watson, Isaiah Benjamin Watson and Judah Seth Watson, and a host of other relatives, family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents: Sarah and Isaac Greggs, brother Edmond and sister Ellen Greggs.

His legacy could not end without, ''It's gonna be alright; just make it right.''

It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me along with Dr. Isaac Gregg's family in recognizing the life and many accomplishments of this incredible musician, leader, and mentor, as well as his lasting impact throughout the Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SIOUX COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Sioux County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Sioux County worth over $1.2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $21.6 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be working on the community health center. The Promise Center in Sioux County has opened doors and created opportunities for accessible care for so many Iowans in this region. I am encouraged by the progress in Northwest Iowa, and I look forward to learning how this center has transformed the community.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northwest Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects, including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Sioux County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Sioux County, I have fought for funding for Northwestern College for nursing training and arts projects worth $490,000, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Sioux County has received $720,933 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Sioux County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $20,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Sioux County has received more than $11 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Sioux County has recognized this important issue by securing more than $800,000 for the Community Health Center.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Sioux County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Sioux County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Sioux County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

BUENA VISTA COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Buena Vista County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Buena Vista County worth over $4.9 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $23.6 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be working with Buena Vista University to secure more than $5.5 million since 1995 for renovations and investments to the campus, including course development needs, modernizing technology and equipment, and support for distance learning programs.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northwest Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects, including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Buena Vista County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Buena Vista County, I have fought for funding for more than $2.5 million to dredge Storm Lake, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Buena Vista County has received $424,090 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Buena Vista County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $175,000.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Buena Vista County has received over $12 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the

farm bill, Buena Vista County has received more than $5.9 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Buena Vista County's fire departments have received over $596,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Buena Vista County has recognized this important issue by securing more than $2 million for the United Community Health Center.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Buena Vista County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Buena Vista County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS EDEN

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor Lt. Col. Christopher Robert Eden on his retirement from the United States Air Force. Lieutenant Colonel Eden is retiring after nearly 21 years of service to our country. He was born at Williams AFB, Arizona, in 1970 and grew up in the shadows of one of our Nation's finest service academies, the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Inspired by his grandfather who flew B–29s in World War II and his father and uncle who both graduated from the Academy and were Air Force pilots, Chris dreamed of someday following in their footsteps. In 1989, he was recruited to play baseball at the Air Force Academy Preparatory School and later accepted an appointment to the Academy. He graduated in the class of 1994, having been selected as a Rugby All-American during his senior year. Upon graduation, Chris received one of several coveted pilot training slots available at Reece AFB, Texas, and graduated in 1995 as the top T–1 Graduate.

During his first assignment flying C–21As at Yokota Air Base, Japan, Chris transported high-level dignitaries traveling throughout Asia and the Pacific, including diplomatic missions to North Korea. While fulfilling this assignment, he was upgraded to Instructor Pilot and was assigned to fly the C–17A at Charleston AFB, South Carolina. Here, Chris commanded emergency nuclear airlift, aeromedical evacuation, humanitarian relief, Presidential support, and combat missions to support Operations Allied Force, Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom.

In his next assignment as Chief of Flight Operations and Acceptance/Test Pilot at the Boeing C–17A Plant in Long Beach, CA, Chris tested and accepted new C–17A aircraft, developed and flew the first commercial C–17 FAA noise certification tests, developed crew training and aircraft delivery procedures, and authored and implemented new fuel tank leak check procedures. While serving in Long Beach, he upgraded to Evaluator Pilot, and his unit was honored with the Department of Defense Flight Operations of the Year Award.

As Chief of C–17A Requirements at Headquarters Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB, Illinois, Chris helped continue to grow the C–17A fleet while receiving a Masters in Management and Leadership from Webster University. In his final year at Scott AFB, he was selected to fly in the 89th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

As chief of training and chief pilot at Andrews, Chris transported our Nation's leaders in two administrations, including the Vice President, the First Lady, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. During this assignment, he was upgraded to Evaluator Pilot and trained the squadron's newest pilots to adhere to the highest SAMFOX standards of the 1st Airlift Squadron's no-fail missions.

During his Air Force career, Chris flew more than 5,100 hours and received many awards, including the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, and the Aerial Achievement Medal. Throughout his accomplishments, Chris proved to be an effective and humble leader, displaying dedication, loyalty, and respect to the mission and the Air Force. His exceptional character should make us all proud that we have men and women like Chris serving in our Armed Forces.

I congratulate Lt. Col. Christopher Robert Eden for his many achievements and honors, but most of all, I thank him for his for exemplary service to our country. Fly Safe and Go Zoomies!●

BILLIONTH BAKKEN BARREL

● Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, last week, somewhere in Montana or North Dakota, the Bakken formation released its billionth barrel of crude oil. I applaud the hardworking Montanans and other workers who are part of this extraordinary development.

As debate over the Keystone XL Pipeline drags on and the President inexcusably continues to delay that project, it is important to appreciate how much has changed in less than a decade in the American energy sector. As the commander in 2004 and 2005 of the largest deployment of Montanans to war since World War II, I understand firsthand the costs of dependence on oil from hostile places.

That same dependence costs our pocketbooks. Since multistage horizontal hydraulic fracturing has revolutionized oil and gas production in this country, we have been able to fill our tanks and tractors with more American oil. Yet last year we still spent $384 billion on 3.5 billion barrels of foreign oil.

When that comes from close allies like Canada, whose industry is closely integrated with the American economy, we all prosper. But we remain unacceptably reliant on countries who sell us oil and then work to undermine our national security.

What does 1 billion barrels from the Bakken mean? That is 1 billion barrels of oil that did not come from places like Iran, Venezuela, Algeria or Russia.

It is 1 billion barrels of oil whose exploration, development, production, transportation, and refining occurred in the United States, injecting cash and strengthening our economy at home. While the Bakken boom, like any surge in a single sector, has brought its share of growing pains, overall it has strengthened Montana's economy, creating thousands of jobs in towns from Sidney and Fairview to Miles City and Billings, long-term investments in infrastructure and a skilled workforce.

Montana's role in the Bakken is a story of entrepreneurs. The Bakken itself was first cracked over a decade ago by a Billings geologist, Richard Findley, and his team, in the Elm Coulee Field. Montanans have continued to start new small businesses focused on the Bakken.

As we celebrate the success of the Bakken, we can also point to other energy projects around Montana that are

also helping increase our energy security, from enhanced oil recovery to carbon sequestration for coal. Montana's rich renewable resources: wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass are also creating good-paying jobs and producing energy.

I salute these innovators for their continued success to make America more energy secure and create jobs in Montana.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4487. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4487. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2280. A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 839. A bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–156).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. WALSH):

S. 2287. A bill to facilitate the development and commercial deployment of carbon capture and sequestration technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2288. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand existing tax credits to encourage the capture, utilization, and sequestration of carbon dioxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) (by request):

S. 2289. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2290. A bill to increase the maximum penalty for unfair and deceptive practices relating to advertising of the costs of air transportation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 434. A resolution electing Andrew B. Willison as the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 435. A resolution notifying the President of the United States of the election of a Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 436. A resolution notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. REID, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. KIRK):

S. Res. 437. A resolution recognizing the historic significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 490

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 490, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow refunds of Federal motor fuel excise taxes on fuels used in mobile mammography vehicles.

S. 501

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 501, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 875

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 875, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the reporting of cases of infectious diseases at facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 933, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2018.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1049

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1049, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1187

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1187, a bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1587

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1587, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to each of Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, supra.

S. 2210

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2210, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 2282

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2282, a bill to prohibit the provision of performance awards to employees of the Internal Revenue Service who owe back taxes.

S. RES. 421

At the request of Mr. BURR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 421, a resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and military achievement by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending them for leadership and valor in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

S. RES. 426

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 426, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. WALSH):

S. 2287. A bill to facilitate the development and commercial deployment of carbon capture and sequestration technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I am introducing two bills, S. 2287 and S. 2288, to help advance commercial deployment of clean coal technologies. The Carbon Capture and Sequestration Deployment Act of 2014 and the Expanding Carbon Capture through Enhanced Oil Recovery Act of 2014. These pieces of legislation would invest in carbon capture and sequestration, CCS, research and development; expand tax credits for companies investing in CCS technologies; and create loan guarantees for construction of new CCS facilities and retrofits of existing facilities.

As I have said many times before, the reality remains for West Virginia and our Nation—we need coal and we simply cannot meet our energy demands without coal.

That being said, it is unrealistic to think that coal is as clean as it could be, or that it will be around forever. Yet to think that we can stop burning coal and shift to cleaner sources of energy immediately is simply not viable. We must place our focus on a feasible alternative, and carbon capture and sequestration technologies can provide just that.

The legislation I am introducing today combines several of my proposals in past years with new ideas for improving CCS deployment, including an expansion of tax credits for companies utilizing and improving upon CCS technology.

The Carbon Capture and Sequestration Deployment Act of 2014 would authorize $1 billion over 15 years for an industry-government research program through the Department of Energy and authorize $20 billion in loan guarantees to be used for the construction or retrofitting of facilities utilizing CCS technology, and for the construction of CO_2 transmission pipelines. Moreover, it modifies the existing Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Tax Credit, 45Q, currently capped and available on a first come-first served basis, by allowing projects to apply for an allocation of credits to use in the future, and ensuring that multiple projects will have the opportunity to take advantage of these important credits. Finally, it creates a new investment tax credit. Carbon capture and sequestration facilities that operate with at least a 65 percent capture rate would receive an investment tax credit of 15 percent of their costs. Those operating with a higher capture rate, up to 100 percent of CO_2 emissions, would receive a maximum credit of 30 percent of their costs.

The second piece of legislation, the Expanding Carbon Capture through Enhanced Oil Recovery Act of 2014, expands the Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Tax Credit, 45Q, tax credit to help advance capture technology through the greater use of carbon dioxide enhanced oil recovery, CO_2- EOR, in the United States.

A decades-old and proven practice, CO_2-EOR involves injecting CO_2 into already-developed oil fields to coax additional production. According to the National Energy Technology Laboratory, increasing the supply of CO_2 captured from man-made sources has the potential to increase American oil production by tens of billions of barrels, while safely storing billions of tons of CO_2 underground.

The existing 45Q tax credit remains insufficient to take advantage of CO_2-EOR's potential. New, additional 45Q credits would be awarded via competitive bidding in a way that will make certain that the government is incentivizing carbon capture to be used in EOR without overpaying, and that credits are available and sufficient for the range of potential man-made sources of CO_2.

According to the National Enhanced Oil Recovery Initiative's analysis, new 45Q credits allocated over ten years would generate more than 8 billion barrels of oil, while storing 4 billion tons of CO_2 over 40 years.

I remain committed to meeting the challenges facing the coal industry while also protecting our environment

for current and future generations. I hope that others with a stake in meeting coal's challenges will join me in this effort as well.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) (by request):

S. 2289. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, Senator INHOFE and I are introducing, by request, the administration's proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015. As is the case with any bill that is introduced by request, we introduce this bill for the purpose of placing the administration's proposals before Congress and the public without expressing our own views on the substance of these proposals. As Chairman and Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee, we look forward to giving the administration's requested legislation our most careful review and thoughtful consideration.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 434—ELECTING ANDREW B. WILLISON AS THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 434

Resolved, That Andrew B. Willison of Ohio be, and he is hereby, elected Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 435—NOTIFYING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE ELECTION OF A SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 435

Resolved, That the President of the United States be notified of the election of the Honorable Andrew B. Willison as Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 436—NOTIFYING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ELECTION OF A SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 436

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of the Honorable Andrew B. Willison as Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 437—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MEXICAN HOLIDAY OF CINCO DE MAYO

Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. REID, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. KIRK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 437

Whereas May 5, or ''Cinco de Mayo'' in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of great importance by the Mexican and Mexican-American communities;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which Mexicans who were struggling for independence and freedom fought the Battle of Puebla;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo has become widely celebrated annually by nearly all Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, north and south of the United States-Mexico border;

Whereas the Battle of Puebla was but one of the many battles that the courageous Mexican people won in their long and brave struggle for independence and freedom;

Whereas the French army, confident that its battle-seasoned troops were far superior to the less-seasoned Mexican troops, expected little or no opposition from the Mexican army;

Whereas the French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of the finest troops of Europe in more than half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered and ill-equipped, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican army;

Whereas, after 3 bloody assaults on Puebla in which more than 1,000 French soldiers lost their lives, the French troops were finally defeated and driven back by the outnumbered Mexican troops;

Whereas the courageous spirit that Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza and his men displayed during that historic battle can never be forgotten;

Whereas many brave Mexicans willingly gave their lives for the causes of justice and freedom in the Battle of Puebla on Cinco de Mayo;

Whereas the sacrifice of the Mexican fighters was instrumental in keeping Mexico from falling under European domination while, in the United States, the Union Army battled Confederate forces in the Civil War;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder that the foundation of the United States was built by people from many countries and diverse cultures who were willing to fight and die for freedom;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of the close ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States;

Whereas, in a larger sense, Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination, just as Benito Juarez, the president of Mexico during the Battle of Puebla, once said, ''El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz'' (''Respect for the rights of others is peace''); and

Whereas many people celebrate Cinco de Mayo during the entire week in which the date falls: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic struggle of the people of Mexico for independence and freedom, which Cinco de Mayo commemorates; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2974. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2975. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2976. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2977. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2978. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2979. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2980. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2981. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2982. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2983. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2984. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2974. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. REGULATION OF OIL OR NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LAND IN STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Mineral Leasing Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 44 (30 U.S.C. 181 note) as section 45; and

(2) by inserting after section 43 (30 U.S.C. 226–3) the following:

''SEC. 44. REGULATION OF OIL OR NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LAND IN STATES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior shall not issue or promulgate any guideline or regulation relating to oil or gas exploration or production on Federal land in a State if the State has otherwise met the requirements under this Act or any other applicable Federal law.

''(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may issue or promulgate guidelines and regulations relating to oil or gas exploration or production on Federal land in a State if the Secretary of the Interior determines that as a result of the oil or gas exploration or production there is an imminent and substantial danger to the public health or environment.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1459. REGULATIONS.

''(a) COMMENTS RELATING TO OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION.—Before issuing or promulgating any guideline or regulation relating to oil and gas exploration and production on Federal, State, tribal, or fee land pursuant to this Act, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), the Act entitled 'An Act to regulate the leasing of certain Indian lands for mining purposes', approved May 11, 1938 (commonly known as the 'Indian Mineral Leasing Act of 1938') (25 U.S.C. 396a et seq.), the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), or any other provision of law or Executive order, the head of a Federal department or agency shall seek comments from and consult with the head of each affected State, State agency, and Indian tribe at a location within the jurisdiction of the State or Indian tribe, as applicable.

''(b) STATEMENT OF ENERGY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT.—Each Federal department or agency described in subsection (a) shall develop a Statement of Energy and Economic Impact, which shall consist of a detailed statement and analysis supported by credible objective evidence relating to—

''(1) any adverse effects on energy supply, distribution, or use, including a shortfall in supply, price increases, and increased use of foreign supplies; and

''(2) any impact on the domestic economy if the action is taken, including the loss of jobs and decrease of revenue to each of the general and educational funds of the State or affected Indian tribe.

''(c) REGULATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A Federal department or agency shall not impose any new or modified regulation unless the head of the applicable Federal department or agency determines—

''(A) that the rule is necessary to prevent imminent substantial danger to the public health or the environment; and

''(B) by clear and convincing evidence, that the State or Indian tribe does not have an existing reasonable alternative to the proposed regulation.

''(2) DISCLOSURE.—Any Federal regulation promulgated on or after the date of enactment of this paragraph that requires disclosure of hydraulic fracturing chemicals shall refer to the database managed by the Ground Water Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

''(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any regulation described in this section, a State or Indian tribe adversely affected by an action carried out under the regulation shall be entitled to review by a United States district court located in the State or the District of Columbia of compliance by the applicable Federal department or agency with the requirements of this section.

''(2) ACTION BY COURT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A district court providing review under this subsection may enjoin or mandate any action by a relevant Federal department or agency until the district court determines that the department or agency has complied with the requirements of this section.

''(B) DAMAGES.—The court shall not order money damages.

''(3) SCOPE AND STANDARD OF REVIEW.—In reviewing a regulation under this subsection—

''(A) the court shall not consider any evidence outside of the record that was before the agency; and

''(B) the standard of review shall be de novo.''.

SA 2975. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

DIVISION B—DOMESTIC ENERGY AND JOBS

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Domestic Energy and Jobs Act''.

TITLE I—IMPACTS OF EPA RULES AND ACTIONS ON ENERGY PRICES

SEC. 2101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Gasoline Regulations Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2102. TRANSPORTATION FUELS REGULATORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish a committee, to be known as the Transportation Fuels Regulatory Committee (referred to in this title as the ''Committee''), to analyze and report on the cumulative impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency on gasoline, diesel fuel, and natural gas prices, in accordance with sections 2103 and 2104.

(b) MEMBERS.—The Committee shall be composed of the following officials (or their designees):

(1) The Secretary of Energy, who shall serve as the Chair of the Committee.

(2) The Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

(3) The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Chief Economist and the Under Secretary for International Trade.

(4) The Secretary of Labor, acting through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(5) The Secretary of the Treasury, acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Energy of the Department of the Treasury.

(6) The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief Economist.

(7) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(8) The Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, acting through the Director of the Office of Economics.

(9) The Administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

(c) CONSULTATION BY CHAIR.—In carrying out the functions of the Chair of the Committee, the Chair shall consult with the other members of the Committee.

(d) CONSULTATION BY COMMITTEE.—In carrying out this title, the Committee shall consult with the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

(e) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on the date that is 60 days after the date of submission of the final report of the Committee pursuant to section 2104(c).

SEC. 2103. ANALYSES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ACTION.—The term ''covered action'' means any action, to the extent that the action affects facilities involved in the production, transportation, or distribution of gasoline, diesel fuel, or natural gas, taken on or after January 1, 2009, by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, a State, a local government, or a permitting agency as a result of the application of part C of title I (relating to prevention of significant deterioration of air quality), or title V (relating to permitting), of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), to an air pollutant that is identified as a greenhouse gas in the rule entitled ''Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act'' (74 Fed. Reg. 66496 (December 15, 2009)).

(2) COVERED RULE.—The term ''covered rule'' means the following rules (and includes any successor or substantially similar rules):

(A) ''Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards'', as described in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions under Regulatory Identification Number 2060–AQ86.

(B) ''National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone'' (73 Fed. Reg. 16436 (March 27, 2008)).

(C) ''Reconsideration of the 2008 Ozone Primary and Secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards'', as described in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions under Regulatory Identification Number 2060–AP98.

(D) Any rule proposed after March 15, 2012, establishing or revising a standard of performance or emission standard under section 111 or 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411, 7412) applicable to petroleum refineries.

(E) Any rule proposed after March 15, 2012, to implement any portion of the renewable fuel program under section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)).

(F) Any rule proposed after March 15, 2012, revising or supplementing the national ambient air quality standards for ozone under section 109 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7409).

(b) SCOPE.—The Committee shall conduct analyses, for each of calendar years 2016 and 2020, of the prospective cumulative impact of all covered rules and covered actions.

(c) CONTENTS.—The Committee shall include in each analysis conducted under this section—

(1) estimates of the cumulative impacts of the covered rules and covered actions relating to—

(A) any resulting change in the national, State, or regional price of gasoline, diesel fuel, or natural gas;

(B) required capital investments and projected costs for operation and maintenance of new equipment required to be installed;

(C) global economic competitiveness of the United States and any loss of domestic refining capacity;

(D) other cumulative costs and cumulative benefits, including evaluation through a general equilibrium model approach;

(E) national, State, and regional employment, including impacts associated with changes in gasoline, diesel fuel, or natural gas prices and facility closures; and

(F) any other matters affecting the growth, stability, and sustainability of the oil and gas industries of the United States, particularly relative to that of other nations;

(2) an analysis of key uncertainties and assumptions associated with each estimate under paragraph (1);

(3) a sensitivity analysis reflecting alternative assumptions with respect to the aggregate demand for gasoline, diesel fuel, or natural gas; and

(4) an analysis and, if feasible, an assessment of—

(A) the cumulative impact of the covered rules and covered actions on—

(i) consumers;

(ii) small businesses;

(iii) regional economies;

(iv) State, local, and tribal governments;

(v) low-income communities;

(vi) public health; and

(vii) local and industry-specific labor markets; and

(B) key uncertainties associated with each topic described in subparagraph (A).

(d) METHODS.—In conducting analyses under this section, the Committee shall use the best available methods, consistent with guidance from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and the Office of Management and Budget Circular A–4.

(e) DATA.—In conducting analyses under this section, the Committee shall not be required to create data or to use data that is not readily accessible.

SEC. 2104. REPORTS; PUBLIC COMMENT.

(a) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Committee shall make public and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a preliminary report containing the results of the analyses conducted under section 2103.

(b) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—The Committee shall accept public comments regarding the preliminary report submitted under subsection (a) for a period of 60 days after the date on which the preliminary report is submitted.

(c) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the expiration of the 60-day period described in subsection (b), the Committee shall submit to Congress a final report containing the analyses conducted under section 2103, including—

(1) any revisions to the analyses made as a result of public comments; and

(2) a response to the public comments.

SEC. 2105. NO FINAL ACTION ON CERTAIN RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not finalize any of the following rules until a date (to be determined by the Administrator) that is at least 180 days after the date on which the Committee submits the final report under section 2104(c):

(1) ''Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards'', as described in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions under Regulatory Identification Number 2060–AQ86, and any successor or substantially similar rule.

(2) Any rule proposed after March 15, 2012, establishing or revising a standard of performance or emission standard under section 111 or 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411, 7412) that is applicable to petroleum refineries.

(3) Any rule revising or supplementing the national ambient air quality standards for ozone under section 109 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7409).

(b) OTHER RULES NOT AFFECTED.—Subsection (a) shall not affect the finalization of any rule other than the rules described in subsection (a).

SEC. 2106. CONSIDERATION OF FEASIBILITY AND COST IN REVISING OR SUPPLEMENTING NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS FOR OZONE.

In revising or supplementing any national primary or secondary ambient air quality standards for ozone under section 109 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7409), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall take into consideration feasibility and cost.

SEC. 2107. FUEL REQUIREMENTS WAIVER AND STUDY.

(a) WAIVER OF FUEL REQUIREMENTS.—Section 211(c)(4)(C) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(c)(4)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii)(II), by inserting ''a problem with distribution or delivery equipment that is necessary for the transportation or delivery of fuel or fuel additives,'' after ''equipment failure,'';

(2) in clause (iii)(II), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ''(except that the Administrator may extend the effectiveness of a waiver for more than 20 days if the Administrator determines that the conditions under clause (ii) supporting a waiver determination will exist for more than 20 days)'';

(3) by redesignating the second clause (v) (relating to the authority of the Administrator to approve certain State implementation plans) as clause (vi); and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(vii) PRESUMPTIVE APPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subparagraph, if the Administrator does not approve or deny a request for a waiver under this subparagraph within 3 days after receipt of the request, the request shall be deemed to be approved as received by the Administrator and the applicable fuel standards shall be waived for the period of time requested.''.

(b) FUEL SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS HARMONIZATION STUDY.—Section 1509 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58; 119 Stat. 1083) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting ''biofuels,'' after ''oxygenated fuel,''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(G), by striking ''Tier II'' and inserting ''Tier III''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''2008'' and inserting ''2014''.

TITLE II—QUADRENNIAL STRATEGIC FEDERAL ONSHORE ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGY

SEC. 2201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Planning for American Energy Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2202. ONSHORE DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGIC PLAN.

The Mineral Leasing Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 44 (30 U.S.C. 181 note) as section 45; and

(2) by inserting after section 43 (30 U.S.C. 226–3) the following:

''SEC. 44. QUADRENNIAL STRATEGIC FEDERAL ONSHORE ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGY.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior.

''(2) STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL ENERGY MINERALS.—The term 'strategic and critical energy minerals' means—

''(A) minerals that are necessary for the energy infrastructure of the United States, including pipelines, refining capacity, electrical power generation and transmission, and renewable energy production; and

''(B) minerals that are necessary to support domestic manufacturing, including materials used in energy generation, production, and transportation.

''(3) STRATEGY.—The term 'Strategy' means the Quadrennial Federal Onshore Energy Production Strategy required under this section.

''(b) STRATEGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture with regard to land administered by the Forest Service, shall develop and publish every 4 years a Quadrennial Federal Onshore Energy Production Strategy.

''(2) ENERGY SECURITY.—The Strategy shall direct Federal land energy development and department resource allocation to promote the energy security of the United States.

''(c) PURPOSES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In developing a Strategy, the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration on—

''(A) the projected energy demands of the United States for the 30-year period beginning on the date of initiation of the Strategy; and

''(B) how energy derived from Federal onshore land can place the United States on a trajectory to meet that demand during the 4-year period beginning on the date of initiation of the Strategy.

''(2) ENERGY SECURITY.—The Secretary shall consider how Federal land will contribute to ensuring national energy security, with a goal of increasing energy independence and production, during the 4-year period beginning on the date of initiation of the Strategy.

''(d) OBJECTIVES.—The Secretary shall establish a domestic strategic production objective for the development of energy resources from Federal onshore land that is based on commercial and scientific data relating to the expected increase in—

''(1) domestic production of oil and natural gas from the Federal onshore mineral estate, with a focus on land held by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service;

''(2) domestic coal production from Federal land;

''(3) domestic production of strategic and critical energy minerals from the Federal onshore mineral estate;

''(4) megawatts for electricity production from each of wind, solar, biomass, hydropower, and geothermal energy produced on Federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service;

''(5) unconventional energy production, such as oil shale;

''(6) domestic production of oil, natural gas, coal, and other renewable sources from tribal land for any federally recognized Indian tribe that elects to participate in facilitating energy production on the land of the Indian tribe; and

''(7) domestic production of geothermal, solar, wind, or other renewable energy sources on land defined as available lands under section 203 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 109, chapter 42), and any other land considered by the Territory or State of Hawaii, as the case may be, to be available lands.

''(e) METHODOLOGY.—The Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration regarding the methodology used to arrive at the estimates made by the Secretary to carry out this section.

''(f) EXPANSION OF PLAN.—The Secretary may expand a Strategy to include other energy production technology sources or advancements in energy production on Federal land.

''(g) TRIBAL OBJECTIVES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that federally recognized Indian tribes may elect to set the production objectives of the Indian tribes as part of a Strategy under this section.

''(2) COOPERATION.—The Secretary shall work in cooperation with any federally recognized Indian tribe that elects to participate in achieving the strategic energy objectives of the Indian tribe under this subsection.

''(h) EXECUTION OF STRATEGY.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY CONCERNED.—In this subsection, the term 'Secretary concerned' means—

''(A) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service), with respect to National Forest System land; and

''(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (including land held for the benefit of an Indian tribe).

''(2) ADDITIONAL LAND.—The Secretary concerned may make determinations regarding which additional land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned will be made available in order to meet the energy production objectives established by a Strategy.

''(3) ACTIONS.—The Secretary concerned shall take all necessary actions to achieve the energy production objectives established under this section unless the President determines that it is not in the national security and economic interests of the United States—

''(A) to increase Federal domestic energy production; and

''(B) to decrease dependence on foreign sources of energy.

''(4) LEASING.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary concerned shall only consider leasing Federal land available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.

''(i) STATE, FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND PUBLIC INPUT.—In developing a Strategy, the Secretary shall solicit the input of affected States, federally recognized Indian tribes, local governments, and the public.

''(j) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate an annual report describing the progress made in meeting the production goals of a Strategy.

''(2) CONTENTS.—In a report required under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(A) make projections for production and capacity installations;

''(B) describe any problems with leasing, permitting, siting, or production that will prevent meeting the production goals of a Strategy; and

''(C) make recommendations to help meet any shortfalls in meeting the production goals.

''(k) PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)), the Secretary shall complete a programmatic environmental impact statement for carrying out this section.

''(2) COMPLIANCE.—The programmatic environmental impact statement shall be considered sufficient to comply with all requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for all necessary resource management and land use plans associated with the implementation of a Strategy.

''(l) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days before publishing a proposed Strategy under this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and the President the proposed Strategy, together with any comments received from States, federally recognized Indian tribes, and local governments.

''(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The submission shall indicate why any specific recommendation of a State, federally recognized Indian tribe, or local government was not accepted.

''(m) ADMINISTRATION.—Nothing in this section modifies or affects any multiuse plan.

''(n) FIRST STRATEGY.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the first Strategy.''.

TITLE III—ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING CERTAINTY

SEC. 2301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Providing Leasing Certainty for American Energy Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2302. MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE LEASE SALES.

Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is amended—

(1) by striking ''SEC. 17. (a) All lands'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 17. LEASE OF OIL AND GAS LAND.

''(a) AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—All land''; and

(2) in subsection (a) (as amended by paragraph (1)), by adding at the end the following:

''(2) MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE LEASE SALES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting lease sales under this section, each year, the Secretary shall offer for sale not less than 25 percent of the annual nominated acreage not previously made available for lease.

''(B) REVIEW.—The offering of acreage offered for lease under this paragraph shall not be subject to review.

''(C) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Acreage offered for lease under this paragraph shall be eligible for categorical exclusions under section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942), except that extraordinary circumstances shall not be required for a categorical exclusion under this paragraph.

''(D) LEASING.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall only consider leasing of Federal land that is available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.''.

SEC. 2303. LEASING CERTAINTY AND CONSISTENCY.

Section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(a)) (as amended by section 2302) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) LEASING CERTAINTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not withdraw approval of any covered energy project involving a lease under this Act without finding a violation of the terms of the lease by the lessee.

''(B) DELAY.—The Secretary shall not infringe on lease rights under leases issued under this Act by indefinitely delaying issuance of project approvals, drilling and seismic permits, and rights-of-way for activities under a lease.

''(C) AVAILABILITY OF NOMINATED AREAS.—Not later than 18 months after an area is designated as open under the applicable land use plan, the Secretary shall make available nominated areas for lease under paragraph (2).

''(D) ISSUANCE OF LEASES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue all leases sold under this Act not later than 60 days after the last payment is made.

''(E) CANCELLATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF LEASE PARCELS.—The Secretary shall not cancel or withdraw any lease parcel after a competitive lease sale has occurred and a winning bidder has submitted the last payment for the parcel.

''(F) APPEALS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete the review of any appeal of a lease sale under this Act not later than 60 days after the receipt of the appeal.

''(ii) CONSTRUCTIVE APPROVAL.—If the review of an appeal is not conducted in accordance with clause (i), the appeal shall be considered approved.

''(G) ADDITIONAL STIPULATIONS.—The Secretary may not add any additional lease stipulation for a parcel after the parcel is sold unless the Secretary—

''(i) consults with the lessee and obtains the approval of the lessee; or

''(ii) determines that the stipulation is an emergency action that is necessary to conserve the resources of the United States.

''(4) LEASING CONSISTENCY.—A Federal land manager shall comply with applicable resource management plans and continue to actively lease in areas designated as open when resource management plans are being amended or revised, until a new record of decision is signed.''.

SEC. 2304. REDUCTION OF REDUNDANT POLICIES.

Bureau of Land Management Instruction Memorandum 2010–117 shall have no force or effect.

TITLE IV—STREAMLINED ENERGY PERMITTING

SEC. 2401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Streamlining Permitting of American Energy Act of 2014''.

Subtitle A—Application for Permits To Drill Process Reform

SEC. 2411. PERMIT TO DRILL APPLICATION TIMELINE.

Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL REFORM AND PROCESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall decide whether to issue a permit to drill not later than 30 days after the date on which the application for the permit is received by the Secretary.

''(B) EXTENSIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may extend the period described in subparagraph

(A) for up to 2 periods of 15 days each, if the Secretary gives written notice of the delay to the applicant.

''(ii) NOTICE.—The notice shall—

''(I) be in the form of a letter from the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary; and

''(II) include—

''(aa) the names and positions of the persons processing the application;

''(bb) the specific reasons for the delay; and

''(cc) a specific date on which a final decision on the application is expected.

''(C) NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DENIAL.—If the application is denied, the Secretary shall provide the applicant—

''(i) a written notice that provides—

''(I) clear and comprehensive reasons why the application was not accepted; and

''(II) detailed information concerning any deficiencies; and

''(ii) an opportunity to remedy any deficiencies.

''(D) APPLICATION CONSIDERED APPROVED.—If the Secretary has not made a decision on the application by the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date the application for the permit is received by the Secretary, the application shall be considered approved unless applicable reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) are incomplete.

''(E) DENIAL OF PERMIT.—If the Secretary decides not to issue a permit to drill under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

''(i) provide to the applicant a description of the reasons for the denial of the permit;

''(ii) allow the applicant to resubmit an application for a permit to drill during the 10-day period beginning on the date the applicant receives the description of the denial from the Secretary; and

''(iii) issue or deny any resubmitted application not later than 10 days after the date the application is submitted to the Secretary.

''(F) FEE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall collect a single $6,500 permit processing fee per application from each applicant at the time the final decision is made whether to issue a permit under this paragraph.

''(ii) RESUBMITTED APPLICATIONS.—The fee described in clause (i) shall not apply to any resubmitted application.

''(iii) TREATMENT OF PERMIT PROCESSING FEE.—Subject to appropriation, of all fees collected under this paragraph, 50 percent shall be transferred to the field office where the fees are collected and used to process leases, permits, and appeals under this Act.''.

SEC. 2412. SOLAR AND WIND RIGHT-OF-WAY RENTAL REFORM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each fiscal year, of fees collected as annual wind energy and solar energy right-of-way authorization fees required under section 504(g) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1764(g)), 50 percent shall be retained by the Secretary of the Interior to be used, subject to appropriation—

(1) by the Bureau of Land Management to process permits, right-of-way applications, and other activities necessary for renewable development; and

(2) at the option of the Secretary of the Interior, by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or other Federal agencies involved in wind and solar permitting reviews to facilitate the processing of wind energy and solar energy permit applications on Bureau of Land Management land.

Subtitle B—Administrative Appeal Documentation Reform

SEC. 2421. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL DOCUMENTATION REFORM.

Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) APPEAL FEE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect a $5,000 documentation fee to accompany each appeal of an action on a lease, right-of-way, or application for permit to drill.

''(B) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Subject to appropriation, of all fees collected under this paragraph, 50 percent shall remain in the field office where the fees are collected and used to process appeals.''.

Subtitle C—Permit Streamlining

SEC. 2431. FEDERAL ENERGY PERMIT COORDINATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ENERGY PROJECTS.—The term ''energy projects'' means oil, coal, natural gas, and renewable energy projects.

(2) PROJECT.—The term ''Project'' means the Federal Permit Streamlining Project established under subsection (b).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Federal Permit Streamlining Project in each Bureau of Land Management field office with responsibility for issuing permits for energy projects on Federal land.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to carry out this section with—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(C) the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers.

(2) STATE PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may request the Governor of any State with energy projects on Federal land to be a signatory to the memorandum of understanding.

(d) DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the signing of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c), all Federal signatory parties shall, if appropriate, assign to each of the Bureau of Land Management field offices an employee who has expertise in the regulatory issues relating to the office in which the employee is employed, including, as applicable, particular expertise in—

(A) the consultations and the preparation of biological opinions under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536);

(B) permits under section 404 of Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344);

(C) regulatory matters under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(D) planning under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a et seq.); and

(E) the preparation of analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) DUTIES.—Each employee assigned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of assignment, report to the Bureau of Land Management Field Managers in the office to which the employee is assigned;

(B) be responsible for all issues relating to the energy projects that arise under the authorities of the home office of the employee; and

(C) participate as part of the team of personnel working on proposed energy projects, planning, and environmental analyses on Federal land.

(e) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Secretary shall assign to each Bureau of Land Management field office identified under subsection (b) any additional personnel that are necessary to ensure the effective approval and implementation of energy projects administered by the Bureau of Land Management field offices, including inspection and enforcement relating to energy development on Federal land, in accordance with the multiple-use requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(f) FUNDING.—Funding for the additional personnel shall be derived from the Department of the Interior reforms made by sections 2411, 2412, and 2421 and the amendments made by those sections.

(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) the operation of any Federal or State law; or

(2) any delegation of authority made by the head of a Federal agency whose employees are participating in the Project.

SEC. 2432. ADMINISTRATION OF CURRENT LAW.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not require a finding of extraordinary circumstances in administering section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942).

Subtitle D—Judicial Review

SEC. 2441. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COVERED CIVIL ACTION.—The term ''covered civil action'' means a civil action containing a claim under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, regarding agency action (as defined for the purposes of that section) affecting a covered energy project on Federal land.

(2) COVERED ENERGY PROJECT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''covered energy project'' means the leasing of Federal land of the United States for the exploration, development, production, processing, or transmission of oil, natural gas, wind, or any other source of energy, and any action under such a lease.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''covered energy project'' does not include any disputes between the parties to a lease regarding the obligations under the lease, including regarding any alleged breach of the lease.

SEC. 2442. EXCLUSIVE VENUE FOR CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS RELATING TO COVERED ENERGY PROJECTS.

Venue for any covered civil action shall lie in the United States district court for the district in which the project or leases exist or are proposed.

SEC. 2443. TIMELY FILING.

To ensure timely redress by the courts, a covered civil action shall be filed not later than 90 days after the date of the final Federal agency action to which the covered civil action relates.

SEC. 2444. EXPEDITION IN HEARING AND DETERMINING THE ACTION.

A court shall endeavor to hear and determine any covered civil action as expeditiously as practicable.

SEC. 2445. STANDARD OF REVIEW.

In any judicial review of a covered civil action—

(1) administrative findings and conclusions relating to the challenged Federal action or decision shall be presumed to be correct; and

(2) the presumption may be rebutted only by the preponderance of the evidence contained in the administrative record.

SEC. 2446. LIMITATION ON INJUNCTION AND PROSPECTIVE RELIEF.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In a covered civil action, a court shall not grant or approve any prospective relief unless the court finds that the relief—

(1) is narrowly drawn;

(2) extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of a legal requirement; and

(3) is the least intrusive means necessary to correct the violation.

(b) PRELIMINARY INJUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A court shall limit the duration of a preliminary injunction to halt a covered energy project to not more than 60 days, unless the court finds clear reasons to extend the injunction.

(2) EXTENSIONS.—Extensions under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) only be in 30-day increments; and

(B) require action by the court to renew the injunction.

SEC. 2447. LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 504 of title 5 and 2412 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Equal Access to Justice Act''), shall not apply to a covered civil action.

(b) ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COURT COSTS.—A party in a covered civil action shall not receive payment from the Federal Government for attorney's fees, expenses, or other court costs.

SEC. 2448. LEGAL STANDING.

A challenger filing an appeal with the Interior Board of Land Appeals shall meet the same standing requirements as a challenger before a United States district court.

TITLE V—EXPEDITIOUS OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM IN NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA

SEC. 2501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Access Act''.

SEC. 2502. SENSE OF CONGRESS REAFFIRMING NATIONAL POLICY REGARDING NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Petroleum Reserve in the State of Alaska (referred to in this title as the ''Reserve'') remains explicitly designated, both in name and legal status, for purposes of providing oil and natural gas resources to the United States; and

(2) accordingly, the national policy is to actively advance oil and gas development within the Reserve by facilitating the expeditious exploration, production, and transportation of oil and natural gas from and through the Reserve.

SEC. 2503. COMPETITIVE LEASING OF OIL AND GAS.

Section 107 of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6506a) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) COMPETITIVE LEASING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the Reserve in accordance with this Act.

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—The program under this subsection shall include at least 1 lease sale annually in each area of the Reserve that is most likely to produce commercial quantities of oil and natural gas for each of calendar years 2013 through 2023.''.

SEC. 2504. PLANNING AND PERMITTING PIPELINE AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall facilitate and ensure permits, in an environmentally responsible manner, for all surface development activities, including for the construction of pipelines and roads, necessary—

(1) to develop and bring into production any areas within the Reserve that are subject to oil and gas leases; and

(2) to transport oil and gas from and through the Reserve to existing transportation or processing infrastructure on the North Slope of Alaska.

(b) TIMELINES.—The Secretary shall ensure that any Federal permitting agency shall issue permits in accordance with the following timelines:

(1) EXISTING LEASES.—Each permit for construction relating to the transportation of oil and natural gas produced under existing Federal oil and gas leases with respect to which the Secretary of the Interior has issued a permit to drill shall be approved by not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) REQUESTED PERMITS.—Each permit for construction for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under Federal oil and gas leases shall be approved by not later than 180 days after the date of submission to the Secretary of a request for a permit to drill.

(c) PLAN.—To ensure timely future development of the Reserve, not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a plan for approved rights-of-way for a plan for pipeline, road, and any other surface infrastructure that may be necessary infrastructure to ensure that all leasable tracts in the Reserve are located within 25 miles of an approved road and pipeline right-of-way that can serve future development of the Reserve.

SEC. 2505. DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate regulations to establish clear requirements to ensure that the Department of the Interior is supporting development of oil and gas leases in the Reserve.

(b) DEADLINES.—At a minimum, the regulations promulgated pursuant to this section shall—

(1) require the Secretary of the Interior to respond, acknowledging receipt of any permit application for development, by not later than 5 business days after the date of receipt of the application; and

(2) establish a timeline for the processing of each such application that—

(A) specifies deadlines for decisions and actions regarding permit applications; and

(B) provides that the period for issuing each permit after the date of submission of the application shall not exceed 60 days, absent the concurrence of the applicant.

(c) ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DEADLINES.—If the Secretary of the Interior fails to comply with any deadline described in subsection (b) with respect to a permit application, the Secretary shall notify the applicant not less frequently than once every 5 days with specific information regarding—

(1) the reasons for the permit delay;

(2) the name of each specific office of the Department of the Interior responsible for—

(A) issuing the permit; or

(B) monitoring the permit delay; and

(3) an estimate of the date on which the permit will be issued.

(d) ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, after consultation with the State of Alaska and after providing notice and an opportunity for public comment, shall approve right-of-way corridors for the construction of 2 separate additional bridges and pipeline rights-of-way to help facilitate timely oil and gas development of the Reserve.

SEC. 2506. UPDATED RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall complete a comprehensive assessment of all technically recoverable fossil fuel resources within the Reserve, including all conventional and unconventional oil and natural gas.

(b) COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.—The resource assessment under subsection (a) shall be carried out by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation and consultation with the State of Alaska and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

(c) TIMING.—The resource assessment under subsection (a) shall be completed by not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) FUNDING.—In carrying out this section, the United States Geological Survey may cooperatively use resources and funds provided by the State of Alaska.

SEC. 2507. COLVILLE RIVER DELTA DESIGNATION.

The designation by the Environmental Protection Agency of the Colville River Delta as an aquatic resource of national importance shall have no force or effect on this title or an amendment made by this title.

TITLE VI—INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES

SEC. 2601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''BLM Live Internet Auctions Act''.

SEC. 2602. INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 17(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the third sentence, by striking ''Lease sales'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subparagraph (C), lease sales''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) In order to diversify and expand the United States onshore leasing program to ensure the best return to Federal taxpayers, to reduce fraud, and to secure the leasing process, the Secretary may conduct onshore lease sales through Internet-based bidding methods, each of which shall be completed by not later than 7 days after the date of initiation of the sale.''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the tenth Internet-based lease sale conducted pursuant to subparagraph (C) of section 17(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)) (as added by subsection (a)), the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct, and submit to Congress a report describing the results of, an analysis of the first 10 such lease sales, including—

(1) estimates of increases or decreases in the lease sales, as compared to sales conducted by oral bidding, in—

(A) the number of bidders;

(B) the average amount of the bids;

(C) the highest amount of the bids; and

(D) the lowest amount of the bids;

(2) an estimate on the total cost or savings to the Department of the Interior as a result

of the sales, as compared to sales conducted by oral bidding; and

(3) an evaluation of the demonstrated or expected effectiveness of different structures for lease sales, which may—

(A) provide an opportunity to better maximize bidder participation;

(B) ensure the highest return to Federal taxpayers;

(C) minimize opportunities for fraud or collusion; and

(D) ensure the security and integrity of the leasing process.

TITLE VII—ADVANCING OFFSHORE WIND PRODUCTION

SEC. 2701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited at the ''Advancing Offshore Wind Production Act''.

SEC. 2702. OFFSHORE METEOROLOGICAL SITE TESTING AND MONITORING PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF OFFSHORE METEOROLOGICAL SITE TESTING AND MONITORING PROJECT.—In this section, the term ''offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring project'' means a project carried out on or in the waters of the outer Continental Shelf (as defined in section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331)) and administered by the Department of the Interior to test or monitor weather (including energy provided by weather, such as wind, tidal, current, and solar energy) using towers, buoys, or other temporary ocean infrastructure, that—

(1) causes—

(A) less than 1 acre of surface or seafloor disruption at the location of each meteorological tower or other device; and

(B) not more than 5 acres of surface or seafloor disruption within the proposed area affected by the project (including hazards to navigation);

(2) is decommissioned not more than 5 years after the date of commencement of the project, including—

(A) removal of towers, buoys, or other temporary ocean infrastructure from the project site; and

(B) restoration of the project site to approximately the original condition of the site; and

(3) provides meteorological information obtained by the project to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) OFFSHORE METEOROLOGICAL PROJECT PERMITTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall require, by regulation, that any applicant seeking to conduct an offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring project shall obtain a permit and right-of-way for the project in accordance with this subsection.

(2) PERMIT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY TIMELINE AND CONDITIONS.—

(A) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall decide whether to issue a permit and right-of-way for an offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring project by not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of a relevant application.

(B) PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSULTATION.—During the 30-day period referred to in subparagraph (A) with respect to an application for a permit and right-of-way under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(i) provide an opportunity for submission of comments regarding the application by the public; and

(ii) consult with the Secretary of Defense, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the heads of other Federal, State, and local agencies that would be affected by the issuance of the permit and right-of-way.

(C) DENIAL OF PERMIT; OPPORTUNITY TO REMEDY DEFICIENCIES.—If an application is denied under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide to the applicant—

(i) in writing—

(I) a list of clear and comprehensive reasons why the application was denied; and

(II) detailed information concerning any deficiencies in the application; and

(ii) an opportunity to remedy those deficiencies.

(c) NEPA EXCLUSION.—Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) shall not apply with respect to an offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring project.

(d) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Any information provided to the Secretary of the Interior under subsection (a)(3) shall be—

(1) treated by the Secretary as proprietary information; and

(2) protected against disclosure.

TITLE VIII—CRITICAL MINERALS

SEC. 2801. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPLICABLE COMMITTEES.—The term ''applicable committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''clean energy technology'' means a technology related to the production, use, transmission, storage, control, or conservation of energy that—

(A) reduces the need for additional energy supplies by using existing energy supplies with greater efficiency or by transmitting, distributing, storing, or transporting energy with greater effectiveness in or through the infrastructure of the United States;

(B) diversifies the sources of energy supply of the United States to strengthen energy security and to increase supplies with a favorable balance of environmental effects if the entire technology system is considered; or

(C) contributes to a stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations through reduction, avoidance, or sequestration of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

(3) CRITICAL MINERAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''critical mineral'' means any mineral designated as a critical mineral pursuant to section 2802.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''critical mineral'' does not include coal, oil, natural gas, or any other fossil fuels.

(4) CRITICAL MINERAL MANUFACTURING.—The term ''critical mineral manufacturing'' means—

(A) the production, processing, refining, alloying, separation, concentration, magnetic sintering, melting, or beneficiation of critical minerals within the United States;

(B) the fabrication, assembly, or production, within the United States, of clean energy technologies (including technologies related to wind, solar, and geothermal energy, efficient lighting, electrical superconducting materials, permanent magnet motors, batteries, and other energy storage devices), military equipment, and consumer electronics, or components necessary for applications; or

(C) any other value-added, manufacturing-related use of critical minerals undertaken within the United States.

(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(6) MILITARY EQUIPMENT.—The term ''military equipment'' means equipment used directly by the Armed Forces to carry out military operations.

(7) RARE EARTH ELEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''rare earth element'' means the chemical elements in the periodic table from lanthanum (atomic number 57) up to and including lutetium (atomic number 71).

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''rare earth element'' includes the similar chemical elements yttrium (atomic number 39) and scandium (atomic number 21).

(8) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior—

(A) acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey; and

(B) in consultation with (as appropriate)—

(i) the Secretary of Energy;

(ii) the Secretary of Defense;

(iii) the Secretary of Commerce;

(iv) the Secretary of State;

(v) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(vi) the United States Trade Representative; and

(vii) the heads of other applicable Federal agencies.

(9) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) a State;

(B) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(C) any other territory or possession of the United States.

(10) VALUE-ADDED.—The term ''value-added'' means, with respect to an activity, an activity that changes the form, fit, or function of a product, service, raw material, or physical good so that the resultant market price is greater than the cost of making the changes.

(11) WORKING GROUP.—The term ''Working Group'' means the Critical Minerals Working Group established under section 2805(a).

SEC. 2802. DESIGNATIONS.

(a) DRAFT METHODOLOGY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register for public comment a draft methodology for determining which minerals qualify as critical minerals based on an assessment of whether the minerals are—

(1) subject to potential supply restrictions (including restrictions associated with foreign political risk, abrupt demand growth, military conflict, and anti-competitive or protectionist behaviors); and

(2) important in use (including clean energy technology-, defense-, agriculture-, and health care-related applications).

(b) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—If available data is insufficient to provide a quantitative basis for the methodology developed under this section, qualitative evidence may be used.

(c) FINAL METHODOLOGY.—After reviewing public comments on the draft methodology under subsection (a) and updating the draft methodology as appropriate, the Secretary shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering to obtain, not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) a review of the methodology; and

(2) recommendations for improving the methodology.

(d) FINAL METHODOLOGY.—After reviewing the recommendations under subsection (c), not later than 150 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a description of

the final methodology for determining which minerals qualify as critical minerals.

(e) DESIGNATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a list of minerals designated as critical, pursuant to the final methodology under subsection (d), for purposes of carrying out this title.

(f) SUBSEQUENT REVIEW.—The methodology and designations developed under subsections (d) and (e) shall be updated at least every 5 years, or in more regular intervals if considered appropriate by the Secretary.

(g) NOTICE.—On finalization of the methodology under subsection (d), the list under subsection (e), or any update to the list under subsection (f), the Secretary shall submit to the applicable committees written notice of the action.

SEC. 2803. POLICY.

(a) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to promote an adequate, reliable, domestic, and stable supply of critical minerals, produced in an environmentally responsible manner, in order to strengthen and sustain the economic security, and the manufacturing, industrial, energy, technological, and competitive stature, of the United States.

(b) COORDINATION.—The President, acting through the Executive Office of the President, shall coordinate the actions of Federal agencies under this and other Acts—

(1) to encourage Federal agencies to facilitate the availability, development, and environmentally responsible production of domestic resources to meet national critical minerals needs;

(2) to minimize duplication, needless paperwork, and delays in the administration of applicable laws (including regulations) and the issuance of permits and authorizations necessary to explore for, develop, and produce critical minerals and to construct and operate critical mineral manufacturing facilities in an environmentally responsible manner;

(3) to promote the development of economically stable and environmentally responsible domestic critical mineral production and manufacturing;

(4) to establish an analytical and forecasting capability for identifying critical mineral demand, supply, and other market dynamics relevant to policy formulation so that informed actions may be taken to avoid supply shortages, mitigate price volatility, and prepare for demand growth and other market shifts;

(5) to strengthen educational and research capabilities and workforce training;

(6) to bolster international cooperation through technology transfer, information sharing, and other means;

(7) to promote the efficient production, use, and recycling of critical minerals;

(8) to develop alternatives to critical minerals; and

(9) to establish contingencies for the production of, or access to, critical minerals for which viable sources do not exist within the United States.

SEC. 2804. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, in consultation with applicable State (including geological surveys), local, academic, industry, and other entities, the Secretary shall complete a comprehensive national assessment of each critical mineral that—

(1) identifies and quantifies known critical mineral resources, using all available public and private information and datasets, including exploration histories;

(2) estimates the cost of production of the critical mineral resources identified and quantified under this section, using all available public and private information and datasets, including exploration histories;

(3) provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of undiscovered critical mineral resources throughout the United States, including probability estimates of tonnage and grade, using all available public and private information and datasets, including exploration histories;

(4) provides qualitative information on the environmental attributes of the critical mineral resources identified under this section; and

(5) pays particular attention to the identification and quantification of critical mineral resources on Federal land that is open to location and entry for exploration, development, and other uses.

(b) FIELD WORK.—If existing information and datasets prove insufficient to complete the assessment under this section and there is no reasonable opportunity to obtain the information and datasets from nongovernmental entities, the Secretary may carry out field work (including drilling, remote sensing, geophysical surveys, geological mapping, and geochemical sampling and analysis) to supplement existing information and datasets available for determining the existence of critical minerals on—

(1) Federal land that is open to location and entry for exploration, development, and other uses;

(2) tribal land, at the request and with the written permission of the Indian tribe with jurisdiction over the land; and

(3) State land, at the request and with the written permission of the Governor of the State.

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—At the request of the Governor of a State or an Indian tribe, the Secretary may provide technical assistance to State governments and Indian tribes conducting critical mineral resource assessments on non-Federal land.

(d) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may make grants to State governments, or Indian tribes and economic development entities of Indian tribes, to cover the costs associated with assessments of critical mineral resources on State or tribal land, as applicable.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the applicable committees a report describing the results of the assessment conducted under this section.

(f) PRIORITIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may sequence the completion of resource assessments for each critical mineral such that critical materials considered to be most critical under the methodology established pursuant to section 2802 are completed first.

(2) REPORTING.—If the Secretary sequences the completion of resource assessments for each critical material, the Secretary shall submit a report under subsection (e) on an iterative basis over the 4-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall periodically update the assessment conducted under this section based on—

(1) the generation of new information or datasets by the Federal Government; or

(2) the receipt of new information or datasets from critical mineral producers, State geological surveys, academic institutions, trade associations, or other entities or individuals.

SEC. 2805. PERMITTING.

(a) CRITICAL MINERALS WORKING GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Department of the Interior a working group to be known as the ''Critical Minerals Working Group'', which shall report to the President and the applicable committees through the Secretary.

(2) COMPOSITION.—The Working Group shall be composed of the following:

(A) The Secretary of the Interior (or a designee), who shall serve as chair of the Working Group.

(B) A Presidential designee from the Executive Office of the President, who shall serve as vice-chair of the Working Group.

(C) The Secretary of Energy (or a designee).

(D) The Secretary of Agriculture (or a designee).

(E) The Secretary of Defense (or a designee).

(F) The Secretary of Commerce (or a designee).

(G) The Secretary of State (or a designee).

(H) The United States Trade Representative (or a designee).

(I) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (or a designee).

(J) The Chief of Engineers of the Corps of Engineers (or a designee).

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Working Group shall operate in consultation with private sector, academic, and other applicable stakeholders with experience related to—

(1) critical minerals exploration;

(2) critical minerals permitting;

(3) critical minerals production; and

(4) critical minerals manufacturing.

(c) DUTIES.—The Working Group shall—

(1) facilitate Federal agency efforts to optimize efficiencies associated with the permitting of activities that will increase exploration and development of domestic critical minerals, while maintaining environmental standards;

(2) facilitate Federal agency review of laws (including regulations) and policies that discourage investment in exploration and development of domestic critical minerals;

(3) assess whether Federal policies adversely impact the global competitiveness of the domestic critical minerals exploration and development sector (including taxes, fees, regulatory burdens, and access restrictions);

(4) evaluate the sufficiency of existing mechanisms for the provision of tenure on Federal land and the role of the mechanisms in attracting capital investment for the exploration and development of domestic critical minerals; and

(5) generate such other information and take such other actions as the Working Group considers appropriate to achieve the policy described in section 2803(a).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Working Group shall submit to the applicable committees a report that—

(1) describes the results of actions taken under subsection (c);

(2) evaluates the amount of time typically required (including the range derived from minimum and maximum durations, mean, median, variance, and other statistical measures or representations) to complete each step (including those aspects outside the control of the executive branch of the Federal Government, such as judicial review, applicant decisions, or State and local government involvement) associated with the processing of applications, operating plans, leases, licenses, permits, and other use authorizations for critical mineral-related activities on Federal land, which shall serve as

a baseline for the performance metric developed and finalized under subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

(3) identifies measures (including regulatory changes and legislative proposals) that would optimize efficiencies, while maintaining environmental standards, associated with the permitting of activities that will increase exploration and development of domestic critical minerals; and

(4) identifies options (including cost recovery paid by applicants) for ensuring adequate staffing of divisions, field offices, or other entities responsible for the consideration of applications, operating plans, leases, licenses, permits, and other use authorizations for critical mineral-related activities on Federal land.

(e) DRAFT PERFORMANCE METRIC.—Not later than 330 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and on completion of the report required under subsection (d), the Working Group shall publish in the Federal Register for public comment a draft description of a performance metric for evaluating the progress made by the executive branch of the Federal Government on matters within the control of that branch towards optimizing efficiencies, while maintaining environmental standards, associated with the permitting of activities that will increase exploration and development of domestic critical minerals.

(f) FINAL PERFORMANCE METRIC.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and after consideration of any public comments received under subsection (e), the Working Group shall publish in the Federal Register a description of the final performance metric.

(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, using the final performance metric under subsection (f), the Working Group shall submit to the applicable committees, as part of the budget request of the Department of the Interior for each fiscal year, each report that—

(1) describes the progress made by the executive branch of the Federal Government on matters within the control of that branch towards optimizing efficiencies, while maintaining environmental standards, associated with the permitting of activities that will increase exploration and development of domestic critical minerals; and

(2) compares the United States to other countries in terms of permitting efficiency, environmental standards, and other criteria relevant to a globally competitive economic sector.

(h) REPORT OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.—Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the applicable committees a report that assesses the performance of Federal agencies in—

(1) complying with chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Regulatory Flexibility Act''), in promulgating regulations applicable to the critical minerals industry; and

(2) performing an analysis of regulations applicable to the critical minerals industry that may be outmoded, inefficient, duplicative, or excessively burdensome.

(i) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section affects any judicial review of an agency action under any other provision of law.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—This section—

(A) is intended to improve the internal management of the Federal Government; and

(B) does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States (including an agency, instrumentality, officer, or employee) or any other person.

SEC. 2806. RECYCLING AND ALTERNATIVES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy shall conduct a program of research and development to promote the efficient production, use, and recycling of, and alternatives to, critical minerals.

(b) COOPERATION.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary of Energy shall cooperate with appropriate—

(1) Federal agencies and National Laboratories;

(2) critical mineral producers;

(3) critical mineral manufacturers;

(4) trade associations;

(5) academic institutions;

(6) small businesses; and

(7) other relevant entities or individuals.

(c) ACTIVITIES.—Under the program, the Secretary of Energy shall carry out activities that include the identification and development of—

(1) advanced critical mineral production or processing technologies that decrease the environmental impact, and costs of production, of such activities;

(2) techniques and practices that minimize or lead to more efficient use of critical minerals;

(3) techniques and practices that facilitate the recycling of critical minerals, including options for improving the rates of collection of post-consumer products containing critical minerals;

(4) commercial markets, advanced storage methods, energy applications, and other beneficial uses of critical minerals processing byproducts; and

(5) alternative minerals, metals, and materials, particularly those available in abundance within the United States and not subject to potential supply restrictions, that lessen the need for critical minerals.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretaries shall submit to the applicable committees a report summarizing the activities, findings, and progress of the program.

SEC. 2807. ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING.

(a) CAPABILITIES.—In order to evaluate existing critical mineral policies and inform future actions that may be taken to avoid supply shortages, mitigate price volatility, and prepare for demand growth and other market shifts, the Secretary, in consultation with academic institutions, the Energy Information Administration, and others in order to maximize the application of existing competencies related to developing and maintaining computer-models and similar analytical tools, shall conduct and publish the results of an annual report that includes—

(1) as part of the annually published Mineral Commodity Summaries from the United States Geological Survey, a comprehensive review of critical mineral production, consumption, and recycling patterns, including—

(A) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically produced during the preceding year;

(B) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically consumed during the preceding year;

(C) market price data for each critical mineral;

(D) an assessment of—

(i) critical mineral requirements to meet the national security, energy, economic, industrial, technological, and other needs of the United States during the preceding year;

(ii) the reliance of the United States on foreign sources to meet those needs during the preceding year; and

(iii) the implications of any supply shortages, restrictions, or disruptions during the preceding year;

(E) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically recycled during the preceding year;

(F) the market penetration during the preceding year of alternatives to each critical mineral;

(G) a discussion of applicable international trends associated with the discovery, production, consumption, use, costs of production, prices, and recycling of each critical mineral as well as the development of alternatives to critical minerals; and

(H) such other data, analyses, and evaluations as the Secretary finds are necessary to achieve the purposes of this section; and

(2) a comprehensive forecast, entitled the ''Annual Critical Minerals Outlook'', of projected critical mineral production, consumption, and recycling patterns, including—

(A) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically produced over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(B) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically consumed over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(C) market price projections for each critical mineral, to the maximum extent practicable and based on the best available information;

(D) an assessment of—

(i) critical mineral requirements to meet projected national security, energy, economic, industrial, technological, and other needs of the United States;

(ii) the projected reliance of the United States on foreign sources to meet those needs; and

(iii) the projected implications of potential supply shortages, restrictions, or disruptions;

(E) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically recycled over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(F) the market penetration of alternatives to each critical mineral projected to take place over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(G) a discussion of reasonably foreseeable international trends associated with the discovery, production, consumption, use, costs of production, prices, and recycling of each critical mineral as well as the development of alternatives to critical minerals; and

(H) such other projections relating to each critical mineral as the Secretary determines to be necessary to achieve the purposes of this section.

(b) PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—In preparing a report described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) no person uses the information and data collected for the report for a purpose other than the development of or reporting of aggregate data in a manner such that the identity of the person who supplied the information is not discernible and is not material to the intended uses of the information;

(2) no person discloses any information or data collected for the report unless the information or data has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not

allow the identification of the person who supplied particular information; and

(3) procedures are established to require the withholding of any information or data collected for the report if the Secretary determines that withholding is necessary to protect proprietary information, including any trade secrets or other confidential information.

SEC. 2808. EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE.

(a) WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor (in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and employers in the critical minerals sector) shall submit to Congress an assessment of the domestic availability of technically trained personnel necessary for critical mineral assessment, production, manufacturing, recycling, analysis, forecasting, education, and research, including an analysis of—

(1) skills that are in the shortest supply as of the date of the assessment;

(2) skills that are projected to be in short supply in the future;

(3) the demographics of the critical minerals industry and how the demographics will evolve under the influence of factors such as an aging workforce;

(4) the effectiveness of training and education programs in addressing skills shortages;

(5) opportunities to hire locally for new and existing critical mineral activities;

(6) the sufficiency of personnel within relevant areas of the Federal Government for achieving the policy described in section 2803(a); and

(7) the potential need for new training programs to have a measurable effect on the supply of trained workers in the critical minerals industry.

(b) CURRICULUM STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering under which the Academies shall coordinate with the National Science Foundation on conducting a study—

(A) to design an interdisciplinary program on critical minerals that will support the critical mineral supply chain and improve the ability of the United States to increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, development, and manufacturing;

(B) to address undergraduate and graduate education, especially to assist in the development of graduate level programs of research and instruction that lead to advanced degrees with an emphasis on the critical mineral supply chain or other positions that will increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, development, and manufacturing;

(C) to develop guidelines for proposals from institutions of higher education with substantial capabilities in the required disciplines to improve the critical mineral supply chain and advance the capacity of the United States to increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, development, and manufacturing; and

(D) to outline criteria for evaluating performance and recommendations for the amount of funding that will be necessary to establish and carry out the grant program described in subsection (c).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a description of the results of the study required under paragraph (1).

(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary and the National Science Foundation shall jointly conduct a competitive grant program under which institutions of higher education may apply for and receive 4-year grants for—

(A) startup costs for newly designated faculty positions in integrated critical mineral education, research, innovation, training, and workforce development programs consistent with subsection (b);

(B) internships, scholarships, and fellowships for students enrolled in critical mineral programs; and

(C) equipment necessary for integrated critical mineral innovation, training, and workforce development programs.

(2) RENEWAL.—A grant under this subsection shall be renewable for up to 2 additional 3-year terms based on performance criteria outlined under subsection (b)(1)(D).

SEC. 2809. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary, shall carry out a program to promote international cooperation on critical mineral supply chain issues with allies of the United States.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—Under the program, the Secretary of State may work with allies of the United States—

(1) to increase the global, responsible production of critical minerals, if a determination is made by the Secretary of State that there is no viable production capacity for the critical minerals within the United States;

(2) to improve the efficiency and environmental performance of extraction techniques;

(3) to increase the recycling of, and deployment of alternatives to, critical minerals;

(4) to assist in the development and transfer of critical mineral extraction, processing, and manufacturing technologies that would have a beneficial impact on world commodity markets and the environment;

(5) to strengthen and maintain intellectual property protections; and

(6) to facilitate the collection of information necessary for analyses and forecasts conducted pursuant to section 2807.

SEC. 2810. REPEAL, AUTHORIZATION, AND OFFSET.

(a) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Critical Materials Act of 1984 (30 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(d) of the National Superconductivity and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 5202(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking '', with the assistance of the National Critical Materials Council as specified in the National Critical Materials Act of 1984 (30 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.),''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title and the amendments made by this title $30,000,000.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OFFSET.—Section 207(c) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17022(c)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', except that the amount authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section not appropriated as of the date of enactment of the Domestic Energy and Jobs Act shall be reduced by $30,000,000''.

TITLE IX—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 2901. LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS UNDER THE SOLID MINERALS LEASING PROGRAM.

The Secretary of the Interior may not transfer to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement any responsibility or authority to perform any function performed on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under the solid minerals leasing program of the Department of the Interior, including—

(1) any function under—

(A) sections 2318 through 2352 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the ''Mining Law of 1872'') (30 U.S.C. 21 et seq.);

(B) the Act of July 31, 1947 (commonly known as the ''Materials Act of 1947'') (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

(C) the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.); or

(D) the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.);

(2) any function relating to management of mineral development on Federal land and acquired land under section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732); and

(3) any function performed under the mining law administration program of the Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 2902. AMOUNT OF DISTRIBUTED QUALIFIED OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES.

Section 105(f)(1) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109–432) is amended by striking ''2055'' and inserting ''2025, and shall not exceed $750,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2055''.

SEC. 2903. LEASE SALE 220 AND OTHER LEASE SALES OFF THE COAST OF VIRGINIA.

(a) INCLUSION IN LEASING PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) as soon as practicable after, but not later than 10 days after, the date of enactment of this Act, revise the proposed outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing program for the 2012–2017 period to include in the program Lease Sale 220 off the coast of Virginia; and

(2) include the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Virginia in the leasing program for each 5-year period after the 2012–2017 period.

(b) CONDUCT OF LEASE SALE.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 1 year, after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall carry out under section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337) Lease Sale 220.

(c) BALANCING MILITARY AND ENERGY PRODUCTION GOALS.—

(1) JOINT GOALS.—In recognition that the outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing program and the domestic energy resources produced under that program are integral to national security, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense shall work jointly in implementing this section—

(A) to preserve the ability of the Armed Forces to maintain an optimum state of readiness through their continued use of energy resources of the outer Continental Shelf; and

(B) to allow effective exploration, development, and production of the oil, gas, and renewable energy resources of the United States.

(2) PROHIBITION ON CONFLICTS WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS.—No person may engage in any exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas off the coast of Virginia that would conflict with any military operation, as determined in accordance with—

(A) the agreement entitled ''Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior on Mutual Concerns on the Outer Continental Shelf'' signed July 20, 1983; and

(B) any revision to, or replacement of, the agreement described in subparagraph (A) that is agreed to by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Interior after July 20, 1983, but before the date of issuance of the lease under which the exploration, development, or production is conducted.

(3) NATIONAL DEFENSE AREAS.—The United States reserves the right to designate by and through the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the President, national defense areas on the outer Continental Shelf under section 12(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341(d)).

SEC. 2904. LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY TO ISSUE REGULATIONS MODIFYING THE STREAM ZONE BUFFER RULE.

The Secretary of the Interior may not, before December 31, 2013, issue a regulation modifying the final rule entitled ''Excess Spoil, Coal Mine Waste, and Buffers for Perennial and Intermittent Streams'' (73 Fed. Reg. 75814 (December 12, 2008)).

SA 2976. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION __—AMERICAN ENERGY RENAISSANCE

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''American Energy Renaissance Act of 2014''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this division is as follows:

TITLE I—EXPANDING AMERICAN ENERGY EXPORTS

SEC. 2101. FINDING.

Congress finds that opening up energy exports will contribute to economic development, private sector job growth, and continued growth in American energy production.

SEC. 2102. NATURAL GAS EXPORTS.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that expanding natural gas exports will lead to increased investment and development of domestic supplies of natural gas that will contribute to job growth and economic development.

(b) NATURAL GAS EXPORTS.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''or any other nation not excluded by this section'' after ''trade in natural gas'';

(2) by striking ''(c) For purposes'' and inserting the following:

''(c) EXPEDITED APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) EXCLUSIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any nation subject to sanctions or trade restrictions imposed by the United States is excluded from expedited approval under paragraph (1).

''(B) DESIGNATION BY PRESIDENT OR CONGRESS.—The President or Congress may designate nations that may be excluded from

expedited approval under paragraph (1) for reasons of national security.

''(3) ORDER NOT REQUIRED.—No order is required under subsection (a) to authorize the export or import of any natural gas to or from Canada or Mexico.''.

SEC. 2103. CRUDE OIL EXPORTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the restrictions on crude oil exports from the 1970s are no longer necessary due to the technological advances that have increased the domestic supply of crude oil; and

(2) repealing restrictions on crude oil exports will contribute to job growth and economic development.

(b) REPEAL OF PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT OIL EXPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 103 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6212) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 12 of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719j) is amended—

(i) by striking ''and section 103 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act''; and

(ii) by striking ''such Acts'' and inserting ''that Act''.

(B) The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended—

(i) in section 251 (42 U.S.C. 6271)—

(I) by striking subsection (d); and

(II) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d); and

(ii) in section 523(a)(1) (42 U.S.C. 6393(a)(1)), by striking ''(other than section 103 thereof)''.

(c) REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS ON EXPORTS OF OIL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (u); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (v) through (y) as subsection (u) through (x), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 1107(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3167(c)) is amended by striking ''(u) through (y)'' and inserting ''(u) through (x)''.

(B) Section 23 of the Deep Water Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1522) is repealed.

(C) Section 203(c) of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act (43 U.S.C. 1652(c)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''(w)(2), and (x))'' and inserting ''(v)(2), and (w))''.

(D) Section 509(c) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 2009(c)) is amended by striking ''subsection (w)(2)'' and inserting ''subsection (v)(2)''.

(d) REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS ON EXPORT OF OCS OIL OR GAS.—Section 28 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1354) is repealed.

(e) TERMINATION OF LIMITATION ON EXPORTATION OF CRUDE OIL.—Section 7(d) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2406(d)) (as in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)) shall have no force or effect.

(f) CLARIFICATION OF CRUDE OIL REGULATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 754.2 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to crude oil) shall have no force or effect.

(2) CRUDE OIL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS.—The Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce shall grant licenses to export to a country crude oil (as the term is defined in subsection (a) of the regulation referred to in paragraph (1)) (as in effect on the date that is 1 day before the date of enactment of this Act) unless—

(A) the country is subject to sanctions or trade restrictions imposed by the United States; or

(B) the President or Congress has designated the country as subject to exclusion for reasons of national security.

SEC. 2104. COAL EXPORTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) increased international demand for coal is an opportunity to support jobs and promote economic growth in the United States; and

(2) exports of coal should not be unreasonably restricted or delayed.

(b) NEPA REVIEW FOR COAL EXPORTS.—In completing an environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for an approval or permit for coal export terminals, or transportation of coal to coal export terminals, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers—

(1) may only take into account domestic environmental impacts; and

(2) may not take into account any impacts resulting from the final use overseas of the exported coal.

TITLE II—IMPROVING NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A—North American Energy Infrastructure

SEC. 2201. FINDING.

Congress finds that the United States should establish a more efficient, transparent, and modern process for the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of oil and natural gas pipelines and electric transmission facilities for the import and export of oil, natural gas, and electricity to and from Canada and Mexico, in pursuit of a more secure and efficient North American energy market.

SEC. 2202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Electric Reliability Organization'' has the meaning given the term in section 215(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o(a)).

(2) INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR.—The term ''Independent System Operator'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

(3) NATURAL GAS.—The term ''natural gas'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717a).

(4) OIL.—The term ''oil'' means petroleum or a petroleum product.

(5) REGIONAL ENTITY.—The term ''regional entity'' has the meaning given the term in section 215(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o(a)).

(6) REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Regional Transmission Organization'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

SEC. 2203. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT THE NATIONAL BOUNDARY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e), no person may construct, connect, operate, or maintain an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico without obtaining approval of the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance under this section.

(b) APPROVAL.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after receiving a request for approval of construction, connection, operation, or maintenance under this section, the relevant official identified under paragraph (2), in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, shall approve the request unless the relevant official finds that the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance harms the national security interests of the United States.

(2) RELEVANT OFFICIAL.—The relevant official referred to in paragraph (1) is—

(A) the Secretary of Commerce with respect to oil pipelines;

(B) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with respect to natural gas pipelines; and

(C) the Secretary of Energy with respect to electric transmission facilities.

(3) APPROVAL NOT MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—An approval of construction, connection, operation, or maintenance under paragraph (1) shall not be considered a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(4) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES.—In the case of a request for approval of the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of an electric transmission facility, the Secretary of Energy shall require, as a condition of approval of the request under paragraph (1), that the electric transmission facility be constructed, connected, operated, or maintained consistent with all applicable policies and standards of—

(A) the Electric Reliability Organization and the applicable regional entity; and

(B) any Regional Transmission Organization or Independent System Operator with operational or functional control over the electric transmission facility.

(c) NO OTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED.—No Presidential permit (or similar permit) required under Executive Order 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note; 69 Fed. Reg. 25299 (April 30, 2004)), Executive Order 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note; 33 Fed. Reg. 11741 (August 16, 1968)), section 301 of title 3, United States Code, Executive Order 12038 (43 Fed. Reg. 3674 (January 26, 1978)), Executive Order 10485 (18 Fed. Reg. 5397 (September 9, 1953)), or any other Executive order shall be necessary for construction, connection, operation, or maintenance to which this section applies.

(d) EXCLUSIONS.—This section shall not apply to—

(1) any construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico if—

(A) the pipeline or facility is operating at the national boundary for that import or export as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) a permit described in subsection (c) for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance has been issued;

(C) approval of the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance has previously been obtained under this section; or

(D) an application for a permit described in subsection (c) for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance is pending on the date of enactment of this Act, until the earlier of—

(i) the date on which the application is denied; and

(ii) July 1, 2015; or

(2) the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline.

(e) MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING PROJECTS.—No approval under this section, or permit described in subsection (c), shall be required for modifications to construction, connection, operation, or maintenance described in subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (d)(1), including reversal of flow direction, change in ownership, volume expansion, downstream or upstream interconnection, or adjustments to maintain flow (such as a reduction or increase in the number of pump or compressor stations).

(f) EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section affects the application of any other Federal law to a project for which approval of construction, connection, operation, or maintenance is sought under this section.

SEC. 2204. TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY TO CANADA AND MEXICO.

(a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO SECURE ORDER.—Section 202 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) STATE REGULATIONS.—Section 202 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsection (e) and (f), respectively; and

(B) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by striking ''insofar as such State regulation does not conflict with the exercise of the Commission's powers under or relating to subsection 202(e)''.

(2) SEASONAL DIVERSITY ELECTRICITY EXCHANGE.—Section 602(b) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a–4(b)) is amended by striking ''the Commission has conducted hearings and made the findings required under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''the Secretary has conducted hearings and finds that the proposed transmission facilities would not impair the sufficiency of electric supply within the United States or would not impede or tend to impede the coordination in the public interest of facilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Secretary.''.

SEC. 2205. EFFECTIVE DATE; RULEMAKING DEADLINES.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Sections 2203 and 2204, and the amendments made by those sections, shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

(b) RULEMAKING DEADLINES.—Each relevant official described in section 2203(b)(2) shall—

(1) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, publish in the Federal Register notice of a proposed rulemaking to carry out the applicable requirements of section 2203; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, publish in the Federal Register a final rule to carry out the applicable requirements of section 2203.

Subtitle B—Keystone XL Permit Approval

SEC. 2211. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) building the Keystone XL pipeline will provide jobs and economic growth to the United States; and

(2) the Keystone XL pipeline should be approved immediately.

SEC. 2212. KEYSTONE XL PERMIT APPROVAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding Executive Order 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note ; 69 Fed. Reg. 25299 (April 30, 2004)), Executive Order 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note; 33 Fed. Reg. 11741 (August 16, 1968)), section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and any other Executive order or provision of law, no presidential permit shall be required for the pipeline described in the application filed on May 4, 2012, by TransCanada Corporation to the Department of State for the northern portion of the Keystone XL pipeline from the Canadian border to the border between the States of South Dakota and Nebraska.

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The final environmental impact statement issued by the Secretary of State on January 31, 2014, regarding the pipeline referred to in subsection (a), shall be considered to satisfy all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(c) CRITICAL HABITAT.—No area necessary to construct or maintain the Keystone XL pipeline shall be considered critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or any other provision of law.

(d) PERMITS.—Any Federal permit or authorization issued before the date of enactment of this Act for the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, shall remain in effect.

(e) FEDERAL JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, that are approved by this section, and any permit, right-of-way, or other action taken to construct or complete the project pursuant to Federal law, shall only be subject to judicial review on direct appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

TITLE III—OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEASING

SEC. 3001. FINDING.

Congress finds that the United States has enormous potential for offshore energy development and that the people of the United States should have access to the jobs and economic benefits from developing those resources.

SEC. 3002. EXTENSION OF LEASING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), the Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2010–2015 issued by the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this title as the ''Secretary'') under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) shall be considered to be the final oil and gas leasing program under that section for the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2019.

(b) FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The Secretary is considered to have issued a final environmental impact statement for the program applicable to the period described in subsection (a) in accordance with all requirements under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—Lease Sales 214, 232, and 239 shall not be included in the final oil and gas leasing program for the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2019.

SEC. 3003. LEASE SALES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and every 270 days thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct a lease sale in each outer Continental Shelf planning area for which the Secretary determines that there is a commercial interest in purchasing Federal oil and gas leases for production on the outer Continental Shelf.

(b) SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATIONS AND SALES.—If the Secretary determines that there is not a commercial interest in purchasing Federal oil and gas leases for production on the outer Continental Shelf in a planning area under this section, not later than 2 years after the date of the determination and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(1) make an additional determination on whether there is a commercial interest in purchasing Federal oil and gas leases for production on the outer Continental Shelf in the planning area; and

(2) if the Secretary determines that there is a commercial interest under paragraph (1), conduct a lease sale in the planning area.

(c) PROTECTION OF STATE INTEREST.—In developing future leasing programs, the Secretary shall give deference to affected coastal States (as the term is used in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.)) in determining leasing areas to be included in the leasing program.

(d) PETITIONS.—If a person petitions the Secretary to conduct a lease sale for an outer Continental Shelf planning area in which the person has a commercial interest, the Secretary shall conduct a lease sale for the area in accordance with subsection (a).

SEC. 3004. APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.

Section 5 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1334) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove an application for a permit to drill submitted under this Act not later than 20 days after the date on which the application is submitted to the Secretary.

''(2) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary disapproves an application for a permit to drill under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(A) provide to the applicant a description of the reasons for the disapproval of the application;

''(B) allow the applicant to resubmit an application during the 10-day period beginning on the date of the receipt of the description described in subparagraph (A) by the applicant; and

''(C) approve or disapprove any resubmitted application not later than 10 days after the date on which the application is submitted to the Secretary.''.

SEC. 3005. LEASE SALES FOR CERTAIN AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable but not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct Lease Sale 220 for areas offshore of the State of Virginia.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS.—For purposes of the lease sale described in subsection (a), the environmental impact statement prepared under section 3001 shall satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(c) ENERGY PROJECTS IN GULF OF MEXICO.—

(1) JURISDICTION.—The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit shall have exclusive jurisdiction over challenges to offshore energy projects and permits to drill carried out in the Gulf of Mexico.

(2) FILING DEADLINE.—Any civil action to challenge a project or permit described in paragraph (1) shall be filed not later than 60 days after the date of approval of the project or the issuance of the permit.

TITLE IV—UTILIZING AMERICA'S ONSHORE RESOURCES

SEC. 4001. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) current policy has failed to take full advantage of the natural resources on Federal land;

(2) the States should be given the option to lead energy development on all available Federal land in a State; and

(3) the Federal Government should not inhibit energy development on Federal land.

SEC. 4002. STATE OPTION FOR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, a State may elect to control energy development and production on available Federal land in accordance with the terms and conditions of subtitle A and the amendments made by subtitle A in lieu of being subject to the Federal system established under subtitle B and the amendments made by subtitle B.

Subtitle A—Energy Development by States

SEC. 4011. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) AVAILABLE FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''available Federal land'' means any Federal land that, as of the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) is located within the boundaries of a State;

(B) is not held by the United States in trust for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian tribe;

(C) is not a unit of the National Park System;

(D) is not a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(E) is not a congressionally designated wilderness area.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) a State; and

(B) the District of Columbia.

SEC. 4012. STATE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A State—

(1) may establish a program covering the leasing and permitting processes, regulatory requirements, and any other provisions by which the State would exercise the rights of the State to develop all forms of energy resources on available Federal land in the State; and

(2) as a condition of certification under section 4013(b) shall submit a declaration to the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Energy that a program under paragraph (1) has been established or amended.

(b) AMENDMENT OF PROGRAMS.—A State may amend a program developed and certified under this subtitle at any time.

(c) CERTIFICATION OF AMENDED PROGRAMS.—Any program amended under subsection (b) shall be certified under section 4013(b).

SEC. 4013. LEASING, PERMITTING, AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS.

(a) SATISFACTION OF FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS.—Each program certified under this section shall be considered to satisfy all applicable requirements of Federal law (including regulations), including—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(2) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(3) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

(b) FEDERAL CERTIFICATION AND TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS.—Upon submission of a declaration by a State under section 4012(a)(2)—

(1) the program under section 4012(a)(1) shall be certified; and

(2) the State shall receive all rights from the Federal Government to develop all forms of energy resources covered by the program.

(c) ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND LEASES.—If a State elects to issue a permit or lease for the development of any form of energy resource on any available Federal land within the borders of the State in accordance with a program certified under subsection (b), the permit or lease shall be considered to meet all applicable requirements of Federal law (including regulations).

SEC. 4014. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Activities carried out in accordance with this subtitle shall not be subject to Federal judicial review.

SEC. 4015. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT.

Activities carried out in accordance with this subtitle shall not be subject to subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Administrative Procedure Act'').

Subtitle B—Onshore Oil and Gas Permit Streamlining

PART I—OIL AND GAS LEASING CERTAINTY

SEC. 4021. MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE LEASE SALES.

Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is amended—

(1) by striking ''SEC. 17. (a) All lands'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 17. LEASE OF OIL AND GAS LAND.

''(a) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—All land''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(2) MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE LEASE SALES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting lease sales under paragraph (1)—

''(i) there shall be a presumption that nominated land should be leased; and

''(ii) the Secretary of the Interior shall offer for sale all of the nominated acreage not previously made available for lease, unless the Secretary demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that an individual lease should not be granted.

''(B) ADMINISTRATION.—Acreage offered for lease pursuant to this paragraph—

''(i) shall not be subject to protest; and

''(ii) shall be eligible for categorical exclusions under section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942), except that the categorical exclusions shall not be subject to the test of extraordinary circumstances or any other similar regulation or policy guidance.

''(C) AVAILABILITY.—In administering this paragraph, the Secretary shall only consider leasing of Federal land that is available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.''.

SEC. 4022. LEASING CERTAINTY.

Section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(a)) (as amended by section 4061) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) LEASING CERTAINTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall not withdraw any covered energy project (as defined in section 4051 of the American Energy Renaissance Act of 2014) issued under this Act without finding a violation of the terms of the lease by the lessee.

''(B) DELAY.—The Secretary shall not infringe on lease rights under leases issued under this Act by indefinitely delaying issuance of project approvals, drilling and seismic permits, and rights-of-way for activities under the lease.

''(C) AVAILABILITY FOR LEASE.—Not later than 18 months after an area is designated as open under the applicable land use plan, the Secretary shall make available nominated areas for lease using the criteria established under section 2.

''(D) LAST PAYMENT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue all leases sold not later than 60 days after the last payment is made.

''(ii) CANCELLATION.—The Secretary shall not cancel or withdraw any lease parcel after a competitive lease sale has occurred and a winning bidder has submitted the last payment for the parcel.

''(E) PROTESTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date a lease sale is held under this Act, the Secretary shall adjudicate any lease protests filed following a lease sale.

''(ii) UNSETTLED PROTEST.—If, after the 60-day period described in clause (i) any protest is left unsettled—

''(I) the protest shall be considered automatically denied; and

''(II) the appeal rights of the protestor shall begin.

''(F) ADDITIONAL LEASE STIPULATIONS.—No additional lease stipulation may be added after the parcel is sold without consultation and agreement of the lessee, unless the Secretary considers the stipulation as an emergency action to conserve the resources of the United States.''.

SEC. 4023. LEASING CONSISTENCY.

A Federal land manager shall follow existing resource management plans and continue to actively lease in areas designated as open when resource management plans are being amended or revised, until such time as a new record of decision is signed.

SEC. 4024. REDUCE REDUNDANT POLICIES.

Bureau of Land Management Instruction Memorandum 2010–117 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 4025. STREAMLINED CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

Section 31(e) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 188(e)) is amended in the first sentence of the matter following paragraph (4) by striking ''at least thirty days in advance of the reinstatement'' and inserting ''in an annual report''.

PART II—APPLICATION FOR PERMITS TO DRILL PROCESS REFORM

SEC. 4031. PERMIT TO DRILL APPLICATION TIMELINE.

Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL REFORM AND PROCESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date an application for a permit to drill is received by the Secretary, the Secretary shall decide whether to issue the permit.

''(B) EXTENSION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may extend the period described in subparagraph (A) for up to 2 periods of 15 days each, if the Secretary has given written notice of the delay to the applicant.

''(ii) NOTICE.—The notice shall—

''(I) be in the form of a letter from the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary; and

''(II) include—

''(aa) the names and titles of the persons processing the application;

''(bb) the specific reasons for the delay; and

''(cc) a specific date a final decision on the application is expected.

''(C) NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DENIAL.—If the application is denied, the Secretary shall provide the applicant—

''(i) a written statement that provides clear and comprehensive reasons why the application was not accepted and detailed information concerning any deficiencies; and

''(ii) an opportunity to remedy any deficiencies.

''(D) APPLICATION DEEMED APPROVED.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), if the Secretary has not made a decision on the application by the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date the application is received by the Secretary, the application shall be considered approved.

''(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply in cases in which existing reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) are incomplete.

''(E) DENIAL OF PERMIT.—If the Secretary decides not to issue a permit to drill under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

''(i) provide to the applicant a description of the reasons for the denial of the permit;

''(ii) allow the applicant to resubmit an application for a permit to drill during the 10-day period beginning on the date the applicant receives the description of the denial from the Secretary; and

''(iii) issue or deny any resubmitted application not later than 10 days after the date the application is submitted to the Secretary.

''(F) FEE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall collect a single $6,500 permit processing fee per application from each applicant at the time the final decision is made whether to issue a permit under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) RESUBMITTED APPLICATION.—The fee required under clause (i) shall not apply to any resubmitted application.

''(iii) TREATMENT OF PERMIT PROCESSING FEE.—Subject to appropriation, of all fees collected under this paragraph for each fiscal year, 50 percent shall be—

''(I) transferred to the field office at which the fees are collected; and

''(II) used to process protests, leases, and permits under this Act.''.

SEC. 4032. ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST DOCUMENTATION REFORM.

Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) (as amended by section 4031) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) PROTEST FEE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect a $5,000 documentation fee to accompany each administrative protest for a lease, right-of-way, or application for a permit to drill.

''(B) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Subject to appropriation, of all fees collected under this paragraph for each fiscal year, 50 percent shall—

''(i) remain in the field office at which the fees are collected; and

''(ii) be used to process protests.''.

SEC. 4033. IMPROVED FEDERAL ENERGY PERMIT COORDINATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ENERGY PROJECT.—The term ''energy project'' includes any oil, natural gas, coal, or other energy project, as defined by the Secretary.

(2) PROJECT.—The term ''Project'' means the Federal Permit Streamlining Project established under subsection (b).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Federal Permit Streamlining Project in each Bureau of Land Management field office with responsibility for permitting energy projects on Federal land.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for purposes of carrying out this section with—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(C) the Chief of Engineers.

(2) STATE PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may request that the Governor of any State with energy projects on Federal land to be a signatory to the memorandum of understanding.

(d) DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the signing of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c), each Federal signatory party shall, if appropriate, assign to each Bureau of Land Management field office an employee who has expertise in the regulatory issues relating to the office in which the employee is employed, including, as applicable, particular expertise in—

(A) the consultations and the preparation of biological opinions under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536);

(B) permits under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344);

(C) regulatory matters under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(D) planning under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.); and

(E) the preparation of analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) DUTIES.—Each employee assigned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of assignment, report to the Bureau of Land Management Field Managers in the office to which the employee is assigned;

(B) be responsible for all issues relating to the energy projects that arise under the authorities of the home agency of the employee; and

(C) participate as part of the team of personnel working on proposed energy projects, planning, and environmental analyses on Federal land.

(e) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Secretary shall assign to each Bureau of Land Management field office described in subsection (b) any additional personnel that are necessary to ensure the effective approval and implementation of energy projects administered by the Bureau of Land Management field office, including inspection and enforcement relating to energy development on Federal land, in accordance with the multiple use mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(f) FUNDING.—Funding for the additional personnel shall come from the Department of the Interior reforms under paragraph (2) of section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) (as amended by section 4031 and section 4032).

(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) the operation of any Federal or State law; or

(2) any delegation of authority made by the head of a Federal agency any employee of which is participating in the Project.

SEC. 4034. ADMINISTRATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not require a finding of extraordinary circumstances in administering section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942).

PART III—OIL SHALE

SEC. 4041. EFFECTIVENESS OF OIL SHALE REGULATIONS, AMENDMENTS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS, AND RECORD OF DECISION.

(a) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), the final regulations regarding oil shale management published by the Bureau of Land Management on November 18, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 69414) shall be considered to satisfy all legal and procedural requirements under any law, including—

(A) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall implement the regulations described in paragraph (1) (including the oil shale leasing program authorized by the regulations) without any other administrative action necessary.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND RECORD OF DECISION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations) to the contrary, the Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision for Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources to Address Land Use Allocations in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming and the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement of the Bureau of Land Management, as in effect on November 17, 2008, shall be considered to satisfy all legal and procedural requirements under any law, including—

(A) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall implement the oil shale leasing program authorized by the regulations described in paragraph (1) in those areas covered by the resource management plans covered by the amendments, and covered by the record of decision, described in paragraph (1) without any other administrative action necessary.

SEC. 4042. OIL SHALE LEASING.

(a) ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LEASE SALES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall hold a lease sale offering an additional 10 parcels for lease for research, development, and demonstration of oil shale resources, under the terms offered in the solicitation of bids for such leases published on January 15, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 2611).

(b) COMMERCIAL LEASE SALES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Interior shall hold not less than 5 separate commercial lease sales in areas considered to have the most potential for oil shale development, as determined by the Secretary, in areas nominated through public comment.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—Each lease sale shall be—

(A) for an area of not less than 25,000 acres; ;and

(B) in multiple lease blocs.

PART IV—NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA ACCESS

SEC. 4051. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REAFFIRMING NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska remains explicitly designated, both in name and legal status, for purposes of providing oil and natural gas resources to the United States; and

(2) accordingly, the national policy is to actively advance oil and gas development within the Reserve by facilitating the expeditious exploration, production, and transportation of oil and natural gas from and through the Reserve.

SEC. 4052. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: LEASE SALES.

Section 107 of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6506a) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the Reserve—

''(1) in accordance with this Act; and

''(2) that shall include at least 1 lease sale annually in the areas of the Reserve most likely to produce commercial quantities of oil and natural gas for each of calendar years 2014 through 2023.''.

SEC. 4053. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: PLANNING AND PERMITTING PIPELINE AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall facilitate and ensure permits, in a timely and environmentally responsible manner, for all surface development activities, including for the construction of pipelines and roads, necessary—

(1) to develop and bring into production any areas within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska that are subject to oil and gas leases; and

(2) to transport oil and gas from and through the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska in the most direct manner possible to existing transportation or processing infrastructure on the North Slope of Alaska.

(b) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall ensure that any Federal permitting agency shall issue permits in accordance with the following timeline:

(1) Permits for the construction described in subsection (a) for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under existing Federal oil and gas leases with respect to which the Secretary has issued a permit to drill shall be approved not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) Permits for the construction described in subsection (a) for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under Federal oil and gas leases shall be approved not later than 180 days after the date on which a request for a permit to drill is submitted to the Secretary.

(c) PLAN.—To ensure timely future development of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a plan for approved rights-of-way for a plan for pipeline, road, and any other surface infrastructure that may be necessary infrastructure that will ensure that all leasable tracts in the Reserve are within 25 miles of an approved road and pipeline right-of-way that can serve future development of the Reserve.

SEC. 4054. ISSUANCE OF A NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

(a) ISSUANCE OF NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue—

(1) a new proposed integrated activity plan from among the nonadopted alternatives in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of the Interior and dated February 21, 2013; and

(2) an environmental impact statement under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) for issuance of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska to promote efficient and maximum development of oil and natural gas resources of the Reserve.

(b) NULLIFICATION OF EXISTING RECORD OF DECISION, IAP, AND EIS.—Except as provided in subsection (a), the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of the Interior and dated February 21, 2013, including the integrated activity plan and environmental impact statement referred to in that record of decision, shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 4055. DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

The Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate regulations not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act that establish clear requirements to ensure that the Department of the Interior is supporting development of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

SEC. 4056. DEADLINES UNDER NEW PROPOSED INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN.

At a minimum, the new proposed integrated activity plan issued under section 4054(a)(1) shall—

(1) require the Department of the Interior to respond within 5 business days to a person who submits an application for a permit for development of oil and natural gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska acknowledging receipt of the application; and

(2) establish a timeline for the processing of each application that—

(A) specifies deadlines for decisions and actions on permit applications; and

(B) provides that the period for issuing a permit after the date on which the application is submitted shall not exceed 60 days without the concurrence of the applicant.

SEC. 4057. UPDATED RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall complete a comprehensive assessment of all technically recoverable fossil fuel resources within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, including all conventional and unconventional oil and natural gas.

(b) COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall be carried out by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation and consultation with the State of Alaska and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

(c) TIMING.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall be completed not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) FUNDING.—In carrying out this section, the United States Geological Survey may cooperatively use resources and funds provided by the State of Alaska.

PART V—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 4061. SANCTIONS.

Nothing in this title authorizes the issuance of a lease under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) to any person designated for the imposition of sanctions pursuant to—

(1) the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note; Public Law 108–175);

(2) the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestiture Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.);

(3) section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a);

(4) the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.);

(5) the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.);

(6) the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; Public Law 104–172);

(7) Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism);

(8) Executive Order 13338 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting the export of certain goods to Syria);

(9) Executive Order 13622 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to authorizing additional sanctions with respect to Iran);

(10) Executive Order 13628 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to authorizing additional sanctions with respect to Iran); or

(11) Executive Order 13645 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to authorizing additional sanctions with respect to Iran).

SEC. 4062. INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 17(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the third sentence, by inserting '', except as provided in subparagraph (C)'' after ''by oral bidding''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) INTERNET-BASED BIDDING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In order to diversify and expand the onshore leasing program of the United States to ensure the best return to the Federal taxpayer, reduce fraud, and secure the leasing process, the Secretary may conduct onshore lease sales through Internet-based bidding methods.

''(ii) CONCLUSION.—Each individual Internet-based lease sale shall conclude not later than 7 days after the date on which the sale begins.''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the tenth Internet-based lease sale conducted under the amendment made by subsection (a) concludes, the Secretary of the Interior shall analyze the first 10 Internet-based lease sales and report to Congress the findings of the analysis, including—

(1) estimates on increases or decreases in Internet-based lease sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding, in—

(A) the number of bidders;

(B) the average amount of bid;

(C) the highest amount bid; and

(D) the lowest bid;

(2) an estimate on the total cost or savings to the Department of the Interior as a result of Internet-based lease sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding; and

(3) an evaluation of the demonstrated or expected effectiveness of different structures for lease sales which may provide an opportunity to better—

(A) maximize bidder participation;

(B) ensure the highest return to the Federal taxpayers;

(C) minimize opportunities for fraud or collusion; and

(D) ensure the security and integrity of the leasing process.

PART VI—JUDICIAL REVIEW

SEC. 4071. DEFINITIONS.

In this part:

(1) COVERED CIVIL ACTION.—The term ''covered civil action'' means a civil action containing a claim under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, regarding agency action (as defined for the purposes of that section) affecting a covered energy project on Federal land.

(2) COVERED ENERGY PROJECT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''covered energy project'' means—

(i) the leasing of Federal land for the exploration, development, production, processing, or transmission of oil, natural gas, wind, or any other source of energy; and

(ii) any action under the lease.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''covered energy project'' does not include any dispute between the parties to a lease regarding the obligations under the lease, including any alleged breach of the lease.

SEC. 4072. EXCLUSIVE VENUE FOR CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS RELATING TO COVERED ENERGY PROJECTS.

Venue for any covered civil action shall lie in the United States district court in which the covered energy project or lease exists or is proposed.

SEC. 4073. TIMELY FILING.

To ensure timely redress by the courts, a covered civil action shall be filed not later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the final Federal agency action to which the covered civil action relates.

SEC. 4074. EXPEDITION IN HEARING AND DETERMINING THE ACTION.

The court shall endeavor to hear and determine any covered civil action as expeditiously as practicable.

SEC. 4075. LIMITATION ON INJUNCTION AND PROSPECTIVE RELIEF.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In a covered civil action, a court shall not grant or approve any prospective relief unless the court finds that the relief—

(1) is narrowly drawn;

(2) extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of a legal requirement; and

(3) is the least intrusive means necessary to correct the violation.

(b) DURATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A court shall limit the duration of preliminary injunctions to halt covered energy projects to not more than 60 days, unless the court finds clear reasons to extend the injunction.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In the case of an extension, the extension shall—

(A) only be in 30-day increments; and

(B) require action by the court to renew the injunction.

SEC. 4076. LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COURT COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 504 of title 5 and 2412 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Equal Access to Justice Act''), shall not apply to a covered civil action.

(b) COURT COSTS.—A party to a covered civil action shall not receive payment from the Federal Government for the attorneys' fees, expenses, or other court costs incurred by the party.

SEC. 4077. LEGAL STANDING.

A challenger that files an appeal with the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals shall meet the same standing requirements as a challenger before a United States district court.

TITLE V—ADDITIONAL ONSHORE RESOURCES

Subtitle A—Leasing Program for Land Within Coastal Plain

SEC. 5001. FINDING.

Congress finds that development of energy reserves under the Coastal Plain of Alaska, performed in an environmentally responsible manner, will contribute to job growth and economic development.

SEC. 5002. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COASTAL PLAIN.—The term ''Coastal Plain'' means the area described in appendix I to part 37 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) PEER REVIEWED.—The term ''peer reviewed'' means reviewed—

(A) by individuals chosen by the National Academy of Sciences with no contractual relationship with, or those who have no application for a grant or other funding pending with, the Federal agency with leasing jurisdiction; or

(B) if individuals described in subparagraph (A) are not available, by the top individuals in the specified biological fields, as determined by the National Academy of Sciences.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 5003. LEASING PROGRAM FOR LAND ON THE COASTAL PLAIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish and implement, in accordance with this subtitle and acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management in consultation with the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, a competitive oil and gas leasing program that will result in the exploration, development, and production of the oil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain; and

(2) administer the provisions of this subtitle through regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibitions, stipulations, and other provisions that ensure the oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities on the Coastal Plain do not result in any significant adverse effect on fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, subsistence resources, or the environment, including, in furtherance of this goal, by requiring the application of the best commercially available technology for oil and gas exploration, development, and production to all exploration, development, and production operations under this subtitle in a manner that ensures the receipt of fair market value by the public for the mineral resources to be leased.

(b) REPEAL OF EXISTING RESTRICTION.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 1003 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3143) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents contained in section 1 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 note) is amended by striking the item relating to section 1003.

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS UNDER CERTAIN OTHER LAWS.—

(1) COMPATIBILITY.—For purposes of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.), the oil and gas leasing program and activities authorized by this section on the Coastal Plain are deemed to be compatible with the purposes for which the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was established, and no further findings or decisions are required to implement this determination.

(2) ADEQUACY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The document of the Department of the Interior entitled ''Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement'' and dated April 1987 relating to the Coastal Plain prepared pursuant to section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3142) and section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) is deemed to satisfy the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) that apply with respect to prelease activities under this subtitle, including actions authorized to be taken by the Secretary to develop and promulgate regulations for the establishment of a leasing program authorized by this subtitle before the conduct of the first lease sale.

(3) COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA FOR OTHER ACTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Prior to conducting the first lease sale under this subtitle, the Secretary shall prepare an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to the actions authorized by this subtitle not covered by paragraph (2).

(B) NONLEASING ALTERNATIVES NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in preparing the environmental impact statement under subparagraph (A), the Secretary—

(i) shall—

(I) only identify a preferred action for leasing and a single leasing alternative; and

(II) analyze the environmental effects and potential mitigation measures for those 2 alternatives; and

(ii) is not required—

(I) to identify nonleasing alternative courses of action; or

(II) to analyze the environmental effects of nonleasing alternative courses of action.

(C) DEADLINE.—The identification under subparagraph (B)(i)(I) for the first lease sale conducted under this subtitle shall be completed not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(D) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall only consider public comments that—

(i) specifically address the preferred action of the Secretary; and

(ii) are filed not later than 20 days after the date on which the environmental analysis is published.

(E) COMPLIANCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, compliance with this paragraph is deemed to satisfy all requirements for the analysis and consideration of the environmental effects of proposed leasing under this subtitle.

(d) RELATIONSHIP TO STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this subtitle expands or limits State or local regulatory authority.

(e) SPECIAL AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, after consultation with the State of Alaska, the city of Kaktovik and the North Slope Borough of the State of Alaska, may designate not more than 45,000 acres of the Coastal Plain as a ''Special Area'' if the Secretary determines that the area is of such unique character and interest so as to require special management and regulatory protection.

(2) SADLEROCHIT SPRING AREA.—The Secretary shall designate the Sadlerochit Spring area, consisting of approximately 4,000 acres, as a Special Area.

(3) MANAGEMENT.—Each Special Area shall be managed to protect and preserve the unique and diverse character of the area, including the fish, wildlife, and subsistence resource values of the area.

(4) EXCLUSION FROM LEASING OR SURFACE OCCUPANCY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may exclude any Special Area from leasing.

(B) NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY.—If the Secretary leases a Special Area, or any part of a Special Area, for oil and gas exploration, development, production, or related activities, there shall be no surface occupancy of the land comprising the Special Area.

(5) DIRECTIONAL DRILLING.—Notwithstanding the other provisions of this subsection, the Secretary may lease all or a portion of a Special Area under terms that permit the use of horizontal drilling technology from sites on leases tracts located outside the Special Area.

(f) LIMITATION ON CLOSED AREAS.—The authority of the Secretary to close land on the Coastal Plain to oil and gas leasing, exploration, development, or production shall be limited to the authority provided under this subtitle.

(g) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations necessary to carry out this subtitle, including regulations relating to protection of fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, subsistence resources, and environment of the Coastal Plain.

(2) REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall, through a rulemaking conducted in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, periodically review and, if appropriate, revise the regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) to reflect a preponderance of the best available scientific evidence that has been peer reviewed and obtained by following appropriate, documented scientific procedures, the results of which can be repeated using those same procedures.

SEC. 5004. LEASE SALES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the requirements of this subtitle, the Secretary may lease land under this subtitle to any person qualified to obtain a lease for deposits of oil and gas under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

(b) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall, by regulation and not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, establish procedures for—

(1) receipt and consideration of sealed nominations for any area of the Coastal Plain for inclusion in, or exclusion from, a lease sale;

(2) the holding of lease sales after the nomination process; and

(3) public notice of and comment on designation of areas to be included in, or excluded from, a lease sale.

(c) LEASE SALE BIDS.—Lease sales under this subtitle may be conducted through an Internet leasing program, if the Secretary determines that the Internet leasing program will result in savings to the taxpayer, an increase in the number of bidders participating, and higher returns than oral bidding or a sealed bidding system.

(d) SALE ACREAGES AND SCHEDULE.—The Secretary shall—

(1) offer for lease under this subtitle—

(A) those tracts the Secretary considers to have the greatest potential for the discovery of hydrocarbons, taking into consideration nominations received under subsection (b)(1); and

(B)(i) not fewer than 50,000 acres by not later than 22 months after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(ii) not fewer than an additional 50,000 acres at 6-, 12-, and 18-month intervals following the initial offering under subclause (i);

(2) conduct 4 additional lease sales under the same terms and schedule as the last lease sale under paragraph (1)(B)(ii) not later than 2 years after the date of that sale, if sufficient interest in leasing exists to warrant, in the judgment of the Secretary, the conduct of the sales; and

(3) evaluate the bids in each lease sale under this subsection and issue leases resulting from the sales not later than 90 days after the date on which the sale is completed.

SEC. 5005. GRANT OF LEASES BY THE SECRETARY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may grant to the highest responsible qualified bidder in a lease sale conducted under section 5004 any land to be leased on the Coastal Plain upon payment by the bidder of any bonus as may be accepted by the Secretary.

(b) SUBSEQUENT TRANSFERS.—No lease issued under this subtitle may be sold, exchanged, assigned, sublet, or otherwise transferred except with the approval of the Secretary after the Secretary consults with, and gives due consideration to the views of, the Attorney General.

SEC. 5006. LEASE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

An oil or gas lease issued under this subtitle shall—

(1) provide for the payment of a royalty of not less than 12.5 percent in amount or value of the production removed or sold under the lease, as determined by the Secretary under the regulations applicable to other Federal oil and gas leases;

(2) provide that the Secretary may close, on a seasonal basis, portions of the Coastal Plain to exploratory drilling activities as necessary to protect caribou calving areas and other species of fish and wildlife based on a preponderance of the best available scientific evidence that has been peer reviewed and obtained by following appropriate, documented scientific procedures, the results of which can be repeated using those same procedures;

(3) require that the lessee of land on the Coastal Plain shall be fully responsible and liable for the reclamation of land on the Coastal Plain and any other Federal land that is adversely affected in connection with exploration, development, production, or transportation activities conducted under the lease and on the Coastal Plain by the lessee or by any of the subcontractors or agents of the lessee;

(4) provide that the lessee may not delegate or convey, by contract or otherwise, the reclamation responsibility and liability to another person without the express written approval of the Secretary;

(5) provide that the standard of reclamation for land required to be reclaimed under this subtitle shall be, as nearly as practicable, a condition capable of supporting the uses which the land was capable of supporting prior to any exploration, development, or production activities, or upon application by the lessee, to a higher or better use as certified by the Secretary;

(6) contain terms and conditions relating to protection of fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, subsistence resources, and the environment as required under section 5003(a)(2);

(7) provide that the lessee, agents of the lessee, and contractors of the lessee use best efforts to provide a fair share, as determined by the level of obligation previously agreed to in the 1974 agreement implementing section 29 of the Federal Agreement and Grant of Right of Way for the Operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, of employment and contracting for Alaska Natives and Alaska Native corporations from throughout the State; and

(8) contain such other provisions as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure compliance with this subtitle and the regulations issued pursuant to this subtitle.

SEC. 5007. COASTAL PLAIN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

(a) NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECT STANDARD TO GOVERN AUTHORIZED COASTAL PLAIN ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall, consistent with the requirements of section 5003, administer this subtitle through regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibitions, stipulations, and other provisions that—

(1) ensure the oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities on the Coastal Plain shall not result in any significant adverse effect on fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, or the environment;

(2) require the application of the best commercially available technology for oil and gas exploration, development, and production on all new exploration, development, and production operations; and

(3) ensure that the maximum amount of surface acreage covered by production and support facilities, including airstrips and any areas covered by gravel berms or piers for support of pipelines, does not exceed 10,000 acres on the Coastal Plain for each 100,000 acres of area leased.

(b) SITE-SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION.—With respect to any proposed drilling and related activities, the Secretary shall require that—

(1) a site-specific analysis be made of the probable effects, if any, that the drilling or related activities will have on fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, subsistence resources, and the environment;

(2) a plan be implemented to avoid, minimize, and mitigate (in that order and to the extent practicable) any significant adverse effect identified under paragraph (1); and

(3) the development of the plan shall occur after consultation with the agency or agencies having jurisdiction over matters mitigated by the plan.

(c) REGULATIONS TO PROTECT COASTAL PLAIN FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, SUBSISTENCE USERS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT.—Prior to implementing the leasing program authorized by this subtitle, the Secretary shall prepare and promulgate regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibitions, stipulations, and other measures designed to ensure that the activities undertaken on the Coastal Plain under this subtitle are conducted in a manner consistent with the purposes and environmental requirements of this subtitle.

(d) COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The proposed regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibitions, and stipulations for the leasing program under this subtitle shall require compliance with all applicable provisions of Federal and State environmental law and compliance with the following:

(1) Standards at least as effective as the safety and environmental mitigation measures set forth in items 1 through 29 at pages 167 through 169 of the document of the Department of the Interior entitled ''Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement'' and dated April 1987 relating to the Coastal Plain.

(2) Seasonal limitations on exploration, development, and related activities, where necessary, to avoid significant adverse effects during periods of concentrated fish and wildlife breeding, denning, nesting, spawning, and migration based on a preponderance of the best available scientific evidence that has been peer reviewed and obtained by following appropriate, documented scientific procedures, the results of which can be repeated using those same procedures.

(3) That exploration activities, except for surface geological studies—

(A) be limited to the period between approximately November 1 and May 1 each year; and

(B) be supported, if necessary, by ice roads, winter trails with adequate snow cover, ice pads, ice airstrips, and air transport methods, except that exploration activities may occur at other times if the Secretary finds that the exploration will have no significant adverse effect on the fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, and the environment of the Coastal Plain.

(4) Design safety and construction standards for all pipelines and any access and service roads, that minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, adverse effects on—

(A) the passage of migratory species such as caribou; and

(B) the flow of surface water by requiring the use of culverts, bridges, and other structural devices.

(5) Prohibitions on general public access and use on all pipeline access and service roads.

(6) Stringent reclamation and rehabilitation requirements, consistent with the standards set forth in this subtitle, requiring the removal from the Coastal Plain of all oil and gas development and production facilities, structures, and equipment upon completion of oil and gas production operations, except that the Secretary may exempt from the requirements of this paragraph those facilities, structures, or equipment that the Secretary determines would assist in the management of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and that are donated to the United States for that purpose.

(7) Appropriate prohibitions or restrictions on access by all modes of transportation.

(8) Appropriate prohibitions or restrictions on sand and gravel extraction.

(9) Consolidation of facility siting.

(10) Appropriate prohibitions or restrictions on the use of explosives.

(11) Avoidance, to the extent practicable, of springs, streams, and river systems, the protection of natural surface drainage patterns, wetlands, and riparian habitats, and the regulation of methods or techniques for developing or transporting adequate supplies of water for exploratory drilling.

(12) Avoidance or minimization of air traffic-related disturbance to fish and wildlife.

(13) Treatment and disposal of hazardous and toxic wastes, solid wastes, reserve pit fluids, drilling muds and cuttings, and domestic wastewater, including an annual waste management report, a hazardous materials tracking system, and a prohibition on chlorinated solvents, in accordance with applicable Federal and State environmental law (including regulations).

(14) Fuel storage and oil spill contingency planning.

(15) Research, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

(16) Field crew environmental briefings.

(17) Avoidance of significant adverse effects upon subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping by subsistence users.

(18) Compliance with applicable air and water quality standards.

(19) Appropriate seasonal and safety zone designations around well sites, within which subsistence hunting and trapping shall be limited.

(20) Reasonable stipulations for protection of cultural and archeological resources.

(21) All other protective environmental stipulations, restrictions, terms, and conditions determined necessary by the Secretary.

(e) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing and promulgating regulations, lease terms, conditions, restrictions, prohibitions, and stipulations under this section, the Secretary shall consider—

(1) the stipulations and conditions that govern the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska leasing program, as set forth in the 1999 Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Final Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement;

(2) the environmental protection standards that governed the initial Coastal Plain seismic exploration program under parts 37.31 to 37.33 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(3) the land use stipulations for exploratory drilling on the KIC–ASRC private land that are set forth in appendix 2 of the August 9, 1983, agreement between Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and the United States.

(f) FACILITY CONSOLIDATION PLANNING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, after providing for public notice and comment, prepare and update periodically a plan to govern, guide, and direct the siting and construction of facilities for the exploration, development, production, and transportation of Coastal Plain oil and gas resources.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—The plan shall have the following objectives:

(A) Avoiding unnecessary duplication of facilities and activities.

(B) Encouraging consolidation of common facilities and activities.

(C) Locating or confining facilities and activities to areas that will minimize impact on fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, and the environment.

(D) Using existing facilities wherever practicable.

(E) Enhancing compatibility between wildlife values and development activities.

(g) ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND.—The Secretary shall—

(1) manage public land in the Coastal Plain subject to section 811 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3121); and

(2) ensure that local residents shall have reasonable access to public land in the Coastal Plain for traditional uses.

SEC. 5008. EXPEDITED JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) FILING OF COMPLAINT.—

(1) DEADLINE.—Subject to paragraph (2), any complaint seeking judicial review of—

(A) any provision of this subtitle shall be filed by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) any action of the Secretary under this subtitle shall be filed—

(i) except as provided in clause (ii), during the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the action is challenged; or

(ii) in the case of a complaint based solely on grounds arising after the period described in clause (i), not later than 90 days after the date on which the complainant knew or reasonably should have known of the grounds for the complaint.

(2) VENUE.—Any complaint seeking judicial review of any provision of this subtitle or any action of the Secretary under this subtitle may be filed only in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

(3) LIMITATION ON SCOPE OF CERTAIN REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Judicial review of a decision by the Secretary to conduct a lease sale under this subtitle, including an environmental analysis, shall be—

(i) limited to whether the Secretary has complied with this subtitle; and

(ii) based on the administrative record of that decision.

(B) PRESUMPTION.—The identification by the Secretary of a preferred course of action to enable leasing to proceed and the analysis by the Secretary of environmental effects under this subtitle is presumed to be correct unless shown otherwise by clear and convincing evidence.

(b) LIMITATION ON OTHER REVIEW.—Actions of the Secretary with respect to which review could have been obtained under this section shall not be subject to judicial review in any civil or criminal proceeding for enforcement.

(c) LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COURT COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Sections 504 of title 5 and 2412 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Equal Access to Justice Act''), shall not apply to any action under this subtitle.

(2) COURT COSTS.—A party to any action under this subtitle shall not receive payment from the Federal Government for the attorneys' fees, expenses, or other court costs incurred by the party.

SEC. 5009. TREATMENT OF REVENUES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, 90 percent of the amount of bonus, rental, and royalty revenues from Federal oil and gas leasing and operations authorized under this subtitle shall be deposited in the Treasury.

SEC. 5010. RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS THE COASTAL PLAIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue rights-of-way and easements across the Coastal Plain for the transportation of oil and gas produced under leases under this subtitle—

(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185), without regard to title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3161 et seq.); and

(2) under title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (30 U.S.C. 3161 et seq.), for access authorized by sections 1110 and 1111 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3170, 3171).

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall include in any right-of-way or easement issued under subsection (a) such terms and conditions as may be necessary to ensure that transportation of oil and gas does not result in a significant adverse effect on the fish and wildlife, the habitat of fish and wildlife, subsistence resources, or the environment of the Coastal Plain, including requirements that facilities be sited or designed so as to avoid unnecessary duplication of roads and pipelines.

(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall include in regulations promulgated under section 5003(g) provisions granting rights-of-way and easements described in subsection (a).

SEC. 5011. CONVEYANCE.

In order to maximize Federal revenues by removing clouds on titles to land and clarifying land ownership patterns on the Coastal Plain, and notwithstanding section 1302(h)(2) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3192(h)(2)), the Secretary shall convey—

(1) to the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation, the surface estate of the land described in paragraph 1 of Public Land Order 6959, to the extent necessary to fulfill the entitlement of the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation under sections 12 and 14 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1611, 1613) in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement between the Department of the Interior, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation dated January 22, 1993; and

(2) to the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation the remaining subsurface estate to which the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation is entitled pursuant to the August 9, 1983, agreement between the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and the United States of America.

Subtitle B—Native American Energy

SEC. 5021. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Federal Government has unreasonably interfered with the efforts of Indian tribes to develop energy resources on tribal land; and

(2) Indian tribes should have the opportunity to gain the benefits of the jobs, investment, and economic development to be gained from energy development.

SEC. 5022. APPRAISALS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Title XXVI of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 2607. APPRAISAL REFORMS.

''(a) OPTIONS TO INDIAN TRIBES.—With respect to a transaction involving Indian land or the trust assets of an Indian tribe that requires the approval of the Secretary, any appraisal or other estimates of value relating to fair market value required to be conducted under applicable law, regulation, or policy may be completed by—

''(1) the Secretary;

''(2) the affected Indian tribe; or

''(3) a certified, third-party appraiser pursuant to a contract with the Indian tribe.

''(b) TIME LIMIT ON SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND ACTION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an appraisal conducted by or for an Indian tribe pursuant to paragraphs (2) or (3) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

''(1) review the appraisal; and

''(2) provide to the Indian tribe a written notice of approval or disapproval of the appraisal.

''(c) FAILURE OF SECRETARY TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE.—If the Secretary has failed to approve or disapprove any appraisal by the date that is 60 days after the date on which the appraisal is received, the appraisal shall be deemed approved.

''(d) OPTION OF INDIAN TRIBES TO WAIVE APPRAISAL.—An Indian tribe may waive the requirements of subsection (a) if the Indian tribe provides to the Secretary a written resolution, statement, or other unambiguous indication of tribal intent to waive the requirements that—

''(1) is duly approved by the governing body of the Indian tribe; and

''(2) includes an express waiver by the Indian tribe of any claims for damages the Indian tribe might have against the United States as a result of the waiver.

''(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to implement this section, including standards the Secretary shall use for approving or disapproving an appraisal under subsection (b).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13201 note) is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title XXVI the following:

''Sec. 2607. Appraisal reforms.''.

SEC. 5023. STANDARDIZATION.

As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall implement procedures to ensure that each agency within the Department of the Interior that is involved in the review, approval, and oversight of oil and gas activities on Indian land shall use a uniform system of reference numbers and tracking systems for oil and gas wells.

SEC. 5024. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS OF MAJOR FEDERAL ACTIONS ON INDIAN LAND.

Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''The Congress authorizes''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) REVIEW OF MAJOR FEDERAL ACTIONS ON INDIAN LAND.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS OF INDIAN LAND AND INDIAN TRIBE.—In this subsection, the terms 'Indian land' and 'Indian tribe' have the meaning given those terms in section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501).

''(2) IN GENERAL.—For any major Federal action on Indian land of an Indian tribe requiring the preparation of a statement under subsection (a)(2)(C), the statement shall only be available for review and comment by—

''(A) the members of the Indian tribe; and

''(B) any other individual residing within the affected area.

''(3) REGULATIONS.—The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, in consultation with Indian tribes, shall develop regulations to implement this section, including descriptions of affected areas for specific major Federal actions.''.

SEC. 5025. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term ''agency action'' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) ENERGY RELATED ACTION.—The term ''energy-related action'' means a civil action that—

(A) is filed on or after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) seeks judicial review of a final agency action relating to the issuance of a permit, license, or other form of agency permission allowing—

(i) any person or entity to conduct on Indian Land activities involving the exploration, development, production, or transportation of oil, gas, coal, shale gas, oil shale, geothermal resources, wind or solar resources, underground coal gasification, biomass, or the generation of electricity; or

(ii) any Indian Tribe, or any organization of 2 or more entities, not less than 1 of which is an Indian tribe, to conduct activities involving the exploration, development, production, or transportation of oil, gas, coal, shale gas, oil shale, geothermal resources, wind or solar resources, underground coal gasification, biomass, or the generation of electricity, regardless of where such activities are undertaken.

(3) INDIAN LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''Indian land'' has the meaning given the term in section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501).

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''Indian land'' includes land owned by a Native Corporation (as that term is defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)) under that Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(4) ULTIMATELY PREVAIL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''ultimately prevail'' means, in a final enforceable judgment that the court rules in the party's favor on at least 1 civil claim that is an underlying rationale for the preliminary injunction, administrative stay, or other relief requested by the party.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''ultimately prevail'' does not include circumstances in which the final agency action is modified or amended by the issuing agency unless the modification or amendment is required pursuant to a final enforceable judgment of the court or a court-ordered consent decree.

(b) TIME FOR FILING COMPLAINT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any energy related action shall be filed not later than the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the action or decision by a Federal official that constitutes the covered energy project concerned.

(2) PROHIBITION.—Any energy related action that is not filed within the time period described in paragraph (1) shall be barred.

(c) DISTRICT COURT VENUE AND DEADLINE.—An energy related action—

(1) may only be brought in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia; and

(2) shall be resolved as expeditiously as possible, and in any event not more than 180 days after the energy related action is filed.

(d) APPELLATE REVIEW.—An interlocutory order or final judgment, decree or order of the district court in an energy related action—

(1) may be appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; and

(2) if the court described in paragraph (1) undertakes the review, the court shall resolve the review as expeditiously as possible, and in any event by not later than 180 days after the interlocutory order or final judgment, decree or order of the district court was issued.

(e) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN PAYMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, no award may be made under section 504 of title 5, United States Code, or under section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, and no amounts may be obligated or expended from the Claims and Judgment Fund of the United States Treasury to pay any fees or other expenses under such sections, to any person or party in an energy related action.

(f) LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COURT COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Sections 504 of title 5 and 2412 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Equal Access to Justice Act''), shall not apply to an energy related action.

(2) COURT COSTS.—A party to a covered civil action shall not receive payment from the Federal Government for the attorneys' fees, expenses, or other court costs incurred by the party.

SEC. 5026. TRIBAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.

Unless otherwise explicitly exempted by Federal law enacted after the date of enactment of this Act, any activity conducted or resources harvested or produced pursuant to a tribal resource management plan or an integrated resource management plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior under the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) or the American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), shall be considered a sustainable management practice for purposes of any Federal standard, benefit, or requirement that requires a demonstration of such sustainability.

SEC. 5027. LEASES OF RESTRICTED LANDS FOR THE NAVAJO NATION.

Subsection (e)(1) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415) (commonly known as the ''Long-Term Leasing Act''), is amended—

(1) by striking '', except a lease for'' and inserting '', including leases for'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''25 years, except'' and all that follows through ''; and'' and inserting ''99 years;'';

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) in the case of a lease for the exploration, development, or extraction of mineral resources, including geothermal resources, 25 years, except that the lease may include an option to renew for 1 additional term not to exceed 25 years.''.

SEC. 5028. NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN RULES.

No rule promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior regarding hydraulic fracturing used in the development or production of oil or gas resources shall affect any land held in trust or restricted status for the benefit of Indians except with the express consent of the beneficiary on behalf of which the land is held in trust or restricted status.

Subtitle C—Additional Regulatory Provisions

PART I—STATE AUTHORITY OVER HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

SEC. 5031. FINDING.

Congress finds that given variations in geology, land use, and population, the States are best placed to regulate the process of hydraulic fracturing occurring on any land within the boundaries of the individual State.

SEC. 5032. STATE AUTHORITY.

(a) DEFINITION OF FEDERAL LAND.—In this section, the term ''Federal land'' means—

(1) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702));

(2) National Forest System land;

(3) land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation; and

(4) land under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers.

(b) STATE AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State shall have the sole authority to promulgate or enforce any regulation, guidance, or permit requirement regarding the treatment of a well by the application of fluids under pressure to which propping agents may be added for the expressly designed purpose of initiating or propagating fractures in a target geologic formation in order to enhance production of oil, natural gas, or geothermal production activities on or under any land within the boundaries of the State.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the treatment of a well by the application of fluids under pressure to which propping agents may be added for the expressly designed purpose of initiating or propagating fractures in a target geologic formation in order to enhance production of oil, natural gas, or geothermal production activities on Federal land shall be subject to the law of the State in which the land is located.

PART II—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 5041. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL FEES.

Section 504 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL FEES.—Notwithstanding section 1304 of title 31, no award may be made under this section and no amounts may be obligated or expended from the Claims and Judgment Fund of the Treasury to pay any legal fees of a nongovernmental organization related to an action that (with respect to the United States)—

''(1) prevents, terminates, or reduces access to or the production of—

''(A) energy;

''(B) a mineral resource;

''(C) water by agricultural producers;

''(D) a resource by commercial or recreational fishermen; or

''(E) grazing or timber production on Federal land;

''(2) diminishes the private property value of a property owner; or

''(3) eliminates or prevents 1 or more jobs.''.

SEC. 5042. MASTER LEASING PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, shall not establish a master leasing plan as part of any guidance issued by the Secretary.

(b) EXISTING MASTER LEASING PLANS.—Instruction Memorandum No. 2010–117 and any other master leasing plan described in subsection (a) issued on or before the date of enactment of this Act shall have no force or effect.

TITLE VI—IMPROVING AMERICA'S DOMESTIC REFINING CAPACITY

Subtitle A—Refinery Permitting Reform

SEC. 6001. FINDING.

Congress finds that the domestic refining industry is an important source of jobs and economic growth and whose growth should not be limited by an excessively drawn out permitting and approval process.

SEC. 6002. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) EXPANSION.—The term ''expansion'' means a physical change that results in an increase in the capacity of a refinery.

(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(4) PERMIT.—The term ''permit'' means any permit, license, approval, variance, or other form of authorization that a refiner is required to obtain—

(A) under any Federal law; or

(B) from a State or tribal government agency delegated authority by the Federal Government, or authorized under Federal law, to issue permits.

(5) REFINER.—The term ''refiner'' means a person that—

(A) owns or operates a refinery; or

(B) seeks to become an owner or operator of a refinery.

(6) REFINERY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''refinery'' means—

(i) a facility at which crude oil is refined into transportation fuel or other petroleum products; and

(ii) a coal liquification or coal-to-liquid facility at which coal is processed into synthetic crude oil or any other fuel.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''refinery'' includes an expansion of a refinery.

(7) REFINERY PERMITTING AGREEMENT.—The term ''refinery permitting agreement'' means an agreement entered into between the Administrator and a State or Indian tribe under subsection (c).

(8) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) a State; and

(B) the District of Columbia.

SEC. 6003. STREAMLINING OF REFINERY PERMITTING PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the Governor of a State or the governing body of an Indian tribe, the Administrator shall enter into a refinery permitting agreement with the State or Indian tribe under which the process for obtaining all permits necessary for the construction and operation of a refinery shall be streamlined using a systematic, interdisciplinary multimedia approach, as provided in this section.

(b) AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATOR.—Under a refinery permitting agreement, the Administrator shall have the authority, as applicable and necessary—

(1) to accept from a refiner a consolidated application for all permits that the refiner is required to obtain to construct and operate a refinery;

(2) in consultation and cooperation with each Federal, State, or tribal government agency that is required to make any determination to authorize the issuance of a permit, to establish a schedule under which each agency shall—

(A) concurrently consider, to the maximum extent practicable, each determination to be made; and

(B) complete each step in the permitting process; and

(3) to issue a consolidated permit that combines all permits issued under the schedule established under paragraph (2).

(c) REFINERY PERMITTING AGREEMENTS.—Under a refinery permitting agreement, a State or governing body of an Indian tribe shall agree that—

(1) the Administrator shall have each of the authorities described in subsection (b); and

(2) the State or tribal government agency shall—

(A) in accordance with State law, make such structural and operational changes in the agencies as are necessary to enable the agencies to carry out consolidated, project-wide permit reviews concurrently and in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal agencies; and

(B) comply, to the maximum extent practicable, with the applicable schedule established under subsection (b)(2).

(d) DEADLINES.—

(1) NEW REFINERIES.—In the case of a consolidated permit for the construction of a new refinery, the Administrator and the State or governing body of an Indian tribe shall approve or disapprove the consolidated permit not later than—

(A) 365 days after the date of receipt of an administratively complete application for the consolidated permit; or

(B) on agreement of the applicant, the Administrator, and the State or governing body of the Indian tribe, 90 days after the expiration of the deadline described in subparagraph (A).

(2) EXPANSION OF EXISTING REFINERIES.—In the case of a consolidated permit for the expansion of an existing refinery, the Administrator and the State or governing body of an Indian tribe shall approve or disapprove the consolidated permit not later than—

(A) 120 days after the date of receipt of an administratively complete application for the consolidated permit; or

(B) on agreement of the applicant, the Administrator, and the State or governing body of the Indian tribe, 30 days after the expiration of the deadline described in subparagraph (A).

(e) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each Federal agency that is required to make any determination to authorize the issuance of a permit shall comply with the applicable schedule established under subsection (b)(2).

(f) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any civil action for review of a permit determination under a refinery permitting agreement shall be brought exclusively in the United States district court for the district in which the refinery is located or proposed to be located.

(g) EFFICIENT PERMIT REVIEW.—In order to reduce the duplication of procedures, the Administrator shall use State permitting and monitoring procedures to satisfy substantially equivalent Federal requirements under this subtitle.

(h) SEVERABILITY.—If 1 or more permits that are required for the construction or operation of a refinery are not approved on or before an applicable deadline under subsection (d), the Administrator may issue a consolidated permit that combines all other permits that the refiner is required to obtain, other than any permits that are not approved.

(i) CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—The Administrator, States, and tribal governments shall consult, to the maximum extent practicable, with local governments in carrying out this section.

(j) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) the operation or implementation of any otherwise applicable law regarding permits necessary for the construction and operation of a refinery;

(2) the authority of any unit of local government with respect to the issuance of permits; or

(3) any requirement or ordinance of a local government (such as a zoning regulation).

Subtitle B—Repeal of Renewable Fuel Standard

SEC. 6011. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that the mandates under the renewable fuel standard contained in section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o))—

(1) impose significant costs on American citizens and the American economy, without offering any benefit; and

(2) should be repealed.

SEC. 6012. PHASE OUT OF RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking clause (ii); and

(ii) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking clauses (ii) through (v) and inserting the following:

''(ii) CALENDAR YEARS 2014 THROUGH 2018.—Notwithstanding clause (i), for purposes of subparagraph (A), the applicable volumes of renewable fuel for each of calendar years 2014 through 2018 shall be determined as follows:

''(I) For calendar year 2014, in accordance with the table entitled 'I-2—Proposed 2014 Volume Requirements' of the proposed rule published at pages 71732 through 71784 of volume 78 of the Federal Register (November 29, 2013).

''(II) For calendar year 2015, the applicable volumes established under subclause (I), reduced by 20 percent.

''(III) For calendar year 2016, the applicable volumes established under subclause (I), reduced by 40 percent.

''(IV) For calendar year 2017, the applicable volumes established under subclause (I), reduced by 60 percent.

''(V) For calendar year 2018, the applicable volumes established under subclause (I), reduced by 80 percent.'';

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''2021'' and inserting ''2017'' each place it appears; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting '', subject to the condition that the renewable fuel obligation determined for a calendar year is not more than the applicable volumes established under paragraph (2)(B)(ii)'' before the period; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(13) SUNSET.—The program established under this subsection shall terminate on December 31, 2018.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Effective beginning on January 1, 2019, the regulations contained in subparts K and M of part 80 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on that date of enactment), shall have no force or effect.

TITLE VII—STOPPING EPA OVERREACH

SEC. 7001. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Environmental Protection Agency has exceeded its statutory authority by promulgating regulations that were not contemplated by Congress in the authorizing language of the statutes enacted by Congress;

(2) no Federal agency has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases under current law; and

(3) no attempt to regulate greenhouse gases should be undertaken without further Congressional action.

SEC. 7002. CLARIFICATION OF FEDERAL REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO EXCLUDE GREENHOUSE GASES FROM REGULATION UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT.

(a) REPEAL OF FEDERAL CLIMATE CHANGE REGULATION.—

(1) GREENHOUSE GAS REGULATION UNDER CLEAN AIR ACT.—Section 302(g) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7602(g)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''(g) The term'' and inserting the following:

''(g) AIR POLLUTANT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) EXCLUSION.—The term 'air pollutant' does not include carbon dioxide, water vapor, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, or sulfur hexafluoride.''.

(2) NO REGULATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, nothing in any of the following Acts or any other law authorizes or requires the regulation of climate change or global warming:

(A) The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

(B) The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

(C) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(D) The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(E) The Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

(b) EFFECT ON PROPOSED RULES OF THE EPA.—In accordance with this section, the following proposed or contemplated rules (or any similar or successor rules) of the Environmental Protection Agency shall be void and have no force or effect:

(1) The proposed rule entitled ''Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units'' (published at 79 Fed. Reg. 1430 (January 8, 2014)).

(2) The contemplated rules on carbon pollution for existing power plants.

(3) Any other contemplated or proposed rules proposed to be issued pursuant to the purported authority described in subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 7003. JOBS ANALYSIS FOR ALL EPA REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before proposing or finalizing any regulation, rule, or policy, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall provide an analysis of the regulation, rule, or policy and describe the direct and indirect net and gross impact of the regulation, rule, or policy on employment in the United States.

(b) LIMITATION.—No regulation, rule, or policy described in subsection (a) shall take effect if the regulation, rule, or policy has a negative impact on employment in the United States unless the regulation, rule, or policy is approved by Congress and signed by the President.

TITLE VIII—DEBT FREEDOM FUND

SEC. 8001. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the national debt being over $17,000,000,000,000 in 2014—

(A) threatens the current and future prosperity of the United States;

(B) undermines the national security interests of the United States; and

(C) imposes a burden on future generations of United States citizens; and

(2) revenue generated from the development of the natural resources in the United States should be used to reduce the national debt.

SEC. 8002. DEBT FREEDOM FUND.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in accordance with all revenue sharing arrangement with States in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, an amount equal to the additional amount of Federal funds generated by the programs and activities under this division (and the amendments made by this division)—

(1) shall be deposited in a special trust fund account in the Treasury, to be known as the ''Debt Freedom Fund''; and

(2) shall not be withdrawn for any purpose other than to pay down the national debt of the United States, for which purpose payments shall be made expeditiously.

SA 2977. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 133, after line 25, add the following:

Subtitle F—Energy Tax Prevention

SEC. 451. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2014''.

SEC. 452. NO REGULATION OF EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 330. NO REGULATION OF EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES.

''(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'greenhouse gas' means any of the following:

''(1) Water vapor.

''(2) Carbon dioxide.

''(3) Methane.

''(4) Nitrous oxide.

''(5) Sulfur hexafluoride.

''(6) Hydrofluorocarbons.

''(7) Perfluorocarbons.

''(8) Any other substance subject to, or proposed to be subject to, regulation, action, or consideration under this Act to address climate change.

''(b) LIMITATIONS ON AGENCY ACTION.—

''(1) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may not—

''(i) promulgate any regulation under this Act concerning, take action relating to, or take into consideration the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change, ocean acidification, sea level rise, or any other effect alleged to be caused by climate change; or

''(ii)(I) regulate the emission of methane from oil and gas industry at any point along the production, distribution, processing, refining, or transport value chain; or

''(II) take any regulatory, enforcement, or official action to carry out the Climate Action Plan Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions of the President (March 2014).

''(B) AIR POLLUTANT DEFINITION.—The definition of the term 'air pollutant' in section 302(g) does not include a greenhouse gas. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, such definition may include a greenhouse gas for purposes of addressing concerns other than climate change.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not prohibit the following:

''(A) Notwithstanding paragraph (4)(B), implementation and enforcement of the rule entitled 'Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards and Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards' (75 Fed. Reg. 25324 (May 7, 2010) and without further revision) and finalization, implementation, enforcement, and revision of the proposed rule entitled 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicles' published at 75 Fed. Reg. 74152 (November 30, 2010).

''(B) Implementation and enforcement of section 211(o).

''(C) Statutorily authorized Federal research, development, and demonstration programs addressing climate change.

''(D) Implementation and enforcement of title VI to the extent such implementation or enforcement only involves one or more class I or class II substances (as such terms are defined in section 601).

''(E) Implementation and enforcement of section 821 (42 U.S.C. 7651k note) of Public Law 101–549 (commonly referred to as the 'Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990').

''(3) INAPPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS.—Nothing listed in paragraph (2) shall cause a greenhouse gas to be subject to part C of title I (relating to prevention of significant deterioration of air quality) or considered an air pollutant for purposes of title V (relating to air permits).

''(4) CERTAIN PRIOR AGENCY ACTIONS.—The following rules, and actions (including any supplement or revision to such rules and actions) are repealed and shall have no legal effect:

''(A) 'Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases', published at 74 Fed. Reg. 56260 (October 30, 2009) and all other rules or guidance regarding the greenhouse gas reporting program of the Administrator.

''(B) 'Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases under section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act' published at 74 Fed. Reg. 66496 (Dec. 15, 2009).

''(C) 'Reconsideration of the Interpretation of Regulations That Determine Pollutants Covered by Clean Air Act Permitting Programs' published at 75 Fed. Reg. 17004 (April 2, 2010) and the memorandum from Stephen L. Johnson, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, to EPA Regional Administrators, concerning 'EPA's Interpretation of Regulations that Determine Pollutants Covered by Federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permit Program' (Dec. 18, 2008).

''(D) 'Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule', published at 75 Fed. Reg. 31514 (June 3, 2010).

''(E) 'Action To Ensure Authority To Issue Permits Under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program to Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Finding of Substantial Inadequacy and SIP Call', published at 75 Fed. Reg. 77698 (December 13, 2010).

''(F) 'Action To Ensure Authority To Issue Permits Under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program to Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Finding of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan Revisions Required for Greenhouse Gases', published at 75 Fed. Reg. 81874 (December 29, 2010).

''(G) 'Action To Ensure Authority To Issue Permits Under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program to Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Federal Implementation Plan', published at 75 Fed. Reg. 82246 (December 30, 2010).

''(H) 'Action To Ensure Authority To Implement Title V Permitting Programs Under the Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule', published at 75 Fed. Reg. 82254 (December 30, 2010).

''(I) 'Determinations Concerning Need for Error Correction, Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval, and Federal Implementation Plan Regarding Texas Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program', published at 75 Fed. Reg. 82430 (December 30, 2010).

''(J) 'Limitation of Approval of Prevention of Significant Deterioration Provisions Concerning Greenhouse Gas Emitting-Sources in State Implementation Plans; Final Rule', published at 75 Fed. Reg. 82536 (December 30, 2010).

''(K) 'Determinations Concerning Need for Error Correction, Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval, and Federal Implementation Plan Regarding Texas Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program; Proposed Rule', published at 75 Fed. Reg. 82365 (December 30, 2010).

''(L) 'Determinations Concerning Need for Error Correction, Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval, and Federal Implementation Plan Regarding Texas's Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program', published at 76 Fed. Reg. 25178 (May 3, 2011).

''(M) Proposed rule on 'Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units', published at 77 Fed. Reg. 22392 (Apr. 13, 2012).

''(N) 'Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Step 3 and GHG Plantwide Applicability Limits', published at 77 Fed. Reg. 41051 (July 12, 2012).

''(O) Proposed rule on 'Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units', published at 79 Fed. Reg. 1430 (Jan. 8, 2014).

''(P) 'Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order No. 12866' of the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon.

''(Q) 'Draft NEPA Guidance on Consideration of the Effects of Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions' of the Council on Environmental Quality.

''(R) Except for action listed in paragraph (2), any other Federal action under this Act occurring before the date of enactment of this section that applies a stationary source permitting requirement or an emissions standard for a greenhouse gas to address climate change.

''(5) STATE ACTION.—

''(A) NO LIMITATION.—This section does not limit or otherwise affect the authority of a State to adopt, amend, enforce, or repeal State laws and regulations pertaining to the emission of a greenhouse gas.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—

''(i) RULE.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any provision described in clause (ii)—

''(I) is not federally enforceable;

''(II) is not deemed to be a part of Federal law; and

''(III) is deemed to be stricken from the plan described in clause (ii)(I) or the program or permit described in clause (ii)(II), as applicable.

''(ii) PROVISIONS DEFINED.—For purposes of clause (i), the term 'provision' means any provision that—

''(I) is contained in a State implementation plan under section 110 and authorizes or requires a limitation on, or imposes a permit requirement for, the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change; or

''(II) is part of an operating permit program under title V, or a permit issued pursuant to title V, and authorizes or requires a limitation on the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change.

''(C) ACTION BY ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator may not approve or make federally enforceable any provision described in subparagraph (B)(ii).''.

SEC. 453. PRESERVING 1 NATIONAL STANDARD FOR AUTOMOBILES.

Section 209(b) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7543(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) GREENHOUSE GASES.—With respect to standards for emissions of greenhouse gases (as defined in section 330) for model year 2017 or any subsequent model year for new motor vehicles and new motor vehicle engines—

''(A) the Administrator may not waive application of subsection (a); and

''(B) no waiver granted prior to the date of enactment of this paragraph may be considered to waive the application of subsection (a).''.

SA 2978. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which

was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Alternative Fuel Vehicle Development Act''.

SEC. 602. ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES.

(a) MAXIMUM FUEL ECONOMY INCREASE FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32906(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''(except an electric automobile)'' and inserting ''(except an electric automobile or, beginning with model year 2016, an alternative fueled automobile that does not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 32901(a)(1))''.

(b) MINIMUM DRIVING RANGES FOR DUAL FUELED PASSENGER AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32901(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting '', except that beginning with model year 2016, alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1) shall have a minimum driving range of 150 miles'' after ''at least 200 miles''; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by adding at the end the following: ''Beginning with model year 2016, if the Secretary prescribes a minimum driving range of 150 miles for alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1), subparagraph (A) shall not apply to dual fueled automobiles (except electric automobiles).''.

(c) MANUFACTURING PROVISION FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32905(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(2) by striking ''For any model'' and inserting the following:

''(1) MODEL YEARS 1993 THROUGH 2015.—For any model'';

(3) in paragraph (1), as redesignated, by striking ''2019'' and inserting ''2015''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) MODEL YEARS AFTER 2015.—For any model of gaseous fuel dual fueled automobile manufactured by a manufacturer after model year 2015, the Administrator shall calculate fuel economy as a weighted harmonic average of the fuel economy on gaseous fuel as measured under subsection (c) and the fuel economy on gasoline or diesel fuel as measured under section 32904(c). The Administrator shall apply the utility factors set forth in the table under section 600.510–12(c)(2)(vii)(A) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(3) MODEL YEARS AFTER 2016.—Beginning with model year 2017, the manufacturer may elect to utilize the utility factors set forth under subsection (e)(1) for the purposes of calculating fuel economy under paragraph (2).''.

(d) ELECTRIC DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32905 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) ELECTRIC DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the manufacturer, the Administrator may measure the fuel economy for any model of dual fueled automobile manufactured after model year 2015 that is capable of operating on electricity in addition to gasoline or diesel fuel, obtains its electricity from a source external to the vehicle, and meets the minimum driving range requirements established by the Secretary for dual fueled electric automobiles, by dividing 1.0 by the sum of—

''(A) the percentage utilization of the model on gasoline or diesel fuel, as determined by a formula based on the model's alternative fuel range, divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(c); and

''(B) the percentage utilization of the model on electricity, as determined by a formula based on the model's alternative fuel range, divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(a)(2).

''(2) ALTERNATIVE UTILIZATION.—The Administrator may adapt the utility factor established under paragraph (1) for alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 32901(a)(1))''.

''(3) ALTERNATIVE CALCULATION.—If the manufacturer does not request that the Administrator calculate the manufacturing incentive for its electric dual fueled automobiles in accordance with paragraph (1), the Administrator shall calculate such incentive for such automobiles manufactured by such manufacturer after model year 2015 in accordance with subsection (b).''.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 32906(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 32905(e)'' and inserting ''section 32905(f)''.

SEC. 603. HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE FACILITIES.

Section 166 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (b)(5), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) INHERENTLY LOW-EMISSION VEHICLES.—If a State agency establishes procedures for enforcing the restrictions on the use of a HOV facility by vehicles listed in clauses (i) and (ii), the State agency may allow the use of the HOV facility by—

''(i) alternative fuel vehicles; and

''(ii) new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles (as defined in section 30D(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).''; and

(2) in subparagraph (f)(1), by inserting ''solely'' before ''operating''.

SEC. 604. STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, after consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) describes options to incentivize the development of public compressed natural gas fueling stations; and

(2) analyzes a variety of possible financing tools, which could include—

(A) Federal grants and credit assistance;

(B) public-private partnerships; and

(C) membership-based cooperatives.

SA 2979. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. . ANALYSIS OF EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Environmental Protection Agency has systematically distorted the true impact of regulations promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) on job creation by using incomplete analyses to assess effects on employment, primarily as a result of the Environmental Protection Agency failing to take into account the cascading effects of a regulatory change across interconnected industries and markets nationwide;

(2) despite the Environmental Protection Agency finding that the impact of certain air pollution regulations will result in net job creation, implementation of the air pollution regulations will actually require billions of dollars in compliance costs, resulting in reduced business profits and millions of actual job losses;

(3)(A) the analysis of the Environmental Protection Agency of the final rule of the Agency entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Fossil-Fuel-Fired Electric Utility, Industrial-Commercial-Institutional, and Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units'' (77 Fed. Reg. 9304 (Feb. 16, 2012)) estimated that implementation of the final rule would result in the creation of 46,000 temporary construction jobs and 8,000 net new permanent jobs; but

(B) a private study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting, using a ''whole economy'' model, estimated that implementation of the final rule described in subparagraph (A) would result in a negative impact on the income of workers in an amount equivalent to 180,000 to 215,000 lost jobs in 2015 and 50,000 to 85,000 lost jobs each year thereafter;

(4)(A) the analysis of the Environmental Protection Agency of the final rule of the Agency entitled ''Federal Implementation Plans: Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter and Ozone and Correction of SIP Approvals'' (76 Fed. Reg. 48208 (Aug. 8, 2011)) estimated that implementation of the final rule would result in the creation of 700 jobs per year; but

(B) a private study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting estimated that implementation of the final rule described in subparagraph (A) would result in the elimination of a total of 34,000 jobs during the period beginning in calendar year 2013 and ending in calendar year 2037;

(5)(A) the analysis of the Environmental Protection Agency of the final rules of the Agency entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters'' (76 Fed. Reg. 1.5608 (March 21, 2011)) and ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air. Pollutants for Area Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers'' (76 Fed. Reg. 15554 (March 21, 2011)) estimated that implementation of the final rules would result in the creation of 2,200 jobs per year; but

(B) a private study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting estimated that implementation of the final rules described in subparagraph (A) would result in the elimination of 28,000 jobs per year during. the period beginning in calendar year 2013 and ending in calendar year 2037;

(6) implementation of certain air pollution rules of the Environmental Protection Agency that have not been reviewed, updated, or finalized as of the date of enactment of this Act, such as regulations on greenhouse gas emissions and the update or review of national ambient air quality standards, are

predicted to result in significant and negative employment impacts, but the Agency has not yet fully studied or disclosed the full impacts of existing Agency regulations;

(7) in reviewing, developing, or updating any regulations promulgated under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) after the date of enactment of this Act, the Environmental Protection Agency must be required to accurately disclose the adverse impact the existing regulations of the Agency will have on jobs and employment levels across the economy in the United States and disclose those impacts to the American people before issuing a final rule; and

(8) although since 1977, section 321(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7621(a)) has required the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to ''conduct continuing evaluations of potential loss or shifts of employment which may result from the administration or enforcement of the provision of [the Clean Air Act] and applicable implementation plans, including where appropriate, investigating threatened plant closures or reductions in employment allegedly resulting from such administration or enforcement'', the Environmental Protection Agency has failed to undertake that analysis or conduct a comprehensive study that considers the impact of programs carried out under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7491. et seq.) on jobs and changes in employment.

(b) PROHIBITION.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not propose or finalize any major rule (as defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) until after the date on which the Administrator—

(1) completes an economy-wide analysis capturing the costs and cascading effects across industry sectors and markets in the United States of the implementation of major rules promulgated under the Clean Air Act (42 7401 et seq.); and

(2) establishes a process to update that analysis not less frequently than semiannually, so as to provide for the continuing evaluation of potential loss or shifts in employment, pursuant to section 321(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7621(a)), that may result from the implementation of major rules under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

SA 2980. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 30___. FEDERAL PURCHASE REQUIREMENT.

Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term 'renewable energy' means electric or thermal energy generated from, or avoided by, solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal), geothermal, municipal solid waste, or new hydroelectric generation capacity achieved from increased efficiency or an addition of new capacity at an existing hydroelectric project.''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately;

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking ''For purposes'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) SEPARATE CALCULATION.—For purposes of determining compliance with the requirements of this section, any energy consumption that is avoided through the use of renewable energy shall be considered to be renewable energy produced.''.

SA 2981. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. NATURAL GAS EXPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(c) For purposes'' and inserting the following:

''(c) EXPEDITED APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRY.—In this subsection, the term 'World Trade Organization member country' has the meaning given the term 'WTO member country' in section 2 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501).

''(2) EXPEDITED APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—For purposes''; and

(2) in paragraph (2) (as so designated), by striking ''nation with which there is in effect a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas'' and inserting ''World Trade Organization member country''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to applications for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) that are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2982. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At end of the bill, add the following:

DIVISION B—SAVING COAL JOBS

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Saving Coal Jobs Act of 2014''.

TITLE XXI—PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX

SEC. 2101. PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX.

(a) FINDINGS; PURPOSES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) on June 25, 2013, President Obama issued a Presidential memorandum directing the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue regulations relating to power sector carbon pollution standards for existing coal fired power plants;

(B) the issuance of that memorandum circumvents Congress and the will of the people of the United States;

(C) any action to control emissions of greenhouse gases from existing coal fired power plants in the United States by mandating a national energy tax would devastate major sectors of the economy, cost thousands of jobs, and increase energy costs for low-income households, small businesses, and seniors on fixed income;

(D) joblessness increases the likelihood of hospital visits, illnesses, and premature deaths;

(E) according to testimony on June 15, 2011, before the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate by Dr. Harvey Brenner of Johns Hopkins University, ''The unemployment rate is well established as a risk factor for elevated illness and mortality rates in epidemiological studies performed since the early 1980s. In addition to influences on mental disorder, suicide and alcohol abuse and alcoholism, unemployment is also an important risk factor in cardiovascular disease and overall decreases in life expectancy.'';

(F) according to the National Center for Health Statistics, ''children in poor families were four times as likely to be in fair or poor health as children that were not poor'';

(G) any major decision that would cost the economy of the United States millions of dollars and lead to serious negative health effects for the people of the United States should be debated and explicitly authorized by Congress, not approved by a Presidential memorandum or regulations; and

(H) any policy adopted by Congress should make United States energy as clean as practicable, as quickly as practicable, without increasing the cost of energy for struggling families, seniors, low-income households, and small businesses.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(A) to ensure that—

(i) a national energy tax is not imposed on the economy of the United States; and

(ii) struggling families, seniors, low-income households, and small businesses do not experience skyrocketing electricity bills and joblessness;

(B) to protect the people of the United States, particularly families, seniors, and children, from the serious negative health effects of joblessness;

(C) to allow sufficient time for Congress to develop and authorize an appropriate mechanism to address the energy needs of the United States and the potential challenges posed by severe weather; and

(D) to restore the legislative process and congressional authority over the energy policy of the United States.

(b) PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of a Federal agency shall not promulgate any regulation relating to power sector carbon pollution standards or any substantially similar regulation on or after June 25, 2013, unless that regulation is explicitly authorized by an Act of Congress.

TITLE XXII—PERMITS

SEC. 2201. NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM.

(a) APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE.—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) GUIDANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'guidance' means draft, interim, or final guidance issued by the Administrator.

''(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'guidance' includes—

''(I) the comprehensive guidance issued by the Administrator and dated April 1, 2010;

''(II) the proposed guidance entitled 'Draft Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act' and dated April 28, 2011;

''(III) the final guidance proposed by the Administrator and dated July 21, 2011; and

''(IV) any other document or paper issued by the Administrator through any process other than the notice and comment rulemaking process.

''(B) NEW PERMIT.—The term 'new permit' means a permit covering discharges from a structure—

''(i) that is issued under this section by a permitting authority; and

''(ii) for which an application is—

''(I) pending as of the date of enactment of this subsection; or

''(II) filed on or after the date of enactment of this subsection.

''(C) PERMITTING AUTHORITY.—The term 'permitting authority' means—

''(i) the Administrator; or

''(ii) a State, acting pursuant to a State program that is equivalent to the program under this section and approved by the Administrator.

''(2) PERMITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in making a determination whether to approve a new permit or a renewed permit, the permitting authority—

''(i) shall base the determination only on compliance with regulations issued by the Administrator or the permitting authority; and

''(ii) shall not base the determination on the extent of adherence of the applicant for the new permit or renewed permit to guidance.

''(B) NEW PERMITS.—If the permitting authority does not approve or deny an application for a new permit by the date that is 270 days after the date of receipt of the application for the new permit, the applicant may operate as if the application were approved in accordance with Federal law for the period of time for which a permit from the same industry would be approved.

''(C) SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETENESS.—In determining whether an application for a new permit or a renewed permit received under this paragraph is substantially complete, the permitting authority shall use standards for determining substantial completeness of similar permits for similar facilities submitted in fiscal year 2007.''.

(b) STATE PERMIT PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) STATE PERMIT PROGRAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—At any time after the promulgation of the guidelines required by section 304(a)(2), the Governor of each State desiring to administer a permit program for discharges into navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the State may submit to the Administrator—

''(A) a full and complete description of the program the State proposes to establish and administer under State law or under an interstate compact; and

''(B) a statement from the attorney general (or the attorney for those State water pollution control agencies that have independent legal counsel), or from the chief legal officer in the case of an interstate agency, that the laws of the State, or the interstate compact, as applicable, provide adequate authority to carry out the described program.

''(2) APPROVAL.—The Administrator shall approve each program for which a description is submitted under paragraph (1) unless the Administrator determines that adequate authority does not exist—

''(A) to issue permits that—

''(i) apply, and ensure compliance with, any applicable requirements of sections 301, 302, 306, 307, and 403;

''(ii) are for fixed terms not exceeding 5 years;

''(iii) can be terminated or modified for cause, including—

''(I) a violation of any condition of the permit;

''(II) obtaining a permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts; and

''(III) a change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted discharge; and

''(iv) control the disposal of pollutants into wells;

''(B)(i) to issue permits that apply, and ensure compliance with, all applicable requirements of section 308; or

''(ii) to inspect, monitor, enter, and require reports to at least the same extent as required in section 308;

''(C) to ensure that the public, and any other State the waters of which may be affected, receives notice of each application for a permit and an opportunity for a public hearing before a ruling on each application;

''(D) to ensure that the Administrator receives notice and a copy of each application for a permit;

''(E) to ensure that any State (other than the permitting State), whose waters may be affected by the issuance of a permit may submit written recommendations to the permitting State and the Administrator with respect to any permit application and, if any part of the written recommendations are not accepted by the permitting State, that the permitting State will notify the affected State and the Administrator in writing of the failure of the State to accept the recommendations, including the reasons for not accepting the recommendations;

''(F) to ensure that no permit will be issued if, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Army (acting through the Chief of Engineers), after consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, anchorage and navigation of any of the navigable waters would be substantially impaired by the issuance of the permit;

''(G) to abate violations of the permit or the permit program, including civil and criminal penalties and other means of enforcement;

''(H) to ensure that any permit for a discharge from a publicly owned treatment works includes conditions to require the identification in terms of character and volume of pollutants of any significant source introducing pollutants subject to pretreatment standards under section 307(b) into the treatment works and a program to ensure compliance with those pretreatment standards by each source, in addition to adequate notice, which shall include information on the quality and quantity of effluent to be introduced into the treatment works and any anticipated impact of the change in the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the publicly owned treatment works, to the permitting agency of—

''(i) new introductions into the treatment works of pollutants from any source that would be a new source (as defined in section 306(a)) if the source were discharging pollutants;

''(ii) new introductions of pollutants into the treatment works from a source that would be subject to section 301 if the source were discharging those pollutants; or

''(iii) a substantial change in volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the treatment works by a source introducing pollutants into the treatment works at the time of issuance of the permit; and

''(I) to ensure that any industrial user of any publicly owned treatment works will comply with sections 204(b), 307, and 308.

''(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Administrator may not disapprove or withdraw approval of a program under this subsection on the basis of the following:

''(A) The failure of the program to incorporate or comply with guidance (as defined in subsection (s)(1)).

''(B) The implementation of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 309 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1319) is amended—

(i) in subsection (c)—

(I) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''402(b)(8)'' and inserting ''402(b)(2)(H)''; and

(II) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''402(b)(8)'' and inserting ''402(b)(2)(H)''; and

(ii) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by striking ''402(b)(8)'' and inserting ''402(b)(2)(H)''.

(B) Section 402(m) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(m)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''subsection (b)(8) of this section'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(2)(H)''.

(c) SUSPENSION OF FEDERAL PROGRAM.—Section 402(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(c)) is amended—

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

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

''(4) LIMITATION ON DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3), the Administrator may not disapprove or withdraw approval of a State program under subsection (b) on the basis of the failure of the following:

''(A) The failure of the program to incorporate or comply with guidance (as defined in subsection (s)(1)).

''(B) The implementation of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).''.

(d) NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 402(d)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(2)'' and all that follows through the end of the first sentence and inserting the following:

''(2) OBJECTION BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), no permit shall issue if—

''(i) not later than 90 days after the date on which the Administrator receives notification under subsection (b)(2)(E), the Administrator objects in writing to the issuance of the permit; or

''(ii) not later than 90 days after the date on which the proposed permit of the State is transmitted to the Administrator, the Administrator objects in writing to the issuance of the permit as being outside the guidelines and requirements of this Act.'';

(2) in the second sentence, by striking ''Whenever the Administrator'' and inserting the following:

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—If the Administrator''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) EXCEPTION.—The Administrator shall not object to or deny the issuance of a permit by a State under subsection (b) or (s) based on the following:

''(i) Guidance, as that term is defined in subsection (s)(1).

''(ii) The interpretation of the Administrator of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).''.

SEC. 2202. PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and all that follows through ''SEC. 404. (a) The Secretary may issue'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 404. PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.

''(a) PERMITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(2) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL.—

''(A) PERMIT APPLICATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), if an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, as appropriate, is required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Secretary shall—

''(I) begin the process not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a permit application; and

''(II) approve or deny an application for a permit under this subsection not later than the latter of—

''(aa) if an agency carries out an environmental assessment that leads to a finding of no significant impact, the date on which the finding of no significant impact is issued; or

''(bb) if an agency carries out an environmental assessment that leads to a record of decision, 15 days after the date on which the record of decision on an environmental impact statement is issued.

''(ii) PROCESSES.—Notwithstanding clause (i), regardless of whether the Secretary has commenced an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement by the date described in clause (i)(I), the following deadlines shall apply:

''(I) An environmental assessment carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be completed not later than 1 year after the deadline for commencing the permit process under clause (i)(I).

''(II) An environmental impact statement carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be completed not later than 2 years after the deadline for commencing the permit process under clause (i)(I).

''(B) FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Secretary fails to act by the deadline specified in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A)—

''(i) the application, and the permit requested in the application, shall be considered to be approved;

''(ii) the Secretary shall issue a permit to the applicant; and

''(iii) the permit shall not be subject to judicial review.''.

(b) STATE PERMITTING PROGRAMS.—Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) through (4), until the Secretary has issued a permit under this section, the Administrator is authorized to prohibit the specification (including the withdrawal of specification) of any defined area as a disposal site, and deny or restrict the use of any defined area for specification (including the withdrawal of specification) as a disposal site, if the Administrator determines, after notice and opportunity for public hearings, that the discharge of the materials into the area will have an unacceptable adverse effect on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds or fishery areas (including spawning and breeding areas), wildlife, or recreational areas.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—Before making a determination under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consult with the Secretary.

''(3) FINDINGS.—The Administrator shall set forth in writing and make public the findings of the Administrator and the reasons of the Administrator for making any determination under this subsection.

''(4) AUTHORITY OF STATE PERMITTING PROGRAMS.—This subsection shall not apply to any permit if the State in which the discharge originates or will originate does not concur with the determination of the Administrator that the discharge will result in an unacceptable adverse effect as described in paragraph (1).''.

(c) STATE PROGRAMS.—Section 404(g)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(g)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''for the discharge'' and inserting ''for all or part of the discharges''.

SEC. 2203. IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGULATORY ACTIVITY ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) COVERED ACTION.—The term ''covered action'' means any of the following actions taken by the Administrator under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.):

(A) Issuing a regulation, policy statement, guidance, response to a petition, or other requirement.

(B) Implementing a new or substantially altered program.

(3) MORE THAN A DE MINIMIS NEGATIVE IMPACT.—The term ''more than a de minimis negative impact'' means the following:

(A) With respect to employment levels, a loss of more than 100 jobs, except that any offsetting job gains that result from the hypothetical creation of new jobs through new technologies or government employment may not be used in the job loss calculation.

(B) With respect to economic activity, a decrease in economic activity of more than $1,000,000 over any calendar year, except that any offsetting economic activity that results from the hypothetical creation of new economic activity through new technologies or government employment may not be used in the economic activity calculation.

(b) ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS OF ACTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.—

(1) ANALYSIS.—Before taking a covered action, the Administrator shall analyze the impact, disaggregated by State, of the covered action on employment levels and economic activity, including estimated job losses and decreased economic activity.

(2) ECONOMIC MODELS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator shall use the best available economic models.

(B) ANNUAL GAO REPORT.—Not later than December 31st of each year, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the economic models used by the Administrator to carry out this subsection.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—With respect to any covered action, the Administrator shall—

(A) post the analysis under paragraph (1) as a link on the main page of the public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(B) request that the Governor of any State experiencing more than a de minimis negative impact post the analysis in the Capitol of the State.

(c) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator concludes under subsection (b)(1) that a covered action will have more than a de minimis negative impact on employment levels or economic activity in a State, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing in each such State at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the covered action.

(2) TIME, LOCATION, AND SELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A public hearing required under paragraph (1) shall be held at a convenient time and location for impacted residents.

(B) PRIORITY.—In selecting a location for such a public hearing, the Administrator shall give priority to locations in the State that will experience the greatest number of job losses.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator concludes under subsection (b)(1) that a covered action will have more than a de minimis negative impact on employment levels or economic activity in any State, the Administrator shall give notice of such impact to the congressional delegation, Governor, and legislature of the State at least 45 days before the effective date of the covered action.

SEC. 2204. IDENTIFICATION OF WATERS PROTECTED BY THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not—

(1) finalize, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed guidance described in the notice of availability and request for comments entitled ''EPA and Army Corps of Engineers Guidance Regarding Identification of Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act'' (EPA–HQ–OW–2011–0409) (76 Fed. Reg. 24479 (May 2, 2011)); and

(2) use the guidance described in paragraph (1), any successor document, or any substantially similar guidance made publicly available on or after December 3, 2008, as the basis for any decision regarding the scope of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or any rulemaking.

(b) RULES.—The use of the guidance described in subsection (a)(1), or any successor document or substantially similar guidance made publicly available on or after December 3, 2008, as the basis for any rule shall be grounds for vacating the rule.

SEC. 2205. LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY TO MODIFY STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.

(a) STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—Section 303(c)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking ''(4) The'' and inserting the following:

''(4) PROMULGATION OF REVISED OR NEW STANDARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The'';

(3) by striking ''The Administrator shall promulgate'' and inserting the following:

''(B) DEADLINE.—The Administrator shall promulgate;'' and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, the Administrator may not promulgate a revised or new standard for a pollutant in any case in which the State has submitted to the Administrator and the Administrator has approved a water quality standard for that pollutant, unless the State concurs with the determination of the Administrator that the revised or new standard is necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.''.

(b) FEDERAL LICENSES AND PERMITS.—Section 401(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) STATE OR INTERSTATE AGENCY DETERMINATION.—With respect to any discharge, if a State or interstate agency having jurisdiction over the navigable waters at the point at which the discharge originates or will originate determines under paragraph (1) that the discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307, the Administrator may not take any action to supersede the determination.''.

SEC. 2206. STATE AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY WATERS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE.

Section 303(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) STATE AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY WATERS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall submit to the Administrator from time to time, with the first such submission not later than 180 days after the date of publication of the first identification of pollutants under section 304(a)(2)(D), the waters identified and the loads established under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1).

''(B) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of submission, the Administrator shall approve the State identification and load or announce the disagreement of the Administrator with the State identification and load.

''(ii) APPROVAL.—If the Administrator approves the identification and load submitted by the State under this subsection, the State shall incorporate the identification and load into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

''(iii) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the identification and load submitted by the State under this subsection. the Administrator shall submit, not later than 30 days after the date that the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the submission of the State, to the State the written recommendation of the Administrator of those additional waters that the Administrator identifies and such loads for such waters as the Administrator believes are necessary to implement the water quality standards applicable to the waters.

''(C) ACTION BY STATE.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of the recommendation of the Administrator, the State shall—

''(i) disregard the recommendation of the Administrator in full and incorporate its own identification and load into the current plan of the State under subsection (e);

''(ii) accept the recommendation of the Administrator in full and incorporate its identification and load as amended by the recommendation of the Administrator into the current plan of the State under subsection (e); or

''(iii) accept the recommendation of the Administrator in part, identifying certain additional waters and certain additional loads proposed by the Administrator to be added to the State's identification and load and incorporate the State's identification and load as amended into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

''(D) NONCOMPLIANCE BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator fails to approve the State identification and load or announce the disagreement of the Administrator with the State identification and load within the time specified in this subsection—

''(I) the identification and load of the State shall be considered approved; and

''(II) the State shall incorporate the identification and load that the State submitted into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

''(ii) RECOMMENDATIONS NOT SUBMITTED.—If the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the identification and load of the State but fails to submit the written recommendation of the Administrator to the State within 30 days as required by subparagraph (B)(iii)—

''(I) the identification and load of the State shall be considered approved; and

''(II) the State shall incorporate the identification and load that the State submitted into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

''(E) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply to any decision made by the Administrator under this subsection issued on or after March 1, 2013.''.

SA 2983. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 305. STUDY AND REPORT ON ENERGY SAVINGS BENEFITS OF OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

(a) DEFINITION OF OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.—In this section, the term ''operational efficiency programs and services'' means programs and services that use information and communications technologies (including computer hardware, energy efficiency software, and power management tools) to operate buildings and equipment in the optimum manner at the optimum times.

(b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study and issue a report that quantifies the energy savings benefits of operational efficiency programs and services for commercial, institutional, industrial, and governmental entities, including Federal agencies.

(c) MEASUREMENT AND VERIFICATION OF ENERGY SAVINGS.—The report required under this section shall recommend methodologies or protocols for utilities, utility regulators, and Federal agencies to evaluate, measure, and verify energy savings from operational efficiency programs and services.

SA 2984. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 117, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 123, line 25, and insert the following:

(8) APPLICABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION DATE.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and before December 31, 2017, the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this subsection shall be implemented by each covered agency to—

(A) apply to any covered loan for the sale, or refinancing of any loan for the sale, of any home;

(B) be available on any residential real property (including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives) that qualifies for a covered loan; and

(C) provide prospective mortgagees with sufficient guidance and applicable tools to implement the required underwriting methods.

(d) ENHANCED ENERGY EFFICIENCY UNDERWRITING VALUATION GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) in consultation with the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council and the advisory group established in subsection (f)(2), develop and issue guidelines for a covered agency to determine the maximum permitted loan amount based on the value of the property for all covered loans made on properties with an energy efficiency report that meets the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(B); and

(B) in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, issue guidelines for a covered agency to determine the estimated energy savings under paragraph (3) for properties with an energy efficiency report.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The enhanced energy efficiency underwriting valuation guidelines required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a requirement that if an energy efficiency report that meets the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(B) is voluntarily provided to the mortgagee, such report shall be used by the mortgagee or covered agency to determine the estimated energy savings of the subject property; and

(B) a requirement that the estimated energy savings of the subject property be added to the appraised value of the subject property by a mortgagee or covered agency for the purpose of determining the loan-to-value ratio of the subject property, unless the appraisal includes the value of the overall energy efficiency of the subject property, using methods to be established under the guidelines issued under paragraph (1).

(3) DETERMINATION OF ESTIMATED ENERGY SAVINGS.—

(A) AMOUNT OF ENERGY SAVINGS.—The amount of estimated energy savings shall be determined by calculating the difference between the estimated energy costs for the average comparable houses, as determined in guidelines to be issued under paragraph (1), and the estimated energy costs for the subject property based upon the energy efficiency report.

(B) DURATION OF ENERGY SAVINGS.—The duration of the estimated energy savings shall be based upon the estimated life of the applicable equipment, consistent with the rating

system used to produce the energy efficiency report.

(C) PRESENT VALUE OF ENERGY SAVINGS.—The present value of the future savings shall be discounted using the average interest rate on conventional 30-year mortgages, in the manner directed by guidelines issued under paragraph (1).

(4) ENSURING CONSIDERATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT FEATURES.—Section 1110 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3339) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and'' and inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) that State certified and licensed appraisers have timely access, whenever practicable, to information from the property owner and the lender that may be relevant in developing an opinion of value regarding the energy- and water-saving improvements or features of a property, such as—

''(A) labels or ratings of buildings;

''(B) installed appliances, measures, systems or technologies;

''(C) blueprints;

''(D) construction costs;

''(E) financial or other incentives regarding energy- and water-efficient components and systems installed in a property;

''(F) utility bills;

''(G) energy consumption and benchmarking data; and

''(H) third-party verifications or representations of energy and water efficiency performance of a property, observing all financial privacy requirements adhered to by certified and licensed appraisers, including section 501 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. 6801).

Unless a property owner consents to a lender, an appraiser, in carrying out the requirements of paragraph (4), shall not have access to the commercial or financial information of the owner that is privileged or confidential.''.

(5) TRANSACTIONS REQUIRING STATE CERTIFIED APPRAISERS.—Section 1113 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3342) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the semicolon the following: '', or any real property on which the appraiser makes adjustments using an energy efficiency report''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting after ''atypical'' the following: '', or an appraisal on which the appraiser makes adjustments using an energy efficiency report.''.

(6) PROTECTIONS.—

(A) AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE LIMITATIONS.—The guidelines to be issued under paragraph (1) shall include such limitations and conditions as determined by the Secretary to be necessary to protect against meaningful under or over valuation of energy cost savings or duplicative counting of energy efficiency features or energy cost savings in the valuation of any subject property that is used to determine a loan amount.

(B) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—At the end of the 7-year period following the implementation of enhanced eligibility and underwriting valuation requirements under this section, the Secretary may modify or apply additional exceptions to the approach described in paragraph (2), where the Secretary finds that the unadjusted appraisal will reflect an accurate market value of the efficiency of the subject property or that a modified approach will better reflect an accurate market value.

(7) APPLICABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION DATE.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and before December 31, 2017,

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM ACT

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of H.R. 4120, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The bill (H.R. 4120) to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4120) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING CINCO DE MAYO

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 437.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 437) recognizing the historic significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the resolution.

CINCO DE MAYO

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I wish everyone, especially Mexican Americans across the country and in Nevada, a happy Cinco de Mayo. All Americans, regardless of background, join with the Mexican-American community in commemorating the causes of freedom, liberty, and Hispanic heritage represented by this holiday.

There are celebrations all over America today. Driving to work this morning, I saw a couple of people with great big sombreros wanting to come to one of the celebrations in and around Washington. So this is a wonderful holiday we all celebrate.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I support this resolution, with Senator CORNYN and others, commemorating Cinco de Mayo.

We all love Cinco de Mayo for the food and festivities that we have grown so accustomed to across our country. However, we commemorate Cinco de Mayo in order to celebrate the joint-history and values that are shared by both Mexicans and Americans. Cinco de Mayo is a day that reminds us that the citizens of Mexico possess the same courage that we, as Americans, value in ourselves. For that reason, the commemoration of Cinco de Mayo has transcended from being a celebration of the victorious Battle of Puebla that Mexico won over France, to a celebration of courage and a recognition of all contributions that the Mexican-American community has had both in Colorado and in our great Nation. Celebrating Cinco de Mayo brings pride to both the Mexican-American community and all Americans.

The courage displayed by Mexican forces on May 5, 1862 parallels the courage that we as Americans have used to overcome adversity and thrive since our founding. The victory of the beleaguered force of Mexican troops at the Battle of Puebla weakened France's immense resources and limited its ability to meddle in America's Civil War. As Mexico sought to defend itself from European aggression, the Battle of Puebla reminds us that the foundation of the United States was also built through battles in which the United States often found itself as the underdog. Through courage, perseverance, and the willingness to fight and die for freedom, our Nation has become stronger. These contributions that the Mexican-American community has had in our Nation should be celebrated as part of our country's history.

While Cinco de Mayo remains a Mexican national holiday, the commemoration of this holiday has become imbedded in American culture. Both in Colorado and throughout our Nation, the contributions of the millions of Mexican-American families are seen throughout our communities. As in years past, I continue to encourage my fellow Coloradans to celebrate Cinco de Mayo by remembering and educating but also by coming together with friends and neighbors to enjoy food, music, and dancing.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

DESIGNATING ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, AS THE ''NATIONAL CHESS CAPITAL'' OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 102 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 102) expressing support for the designation of Saint Louis, Missouri, as the ''National Chess Capital'' of the United States to enhance awareness of the educational benefits of chess and to encourage schools and community centers to engage in chess programs to promote problem-solving, critical thinking, spatial awareness, and goal setting.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 102) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 102

Whereas, in 2009 and 2011, the United States Chess Federation awarded Saint Louis, Missouri, the title of ''Chess City of the Year'' and, in 2010, the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis was named ''Chess Club of the Year'';

Whereas Saint Louis hosted the United States Chess Championship and United States Women's Chess Championship in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 and the United States Junior Closed Chess Championship in 2010, 2011, and 2012, which are the three most prestigious, invitation-only chess tournaments in the United States;

Whereas the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis opened its doors in July 2008, and since that date, Saint Louis has become widely recognized as the emerging chess center of the United States;

Whereas chess promotes problem-solving, higher-level thinking skills, and improved self-esteem;

Whereas the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis brings the educational benefits of chess to thousands of students in more than 100 schools and community centers across the greater Saint Louis area, targeting more than 3,300 students in 2011 and 2012;

Whereas the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis offers free classes and lectures, weekly tournaments, private lessons, summer camps, and field trips to expose school-aged children to the benefits of chess;

Whereas the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis provides instructors, equipment, and curricula to after-school programs in the greater Saint Louis area;

Whereas the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis offers a coaching program to create a sustainable network of participating after-school chess programs; and

Whereas Saint Louis has become a hub for developing chess skills in students from across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of Saint Louis, Missouri, as the ''National Chess Capital'' of the United States;

(2) encourages the people of Saint Louis to continue promoting the educational benefits of chess among school-aged children; and

(3) encourages all schools and community centers in the United States to engage in chess programs to promote problem-solving, critical thinking, spatial awareness, and goal setting.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2280

Mr. MERKLEY. I understand that S. 2280 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2280) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Mr. MERKLEY. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the time until 11 a.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees prior to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2262, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act; that the Senate recess at 12:30 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair to allow for the weekly caucus meetings and the official photograph of the 113th Congress; that if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed to S. 2262, the time during the recess count postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MERKLEY. There will be a roll-call vote at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Additionally, the official photograph of the 113th Congress will be at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:17 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ANTHONY G. COLLINS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, VICE WILLIAM L. WILSON.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

MARCIA DENISE OCCOMY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE WALTER CRAWFORD JONES, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

JOHN MAEDA, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2016. (NEW POSITION)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DAVID ARTHUR MADER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CONTROLLER, OFFICE OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE DANIEL I. WERFEL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEBRA S. WADA, OF HAWAII, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE THOMAS R. LAMONT, RESIGNED.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

J. CHRISTOPHER GIANCARLO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

CHERYL A. LAFLEUR, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2019.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GEORGE ALBERT KROL, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN.

MARK WILLIAM LIPPERT, OF OHIO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

JAMES D. NEALON, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS.

DANA SHELL SMITH, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF QATAR.

GENTRY O. SMITH, OF NORTH CAROLINA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, AND TO HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE, VICE ERIC J. BOSWELL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ROBERT M. GORDON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, EVALUATION, AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE CARMEL, MARTIN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JEFFREY A. MURAWSKY, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE ROBERT A. PETZEL.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5721:

To be lieutenant commander

JOHN I. ACTKINSON
CHRISTOPHER M. ANCTIL
KEVIN M. CAMPBELL
JOSEPH M. CANDRILLI
RUSSELL S. CANTY
DAVID C. CHANDLER
JONATHAN D. CIRILLO
ANDREW M. COLE
JEROD L. COLE
BENJAMIN T. DORSCH
BRADFORD S. FOSTER
JOSEPH M. FOSTER
SAMUEL S. FROMILLE IV
ANDREW T. GAY
KYLE R. HICKMAN
BRIAN M. IRISH
BRYAN V. JENNINGS
NOAH L. MCBURNETT
MICHAEL R. MCDONALD
TRAVIS W. MILLER
JASON P. MORTIMER
JONATHAN L. NEGAARD
ARTHUR L. PORCHE, JR.
ALEXANDER E. RATCLIFFE
JOHN H. SEEBODE
DAVID J. SMITH
ANDREW T. STREENAN
ROBERT SZELIGOWSKI
DAVID K. TIREY
CHRISTOPHER S. TURNER
GERALD V. WEERS
JAMES T. WILLIAMS
JUSTIN R. WOLFE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

ROBERT J. POLVINO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

COLIN CAMPBELL
MICHAEL L. FREIDBERG
LINDA JARUSEWSKI
WON H. KIM
MATTHEW E. SIMMS
LISA A. VANDERBLOEMEN
PETER M. VELZ
WILLIAM O. WOODWARD
JAY T. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JOSEPH M. ACOSTA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JOHN BELLISSIMO
KURT W. BIRKHAHN
ROBERT A. DESROSIERS
TODD M. HILLER
BRIAN J. HILLERS
OREST W. LEBEDOVYCH
ROSS C. Y. LEE
STEPHEN M. RUGGIERO
MILTON J. SINGLETON III
CHRIS G. WOODWARD
RANDALL J. WROBLEWSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

DARYL S. BORGQUIST
JEFFREY A. DANZINGER
JOHN FILOSTRAT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

DAVID R. STORR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

BILLY C. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

MARK J. MOURISKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

PHILLIP H. BURNSIDE
HOA T. HO
GORDON A. HUNT
JAMES H. LEE
MARK N. MCLEAN
ERIC M. THOMAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

ROBERT DRYMAN
ERIK R. HORNER
CHERYL H. LAUER
JERI L. ONEILL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

TIMOTHY M. BAKER
CLAUDIA D. MACON
JOHN E. SEDLOCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

CHAD E. BAKER
ANDREW T. BISHOP
ROBERT DENTON III
RALPH F. DEWALT II
GARETT E. EDMONDS
MATTHEW J. JACKSON
MICHAEL JOYNER
GARRETT V. KRAUSE
MICHAEL V. MINEO
PETER L. MORRISON
NATHAN J. MOYER
DANIEL A. OGDEN
SAMUEL D. PONTIER
ROBERT J. PRITCHARD
MARK B. SUCATO
RODNEY L. TURBAK
JASON A. WELCH
DEREK S. WESSMAN
CHRIS F. WHITE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

SCOTT W. ALEXANDER
WILLIAM L. ANGERMANN
RICHARD P. BASSI
CHRISTOPHER S. BUNCE
MARK C. CANADY
ANTHONY N. CARAMANDO
ROBERT T. CARRETTA
JAMES G. COLLINS
CHRISTOPHER J. CULVER
JEFFREY W. DAVIS
ANTHONY P. DELGIANNI
JOHN R. DESORMIER
THAISON D. DO
BRADLEY D. DUNHAM
AMY D. EGELI
DAVID J. ENGLE
GEORGE W. EVANS
MARK A. EVERT
JAMES E. FEROCE
JUAN M. GARCIA III
PHILIP A. GERARD
JOHN P. GORMLEY
MATTHEW R. HAHN
WILLIAM A. HOWEY
CARL A. JOHNSON
DANIEL J. KELLEY
THEODORE P. LECLAIR
DAVID E. MCMANUS
DONALD J. MENDLER
PHILIP MILLER
PETER J. MORSE
MATTHEW P. NOLTY
JEFFREY A. NOWAK
ROBERT C. NOWAKOWSKI
BRADD C. OLSEN
CONRAD F. ORLOFF
SCOTT L. PARKINSON
FRANK A. PIETRUSIEWICZ
DAVID P. POLATTY IV
DAVID S. RAHMER
PAUL C. RAWLEY
MICHAEL W. ROBBINS
RICHARD RODRIGUEZ
SCOTT W. RUSTON
KEVIN P. RYAN
GAMALIER SAEZ
DAVID G. SAMTMANN
JOANNA M. SARMIENTO
JACK L. SCISM
KEITH L. SELBY
TODD J. SEVERANCE
CHARLES M. STOFFA
NELS H. SWANSON
SCOTT J. TETRICK
RICHARD M. WAER
KIMBERLY A. WALZ
TROY T. WHITE
SCOTT W. WRIGHT
BURT J. YAROCH
JAMES A. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

ROGER F. WILBUR

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 5, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

NANCY L. MORITZ, OF KANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PETER A. SELFRIDGE, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, AND TO HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 06, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 7

9 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the 2014 Farm Bill, focusing on implementation and next steps.
SR–328A

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Health and Human Services.
SD–138

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the economic outlook.
SH–216

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security
To hold hearings to examine investing in cybersecurity, focusing on understanding risks and building capabilities for the future.
SD–192

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and oversight for fiscal year 2015 for Federal information technology investments.
SD–138

2:15 p.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the fight against cancer, focusing on challenges, progress, and promise.
SD–562

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine Surface Transportation Reauthorization, focusing on progress, challenges, and next steps.
SR–253

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1603, to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, S. 1818, to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and S. 2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.
SD–628

MAY 8

9:30 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the United States economic and fiscal outlook.
SD–608

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Tourism, Competitiveness, and Innovation
To hold hearings to examine the state of United States travel and tourism, focusing on industry efforts to attract 100 million visitors annually.
SR–253

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Darci L. Vetter, of Nebraska, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and Henry J. Aaron, of the District of Columbia, Lanhee J. Chen, of California, and Alan L. Cohen, of Virginia, all to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board.
SD–215

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine assessing Venezuela's political crisis, focusing on human rights violations and beyond.
SD–419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.
SD–106

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine identifying critical factors for success in information technology acquisitions.
SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1720, to promote transparency in patent ownership and make other improvements to the patent system, and the nominations of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, and Paul G. Byron, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Darrin P. Gayles, and Beth Bloom, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

3 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight
To hold hearings to examine waste and abuse in Army sponsorship and marketing contracts.
SD–342

MAY 13

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine improving financial management at the Department of Defense.
SD–342

MAY 14

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine wildfires and forest management, focusing on how prevention is preservation.
SD–628

MAY 15

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrew H. Schapiro, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, and Nina Hachigian, of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, both of the Department of State.
SD–419

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

MAY 21

10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on the Bureau of Indian Education.
SD–628

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

CANCELLATIONS

MAY 7

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Economic Policy
To hold hearings to examine drivers of job creation.
SD–538

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 8

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the North American energy boom, focusing on realizing the opportunities and the challenges.
SD–366

SENATE—*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we will remember Your works and Your wonders of old, meditating on Your mighty acts that bless us each day.

Lord, You have ordained that in the leadership of nations the care of the many will rest upon the shoulders of the few. Give our Senators this day the understanding, humility, and faith to be ambassadors of reconciliation. Lord, help them to have no anxiety about anything, as they trust You to empower them to do their best. Cleanse the inner fountains of their hearts from all that may defile them, sustaining them always with Your mercy and grace.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, which is the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency legislation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 11 o'clock this morning there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the energy efficiency bill.

The Senate will recess, as we do on virtually every Tuesday, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for our weekly caucus meetings. I would advise all Senators that at 2:15 p.m. today we will do our congressional photo that we do every 2 years. So I hope everyone will make sure they are here on time so we have everyone in the photo.

Additionally, there will be a Members-only briefing, a closed briefing, tonight at 5:30 regarding Ukraine. I hope everyone would come to that. There are some things going on in Ukraine we should all know about.

SLIPPERY PROGRESS

Mr. President, being from Nevada and having traveled the State, as I have, in rural Nevada, we have rodeos. I have been to a few rural rodeos in my life. They are always a lot of fun, and it is a unique form of entertainment. It is good for everybody, for families.

One of the things a number of these rodeos have around the country are greased-pig contests. For all those who do not know what a greased-pig contest is, here is what it is: The organizers get a little pig—a piglet—and they cover this little animal with tons of grease. It is a greasy little pig. Then they turn the kids loose. They invite these children to chase one of these pigs. Pigs are a little slippery to begin with, but if you cover them with grease, they are really slippery.

These kids run around the arena trying to grab this pig. They grab it and fall. They have a great time. The children run as fast as they can. Some of them get smart and do not run so fast. They wait until the pig turns around—and they do a lot of times. But they try to scoop up this scurrying pig. It is really quite a spectacle, and it is a lot of fun to watch. There is no pain to the pig. It is kind of a painless ordeal for the pig. But it is a lot of fun, as I said.

It is obvious what happens every time they grab the pig. They slip. The pig goes on about its business, running. They fall into the dirt. They come out covered with grease and dirt. But eventually—eventually—one of these kids will wind up with the pig. Sometimes two kids grab the pig. They understand what happens, and they put the pig in one of their arms, and someone comes and takes the pig. But they have a good time.

The vast majority of the kids never touch the pig. They go away empty-handed, for sure. And that is regardless of how hard they try.

The reason I mention this, ofttimes working with my Senate Republican colleagues, it reminds me of chasing one of these little pigs in a greased-pig contest. Regardless of all of our efforts, anytime we get close to making progress, it seems as though we watch it slip out of our hands and the Republicans scamper away.

Take, for example, the legislation that is currently before the Senate—the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill. This bill has bipartisan support. We tried to do the bill a year ago. Frankly, at that time the bill was good, but not nearly as good as it is now. It is a very substantive piece of legislation.

From the time last year to today, the committee—under the direction, then, of Senator WYDEN, who was chair of the committee, working with all the members on that committee—put other things in the bill, and the bill that is now before the Senate is much stronger than it was a year ago.

This legislation will make our country more energy independent and protect our environment. It will spur the use of energy efficiency technologies in private homes and commercial buildings, at no cost to taxpayers. It is an energy efficiency bill, and it has bipartisan support.

This legislation will make our country more energy independent and protect our environment. It will also save consumers and taxpayers money, and lots of it. It will do it by lowering their energy bills, saving about $16 billion a year—that is what they tell us—and it will create up to 200,000 jobs that cannot be exported.

I have commended a number of times—and I will do it again—Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN for their persistence in bringing this bill to the floor. This is a fine piece of legislation. But it seems, for the second time within a year, passage of this bipartisan legislation is in question because Senate Republicans keep changing their requests. This time around the minority party seems intent on a repeat performance of last year.

Remember last year. The same thing. We want this; we want this. But the clincher we were told was that—last year—they would not vote on the bill unless we brought a bill sponsored by the Senator from Louisiana—the name was not LANDRIEU; it would be the junior Senator from Louisiana—saying: I demand a vote, before we do this legislation, on doing away with the health insurance Senate staff have. Can you imagine that. But that was his demand, and it is his demand again. He called to tell me that.

In order to allow us to vote on this bill, I was told before the break that the Republicans wanted a vote on Keystone—a sense-of-the-Senate resolution. I thought about it, and I came

back to them before the recess and said: OK, we will do that. We come back after the break, and they come to me and say: Well, we have changed our mind. What we want now is a straight up-or-down vote on the legislation. That is not the agreement we had. But, anyway, I said: OK, we will do that.

Well, now we are told that there are up to five amendments they want. And yesterday—last evening—I was told there is another one I never heard of. This is something about geothermal, but the extent of it I do not understand. But it is always something else.

We have these new provisions that have been added to the bill to make this legislation even stronger than last year.

To add further to the absurdity of what we are doing here, again the junior Senator from Louisiana wants a vote on taking away health care for our staffs. I said to him: But why would you do that? He said: Well, the higher paid employees, they can probably afford to get it themselves. I am paraphrasing because I remember the telephone conversation. He said—no, I am sorry; here it is—the lower waged salaried employees in the Senate, they will get subsidies—a lot of them. I said: What about those who do not? He said: They could buy their own insurance.

These men and women who work in the Senate work very hard. They should be treated as other employees around the country. Their employer should help them with their insurance. But it appears as if it is a virtual reenactment of last September. It seems as though this is nothing but a game of diversion and obstruction to many Senate Republicans.

But it is not a game. Every time a group of Republicans feigns interest in bipartisanship, only to scramble away at the last moment, it is part of a calculated political scheme.

We know on the very night of President Obama's first inauguration, a group of Republican political consultants—there is some dispute as to who called the meeting, whether it was Frank Lutz or Karl Rove, but a meeting was held—gathered, the Republicans gathered, to discuss their plans for regaining power after President Obama won the election.

They devised a plan to oppose all legislation and all nominees in order to make President Obama and Democrats look ineffective—to make our country, I assume, look more ineffective. But their No. 1 goal was to make sure President Obama was not reelected.

They failed with that, but they have not failed at obstructing, filibustering, and stopping the legislative process. Instead of working with us to pass meaningful legislation that helps American families, Republican leadership has shown more interest in agreeing to nothing. So as Senate Republicans continue to play hard to get with Democrats who are working in good faith, the American people's frustration grows.

This bill presents a unique opportunity for all my Republican colleagues—a chance to work with us in crafting and passing bipartisan legislation that will help the country.

I and my 54 Democratic colleagues have been flexible throughout this process, and we hope to reach an agreement that gives both sides most of what they want. But time is running out on this good piece of legislation—running out again.

So I invite all of my Republican colleagues to work with us in good faith. Help us pass a bill which creates jobs, saves money, and puts our country on the track to energy independence.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have the floor.

Please go ahead.

ENERGY AMENDMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me briefly make a few observations about some of the majority leader's opening comments this morning.

As he knows full well, Senator VITTER dropped his request for an ObamaCare amendment days ago, before the weekend. I think it is important for everybody to understand, the minority in the Senate has had eight votes since July—eight votes since July—on amendments that we wished to vote on.

We have not had a fulsome energy debate in the Senate since 2007—7 years ago. What we are asking for here is four or five amendments related to the subject of energy—one of the biggest issues in our country. That is hardly obstructionism. It is laughable to suggest that it is obstructionism for the minority to be given four or five amendments on issues related to the underlying bill, particularly since we have only had eight amendment votes on amendments that we wanted to vote on since last July, and we have not had a fulsome, broad-ranging energy debate since 2007.

So I would say to my friend, the majority leader, I do not think there is anything at all unreasonable about what we are requesting. Far from obstructionism, it is about time we had a debate on energy. We are having an energy boom in this country. It is important to our constituents all across the land. Forty-five Republicans represent millions of Americans. We wish to have a chance to have our voices heard occasionally. Eight amendments for the minority since July? This is not the way the Senate ought to be run.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Responding to my friend, the reason we haven't had debates in the Senate on legislation is because Republicans won't let us get on bills.

Let's take the bill that we are talking about today. Could we step back just a minute and try to do something that is good for the country? Shaheen-Portman is a good bill for America from last year to this year.

My friend can say all he wants about the junior Senator from Louisiana. Everyone knows what he has done on legislation in the past. He called me and told me that we weren't going to move forward on this bill unless he got a vote—what I just talked about. But from the last time we did this bill, these are the amendments that are incorporated in this bill: Collins-Mark Udall on energy efficient schools; Bennet-Ayotte, Better Buildings; Franken amendment to require Federally leased buildings to benchmark energy use data; Mark Udall-Risch, amendment to promote energy efficiency in data centers; Whitehouse-Collins—every one of these bipartisan—on low-income housing retrofits; Landrieu-Wicker amendment on Energy STAR third-party testing; Landrieu-Wicker-Pryor amendment on Federal green buildings; Hoeven-Pryor amendment on water heaters; Hoeven-Manchin and Isakson-Bennet amendments on energy efficiency in Federal and residential buildings; and the Sessions-Pryor amendment on third-party testing.

Last month SHAHEEN and PORTMAN introduced a new version of their bill incorporating all of these changes. The bill has 14 cosponsors, seven on each side. It is sponsored on the Republican side by Senators PORTMAN, AYOTTE, COLLINS, HOEVEN, ISAKSON, MURKOWSKI, and WICKER; and on the Democratic side by Senators SHAHEEN, BENNET, COONS, FRANKEN, LANDRIEU, MANCHIN, and WARNER.

It will be hard to find a more bipartisan, consensus piece of legislation. All of all of this is a bipartisan piece of legislation, but always it is a shell game. OK, we have got it here. I am trying to figure out where I put that shell. Is it here? Where is that dollar? Is it here?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Would the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I will yield in just 1 second.

This is what I talked about earlier. We have been going 5 years with this—5 years—trying to stop anything Obama wants to do. Obama would like to see this passed and so would a bipartisan group of Senators. But for 5 years we have put up with this. It doesn't matter what it is. If Obama wants it, they are against it.

We can have all this sweet talk about how the Senate shall operate. The Senate shall operate by allowing legislation to go forward. This is a perfect example but, no, no—I have told them, if they want a vote on Keystone, they have a vote on Keystone. That is not

good enough for them. They add four or five other amendments.

It is never quite enough. So we can see what is going to happen. They are going to let us on the bill today, and they are going to say: Because we don't get our amendments, we are not going to vote to get off the bill.

It has happened time and time again. We waste hours on this.

With all this happy talk about how the Senate should operate—remember, we changed the rules. Why did we do that? Because we had scores of judges that we had to wait for them to give us permission to move to.

We changed the rules. We don't in any way apologize to anybody for having changed the rules.

This is where we are. Legislation is at a standstill, and we have on the books now 140 nominations that are held up. They have held everybody up. We get a few here and a few there.

But the one thing I can't hold up any more are judges. We are moving on the judges. We are going to get the judges done.

If they want to continue blocking ambassadors—we have the Secretary of State, the former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who is going to Angola. We don't have an ambassador there. We don't have an ambassador to Peru. In scores of countries we don't have an American representative there.

There are some political appointments. We can talk about those separately. Every President has political appointments, but I am not pushing this. What I am pushing is the fact that we have these career Foreign Service officers who have waited an entire lifetime. They have worked in these countries in very difficult situations. They have been political officers, they have been economic officers, and now they get a chance to be an ambassador. It is like going to the Super Bowl in the diplomacy world, and they are not going to get that.

I think that the American people understand what is going on. That is why, as a result of polls we have seen, people understand the game the Republicans have played for 5 years. The people are going to have to decide this November as to whether they want another 2 years of obstruction as we have seen it.

This is good legislative policy. The Shaheen-Portman bill would be good for the country, but as usual we have a lot that is good for the country—and we have had it. We don't get much done in the Senate.

Give us some amendments. This is what they say every time because no matter what we do, it is not good enough.

Shaheen-Portman is a good bill. We have 10 new provisions in it. That is not good enough.

We can give them a vote on Keystone—that is not good enough, and that is the way it always is. So there are no surprises to me in what they have done today and what they will probably do on Wednesday or Thursday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. My friend the majority leader wandered rather far afield. The subject for today is whether it would be inappropriate at 10:20 a.m. on a Tuesday for the minority to have four or five amendments of its choosing, sometime during the course of the week.

It is great that some amendments have been accepted by Members on my side. I am happy about that. The majority picked the ones they were willing to accept and accepted them. I think that is great.

But what about the rest of the Members of the minority, who are not suggesting that we would drop unusual amendments or amendments on an entirely different subject—four or five amendments during the course of the week, with relatively short time agreements, related to the subject of energy.

It strikes me that is simply not unacceptable. We have had eight votes on amendments of our choosing since last July—eight. This is not the way to run the Senate.

The minority represents a lot of Americans, millions and millions of Americans. We are entitled to have our ideas debated and voted on in the Senate as well, ones that we want to vote on, not ones that the majority leader picks for us.

That is the point. We don't think what we are asking is in any way unreasonable. It is certainly consistent with the traditions of the Senate, particularly since we have only had 8 votes on amendments of our choosing in the last 7 or 8 months. I mean, goodness gracious. There is a way to finish this bill. It does enjoy broad bipartisan support.

The majority leader mentioned the President. I don't know that his name has come up in connection with this. We are simply asking for the opportunity to debate and vote on important energy amendments on an energy bill during the pendency of the week. That is all we are asking.

I wish to go on. I understand later the majority leader is going to do some procedural matters, so let me go on and make my opening statement.

ENERGY

Later today we expect the President to talk about the weather at the White House. Presumably, he will use the platform to renew his call for a national energy tax, and I am sure he will get loud cheers from liberal elites, from the kinds of people who leave a giant carbon footprint and then lecture everybody else about low-flow toilets.

But the vast majority of middle-class Kentuckians I represent actually have to worry about paying utility bills, putting food on table, and finding a job in this terrible economy. They are less interested in just doing something on energy. They want to do the smart thing.

What they want are practical solutions to the problems and stresses they are dealing with every single day. That is what we should be focusing on this week because this debate shouldn't be about alleviating the guilt complexes of the liberal elite. It should be about actually achieving the best outcome for the environment, for energy security and, most importantly, for the people we were sent here to represent.

One thing that seems clear is this. Even if we were to enact the kinds of national energy regulations the President seems to want so badly, it would be unlikely to meaningfully impact global emissions anyway unless other major industrial nations do the same. That means getting countries such as China and India on board.

The President knows that. The President also knows that much of the pain of imposing such regulations would be borne by our own middle class.

That is why this discussion has become so cynical, and it is part of the reason the President's own party couldn't even pass a national energy tax when it had complete control of Washington's Congress back in 2009 and 2010. If the American people weren't willing to go along with considerable domestic pain for negligible global gain then, it is foolish to think they would assent to a bad idea now.

Remember, even the President's own party in the Senate wouldn't bring up the President's proposal for a national energy tax despite their overnight speeches and complaints about everyone else.

Of course, none of this has stopped the President from trying to get his way anyway. That is why we have seen this administration's attempt to do an end run around the legislative process to try to impose a similar agenda through executive fiat.

It needs to be stopped. The President's regulations are hurting people, often people who are already struggling and vulnerable—the very people the President claims he wants to help.

Our constituents are being hurt because of a cynical political agenda, because of a war on coal and other sources off American energy that the far left like and the Democratic Party is simply demanding.

The middle class doesn't even have a meaningful say in this discussion because the President has decided the Congress the people elect doesn't really matter anymore. Republicans are trying to change that this week.

We have asked the majority leader to allow votes on energy amendments that would let our constituents have a say for once. My constituents in Kentucky should be able to weigh in on an

EPA rule that would negatively impact existing and future coal plants. Kentuckians deserve a real say on ongoing regulatory efforts to tie up mining permits and the red tape that is stifling the creation of good jobs in coal country.

Our constituents should finally be truly heard on the Keystone Pipeline they overwhelmingly support. The American people deserve a real debate on how we can best tap our own extraordinary natural resources to achieve energy independence at home and how we can help our allies overseas through increased exports of American energy.

These are the proposals we should be voting on this very week, proposals that can help our economy, boost the middle class and jobs while strengthening our national security and lessening our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

But we can't move forward if the Democrats who run the Senate keep trying to protect the President at the expense of serving their constituents. We know they are getting pressure from the White House to shut down a real debate on energy. One of the President's aides yesterday made it clear that it will be leaning on Democratic Senators to ''get the right outcome.''

In other words, this is to do the White House's political bidding and to once again ensure that struggling middle-class Americans get the short end of the stick from the Democrats here in Washington.

The American middle class is hurting, absolutely hurting. By a 2 to 1 margin Americans say the country's economic conditions are poor. Only about one-quarter say there are enough jobs available where they live, and they have been suffering from years of spiking electricity prices that would only get worse if the President's agenda were fully realized.

These are the people who deserve our attention. They are the ones who are struggling, not the far left, not the activists who yell the loudest and appear to care the least about who their ideas actually hurt, and not the President's political fixtures in the White House. These are not the people on whom we should be focusing.

It is time—way past time—to start paying attention to the people who actually sent us to the Senate. They deserve a robust debate about how to develop policies that can actually lead to lower utility bills that can put coal families back to work, that can help create well-paying jobs, that can help increase energy security, and that can help prevent energy from being used as a tool of war and oppression by global adversaries.

That is why we were sent to the Senate to debate these kinds of things.

If Democrats have good ideas on energy too, this is the time to share theirs.

What is wrong with having amendments from both sides on this bill. We want to hear everybody's serious ideas.

The American people have waited 7 long years, as I said earlier, for a serious energy debate in the Democratic-run Senate—7 years. It is about time they got it, and this is the perfect week to do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. To belittle the President of the United States for wanting to talk about climate change is pretty obviously wrong. One can mischaracterize all they want the fact that President Obama recognizes climate is changing worldwide, but it is truly a mischaracterization if anyone thinks this is not something that is serious.

It always appears when we get into a serious debate about a subject, whether it is energy efficiency or climate change, the Republicans want to change the subject, to divert or to obstruct. So what is the Republican answer to this climate change, which is real: more oil production—that is one of their solutions—block regulations to protect health and the environment, deny climate change is happening at all.

The senior Senator from Oklahoma says it is a hoax. It is not a hoax. It is real, and I am very happy the President is saying something about this.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF INDIRA TALWANI TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 655.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Indira Talwani, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I ask the cloture motion be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the cloture motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Indira Talwani, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Dianne Feinstein, Al Franken, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Harkin, Barbara Boxer, Richard Blumenthal, Edward J. Markey, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JAMES D. PETERSON TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 656.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of James D. Peterson, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk and I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the cloture motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of James D. Peterson, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Dianne Feinstein, Al Franken, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Harkin, Barbara Boxer, Richard Blumenthal, Edward J. Markey, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NANCY J. ROSENSTENGEL TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 657.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Nancy J. Rosenstengel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the cloture motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Nancy J. Rosenstengel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Dianne Feinstein, Al Franken, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Harkin, Barbara Boxer, Richard Blumenthal, Edward J. Markey, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ROBIN S. ROSENBAUM TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 690.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Robin S. Rosenbaum, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. If the cloture motion is at the desk, I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the cloture motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Robin S. Rosenbaum, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Dianne Feinstein, Al Franken, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Harkin, Barbara Boxer, Richard Blumenthal, Edward J. Markey, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, because of the conversation with Senator MCCONNELL and me, the time ran much longer than it normally does, so I ask unanimous consent that the vote occur at 11:15 rather than 11. Senator DURBIN is here, as well as Senator WARREN, with Senators CORNYN and MORAN, so we will divide the time equally until then.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Under the previous order, the time until 11:15 a.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I note on the floor the presence of Senators MORAN, CORNYN, and WARREN. May I enter into a consent agreement as to the sequence of speaking? I ask unanimous consent that after I have spoken, Senator WARREN be recognized next on the Democratic side, and I ask which Republican Senator would like to be included and in what order?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, responding to the question of the distinguished majority whip, through the Chair, it would help if we could alternate between sides, if that is acceptable.

Mr. DURBIN. It is agreed. Who would be first on the Republican side?

Mr. CORNYN. My understanding is Senator MORAN would be first. Then we would go to the Democratic side and then back to me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was going to ask for a specific time for each, but I am going to try to be brief and yield more time for comments from others because I am sure time will be expiring.

The issue we are trying to move to is called the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act. Whenever we talk about energy and the environment, the Senate is up for grabs. There is a divided opinion as to what to do with the energy policy of America. There are sincere and profound differences between the two political parties. We recently had an all-night session talking about the issue of global warming and climate change and there was a real division between Democrats and Republicans about this issue.

I had a statement early in the session, and I come to the floor and renew it today in the hopes one of my two friends on the other side of the aisle can respond to this. My statement is this: The only major political party in the world that denies the existence of global warming and climate change is the Republican Party of the United States of America. I am waiting for some Republican to come forward and refute me. Someone said there is a small party in Australia that doesn't accept global warming and climate change. That may be true, but I am looking for evidence of another major political party, other than the Republican Party of the United States of America, which denies the fact that our human activity on Earth and the pollution we are creating is changing the world in which we are living.

I think there is ample evidence. Incidentally, 98 percent of the scientists who look at it conclude the same—that we are going through climate change in this world. Look around. Glaciers are melting, the weather is changing, we have more extreme weather events, and our planet is heating up. Some people say: That is just an act of God. It happens every few centuries. That is the way it goes.

I don't think so. I think what we are doing on Earth has something to do with it.

This debate could go on all day and there would be severe differences of opinion on each side of the aisle as to whether what I have said is true, but here is something we should not disagree on—the pending legislation. This bipartisan piece of legislation steps aside from that hot issue—no pun intended—and asks if we can't all agree that energy efficiency is good. Well, sure. Whether one thinks there is an environmental impact of using energy or not, it costs less if you have energy efficiency to heat a home or run a business.

What we are trying to do, thanks to the leadership of Senator SHAHEEN of New Hampshire and Senator PORTMAN of Ohio, Democrat and Republican, is to have a bipartisan approach to it. What they have done is amazing. They took a bill, which frankly was supposed to come up last year and failed because of some problems on the floor, and made it even better and stronger and more bipartisan, with a long series of bipartisan amendments added to the bill to make it better in terms of trying to encourage energy efficiency in the buildings across America, manufacturing new techniques for energy efficiency, and requiring the Federal Government, when it builds a building, to think about energy efficiency.

All of these are bipartisan in nature. Yet we are tied up in knots on the floor of the Senate as to whether we can even consider this bipartisan bill. That is a shame because, quite honestly, when we have a good bipartisan measure on an issue such as energy efficiency, which steps aside from underlying controversial issues, we should move on it. I worry about that. There are some on the other side who say: We don't have enough amendments. There are more we want to add. There is more we want to debate. There is nothing wrong with that, but let us not sacrifice this bill this time.

What is at stake with this bill? It is not just the good ideas of energy efficiency but 190,000 jobs in America. When we start putting in better windows in buildings, when we start putting in better HVAC systems, and all the other things that are going to create energy efficiency, it puts Americans to work. If the Republicans stop us from moving to this bill today, if they stop us from considering this bill this week, it will be at the expense of American jobs. That is wrong.

Now that we have a bipartisan bill, and a strong bill, for goodness' sake, let us put the procedural fights aside. There is a Republican Senator who stopped this bill last week from coming up because he wants to debate—are you ready—ObamaCare. Fifty times the House of Representatives has voted to repeal ObamaCare. It is going nowhere. Yet they continue to come back to it. So this Senator said we can't take up energy efficiency because he wants to debate one aspect of ObamaCare again.

Please, save it for another day. Let us do something in a bipartisan fashion that can guarantee 190,000 people in America a good-paying job.

Wouldn't that be something we can talk about when we come home at the end of the week instead of the fact that the Senate once again broke down into a partisan squabble.

I urge my colleagues on the other side, save some of these really great and not-so-great ideas for another day. Let's pass this bill. It is strong, it is bipartisan, and it really tries to get something done in the Senate, which, sadly, is a rare occurrence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

VA BACKLOG

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, there is no group of Americans whom I hold in higher regard than our Nation's veterans. Their service and sacrifice have allowed us to live in the strongest, freest, greatest country in the world.

American veterans have fought tyrants and terrorists to keep our country safe and secure. Yet even after they return from war, veterans today continue to fight tough battles here at home. Many veterans find themselves struggling to find a job, they face difficulties accessing quality health care services—especially in rural areas such as mine at home in Kansas—and all too many veterans must wait long periods of time for benefit claims to be processed by the VA.

As of April 2014 the backlog stood at 596,061 outstanding claims, and 53 percent of those have been waiting longer than 125 days for an answer from the VA. It takes approximately 266 days for most new claims to receive an answer.

If a veteran is unhappy with the outcome of their claim, they can file an appeal. The backlog for appeals is more than 272,000—in backlogs alone. Some have waited more than 1,500 days—more than 4 years—to get a response on their appeal.

These numbers represent real people. They are not just statistics. They are not just average, everyday Americans. They are our veterans whom we claim we hold in the highest regard and esteem.

Americans who served our country are waiting to receive the benefits they earned. At a time when more and more troops are transitioning out of the military—and the needs are clear for our aging veterans—I am especially concerned that we are not keeping our promise to those who served our country.

As I travel across Kansas and meet veterans in their communities across our State, I hear the stories about their VA claims process—from systemic issues with the back-and-forth of how the claims are handled, to absurd waiting times in Washington. I hear from veterans organizations that come from Kansas—the American Legion, Disabled Veterans of America, Concerned Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars—and they bring their stories of other veterans to me, outlining the problems the veterans back home are facing. The reality is that our veterans are losing hope that the VA will care for them.

Americans recently heard the story about a whistleblower in Phoenix, AZ, at the VA in which there was a secret waiting list of veterans who had waited more than 7 months to see a doctor in order to avoid VA policies on reporting extended delays. The VA hospital figured out how to hide those claims for 7 months so that they weren't reported.

Incidents of mismanagement and even death caused by the failures of the VA are far more numerous than we see in the news. Reports continue to pop up across the country, from Atlanta to Memphis, from St. Louis to Florida. The claims backlog, medical malpractice, mismanagement of cases, lack of oversight, and unethical environment all contribute to the VA's failure.

It has become abundantly clear that the dysfunction within the VA extends from the top to the bottom—at the highest headquarters and at each VISN and down to the local level in some medical facilities. Community-based outpatient clinics and regional benefit offices are part of the problem. The VA suffers from a culture that accepts mediocrity, leaving too many veterans without the care they need. Our veterans deserve better, and they deserve the best our Nation knows how to offer.

I highlight today the broken VA system and challenge the Department of Veterans Affairs to change. We need accountability and transformation within the VA system and its culture, top to bottom, all across the country. We must break the cycle of dysfunction today and take the steps necessary to make certain our veterans are no longer victims of their own government's bureaucracy.

Here are some examples from across our State:

Jack Cobos, a Kansan who sought medical attention at the Topeka VA hospital emergency room, is told his chest pains are related to muscles around his heart. He is sent home. A week later he returns and is transported to another emergency room. Ultimately, Jack dies of a heart attack—he never recovers—and we now pay tribute to that veteran who failed to receive the care he needed in a timely fashion.

One year later the same Topeka emergency room closed its doors to veterans seeking emergency treatment. And I am still waiting on a response from the VA to explain the closure of an emergency room at the VA hospital in Topeka, KS.

An outpatient clinic in Liberal has been without a primary care provider

for more than 3 years. While others try to fill in the gap, there is nothing to date that the VA has done to solve the underlying problems. There is still no primary care provider.

I recently spoke about claims backlogs with a Kansas veteran involved in the American Legion named Dave Thomas from Leavenworth. He has waited since he filed his claim in 1970 and only this past year received an answer. He received a 90-percent disability rating from the VA, but it took 44 years for him to receive that answer.

A veteran with Parkinson's disease was told recently—he filed his claim in March of last year. He was told this past week that it will now be processed only because his claim is now over a year old. You have to wait a year before you are in line in order for you to receive the process of your claim that you deserved more than 1 year ago. How can the VA establish a wait time benchmark of 1 year for veterans' claims to get the attention they deserve?

It is so disappointing to hear these stories. I know it is unacceptable. Whether a veteran served in 1941, 1951, 1971, 1991, 2001, 2011, or is currently serving, we owe the Nation's veterans our absolute best after their military service is complete. Unfortunately, the VA system continues on a glidepath of dysfunction and is only, at best, playing defense.

The VA's failure is not a matter of resources. That is always the easy answer: more money. But just last week President Obama himself said:

> We've resourced the Veterans Affairs office more in terms of increases than any other department or agency in my government.

VA funding levels have increased well more than 60 percent since 2009. Each year there have been incremental increases of 3, 4, or 5 percent, and this year the request from the President's budget is for a 6.5-percent increase over last year's spending. Yet our veterans continue to struggle and are not getting the treatment they earned and deserve, and they are not getting their benefits.

Republicans and Democrats have agreed on fully funding the VA to serve year after year, but this increase in spending results in no better service from the Department. To date, these increases have not in any way increased the service or support our veterans deserve and need. This is a problem with leadership and a lack of will to change.

I have been a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for 18 years, both in the House and Senate. I chaired the Health Subcommittee in the House. I have worked with nine VA Secretaries. This is an issue on which I always thought we were making progress. Today it is so disappointing to report to my colleagues in the Senate that this Department is dysfunctional, and the services get worse, not better.

We need accountability at the VA. The 44-year-old claims process of Dave Thomas and the untimely passing of Jack Cobos should not be forgotten, and the Department needs to make meaningful changes so that these cases and cases like these will never happen again.

While we continue to push legislative action, it is time to hold people accountable in order to enforce meaningful change. GAO reports, inspector general reports, and VA whistleblowers all call for action. A list I find now of eight press and IG reports—from CNN, to FOX News, to military.com, to our IG, to the Washington Examiner—all report what we would not believe could ever happen within the VA in the United States of America.

Veterans are waiting for action. Yet the VA continues to operate in the same old bureaucratic fashion, settling for mediocrity and continued disservice to our Nation's heroes.

It is clear that accountability at VA is absent. Oversight doesn't mean much. And I sincerely and seriously question whether the leadership of the VA is capable and willing to enforce change. There is a difference between wanting change and leading it to happen.

Today I am demanding accountability and true transformation within the VA system and its culture, from top to bottom, and all across the country. Secretary Shinseki seemingly is unwilling or unable to do so, and change must be made at the top. I ask the Secretary to submit his resignation, and I ask President Obama to accept that resignation.

We must never forget that our Nation has responsibility to its veterans. That means receiving the care and support they earned.

God bless our veterans and all those serving at home and abroad and all their families. We need a Department of Veterans Affairs that is worthy of your sacrifice.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

(The remarks of Ms. WARREN pertaining to the Introduction of S. 2292 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Introduction of Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Ms. WARREN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am on the floor today to discuss the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act—which is why we call it Shaheen-Portman; it is a faster way to refer to it.

It is a bill I coauthored with Senator ROB PORTMAN from Ohio, and it represents more than 3 years of meetings, negotiations, compromise, and broad stakeholder outreach in an effort to craft the most effective piece of energy legislation with the greatest chance of passing both Chambers of Congress and of being signed into law. My partner in this effort, Senator PORTMAN, was here on the floor last night talking about why this is a bipartisan bill that can pass not only this Chamber but the House and be signed into law.

It is a bipartisan effort that reflects an affordable approach to boost the use of energy efficiency technologies in our economy. Efficiency is the cheapest, fastest way to reduce our energy use. Energy-saving techniques and technologies lower costs; they free up capital that allows businesses to expand and our economy to grow.

In addition to being an energy bill, it is a jobs bill. We can start improving our efficiency now by installing ready, proven technologies such as modern heating systems, computer-controlled thermostats, low-energy lighting. Efficiency is no longer about putting on a sweater and turning down the thermostat. It is about making use of these technologies that are available today.

There are substantial opportunities which exist across all sectors of our economy that would allow us to conserve energy, to create good-paying private sector jobs, and to reduce pollution.

Our bill reduces the barriers to efficiency in the major energy-consuming sectors of our economy. It does that through buildings, which constitute about 40 percent of our use; through industrial efficiency, where we assist the manufacturing sector which consumes more energy than any other sector of the U.S. economy—we help them implement energy-efficient production technologies; and through the Federal Government, which as I think all of us know, is the single largest user of energy in the country.

The legislation encourages the Federal Government to adopt more efficient building standards, smart-metering technology, to look at our data centers and see how we can reduce the costs there.

Again, this bill will help create private sector jobs. It will save businesses and consumers money. It will reduce pollution and it will make our country more energy efficient.

A recent study by experts of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy found that by 2030 Shaheen-Portman, if it passes, has the potential to create 192,000 domestic jobs, to save consumers and businesses over $16 billion a year, and to reduce carbon pollution by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road. The bill does this without any mandates, without raising the deficit. All authorizations are offset and it even produces a $12 million deficit reduction, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

I have had the opportunity over the last 3½ years as we have been working on this bill to visit businesses across New Hampshire that are making use of energy-efficient technology, and what I have heard from those businesses is they have adopted these energy efficiencies because it allows them to save money, it allows them to be competitive, it allows them to add jobs in their sectors. I think that is why this legislation enjoys such strong support from industry, from trade associations, and from labor groups as well as efficiency and environmental advocates.

As the Presiding Officer knows, it is not often that we have groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Wildlife Federation supporting the same piece of legislation. I have a number of letters that have been sent by many of these organizations that illustrate the ever-growing support for the bill. The signatures on these letters go on and on, and they are signed by everyone from the Edison Electric Institute, the American Gas Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Earth Day Network, and the National Association of State Energy Offices.

At this time, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have these letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

APRIL 30, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

MAJORITY LEADER REID AND REPUBLICAN LEADER MCCONNELL: We the undersigned, representing hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs, write to request that The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014 (S. 2262) be considered by the full Senate as soon as possible.

This sensible, bipartisan legislation enjoys broad support in the business community. The bill's sponsors have worked with industry every step of the way in crafting and vetting this legislation. The reintroduced bill has generated even greater consensus among a growing stakeholder coalition that covers diverse economic sectors and environmental organizations. The enhancements have only strengthened—and broadened—the support of the U.S. business community, while multiplying the energy security and environmental benefits that will accrue from this landmark energy efficiency legislation.

Energy efficiency enjoys broad, bipartisan support as a recent study commissioned by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association and the National Association of Manufacturers demonstrated. Nine in ten of those polled support using energy efficient products and believe it is important to include energy efficiency as part of our country's energy solutions. 74 percent of those polled support investing taxpayers' dollars on energy efficient technologies, innovations and programs if it would save consumers more money. Finally, 69 percent of those polled are more likely to support investing taxpayers' dollars on energy efficiency if those investments will not raise taxes or add to the federal deficit and do not involve government mandates on consumers.

S. 2262 places no new mandates on U.S. businesses or consumers. All new authorizations are fully offset. Provisions in this legislation will promote energy savings in commercial buildings and industrial facilities, which together consume nearly 50 percent of the nation's primary energy. The bill will also reduce energy costs within the federal government, our nation's largest energy consumer, saving taxpayers money.

S. 2262 will also boosts the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers and real estate by creating jobs in the manufacturing, contracting, construction, installation, distribution, design, and service sectors.

For these reasons, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources roundly endorsed the legislation with a strong bipartisan vote of 19–3. The legislation continues to gain additional cosponsors with Sens. Landrieu, Coons, Warner, Franken, Manchin, Collins, Ayotte, Wicker, Hoeven, Isakson, Murkowski and Bennett. The House recently passed several provisions contained in S. 2262 by a vote of 375–36, another strong showing of support for energy efficiency.

Now is the time to act on this important legislation and we ask that S. 2262 be brought to the Senate floor as soon as possible.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

MAJORITY LEADER REID AND REPUBLICAN LEADER MCCONNELL: As an industry that creates many of the advanced solutions that help society save energy, we support the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (S. 2262) and urge the Senate's consideration and adoption as quickly as possible. Enactment of this bipartisan legislation can elevate the role of energy efficiency in a comprehensive, ''all of the above'' national energy policy.

American chemistry is a leader in energy efficiency. Our companies invent and make materials and technologies that empower people around the world to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. High-performance building insulation and windows, solar panels, wind turbines, even lightweight packaging and auto parts that reduce energy needs in shipping and transportation all start with chemistry.

In addition to supplying energy-saving products, we know that being energy-efficient in our own operations helps reduce costs and expand U.S. production and jobs. This commitment has led to a 49 percent improvement in the U.S. chemical industry's energy efficiency since 1974. ACC member companies report on energy efficiency and other measures through Responsible Care® an environmental, health, and safety performance program.

S. 2262 will achieve energy savings across the economy, including homes, buildings, industry, and the federal government. We encourage the Senate to approve this important legislation as a key step toward a strong, secure, and sustainable energy future.

Sincerely,

CAL DOOLEY,
President and CEO.

APRIL 28, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID AND MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: As a broad coalition of energy efficiency and environmental organizations, small and large businesses, trade associations, and public interest groups, we urge you to bring the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (S. 2074) to the floor for a vote as soon as possible.

S. 2074, introduced on February 27, 2014 by Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Senator Rob Portman, would help meet America's goals of increasing energy productivity, enhancing energy security, reducing harmful emissions, and promoting economic growth in a financially responsible manner. The new version of this bipartisan bill addresses energy savings in the federal government—the nation's largest energy consumer—and includes new provisions that expand energy efficiency savings and benefits to all sectors of the U.S. economy, from schools and homes, to commercial buildings, industry, and manufacturing.

Energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest, and cleanest way to tackle domestic energy demand. Wasted energy not only weakens our national competitiveness on a global scale, but also compounds the financial burdens of businesses and consumers. An analysis of the new bill by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) estimates that by 2030, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act would create more than 190,000 jobs, save consumers $16 billion a year, and cut carbon dioxide by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road.

Energy efficiency has always been a bipartisan issue. By fully deploying the power of energy efficiency, we can help create new jobs, save energy and money, and reduce carbon emissions. This legislation affords Congress the opportunity to assist the economy without undue cost or regulatory burden.

For these reasons, we urge you to schedule the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act for a vote in the near future so that Americans can begin reaping the many benefits of energy efficiency.

ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR: The Alliance To Save Energy strongly supports S. 2262, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, also known as Shaheen-Portman. When the bill comes to the floor this week, the Alliance urges you to vote for cloture and to vote for the underlying bill.

Energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest, and cleanest way to reduce domestic energy consumption. Well-designed programs such as those contained in the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act will help American families and businesses lower their energy costs. Moreover, energy efficiency policies offer Americans protection from rising energy costs caused by political instability abroad, and move us towards greater energy security.

This bipartisan bill addresses energy savings in the federal government—the nation's largest energy consumer—and includes provisions that expand energy efficiency savings and benefits to all sectors of the U.S. economy, from schools and homes, to commercial buildings, industry, and manufacturing.

More specifically, Shaheen-Portman contains provisions that will create a national strategy to increase the use of energy efficiency through a model building energy code; promote the development of energy efficient supply-chains for companies; encourage the federal government to adopt and implement energy saving policies and programs; improve federal data center efficiency; support the deployment of energy efficient technologies in schools; improve commercial building efficiency; and promote the benchmarking and disclosure of buildings' energy use, among a number of other initiatives.

Rather than squandering taxpayers' dollars on needless energy costs, S. 2262 implements practical, cost effective measures to tackle federal energy consumption, while creating jobs and reducing emissions. It is estimated that by 2030, Shaheen-Portman will create more than 190,000 jobs, save consumers $16 billion a year, and cut carbon dioxide emissions by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road.

The American public wants bipartisan policies that will spur economic growth and create jobs. There is consensus that efficiency is the cheapest and fastest way to start reducing demand for the energy we currently use. We believe the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act represents our best chance to improve our demand-side energy policy.

Again, we urge you to vote for cloture and to vote for the underlying bill so that Americans can begin reaping the many benefits of energy efficiency. If you have any questions or need more background information, please have your staff contact Elizabeth Tate at the Alliance To Save Energy.

Sincerely,

KATERI CALLAHAN,
President, Alliance To Save Energy.

ADVANCED ENERGY ECONOMY,
MAY 5, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID AND SENATOR MCCONNELL: On behalf of Advanced Energy Economy, a national association of businesses and business leaders who are making the global energy system more secure, clean, and affordable, I am writing to encourage you to bring bipartisan energy efficiency legislation (S. 2074) cosponsored by Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Senator Rob Portman to the Senate floor.

This bipartisan national strategy to increase energy efficiency in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of our economy reflects and accelerates the trend toward greater energy efficiency many businesses are embracing. Reducing costs for businesses and consumers and increasing U.S. competitiveness by making our use of energy more efficient is at the core of comprehensive energy policy.

The Senate has an opportunity to join the House in passing bipartisan legislation that moves us toward a more energy-efficient economy. S. 2074 highlights the many ways we can increase energy efficiency. The bill addresses building codes, financing, technical assistance, and rebate programs, all positive steps toward saving money through improved energy efficiency. All of these steps are important to our business members, who stand ready to provide the technologies and services that improve energy efficiency throughout the economy. We strongly support the bill and look forward to working with you as it continues through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

GRAHAM RICHARD,
CEO, Advanced Energy Economy.

NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION,
MAY 5, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR: The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association strongly supports S. 2262, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act sponsored by Senators Shaheen and Portman. When the bill comes to the floor this week, NRECA urges you to vote for cloture and the underlying bill.

Approximately 250 co-ops in 34 states operate voluntary demand response programs using electric resistance water heaters that allow co-ops to reduce demand for electricity during peak hours. In parts of the country, these water heaters also allow co-ops to integrate renewable energy sources like wind and effectively store that energy.

In several major energy bills, Congress has declared the promotion of demand response an important federal policy. A 2012 report by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recognized co-ops' leadership in demand response. It is through the use of large capacity electric resistance water heaters that co-ops are able to meet such federal goals.

Electric co-ops have a straightforward mission: to provide reliable electric service to their consumer-owners at the lowest cost possible. However, on March 22, 2010, the Department of Energy (DoE) issued a new efficiency standard for water heaters that will effectively end our very successful demand response programs beginning next April.

S. 2262 will allow us to continue to use water heaters in money- and energy-saving demand response programs by establishing a new category of efficiency standard for water heaters used in demand response programs. We have worked closely with Congressional leaders, DoE, other utilities, energy efficiency and environmental advocacy groups, and water heater manufacturers over the past several years to develop this commonsense approach to help continue the beneficial use of electric resistance water heaters.

Importantly, S. 2262 also includes consensus language to resolve Section 433 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, that if not addressed would prohibit federal facilities from using electricity generated from the use of fossil fuels.

Again, when the bill comes to the floor this week, we urge your support. If you have any questions or need more background information, please have your staff contact Julie Barkemeyer at NRECA at 703–907–5809 or julie.barkemeyer@nreca.coop.

Sincerely,

JO ANN EMERSON.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION,
MAY 5, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR, On behalf of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), and our over four million members and supporters nationwide, I urge you to support passage of the bipartisan Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (S. 2262) and oppose any controversial amendments or associated legislation that does not meet the broadly agreed upon goal of this bill to save money, save energy, and cut carbon pollution. This includes a vote to approve the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

A product of cooperation and consensus under the leadership of the bill's sponsors and Energy Committee leadership, S. 2262 applies a common-sense approach to adopting efficiency measures for buildings, industry, and the federal government that will promote significant cost-savings while helping to protect the health of our communities and wildlife threatened by climate change. Should amendments be adopted that do not reflect the same consensus principle that went into producing the current bill, or undermine current efforts by the federal government to reduce carbon pollution, NWF will be forced to oppose the legislation. We encourage you to oppose amendments that would erode the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate carbon pollution, block federal agencies from considering the social cost of carbon when assessing the costs and benefits of major projects, or undermine the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill would be a big step in the right direction. Reducing energy consumption through efficiency measures is not only an important part of carbon reduction strategies, but also provides wildlife and habitat benefits by reducing energy-production related pressure on America's wildlife and pristine lands. These benefits must not be undermined by including controversial amendments or tying the passage of S. 2262 to the approval of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

The Keystone XL tar sands pipeline would force America's wildlife and communities to accept all the risk of oil spills, contaminated water supplies, and climate-fueled extreme weather like superstorm Sandy, and for what reward? Higher Midwest gas prices and a handful of jobs.

The Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill, on the other hand, is estimated to create 136,000 new jobs by 2025. By 2030, the bill will also net annual savings of $13.7 billion and lower CO_2 emissions and other air pollutants by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road. These clear benefits must not be eroded by harmful amendments or a mandated approval of the polluting Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

Now is the time to implement common sense measures, like efficiency standards, to create jobs, save money and reduce carbon pollution. The National Wildlife Federation urges you to support S. 2262, oppose any amendments or linked legislation that will undermine the consensus and bipartisan cooperation that the bill represents.

Sincerely,

JIM LYON,
Vice President for Conservation Policy, National Wildlife Federation.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADERS REID AND MCCONNELL: On behalf of the more than 200 CEO members of Business Roundtable, who lead major American companies operating in every sector of the U.S. economy, I write to convey Business Roundtable's strong support for the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014, S. 2262, and respectfully request that this vital legislation be brought to the Senate floor for a vote as expeditiously as possible.

America's CEOs have consistently called upon Congress and the Administration to adopt a more strategic approach to energy policy that would capitalize on U.S. strengths to promote economic growth, job creation, and enhanced energy security. In our report, Taking Action on Energy: A CEO Vision for America's Energy Future, Business Roundtable laid out a comprehensive plan to boost U.S. energy security and ensure a steady supply of reliable, affordable energy to power increased growth. As noted in that report, energy efficiency improvements over the last quarter century are an American success story and a win-win for the U.S. economy.

A Business Roundtable report released last month, Grow, Sustain: Celebrating Success, highlights the sustainability achievements of Roundtable member companies, including remarkable progress in more efficient energy use. Private-sector innovation and CEO leadership have helped yield a 1.9 percent annual reduction in U.S. energy use per dollar of economic output (GDP) between 1992 and 2012. These steady energy efficiency improvements are a major strategic advantage for the United States.

Enacting S. 2262 would be an important step toward accelerating U.S. energy efficiency gains and facilitating America's emergence as a global energy superpower. Senate passage of this vital legislation would be a victory for all Americans. We urge you to support S. 2262.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. COTE,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Honeywell, Chair, Energy and Environment Committee, Business Roundtable.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I think this nontraditional alliance clearly illustrates the sizable and diverse demand for this energy efficiency jobs bill and, simply put, the time is now for the Senate to take up and pass this bipartisan, commonsense proposal to grow our economy and create good-paying jobs for decades. We cannot let our extraneous debates about amendments or nonamendments, what amendments to include, which amendments not to include, to get in the way of getting this legislation done, because this creates jobs, it saves consumers money, and it saves on pollution.

One of the great things about the bill, which I hope we are going to take up in a few minutes, is it includes 10 additional bipartisan amendments. Since our bill was taken up and pulled back from the floor in September, Senator PORTMAN and I have worked closely with Senators from both sides of the aisle to add 10 new bipartisan provisions that expand current sections of our bill.

The new bill has a section that puts in place commonsense and consensus-reached regulatory relief provisions that maintain the underlying principle of advancing energy efficiency in the private sector. As a result of these provisions, the legislation has more energy savings, more job creation, and more carbon dioxide reductions than the previous version of the bill.

I want to briefly talk a little bit about some of the bipartisan amendments, because I think they point out the improvements in the legislation.

Tenant Star builds on the success of EPA's long-running voluntary ENERGY STAR Program for commercial buildings and it creates a similar tenant-oriented certification for leased spaces. Again, it is voluntary. Commercial building tenants who design, construct, and operate their leased spaces in ways that maximize energy efficiency would receive the same kind of public recognition through Tenant Star that ENERGY STAR has produced for so many buildings and businesses.

This bill also includes a provision for energy-efficient schools. Senator SUSAN COLLINS and Senator MARK UDALL have an amendment included that would help schools' energy efficiency and streamline the government's programs to make them run more productively. This would help schools across the country that finance energy efficiency projects to make their buildings operate in a more sustainable fashion.

The legislation also includes Senator BENNET's and Senator ISAKSON's amendment, called the SAVE Act, which would improve the accuracy of mortgage underwriting by including energy efficiency as a factor in determining the value and affordability of homes. It includes a proposal by Senators HOEVEN and PRYOR to create a regulatory exemption for thermal storage water heaters so rural cooperatives and others could continue to use certain large water heaters for their successful demand-response programs.

In addition to what is in this legislation, we have seen in the last several months the House pass energy efficiency legislation, including a number of the provisions that are in the bill we will be taking up today. In fact, the House recently passed an energy efficiency package by an overwhelming 375–36 margin. Those provisions passed by the House are in the version we are introducing of Shaheen-Portman, and it shows how much support for energy efficiency there is throughout the Congress.

We have a real opportunity to pass this legislation. This is a bipartisan, affordable, widely supported bill and, most importantly, an effective first step to address our Nation's very real energy needs.

I thank Senator PORTMAN for his partnership in bringing the bill to the floor. I thank the majority and minority leaders as well as the new energy Chair, Senator LANDRIEU, and Ranking Member MURKOWSKI for their support, and thank former Energy and Natural Resources chairman, Senator RON WYDEN, for his support.

I also thank the legislation's additional cosponsors: Senators AYOTTE, BENNET, COLLINS, the Presiding Officer, Senator COONS, as well as Senators FRANKEN, HOEVEN, ISAKSON, WARNER, and WICKER. I think the list of bipartisan cosponsors indicates the breadth of support for this legislation, that it shows the ideological breadth of support for it.

I look forward to working with Senate leadership and with all of my colleagues in the Senate, because we can pass this legislation, we can create these jobs, we can save consumers money, and we can reduce pollution.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Jeanne Shaheen, Michael F. Bennet, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Bill Nelson, Tom Harkin, Martin Heinrich, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Joe Manchin III, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Angus S. King, Jr., Mark R. Warner.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 79, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

YEAS—79

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Ayotte	Graham	Murphy
Baldwin	Grassley	Murray
Barrasso	Hagan	Nelson
Begich	Harkin	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Blunt	Heller	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Isakson	Schatz
Burr	Johanns	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Shaheen
Cardin	Kaine	Stabenow
Carper	King	Tester
Casey	Kirk	Thune
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Toomey
Coats	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Collins	Levin	Walsh
Coons	Manchin	Warner
Corker	Markey	Warren
Donnelly	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Durbin	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Menendez	Wyden
Feinstein	Merkley	
Franken	Mikulski	

NAYS—20

Coburn	Inhofe	Roberts
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Crapo	Lee	Scott
Cruz	McCain	Sessions
Fischer	Moran	Shelby
Flake	Paul	Vitter
Hatch	Risch	

NOT VOTING—1

Boozman

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 79, the nays are 20. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Vermont.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 933

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, next week we are going to commemorate National Police Week, a time when the Nation pays tribute to the sacrifices made by all those who serve in law enforcement, particularly those officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. These law enforcement officers risk their lives every day to protect our communities.

We often speak eloquently on both sides of the aisle here about supporting law enforcement and their families. These tributes are important. They are well deserved. But the police officers in our communities deserve more than speeches; they deserve action and real support. We owe it to all who serve to help protect those who protect us. One important, tangible way to do so is to help provide them with lifesaving bulletproof vests.

For more than 15 years the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program has helped to provide bulletproof vests to law enforcement officers around the country. Republican Senator Ben Nighthorse-Campbell of Colorado and I worked across the aisle to design a program that helps local law enforcement agencies purchase bulletproof vests. We both had a background in law enforcement, and we drew on that. Mr. President, let me show you what has happened. Since 1987, this program has enabled over 13,000 State and local enforcement agencies to purchase over 1 million vests.

No one can dispute that this program saves lives. I will never forget a law enforcement officer who testified before our committee. He had his mother and father and his wife and children sitting behind him in the Judiciary Committee. The distinguished Presiding Officer knows how often we have witnesses speaking and their families are there.

He said: I love law enforcement. I love law enforcement. The only thing I love more than law enforcement is my family. But there came a day as an officer when I thought I would never see my family again.

It was when he stopped somebody in a routine traffic stop. The man came out of the car and shot him twice in the chest. He reached down underneath the witness table and pulled up the vest. You could see the two bullets still stuck in the vest.

He said: I got a cracked rib out of it, but I saw my mother and father and my wife and children. I saw them when I was at the hospital, where they were treating me for the cracked rib. I saw them there. They did not have to go to the morgue to see me.

That story is repeated all the time. No one disputes that this program saves lives. That is why Congress has historically acted quickly and decisively to support the bulletproof vests program. Between 2000 and 2010, the program enjoyed widespread bipartisan support. It was reauthorized three times by unanimous consent. This time around, every single Democratic Senator supports passage of the bill. It is also cosponsored by Senators HAGAN, CARDIN, LANDRIEU, SHAHEEN, PRYOR, and FRANKEN, to name just a few cosponsors. It has many other strong supporters of law enforcement, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Major County Sheriffs' Association, and the National Association of Police Organizations.

For reasons I still do not understand, the bill is being blocked on the Republican side. Not a single Republican cosponsor has stepped forward. I cannot understand this. This has never been a partisan issue. It should not be a partisan issue. We are doing this to protect the lives of police officers.

Senator GRASSLEY and I developed a bipartisan reauthorization that included improvements to the program. One important change is that agencies are now given a grant preference for purchasing vests that are uniquely fitted to women officers. There are far more women as police officers today than there were even when Senator Ben Nighthorse-Campbell and I first introduced this bill.

The program is now stronger than ever. I think the vast majority of Senators want to see this program reauthorized. I do not know why Republican Senators have blocked it, especially when we are now protecting, as we had not before, women police officers too. I do not know how we can turn our backs on our police officers.

I would also urge support for the National Blue Alert Act, which was reported by the Judiciary Committee with a strong bipartisan vote. It is sponsored by Senators CARDIN and GRAHAM. I am a proud cosponsor. The bipartisan Justice for All Reauthorization Act, which I coauthored with Republican Senator JOHN CORNYN and which reauthorizes important programs such as the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program—named after a former Republican Senator—is another important bill to law enforcement that we should approve without further delay. It actually defies common sense that any Senator would object to these pieces of legislation.

Next week I will attend, as I almost always do, the National Peace Officers Memorial Service, and there will be a wreath-laying at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, which now contains the names of over 20,000 fallen officers. I remember shortly after I became State's attorney going to the funeral of one of those fallen officers. I have never forgotten that—even though it was decades ago—the long line of police cars, with blue lights flashing. Snow was coming down, and the blue lights reflected off the snowflakes. The names, unfortunately, do not just stop with those over 20,000 fallen officers. The names of 286 fallen officers will be added to its walls, serving as another somber reminder of the brave men and women of law enforcement who risk their lives each and every day. They work tirelessly to keep our communities safe. They deserve our best efforts to do the same for them.

I am, in a moment, going to ask consent that the Senate pass S. 933, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2013. It has always been bipartisan. We should not let ideology put officers' lives at risk now. I commend the fact that every single Democratic Senator supports it and we can honor the service of those who keep us safe by protecting their lives with bulletproof vests.

Frankly, if somebody stands with law enforcement, now is the time to stand with them. I can assure you—and they will assure you—it matters here, and it matters to them.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 162, S. 933, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act; that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be

laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Thank you.

The most senior Member of our body understands the differences he and I have on a lot of issues. Most of what he said is true in his statement about the sacrifices and the effectiveness. Where we have a difference of agreement and a difference of understanding is in the enumerated powers of the Constitution of the United States.

The fact is that every individual in this country today owes $50,000 just on the debt, and every family is responsible for $1,100,000 in unfunded liabilities that your children and you will ultimately pay for.

This is not about vests. This is about continuing to do the same thing that got our country in trouble. This is a $120 million authorization with no offset, no cutting of spending anywhere else. If it is a priority, we ought to cut spending somewhere else. But, more importantly, the Constitution lists the enumerated powers, and there is no role for the Federal Government in terms of funding local police departments. It would be nice to do if we were in surplus. We could ignore the enumerated powers. But we are not in surplus. We are borrowing tons of money every year. We are going to borrow $580 billion this year—$580 billion against the future. And the small thing—this is small. It is only $120 million. I do not object to our police officers having vests. I want them all to have vests. I want all the women to have vests. But it is not a role for the Federal Government. It is a role for my hometown police department in Muskogee, OK. The taxpayers there should protect our police officers.

Our Founders were very clear, and the reason this country is in trouble is we continue to practice outside the parameters of a limited government and take away the responsibility and obligations of State and local communities.

On that basis, I raise an objection and do not agree.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LEAHY. Well, Mr. President, I am sorry to hear this. I hear people who supported a useless war in Iraq, and they will talk about how much money we spend. It was the first time in America's history——

Mr. COBURN. Will the Senator yield for a moment, just for a question?

Is the Senator aware that I never voted for any of the money for that spending?

(Ms. HEITKAMP assumed the Chair.)

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, if the Senator will go back to what I said, it did not refer to him.

I worry about those, however, who voted for that war and did not vote to stop that war and voted for the very first time that this country has ever gone to war in its history without a tax to pay for it. We voted for it on a credit card—an unnecessary war, a war that hurt the interests of the United States, and it will eventually cost us $2 trillion. Nobody—nobody—talks about paying for that. But to protect the police officers, who are on the street every day protecting us, oh, we cannot do that. We cannot do that, even though we have done so before.

I could name the six police officers who were killed in Oklahoma. I am not going to. I am not trying to make this personal. But the Presiding Officer understands law enforcement. She supported this. Everybody on this side of the aisle supports it. It is to protect our police officers.

We will spend $2 trillion on a useless war, but we will not spend a tiny fraction of 1 percent—one one-thousandth of 1 percent—to support our men and women, especially when we now have a provision in here to protect women police officers as well as men police officers. What could be more—what could be more—nonpartisan than this? That is why Senator Ben Nighthorse-Campbell and I joined together, why Republicans and Democrats have joined together.

I am proud that every Democratic Senator is in favor of this legislation. I wish the Republicans would lift their objection. We should pass this bill. If you stand with law enforcement, then you need to stand with them when it matters most. I can assure you—and they can assure you—it matters here, and it matters now.

I yield the floor. I think I have expressed my dismay that the other side of the aisle would not stand up to protect these police officers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I come to the floor to speak about the issue that is before us now on the floor, the energy efficiency act, led by Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN.

The issue the Senators from Oklahoma and Vermont just spoke about is extremely important, and there will be, I am sure, appropriate time to debate that issue. I thank Senator LEAHY for his extraordinary leadership for the safety and support of our police officers, for the many, literally dozens of years—decades—he has served, and he continues to do a magnificent job, and I will be supporting him in those efforts.

But I came to the floor to speak today about the bill that is now before us, with a vote of 79 votes—a very strong bipartisan signal that Republicans and Democrats would like to debate an energy efficiency bill that came out of the Energy Committee on a vote of 19 to 3.

I just became the chair of this committee, but I have served on it now for almost 18 years and just a few weeks ago became the chair. I have had the privilege to work with Republican and Democratic chairs of this committee. I am excited about the opportunity to try to find a path forward with the Presiding Officer, who has been, although not a member of the committee, an absolutely outstanding leader on energy issues since arriving in the Senate, and really look forward to working with her and Members from both sides of the aisle to actually deliver what I think the American people want: a sensible mainstream energy policy for America that increases domestic energy production, efficiency, and conservation; creates millions of jobs right here at home; makes us more energy secure and energy independent; and works with our friends, not our enemies.

I think we can get it done. I have been in the Senate long enough to know that things aren't easy, but I refuse to be cynical. I refuse to be, woe is me, the world is coming to an end, which I hear a lot around here. I think there are a lot of positive things going on in the country.

In the Presiding Officer's home State, North Dakota, I think there is zero unemployment. I think we come in second at about 4.5 percent unemployment in Louisiana because we are busy working—not fighting but working—together to produce energy jobs for the country.

I was very proud to support this efficiency bill in committee. I would like, of course, to see some additional things added to it, but to move it forward—I voted for it to move this bill forward to the floor.

When I became the chair of the committee, I had committed to RON WYDEN, the former chair, and LISA MURKOWSKI, the ranking member—which it is really their work, along with Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN, two outstanding members of the committee—to see what I could do to move this bill forward.

I wanted to talk a minute about why this is important and frame this in a way that our Members can understand it.

First—I am going to talk about the bill itself in a minute, but let me just step back and say this: There have been 302 bills filed in this Congress that relate to energy that have been sent to our committee for review. I am sad to say, and I think my constituents and others will be disappointed to hear, that only 13 of those bills have become law. I want to repeat that: 302 bills have been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources since the beginning of this Congress and only 13 have become law. One of the reasons I wanted to bring the energy efficiency bill to the floor is because I think we need to make that 14.

I think this record is pretty dismal, and this is not a negative statement to the leadership of the committee prior to my being there. It is rather a reflection on the lack of cooperation that we are getting either at the committee level or in the Senate. It most certainly is not a reflection on the talents of the former chairman, RON WYDEN, and LISA MURKOWSKI, who couldn't have worked—and this is sort of the sad underpinning. You couldn't find two leaders who tried to work together more than these two. I know because I have sat next to them on that committee for 18 years and I have watched them. I am an eyewitness to their cordial, respectful conversations, both on and off the committee, when the cameras were on and when the cameras were off. Nobody can question this or deny it because everyone knows it is true, and there are many eyewitnesses besides myself.

The question becomes, if a committee has two people who are working well together, a committee that is as important in jurisdiction as Energy and Natural Resources is in this country, how is it possible that we can only get 13 out of 302 bills passed? That is a very interesting question. Why couldn't we get 14 done this week? That is why I brought this bill to the floor or asked for it to come to the floor, particularly because it is important to both Democrats and Republicans.

Let's talk for a minute about how important this bill is. I have 10 pages of a single-spaced list of businesses, organizations that support this Shaheen-Portman bill, which I will submit for the RECORD. Remember, it came out of committee, one of the few of the 300 filed, on a 19-to-3 vote.

There are roughly 200 organizations and businesses. I am going to submit all of their names for the RECORD, but I just wanted to read a few, to understand the breadth of support for this bill before I talk about what this bill does. They are: Alcoa, American Air, Inc., Aspen Skiing Company, BAE Systems, Caterpillar Inc., Dow Corning, Eastern Mountain Sports, Intel, International Paper, Owens Corning, Raytheon Company—one of the largest in the world, Solar Turbines Incorporated, Universal Lighting, American Jewish Committee, Christian Coalition, ConservAmerica, Earth Day Network, the National Wildlife Federation, the American Chemistry Council, American Lighting Association, Consumer Federation of America, League of Women Voters, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the list of endorsements.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT (SHAHEEN-PORTMAN) ENDORSEMENTS

BUSINESSES:

A.O. Smith; Aberdeen Mechanical; ABM Energy; Acuity Brands Lighting; Alcoa; American Air, Inc.; American Power Conversion; Anvil Knitwear; Aspen Skiing Company; AT&T; Autodesk; Avon Lake Sheet Metal Co.; BAE Systems; Baldor; BASF; Bayer; Best Buy; BJB Electric L.P.; The Brewer-Garrett Co.; Bosch; Capital E; Capstone Turbine Corporation; Caterpillar Inc.; Castle Heating & Air, Inc.

Clif Bar; CLC Associates; Cooper; Coulomb Technologies; Creston Electronics; D. L. Page, Inc.; Danfoss; Deco Lighting; Direct Energy; Dow Corning; Duct Fabricators, Incorporated; DwellTek Home Energy Solutions; Eastern Mountain Sports; Eaton Corporation; eBay Inc.; ECOtality; EDA Architecture; Eileen Fisher; eMeter; Energy Platforms; EnerNOC; EnLink GeoEnergy; FlexEnergy; Frank & Fric. Inc.; Fresh Energy; Fulton & Associates Balance Company; G&W Electric; Geauga Mechanical Co., Inc.; General Electric; Gilbert Industries, INC.

Guardian Industries; Graftech; Green Strategies, Inc.; HAVE, Inc.; Honeywell; HUBBELL INCORPORATED; Imperial Heating & Cooling, Inc.; Industrial First, Inc.; Infineon Technologies; Ingersoll Rand; Intel; International Paper; Itron; JELD-WEN; Johns Manville; Johnson Controls; Kaiserman Company; Knauf Insulation; LEDnovation; Legrand; Lennox International; Leviton; Levi Strauss and Co.; Linde; Litetronics International Inc.; LumenOptix; Luminus Devices, Inc.; Lutron; Luxury Heating Co.; Magnaray.

Masco Corporation; Middle Atlantic; Miles Mechanical, Inc.; Nalco, an Ecolab Company; National Grid USA; Nexans USA Inc.; Northern Ohio Roofing & Sheet Metal Inc.; Orion Energy Systems; OSRAM SYLVANIA; Owens Corning; Owens Illinois; Panasonic Corporation of North America; Philips Electronics; PPG; Professional Balance Company (dba PBC, Inc.); Quanex; RAB Lighting; Raytheon Company; Recycled Energy Development; Regal-Beloit; RESNET; Rinnai America Corporation; Robert Bosch LLC; Robertshaw Controls Company dba. Invensys Controls; Rockwell Automation; RPM; Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc.; Saint-Gobain; Schneider Electric; Schweizer Dipple, Inc.

Sibley, Inc.; Siemens Corporation; Sika Corporation; SimplexGrinnell; Solar Turbines Incorporated; SPRI, Inc.; Stonyfield Farm; Symantec; T. H. Martin Inc.; TE Connectivity; TECO Westinghouse Motor Company; Tendril; TerraLUX; The Dow Chemical Company; The Stella Group, Ltd.; Thomas & Betts; Trane; TRI-C Sheet Metal, Inc.; United Technologies Corporation; Universal Lighting; Ushio America; Vantage; Veka Inc.; Vinyl Siding Institute; Watkins Manufacturing; WattStopper; Westinghouse Lighting Corporation; Willham Roofing Co., Inc.; Whirlpool Corporation.

FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

American Jewish Committee, Christian Coalition, Interfaith Power and Light, Union for Reform Judaism.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES

Clean Air-Cool Planet, Clean Water Action, Climate Solutions, Conservation Law Foundation, Conservation Services Group, ConservAmerica, Earth Day Network, Environment America, Environment Northeast, Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Environmental Law and Policy Center, League of Conservation Voters, Massachusetts Climate Action Network, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, World Wildlife Fund, The Wilderness Society, Oregon Environmental Council, Earthjustice.

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS/THINK TANKS

Adhesive and Sealant Council, Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute, Alliance for Industrial Efficiency, Alliance to Save Energy, American Architectural Manufacturers Association, American Chemical Society, American Chemistry Council, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, American Institute of Architects, American Lighting Association, American Public Power Association, Appliance Standards Awareness Project, ASHRAE, Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, Association of State Energy Research and Technology Transfer Institutions (ASERTTI), Bipartisan Policy Center, Business Council for Sustainable Energy, Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy, Business Roundtable, Boulder Green Building Guild, Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association, Center for the Celebration of Creation, Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture), Combined Heat and Power Association, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, Copper Development Association, Council of North American Insulation Manufactures Association, Digital Energy & Sustainability Solutions Campaign (DESSC), Efficiency First.

Energy Future Coalition, Federal Performance Contracting Coalition, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Geothermal Exchange Organization, Green Building Initiative, Habitat for Humanity International, Illuminating Engineering Society, Industrial Energy Efficiency Coalition, Industrial Minerals Association, Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC), Institute for Market Transformation, Institute for Sustainable Communities, International Association of Lighting Designers, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, International Copper Association, Ltd., International District Energy Association, Large Public Power Council, League of Women Voters, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP), National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO), National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), National Community Action Foundation, National Electrical Manufacturers Association, National Restaurant Association, National Roofing Contracting Association (NRCA), National Small Business Association (NSBA), National U.S. Clean Heat & Power Association.

New England Council, New England Fuel Institute, North Carolina Chamber, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP), Northwest Energy Coalition, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, Northwest Energy Efficiency Council, Ohio Business Council for a Clean Economy, Ohio Chemistry Technology Council, Ohio Manufacturers Association, Ohio Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association, Oil Heat Council of New Hampshire, Oil & Energy Service Professionals, Oregon Environmental Council, Outdoor Industry Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, PEW Charitable Trusts, Plumbing Manufacturers International, Polyisocyanurate Insulation

Manufacturers Association (PIMA), Rebuilding Together, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractor's National Association (SMACNA), Solar Energy Industries Association, Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA), Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association, The Aluminum Association, The Vinyl Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Conference of Mayors, U.S. Green Buildings Council, Utah Clean Energy, Union of Concerned Scientists, Vinyl Building Council, Window and Door Manufacturers Association.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I could go on and on, but the point I think is clear. There are organizations from the left, the right, the center, large and small, business coalitions, consumer coalitions, saying act now on energy efficiency.

We may not be able to, and I doubt sincerely that in the next 4 days on the floor of the Senate we can draft an energy policy for America. That would be a bar set a little too high for what we will be able to do between Tuesday and Friday.

But we could do two important things for the country: pass this energy efficiency bill and pass the Keystone Pipeline, something I am proud to vote for. You will vote for it. It is a piece of the energy infrastructure this country needs, this country deserves, and we need to move forward on it.

So in the spirit of balance, compromise, fairness, and common sense—which we are not finding around here very often—I thought: Let's see. We have an energy efficiency bill that is supported by an extraordinarily broad and deep coalition of businesspeople and supported by two of the most respected Members of this body.

May I remind everyone, JEANNE SHAHEEN was a Governor before she was a Senator. She has been serving for decades in public office and is well known and well respected.

BOB PORTMAN is not only a Senator from Ohio but was formerly the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, so he understands about finance, cost, and savings. I don't think either he or JEANNE SHAHEEN would have put their names on this bill, which they have been working on now for 5 years. This is not an election-year bill, as some would call it. This is a 5-year, very hard effort by these two wonderful legislators to provide a bill the country needs. So why aren't we all jumping up and down voting for it? That is a good question.

ROB PORTMAN, who was also the U.S. Trade Representative under the Bush administration and saw firsthand when Congress passed very poorly thought-out bills or made mistakes in bills we passed, and seeing so many jobs leaving to go to China and India, probably jumped on a chance to create jobs in America. Thank goodness for ROB PORTMAN. That is what our energy efficiency bill does. It creates jobs for America.

When I go home and I am out in my parishes, whether it is Tangipahoa Parish or Richland Parish or De Soto Parish or Caddo Parish or East Baton Rouge or Orleans Parish, people look at me and say: Senator, I don't know why everybody is yelling and screaming in Washington. I don't know why everybody is yelling and screaming about the President or this or that. Would you please tell them we want high-paying jobs.

Yes, raising the minimum wage is important. I am voting for the minimum wage. People don't want to make the minimum wage. They want to make $40-, $50-, $60-, $70,000 a year. They want an income for their families so their kids can go to school, go to college, so they can live in their homes and retire securely. Do you think you can do that at a minimum wage, whether it is $7 an hour or $10 an hour? No.

We have a bill on the floor that is going to create American jobs with American manufacturers—maybe not all U.S. technology because frankly we get good energy efficiency technology from around the world, but Americans are very good at this—very good at it. In fact, it is so good that in an old graph—which I am going to have updated and blown up because no one can see this but me, unfortunately, because it is so small. If the cameras can pick it up—and I am going to have it updated by this afternoon—we can see that it says, ''Energy Efficiency: America's Greatest Energy Resource.''

Energy efficiency supplies 52 percent of our overall resources, petroleum is 35, natural gas is 23, coal is 19, and nuclear is 8.

Think about energy efficiency as our Nation's greatest resource. Energy savings from efficiency are real and save Americans money. Since 1970, energy efficiency improvements have reduced U.S. energy costs by about $700 billion from what it would have been otherwise.

When we think about energy saved, it is the cleanest energy. It is completely or almost completely American because we are the ones saving it. We may import a little of that technology from other places, but it is all American, all day, all clean. Why aren't we doing it?

The other side—and I know Senator THUNE is going to speak in a minute—said energy efficiency is not enough for us. We want to build the Keystone Pipeline, so I agree. I agree. I think it is time to do both; to do this energy efficiency bill, to build the Keystone Pipeline. Why? Not because I don't respect the process but because the process is over—5 years, 5 studies as required by law. Five studies were completed, the last of which was a State Department study that concluded it is actually environmentally safer to transport oil from Canada, from the oil sands in Canada to the refineries along the gulf coast to provide energy for this Nation and create anywhere from 30- to 50,000 jobs, depending on conservative or liberal facts, talking points, to create jobs and to put America and Canada closer together. We already are together but even closer together to be a North American energy powerhouse.

Canada has very high—as the Presiding Officer knows because she visited the oil sands. I am looking forward to going as soon as I can, but I do know, because she shared her experiences with me, that it is very spectacular to see the environmental safeguards Canada has used to produce this resource that is so important to them in the Alberta Province and to us.

Why not have an energy efficiency bill that is very popular with Democrats and supported by Republicans and then an energy piece, just a piece, not the whole energy policy of the world, not the whole energy policy of the United States but two important pillars, efficiency and production, put them together, try to find compromise and move it forward on these two pieces of legislation. Then we can get it over to the House, let the House decide if they will do it, and move it to the President's desk separately because the President has powers in the Constitution, and we have our own powers.

One would think that would make a lot of sense, and this is what I was hoping to do by asking the leadership to allow the Shaheen-Portman bill to come to the floor. But evidently, as balanced, as fair as that sounds, I think it is unfortunately probably not going to be sufficient to move this issue forward. We shall see. We are going to open this for debate.

I wish the debate could be about energy efficiency and the importance of this bill, things that might improve this bill relative to energy efficiency and not on other matters that both sides know do not have this kind of broad-based support.

Some of the matters colleagues want to file as amendments that are pending, or those I know of that might come to the floor, have not even come through our committee. This bill did come through the committee on a 19-to-3 vote. While the Keystone Pipeline has not yet come through committee, it can come to this floor and there may be enough votes to pass it—very, very close. We have about 57 to 58 votes, as I stand here. We need two or three or four more. We might get those votes as the debate goes on and as people listen to the importance of promoting America as an energy superpower.

I will talk more about that later in the week. I have a lot more to say about the importance of the Keystone Pipeline. But for right now, I want to ask colleagues on both sides of the aisle to really think about the benefits to their districts, to their people, and

to our country, to support the energy efficiency bill and to agree on a vote on the Keystone Pipeline in hopes of getting a balanced effort moving forward.

There will be time to talk about other issues that are much more controversial. Although I support many of them, they are much more controversial, if you can believe it, than these two. Even though Keystone is controversial, we still have almost 60 votes, so it is worth trying for. So that is my pitch—to try to be as cooperative as we can.

I think Leader REID has been extremely reasonable in allowing the efficiency bill to come to the floor, knowing there are lots—hundreds—of amendments that could be talked about and that are extraneous to this issue. Technically, he is agreeing to a stand-alone vote on Keystone, which is a big concession for the leader of a party where the majority of our Members, unfortunately, aren't supporting it. I support it, Senator BEGICH supports it, Senator TESTER supports it, and Senator HEITKAMP supports it. But my friends on the Republican side should understand that when BOEHNER says he can't take up an issue unless a majority of his caucus is for it, they all jump up and down and say: Go Speaker BOEHNER, yes. That is the way to go. Yet when HARRY REID stands up and says, listen, I am going as far as I can go here—the majority of my caucus doesn't even support Keystone, but I am going to allow a vote on it—my Republican colleagues want to just push that aside as if he is not cooperating. It is disingenuous, it is hypocritical, and it is unfair.

Now, HARRY can fight his own battles. He doesn't need me to fight them for him. But let me just say to the other side that I don't want to hear anything from you all: Well, we can't get that done because even though we have the votes in the House, we don't have a majority of Republicans. This is about Republicans and Democrats sometimes crossing the aisle to do what is right for our country and not being held hostage by the side wings of our parties. I wish I had a little more help around here doing that.

Anyway, we will give it the old college try and try to get this energy efficiency bill through and get an up-or-down vote on the Keystone Pipeline. If people cooperate, we will get it done. If not, we will have had only 13 bills passed out of this Congress from the energy committee, and we will have to roll up our sleeves and go back to work and figure out a better approach. This is the best one I could come up with. It may work; it may not.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks, the Senator from Wyoming Mr. BARRASSO be recognized, followed by the Senator from Arkansas Mr. PRYOR.

Madam President, I modify the unanimous consent request and ask that Senator PRYOR be recognized at the conclusion of my remarks, followed by Senator BARRASSO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, yesterday USA Today and the Pew Research Center released a new poll that found Americans, by more than a 2-to-1 margin, were dissatisfied with the direction the country is going. Sixty-two percent of Americans rate their personal financial situation as poor or fair. A whopping 65 percent want the next President to pursue policies different from those of the current President.

What I would suggest is that the American people are tired—they are tired of seeing their bills go up while their paychecks don't. They are tired of having to work harder just to stay in place—to say nothing of getting ahead. They are tired of economic promises that are often repeated but never fulfilled.

Our economy has supposedly been in recovery for years, but it is a recovery that feels a lot like a recession to ordinary hardworking Americans. More than 10 million Americans are unemployed, and more than one-third of them have been out of work for more than 6 months.

While unemployment finally declined last month, the decline was driven more by the fact that 806,000 Americans dropped out of the workforce entirely than by any meaningful surge in the number of those who are employed. Had the number of Americans participating in the labor force stayed flat last month, the unemployment rate would have actually gone up, not down. In fact, if the labor force participation rate today were the same as it was when President Obama took office, our Nation would have an unemployment rate of 10.4 percent.

So what is happening is more and more people are leaving the labor force. They are completely discouraged. But the labor force participation rate has fallen, and one of the main reasons it has fallen is because so many Americans have grown so discouraged that they have given up looking for work entirely.

Our country has experienced recessions before, but we have always bounced back. But our recovery from this recession has been so slow—at times, seemingly nonexistent—that many are wondering if the last 5 years of sluggish growth and recession-level unemployment could be the new normal. And they are right; it could be, if we continue the policies of the last 5 years.

The widespread dissatisfaction with the economy reflected in the Pew poll may not be what Democrats want to see, but it is the natural outcome of their policies. They have spent 5 years pursuing policies that have not only been unsuccessful in creating jobs but have all too frequently actually hurt job creation.

Take ObamaCare. It is hard to even know where to start when talking about the damage ObamaCare is wreaking on the jobs and the economy. There is the ObamaCare tax on lifesaving medical devices, such as pacemakers and insulin pumps, which has cost thousands of jobs in this industry already and is going to cost thousands more. There is the 30-hour workweek rule, which has forced businesses, State and local governments, and nonprofits to cut the hours of workers in this country. There is the employer mandate, which has caused many businesses to rethink their plans to expand and hire new workers. Then, of course, there is the burden the law places on small businesses.

The title of an article that appeared in the Las Vegas Review Journal over the weekend summed it up nicely, and the headline went like this: ''Own a small business? Brace for ObamaCare pain.'' This article pointed out something that is often overlooked in discussions of the law—that the people who will suffer the most from the small business health plan cancellations that ObamaCare will cause in Nevada and around the country are those who can least afford it—the kind of people the law was supposed to help.

To quote from the article:

> Some workers are at higher risk than others of losing company-sponsored coverage. Professional, white-collar companies such as law or engineering firms will bite the bullet and renew at higher prices. . . . But moderately skilled or low-skilled people making $8 to $14 an hour working for landscaping businesses, fire prevention firms or fencing companies could lose work-based coverage because the plans cost so much relative to salaries.

That is right, Madam President. It is low-income workers in places like Nevada who stand in the greatest danger of losing their employer-sponsored coverage. That is frequently the story when it comes to the Democrats' so-called job-creating policies. Democrats like to suggest that Republicans are indifferent to workers' plight, and that only Democrats really have a plan to offer help. But in fact the Democrats' plans to help often pose the most danger to low-income workers.

There is ObamaCare, of course, as I mentioned, but there is also the minimum wage proposal, which the Congressional Budget Office says will eliminate up to 1 million jobs. Those 1 million jobs that will be eliminated are not doctors' jobs and they are not lawyers' jobs. They are positions held by low-income workers who will be the first to suffer when employers have to cut back on hiring or on hours as a result of the minimum wage hike.

Then, of course, there is the Keystone Pipeline, which we are talking a little about today, and which the President has resolutely refused to approve, despite the fact that it would support, according to his own State Department estimates, 42,000 jobs without spending a dime of taxpayer money.

The people who will be hurt the worst by the President's decision to cow to the relentless pressure of far-left environmentalists are the workers who would actually build the pipeline and the restaurants and small businesses who would benefit from pipeline workers' business during construction.

It is not just Keystone. Almost all of the President's energy policies would do serious damage to our economy and to working Americans. Take the restrictions on ground-level ozone levels the President's EPA is scheduled to release by December of this year.

In 2010, the EPA proposed lowering the permitted ozone levels from 75 parts per billion to 60 to 70 parts per billion. Energy industry estimates suggest that lowering the ground-level ozone concentration to 60 parts per billion would cost businesses—get this—more than $1 trillion per year—$1 trillion per year—between 2020 and 2030. Job losses as a result of this measure would total a staggering 7.3 million by 2020, devastating entire industries—most especially U.S. manufacturing. My own State of South Dakota would lose tens of thousands of jobs in manufacturing, natural resources and mining, and construction.

Take a look at what this would actually do. These are the areas under these proposals that have been put forward. Today there are probably a couple hundred counties in the country that are not in compliance, in what we call nonattainment areas—mostly urban, heavily populated areas. But if we take a look at what their proposal would do on this map, this map represents those who would be affected if we went to 60 parts per billion as opposed to the 75 parts per billion today.

So instead of focusing on those counties in this country that are not currently in attainment and getting them to full attainment first, we are talking about expanding dramatically the impact this would have all across the country.

Look at my State of South Dakota, for example. We have areas that wouldn't be in attainment. We don't think of South Dakota as being a place where we have problems with clean air and ozone issues, but this is clearly a regulation which, if put into effect, would cost the economy literally billions and billions of dollars—in one estimate $1 trillion per year between 2020 and 2030.

If we look at where this hurts people the most, again, it is the people who are in the lower and middle-income range—people whose budgets are more heavily affected by hikes in their energy bills.

Today the President will hold press events to raise the alarm about climate change and push for more job-killing, industry crippling energy policies, but it will be interesting to see if he spares a line or two for the millions of Americans whose jobs will be lost and whose household budgets will be shattered as a result of his proposals.

This week the Senate is going to be considering the Shaheen-Portman energy legislation. I plan to introduce three amendments to check EPA overreach and to protect American workers from the devastating effects of the EPA's ground-level ozone and greenhouse gas proposal.

The first amendment will require Congress to vote up or down on any EPA regulation that has an annual cost of more than $1 billion. Pretty straightforward. Let the people's representatives vote. If they are going to put regulations out there that are going to cost more than $1 billion, let us have Congress vote on those.

The second amendment would prohibit the EPA from finalizing greenhouse gas regulations for new and existing power plants if the Department of Energy and the GAO determine those regulations will raise energy prices or cost jobs. So if the Department of Energy and the GAO determine the regulations will not impact jobs or energy prices, the EPA can go forward and finalize those regulations.

It is time to be honest with the American people about the cost of these regulations. Taken together, these two amendments are a strong step toward placing a check on EPA's regulatory train wreck.

The final amendment I will offer is specific to the administration's upcoming proposal on ground-level ozone, which as I just mentioned is the most expensive regulation in EPA's history. The cost of this regulation is so great that when the EPA first proposed lower levels in 2010, the White House delayed those regulations until after the President's reelection.

My amendment is straightforward.

First, it would require the EPA to consider the costs and feasibility of new ozone regulations. Many Americans would be surprised to know the EPA isn't even allowed to consider costs when setting these new regulations. My amendment would fix that.

Additionally, my amendment would force the EPA to focus on the worst areas for smog before dramatically expanding this regulation to the rest of the country. As I mentioned on the map here, 221 counties across 27 States don't even meet the current standard of 75 parts per billion. It makes sense to focus on these urban areas before expanding ozone regulations to places such as western South Dakota, where we clearly don't have a smog problem.

Under my amendment, 85 percent of these counties would have to achieve full compliance with the existing standard before the EPA can move forward with a lower level which dramatically expands the reach of ozone regulations. I hope the Senate will get the chance to vote on these proposals.

I also hope the Senate will get a chance to vote on the Keystone amendment so we can get those 42,000 jobs opened to American workers.

It has been a long time since we have had a real energy debate in the Senate. But given our sluggish economy and the danger the President's energy proposals pose to any future growth, I am hoping the majority leader will decide it is time for a debate.

The election-year agenda offered by Democrats and the President is just more of the same job-killing, growth-stifling legislation that Democrats have been offering for the past 5 years. Like the legislation the Democrats and the President have offered for the last 5 years, it will do the worst injury to those Americans who can least afford it.

Pundits may warn that our current economic malaise is the new normal, but it doesn't have to be that way. We can get the economy going again. We can lift the heavy burden of government regulation and free businesses to grow and create jobs. We can make it easier, not harder, for middle-class workers to find stability and for lower income workers to make it into the middle class.

According to the Pew/USA Today poll, 65 percent of Americans want the next President to pursue different policies. It is still a couple more years until the next Presidential election, but there is no reason Congress can't start pursuing different policies today. The American people have been struggling for long enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

OPERATION RAZORBACK-GUATEMALA

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I thank my colleague who allowed me to jump in front of him in the line. I appreciate that.

I am sorry for my voice today. I sound a little bit like Daffy Duck, but I have a cold, and I am working through that right now.

I rise today to speak for a few minutes about something in this country we take for granted—and that is electricity.

Ever since the Rural Electrification Act back in the 1930s passed, for the most part every person in this country has had access to electricity. I know there are a few exceptions, but basically that program has worked extremely well and continues to work. As the Presiding Officer, who comes from a rural State, knows, sometimes we have investor-owned facilities, sometimes we have these cooperative type

utilities, and sometimes we have even municipalities.

I rise today to focus on something the Arkansas electric cooperatives have been involved in, and I thank 25 power linemen in the 12 electric coops in Arkansas who recently completed a mission to electrify two remote Guatemalan villages. Combined with a 2013 project, Arkansas electric cooperative linemen have assisted in providing electric service to more than 770 rural Guatemalan residents who otherwise would not have electricity. This is the first time these people have ever had electricity in their lives.

This rural electrification initiative is part of Arkansas's Operation Razorback-Guatemala that started in 2012 in cooperation with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International. After a year of planning, the linemen arrived in Guatemala on March 26 and then traveled approximately 9 hours to the remote villages of Las Flores and La Hacienda to ''light up'' the land. I commend them for giving their time, energy, and know-how to improve the lives of hundreds of Guatemalans who before this did not even know—because electricity is a critical element to improving the quality of life—the quality of health care, the quality of education, and some of the basics that, again, we often take for granted in this country—such as clean water and many other vital services.

This area in Guatemala processes and exports coffee beans that end up at companies such as NESCAFE, McDonald's, Starbucks, and other coffee outlets. This new reliable access to electricity will help these villagers increase the quantity and quality of their locally grown coffee, resulting in economic prosperity and a better quality of life for present and future generations. So they will be even more connected with the global economy because of what these people from the Arkansas electric coops did to help these folks.

Senator BOOZMAN could not be here today; otherwise, he would be here sitting at his desk saying a few words. But he did pass on for me a brief statement he wanted me to read:

> We are proud of Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas's willingness to support people around the world who need safe, affordable and reliable electricity. Operation Razorback has been a real success that will result in improved economic prosperity, a higher quality of life and more opportunities for Guatemalans today and for future generations. Sharing our knowledge, expertise and technology will make a lasting impact. These Guatemalan villages will never be the same thanks to the progress made by the volunteers of Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

We have a few of those people with us today, and I wish to recognize them: Duane Highley, who is the CEO; Kirkley Thomas, who is the vice president of the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation in Arkansas; Mel Coleman, CEO of the North Arkansas Electric Cooperative; Paul Garrison, one of the linemen who actually went on the trip.

I asked him earlier: What is the first thing these people will get? He said: Lights. Naturally that is what they are going to try to get.

Again, we appreciate them. And also, Jo Ann Emerson, a long-time friend and colleague on the House side, president and CEO of NRECA.

In addition to donating their time and raising more than $100,000 to support this electrification effort, the group also trained local linemen, donated power infrastructure materials, and distributed humanitarian aid items to these local villages.

I again thank the coops and acknowledge them for how they are making not only Arkansas better but also making the world better.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, today President Obama is doing televised events talking about climate change. According to press reports, the President is ready to pivot to the environment as an issue.

Well, I also want to talk about environmental stewardship today. I want to talk about what is going on in some of our States, where they are actually doing something, not just talking about it.

Today the Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses are issuing a new report called ''Washington Gets it Wrong—States Get it Right.''

The report shows how regulations imposed by Washington are undermining the work being done at the State level to manage our lands, our natural resources, and to protect our air and water.

More often than not, Washington regulations and one-size-fits-all mandates do get it wrong. In the West we take very seriously our commitment to ensuring the health and viability of land, wildlife, and the environment. That is at both the local and the State levels.

Federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior like to think of themselves as the ultimate protectors of our Nation's skies and open spaces. But we have seen time and time again that the work being done at the State level is more reasonable, more effective, and certainly less heavyhanded.

Thousands of people are working across the West to protect their communities. These are people who live in the West, not bureaucrats in Washington offices. Nobody is better qualified than the folks who actually live in the West, because they actually walk the land and breathe the air—the land and the air they are trying to protect.

So our report looks at the work being done by State agencies to protect not just the land they live and work on but also the people who rely on the health and safety of that land.

As this report demonstrates, extreme regulations imposed by Washington undermine the work being done at the State level, whether it is to manage lands and natural resources, protect air and water, or conserve species.

When we look at the work of these State agencies—as the Western Caucuses have done in this report—it is clear that when it comes to conservation and environmental efforts, the States do get it right. More often than not, Washington gets it wrong.

It is time for Washington to stop its overreaching regulations and the continual drip, drip, drip of mandates. It is time for Washington to stop getting it wrong and start recognizing how States get it right.

The report has details about specific things different States are doing, but I want to mention four categories where States are leading the way when it comes to environmental stewardship.

The first is protecting species on the ground. This includes conservation policies that States are developing, where they work with industry and landowners to protect species without hampering multiple-use policies; that is, multiple use of the land.

Second, States are showing the right way to protect our water, land, and air. They are putting in place ideas that are tailored to the needs of their own communities. They are actually looking at what is unique about their State and the best way for people to solve problems locally.

Third, States are promoting access to fish and wildlife. States understand they need to manage and protect lands and waters in a way that allows for public spaces to be enjoyed. That means ensuring those spaces remain intact for future generations. These are called natural resources for a reason—they are meant to be enjoyed by all of us, not sealed off under Washington's lock and key.

Fourth, the report looks at what States are doing right when it comes to in-state scientific and support staff. State agencies are employing thousands of people who live in the communities they are trying to protect.

Who has more incentive to protect the local environment? The people who are living there, the people who are working there, and the people who are raising their children in these communities, or some bureaucrats locked in a Washington, DC office? Who knows more about the specific unique features of a State or local area and what will work best there?

The Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses have put out this report

to highlight just a few of the State initiatives we believe are working. I hope the President will take some time today to not just talk but to actually listen and to read our report and see some of the ways States are getting it right and Washington is getting it wrong.

If others are interested and wish to read the report, they can certainly find it at my Web site, www.barrasso.senate.gov.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:43 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair until 2:43 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

THE ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, Americans understand the relationship between affordable energy and a stronger economy. They understand it. They may not know all the numbers, but intuitively they know in their gut that affordable energy is critical to a sound and strong economy.

Between 2008 and 2013, America suffered through a financial crisis—a deep recession, sometimes called the great recession. There was nothing great about it because it turned our country and our economy on its head, and it resulted in the highest level of unemployment since the Great Depression. Yet over the same period of time, U.S. production of oil increased by 50 percent.

Meanwhile, from 2007 to 2012, America's production of shale oil increased by an astounding 18-fold while our production of gas grew by more than 50 percent. In fact, it is now projected that the United States could well be a net exporter of natural gas. The terminals that were built along the gulf coast and elsewhere to try to facilitate the importation of natural gas are now being retrofitted and turned around so that the excess natural gas produced right here in the U.S.A. is available to export.

As we have learned, among other things, this could change the geopolitics of the globe. If America and the rest of the world no longer depend on the Middle East—and if Europe and Ukraine are no longer dependent on Russia—for their sole supply of energy and oil, it could change the world as we know it.

Well, as I started out by saying people understand the relationship between affordable energy and a stronger economy, nowhere else do they understand it any better than in Bismarck, ND, or in the Permian Basin in Texas. Those are the two places, the last time I checked, that had the lowest level of unemployment in the country, and it is not a coincidence. These are places that are producing huge volumes of American oil and natural gas, and it is creating a lot of jobs in the process.

In short, even amid a difficult period of economic stagnation, America has been experiencing a true revolution in domestic energy output. This is a little bit inside baseball, but a few years ago people were talking about peak oil, as if all of the oil that could be discovered had been discovered in the world; we were running out. Well, obviously, that has proven not to be true. But, as I said, all you need to do is to visit the Permian Basin in West Texas, the Eagle Ford Shale region in South Texas or the Barnett Shale region in North Texas and see what happens when America is a good steward of the natural resources we have been provided.

The numbers in my State are really amazing—in the great State of Texas. During the month of February, our State's average daily oil production hit a 28-year high—a 28-year high—as we produced more than 2 million barrels of oil a day. What does that mean, if you do not come from an oil-producing State, an energy-producing State? That means, at minimum, that is 2 million barrels a day less we have to import from OPEC—the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries—in the Middle East. That is 2 million barrels less a day that we are held hostage to that volatile region of the world.

In Karnes County, TX, alone, which is part of the Eagle Ford Shale region, total monthly oil production was nearly 4.9 million barrels. How did this happen? Well, it happened because of the innovation of this sector of our economy—the energy sector—and it has made it cleaner, safer, much more productive than it has been at any other time in the past.

In Midland, TX, which I mentioned a moment ago—part of the incredibly productive Permian Basin, which has been producing oil and gas for many decades now—monthly oil production grew from about 842,000 barrels in February 2008 to 1.9 million barrels in February 2014, for a total increase from 2008 to 2014 of 128 percent—128 percent. Incredible.

As I said, it is not surprising that this area of our State and our country has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the entire Nation. There is a relationship between affordable energy and a strong economy and strong job growth. It is a place, for example, where a person with a high school diploma or a general equivalency degree, a GED, can make $75,000 a year driving trucks. So if you can get a commercial driver's license in Midland, TX, and you have a GED or a high school degree, you could make $75,000 a year. I was told yesterday that at the McDonald's restaurants in the area, people are being paid $15 an hour. That is not because the Federal Government has raised the minimum wage to $15 an hour; that is because the market demands it because the economy is booming.

As I said, people in my State have long understood—because we have been an energy-producing State—that U.S. energy policy is a critical part of U.S. economic policy. Thanks to this innovation I alluded to a moment ago, you are seeing other parts of the country experience this, some for the first time.

But we are all learning that maximizing domestic energy production will create American jobs, and it will make America safer. They are also beginning to understand better that misguided government policies can destroy those same jobs and perpetuate our dependence on foreign energy sources. For example, many people in my State are very concerned about the regulatory process at the Federal level and particularly a proposal that will, in essence, enact a backdoor energy tax in the form of new greenhouse gas rules. The proposed rule would have a major economic cost in return for meager or nonexistent benefits. The Obama Environmental Protection Agency itself admitted that its greenhouse gas rule would not have a notable impact on U.S. carbon dioxide emissions by 2022.

Speaking of which, I hope my friends across the aisle—who frequently argue that we must have government-imposed CO_2 reductions, even if it kills jobs and raises the price of energy for consumers—appreciate that this same natural gas and energy revolution that we have talked about has itself—all by itself—resulted in a significant decline in CO_2 emissions. That is by virtue of this same innovation that has created all this natural gas—cheaper, more affordable energy—to help drive our economy and help create more jobs. At the same time it has reduced CO_2 emissions. Between 2005 and 2012, U.S. emissions dropped by more than 10 percent. Indeed, emissions dropped more in the United States than in Europe, which already has in place some draconian measures, such as a cap-and-trade rule, a carbon tax, and those sorts of policies. It has dropped more in America without those because of this innovation and this natural gas renaissance.

I admit this natural gas boom was not the only reason our emissions went down, but many experts believe it was the most important.

Despite this progress, the majority leader insists that we are still not doing enough to curb CO_2 emissions.

But do you know what. He refuses to bring a bill to the floor that would actually, according to his scenario, do something about it—the so-called cap-and-trade bill. I do not support that because I think it would raise energy costs, it would have negligible benefits, and it is really just throwing a bone to some of the most radical people in America when it comes to our environment and exploring and producing American energy. But cap and trade failed to command sufficient Senate approval even when our Democratic friends controlled 60 votes, which in the Senate is unassailable in the sense that you can do that purely on a party-line vote. But the reason it did not pass was pretty simple, and our Democratic friends understand this as well. The costs of cap and trade vastly outweigh the benefits of cap and trade. It does not pass the cost-benefit test.

The same is true of President Obama's backdoor energy tax. Over the coming decades, America's contribution to worldwide carbon dioxide emissions growth will be minuscule. Moreover, as I mentioned, the EPA itself—the Obama administration Environmental Protection Agency—does not believe the greenhouse gas rule would have a significant impact on U.S. emissions by 2022—8 years from now. So the benefits of this backdoor energy tax would be virtually nonexistent, while the costs would be all too real, including higher energy prices and lost jobs.

The shale gas revolution, as it is called—shale because that is the rock it is produced from through this phenomenon known as fracking. And for those who are scared about the concept of fracking, who do not really understand it, this is a process that has been used for about 70 years around the country. It is very safely regulated at the State and local level, and, if proper drilling practices are observed, casing is submitted in a hole in a way that protects drinking water and other possible contamination. So it can and has been done on a daily basis for lo these seven decades.

But the shale gas revolution has been critical to America's economic growth during a time the rest of the economy has struggled, and it is going to be even more vital in the decades ahead.

According to one study, by 2035 unconventional oil and gas resources alone—that is what comes from shale; shale oil, shale gas—will support close to 3.5 million jobs in America and make $475 billion in value-added contributions to America's economy.

Where would we be this last quarter, when the gross domestic product of our economy grew at 0.1 percent, if it were not for what I am talking about here, this energy renaissance in America? We would be in a recession, in my judgment, because it has contributed so much that it has essentially negated a lot of the other bad policies that have kept American job growth nearly flatlined otherwise.

Given all of that, it would be my hope based on this evidence—not based on my comments or my arguments but based on the evidence—we should be doing everything in Washington to support this revolution, or some have called it a renaissance. Call it what you will, but it has supported American job creation and lowered energy costs and helped our economy.

So why not embrace an energy policy that is progrowth, projobs, and proconsumer, an energy policy that is consistent with our environmental interests but serves our economic interests as well and our strategic interests. That means, in part, doing what I said earlier; that is, blocking regulations that do not pass a simple cost-benefit analysis. It means streamlining the regulatory process here in Washington so these projects can go forward on a timely basis. It means approving job-creating proposals such as the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Many of us have seen, in horror, some of the accidents that have occurred on the railways, where tanker cars have derailed, catching fire, only to learn that in the absence of adequate pipeline capacity, that is the way the oil moves. It moves along the railroad lines in tankers, and sometimes accidents happen, unfortunately.

But we need the Keystone XL Pipeline, which will create tens of thousands of new jobs. It will mean we have a safe source for additional oil, in addition to what we produce here in America, from our friends in Canada. For the opponents of the Keystone XL Pipeline who think that somehow by denying approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline this oil will not be produced and sold, well, it is going to be sold somewhere. Canada is going to sell that oil abroad if it cannot sell it to the United States. That oil, when it comes down the pipeline, will end up in southeast Texas, in a lot of the large refineries there, and be turned into affordable gasoline, fuel oil, and jet fuel, among other things. We have offered amendments that will do that and more.

We will accelerate natural gas exports to our allies and trading partners. Think what Vladimir Putin might do if he knew he did not have a stranglehold on Ukraine and Europe when it came to energy. Think what would happen if they had an alternative—from American exports or pipelines from other places—that could circumvent Russia and could heat homes, keep the lights on, and avoid this stranglehold Vladimir Putin and Russia have on so much of Europe. I think it would make him think twice about his invasion of the Crimea and the threatening actions and the disruption which are taking place in Ukraine today and which could extend even further.

My point is that we have amendments to this underlying Shaheen-Portman energy conservation bill which are relevant to the topic of energy production, albeit broader, which would do all these things. We are trying to offer some of these ideas, which I hope any fairminded observer would say are constructive ideas. You may not agree with all of it—we may not even win a majority of the vote in the Senate today on these amendments—but why in the world would the majority leader insist on denying us an opportunity to have a fulsome debate on American energy policy, not just conservation but on producing more energy as well?

Unfortunately, though, he has given every indication that he will allow no votes on bipartisan amendments—and each of these amendments that I have mentioned has bipartisan support. As a matter of fact, he has indicated he won't allow votes on any amendments on this bill.

The distinguished Republican leader from Kentucky has pointed out that since July this side of the aisle has only been allowed eight—and I think now we have gone back and looked at it—maybe nine votes on amendments that came from the Republican side of the aisle.

Forget me, forget the prerogatives of an individual Senator, but think about the fact that I represent 26 million people. What a tremendous honor and privilege it is but how unfair it is to my constituents; how unfair it is to constituents—American citizens all—that everyone on this side of the aisle represents to shut them out of the process.

Someone called this the HARRY REID gag rule. That pretty well describes it when the minority is deprived of any right to offer constructive proposals and to have votes and debate on these policies in the Senate. We used to call—well, I see the pages here, and I know they go to school while they are pages. I bet if they go back and look in some of their history or civics books, it will tell them that the Senate is called the world's greatest deliberative body. No more. That is history.

If the minority can't offer constructive proposals that would actually improve the availability of American-produced energy, would help grow the economy, and would create jobs, no more is the Senate the world's greatest deliberative body. Unfortunately, it is the result of the decisions made by the majority leader.

When it comes to energy policy, I hope my friends across the aisle will remember what I said about these back-door energy taxes hurting lower-income Americans, as well as our seniors who are on fixed income, because they are the people who can least afford paying higher energy bills or they are the ones who are least able to afford losing their jobs.

We want to adopt on a bipartisan basis energy policies that are progrowth, projobs, pro-environment, and proconsumer, but we will never get there as long as Majority Leader REID decides to deny us an opportunity for a vote on relevant legislation.

This isn't just about inside Senate baseball, this is about one of the Nation's most important governing institutions being able to function. This is about consent of the governed. That is the very premise upon which the legitimacy of the Federal Government exists; that is, that the people—''We the People''—all 300 and some-odd million of us, have an opportunity to participate in the governing process by voting, by petitioning our elected representatives, and by advocating that certain policies be embraced in Washington. You are not promised you will win every time, but you are guaranteed a right as an American citizen to participate in the process. Yet that is being denied at its most fundamental level when the majority leader decides to run this as an autocracy or a dictatorship or decides to impose his own gag rule on the proper functioning of what used to be called the world's greatest deliberative body but is no more.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONDEMNING ABDUCTION OF FEMALE STUDENTS IN NIGERIA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 433 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 433) condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a voice vote on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 433) was agreed to.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I further ask the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 1, 2014, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, am I correct in assuming that we have now agreed to this resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to thank my friends. It looks as though the Chamber is empty here, but everyone had to sign off on this measure, and I want to explain what we just did. We passed a very important resolution expressing our support for the young girls who were kidnapped in Nigeria.

As I think the world is learning, this is a horrific situation. Kidnapping certainly has no place in any village, in any region, or in any country—not in our country. We know how we feel. We have seen kidnappings recently of women held in captivity. There should be no room anywhere for kidnapping. Today we heard new reports that the suspected Boko Haram gunmen kidnapped eight more girls from the Nigerian village overnight. So clearly the voices of the civilized world must rise and be louder than the terrorists who are taking away basic human rights.

Senator LANDRIEU's resolution we just passed has many supporters on it, including myself. I am also pleased to hear today the administration has committed to acting with the Nigerian Government.

As a mother and grandmother, my heart is with all those mothers and grandmothers and dads and grandfathers who want their daughters and granddaughters to come home safely. We cannot stay silent in the face of these unspeakable crimes. We are not silent today as a U.S. Senate.

I am so proud we have agreed to this resolution. I want to commend my friend Senator MIKULSKI. She and Senator COLLINS have worked on a letter we are sending to the administration. I am about to go outside to be part of a vigil, an event that has been organized by the Congressional African Staff Association as well as the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association and the Congressional Black Associates, and I am so proud of the Senate for standing for these girls. We will do everything we possibly can to get them home to their families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Boxer resolution calling for international action and aggressive action from our own government in terms of the rescue of 276 Nigerian girls who were kidnapped from a boarding school their parents paid for them to be able to go to so they could learn.

It is an outrage that these 276 girls have been captured by the terrorist group Boko Haram. It is an outrage against these girls and an outrage in the international community, and we need to speak as a nation—women and men together—saying, what is this where a girl can't go to school simply because she is a girl?

There is strong evidence that, as we speak, these girls are being sold into forced marriages and sexual slavery.

We, the women of the Senate, have written a letter on a bipartisan basis calling for the President to have the Boko Haram group placed on the international Al-Qaeda terrorist list and calling for sanctions to be imposed against them. We are heartened by the fact that the President is sending a team to help the Government of Nigeria find these girls, bring them home safely to their mothers and fathers, get the bad guys, and send an international message: Leave girls and boys alone.

There are additional rumors coming out that schools where boys had been attending, simply because they are in Western-based education, are being burned down and that the boys' lives are in danger. What kind of world is it where a parent, based on parental choice, can't send a child to school without thinking they could be kidnapped, abused, sold into sexual slavery, and so on?

We encourage the efforts by the U.S. Government to support the capacity of the Government of Nigeria to provide security for these schools and to hold these organizations accountable. We urge timely civilian assistance from the United States and allied nations in rescuing these girls.

Many of us believe there should be a regional African coalition to go in which knows the terrain to find these girls. But our President is sending military and law enforcement people to advise the Government of Nigeria, which has been slow to respond. It is not my place to criticize another President, but I wish they would have been more aggressive in a more timely way. Now we are where we are, so I hope we pass the Boxer resolution calling for international help.

I believe we in the Senate, on a bipartisan basis, should join the international voice calling for the rescue of these girls, the return of them home safely to their mothers and fathers, to capture and punish the bad guys, and that there be an international effort to let children of the world be able to go to the school their parents choose for them to go.

I thank Senator BOXER. We are going to be working together. The women of the Senate are going to be meeting with Secretary Kerry, and I believe

this is an issue worthy of our attention, worthy of our time, and worthy of our vote.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, May 6, 2014.

President BARACK OBAMA,
The White House, Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As the women of the United States Senate, we are writing to you today deeply disturbed by the abduction and mistreatment of more than 200 girls by the terrorist group Boko Haram from the Government Secondary School in Chibok, Nigeria. Boko Haram has threatened to sell the girls as slaves, and some may have already been sold into child marriages. We condemn these appalling actions in the strongest possible terms, and we agree with you that the abduction of these girls is an outrage. The girls were targeted by Boko Haram simply because they wanted to go to school and pursue knowledge, and we believe the U.S. must respond quickly and definitively.

In the face of the brazen nature of this horrific attack, the international community must impose further sanctions on this terrorist organization. Boko Haram is a threat to innocent civilians in Nigeria, to regional security, and to U.S. national interests. The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) has found that Boko Haram has engaged in multiple attacks on Westerners and repeatedly targeted students at schools and universities, threatening the ability of young Nigerians, particularly women, to attend school.

While we applaud the initial U.S. condemnation of the kidnapping, we believe there is much more that the U.S. government should do to make clear that such an attack will not be tolerated. We urge you to press for the addition of Boko Haram and Ansaru to the United Nations Security Council's al-Qa'ida Sanctions List, the mechanism by which international sanctions are imposed on al-Qa'ida and al-Qa'ida-linked organizations. Their addition to the List would compel a greater number of countries to sanction Boko Haram, joining several countries, such as the United States, which have already done so. General David Rodriguez, Commander of U.S. Africa Command, identified Boko Haram as an al-Qa'ida affiliate, and the Department of State reported that the group has links to al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb when it designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working together until girls and women worldwide can pursue an education without fear of violence or intimidation.

Sincerely,

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
U.S. Senator.
SUSAN M. COLLINS,
U.S. Senator.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about one of the great crises facing our country; that is, the high cost of college, and the fact that hundreds of thousands of young people who are bright and wish to get a higher education have now decided that, because they do not want to leave school deeply in debt, they are not going to go to college. What a loss that is, not only to the individuals and the enhancement of their own lives, but it is a loss to our Nation because in a highly competitive global economy we need the best educated workforce possible. The fact that college is becoming a distant dream—an unreachable dream—for millions of families is a horrendous situation which this Congress must address.

Over the last 10 years, the cost of attending a public 4-year college has increased by nearly 35 percent at a time when middle-class incomes have remained flat and, in fact, many families have seen a decline in their incomes. Of the students who do go to college, hundreds of thousands graduate with significant debt—on average, over $27,000.

This morning I was talking to a staffer of mine who is $119,000 in debt. And what was her crime? How did she accrue that debt? Did she go on a spending spree? Did she lose her money in a gambling casino? Her crime was that she wanted to go to law school, and she came out of law school $150,000 in debt. Today that is down to $119,000. I have talked to doctors and dentists who are now several hundred thousand dollars in debt.

The important point to make is there was once a time in the United States when that kind of college and graduate school indebtedness did not exist. Only a few decades ago this country made a commitment to our students that if you worked hard, if you studied hard, and if you wanted to pursue a higher education, you could do so at little or no cost. That was what we used to do. Unfortunately, in that very important area we have regressed, and regressed significantly.

Until the 1970s, at the City University of New York, one of the important and best educational systems in the country, the cost was completely free. The University of California system, one of the largest and best university systems in the world, did not begin charging tuition until the 1980s. In fact, in 1965, average tuition at a 4-year public university was $243.

We know we are living in a highly competitive global economy, and if our Nation is to succeed, we need to have the best educated workforce in the entire world. But the sad truth is we are now competing against other nations around the world that make it much easier for their young people to go to college and graduate school than is the case in the United States of America.

According to a report released last year by the OECD—the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development—the United States was one of the few advanced countries in the world that did not increase its public investment in education over the last decade.

From 2008 to 2010, most advanced countries experienced significant economic decline as a result of the Wall Street collapse. Despite that, the vast majority of countries increased educational spending by 5 percent or more. The United States was one of the few nations to decrease overall educational spending.

I live about 1 hour away from Canada in northern Vermont. In Canada, average annual tuition fees were $4,200 in 2010—roughly half of what they were in the United States—and yet the OECD says Canada is one of the most expensive countries for a student to go to school.

Germany, an international competitor of ours, is in the process of phasing out all tuition fees. Even when German universities did charge tuition, it was roughly $1,300 per student.

According to the European Commission in 2012, the following countries do not charge their students any tuition—and these are countries we are competing against. These are countries where young people go to college without any out-of-pocket expenses. Those countries are Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Scotland, and Sweden.

In Europe, university systems enjoy a very high level of public funding. The EU average is 77 percent. In other words, in countries throughout Europe—Austria, Belgium, Denmark, and all of the rest—what governments understand is that investing in higher education is terribly important for the individual students and their families. But, in addition, it is enormously important for the competitive capabilities of those countries.

So countries such as Austria, Belgium, Denmark, each put in more than 88 percent of public funding into their universities. In the United States, the number is 36 percent. Countries all over the world that don't provide free higher education pump significantly more into their university systems than we do.

The result is several very significant points. First, we have many working-class and middle-class young people who are looking at the economic picture we face as a nation and looking at their own lives, and they are saying: Do I want to go to college and leave school $50,000 or $60,000 in debt? How am I going to pay off that debt once I leave school?

Many of these young people, tragically, are saying: I don't want to take that risk. I don't want to leave school deeply in debt. I will not go to college.

What a tragic situation that is for our entire country, because we are losing the intellectual potential of all of those young men and women.

Second, those who do go to college are coming out of school with an incredible chain of indebtedness around their neck, which impacts every aspect of their lives. It determines what kind of jobs they will get. Will they do the job they had hoped to do their whole lives—their life's dream, the work they were looking forward to doing or are they going to gravitate to those jobs which simply pay them a lot of money and enable them to pay off their debt?

For the first time in our country's history, American families have more student debt than credit card debt, and that is an extraordinary reality. All over this country families are struggling with debt in a way they never have before. The average loan balance for American graduates has increased by 70 percent since 2004. Average student debt is now near $27,000. In Vermont, it is even higher at $28,000. One in eight borrowers is carrying more than $50,000 in student debt. The percentage of families in the United States with outstanding student debt increased from 33 percent in 2005 to 45 percent in 2010.

The bottom line here is we have a huge crisis which is impacting millions of individual families and individual young people. But from a national perspective, it is a crisis which is impacting our competitiveness in the global economy.

There was once a time, not so many years ago, when we had the best educated workforce in the world and we had a higher percentage of college graduates than any other country on Earth.

That is not the case today. I think we have got to do some very hard thinking about the crisis regarding college affordability and the crisis regarding student debt. If this country is to remain internationally competitive in the global economy, we need some bold ideas in terms of how we address these crises.

I can tell you that in Vermont, as I speak to young people around my State, this is the issue foremost on their minds. The young people in high school are wondering about how they can afford to go to college. The students in college are worried about how they are going to pay off their college debt. Our job must be to say to every young person in this country that if you are a serious student, if you study hard, you are going to be able to get a higher education regardless of the income of your family, and you are going to be able to get the best education our Nation can provide you based on your ability and not on the income of your family.

This is an issue of enormous importance to individuals around the country, but it is an issue of huge consequence for the economic future of this country. So in the coming weeks I will be introducing legislation—I know there is a lot of other good legislation that is going to be coming to the floor—because this is an issue of huge consequence, and it is an issue that must be addressed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Mr. President.

We are on the measure again, the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill, also known as the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act—an efficiency bill. This should not be this difficult for us. When we talk about the benefits of an all-of-the-above energy policy—the benefits that can come to us as a nation when we are more resilient with our energy sources, when we are able to access our domestic energy sources, whether they be our fossil fuels, our renewables, or nuclear—we all talk about it in good, strong terms because, quite honestly, energy makes us a stronger nation, having access to our energy resources.

I have defined a good, strong energy policy as one that allows energy to be more abundant, affordable, clean, diverse, and secure. An energy policy is also about the energy we do not consume. It is about the energy we save because we are more efficient.

It seems we have gotten to a point, at least with some aspects of this discussion, where somehow or other the efficiency side of the energy discussion is a partisan debate; that Republicans do not support energy efficiency. I cannot think of a more conservative principle than conserving energy. This is something we should be embracing, and it is something, in terms of legislation that is sound, that is good to move forward, something that I support.

This bipartisan efficiency bill has been refined. It has been strengthened. It has been improved over the past 3 years. There have been plenty of eyes upon this legislation. There has been plenty of debate about it. We have a total of 13 Senators who are now on board with it, an equal number of Republicans and Democrats. So I am pleased we have this legislation back on the floor again.

The last time this legislation came before us was in September. I spoke then about the importance, the relevance to today, the many good reasons the Senate should support it. I am not going to necessarily repeat all of those points this afternoon, but I do want to highlight quickly a couple of the main points.

The first is going directly to the policy side of it. Energy efficiency should be a broader part of our Nation's energy policy. It is good for our economy. It is good for the environment. It enables us to waste less, to use our resources more wisely. Who can object to this? Who could possibly say this is not a good thing we should encourage?

And there is more. Think about what it does to help create jobs and deliver financial benefits. Study after study shows we can save billions of dollars every year through reasonable efficiency improvements. Whether we are talking about small appliances or large buildings, there are opportunities for gains in efficiencies throughout the system.

The second reason for support of the bill is it envisions a more limited role for the Federal Government. When I think about efficiency, I think the Federal Government should seek to fulfill three key roles. It can act as a facilitator of information that consumers and businesses need. It can serve as a breaker of barriers that discourage or prevent rational efficiency improvements. As the largest consumer of energy in our country, it can lead by example by taking steps to reduce its own energy usage.

This legislation helps us make progress in all of these areas, but it is appropriately tailored as well. It has a number of voluntary provisions. It does not contain any new mandates for the private sector. I think that is worthy of repeating. There are no new mandates in this bill.

When the legislation was first introduced some time ago, there was some concern about impact on building codes. But the provision related to model building codes is voluntary. It is not mandatory. No one has to benefit from it if they do not want to.

The third reason to support the bill is the cost—or, really, the lack of cost. We all know we are operating in a time of high deficits and record debt. The good news is this efficiency bill actually subtracts from our spending rather than adding to it. The CBO has indicated it will yield a modest savings of about $12 million over the 10-year window. Again, this is good from a policy perspective. It is good from a fiscal perspective.

Then the last point is one I want to make in support of process. We have followed regular order, as well as ''regular order'' can be defined around here, but we have done that from the beginning with this legislation. Those of us who serve on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported it on an overwhelming bipartisan basis back in 2011, and then again in 2013. So it has gone through a fulsome committee process. Improvements were suggested

and have been thoughtfully considered and incorporated. Many, many of the ideas are now incorporated in the text we have in front of us.

Then, finally, a few words about the amendments that are being filed to this bill.

When we last had this bill before the Senate, we were unable to reach agreement on amendments. We got bogged down and the bill was pulled from the floor. The Senate moved on to other matters. We are back again now, and I really do not want to see a repeat of that experience. Quite honestly, we do not need to.

It is certainly true a lot of amendments have been filed to the bill. We had more than 100 last September. That should not be evidence that somehow this bill is flawed. But what it recognizes is there is this pent-up demand for a discussion on the issue of energy. There is a pent-up demand to bring forward ideas and concepts and innovation and policy when it comes to energy debate.

It has been more than 6 years since we have had anything more than a brief debate. When you think about what has happened in the energy sector in the past 6 years, I say to the Presiding Officer, you are sitting in the chair coming from a State that has seen an amazing—an amazing—boom when it comes to natural gas production in your State. You have seen technologies come in that are able to access areas where you did not even know you had the resource.

Think about the changes we have seen in the energy sector in 6 years. Six years ago we were talking about building LNG import terminals—terminals so we could bring LNG in from other countries. Now we are pressing the case for greater LNG exports. We are trying to build out more facilities so we can move this abundant resource from our shores to help our friends and allies around the world.

Six years ago, if I had stood on this floor and suggested to you we were going to have a debate about the export of our crude oil from this country, you would have laughed me off the floor. Nobody was talking about it. But look at what is happening, coming out of the Bakken up in North Dakota, what is coming out of Texas and New Mexico and out of California, Colorado, out of States in the Midwest. We are producing like we have not produced in ages. We are doing so because we have the benefit of good, strong technologies that are allowing us to access a resource safely and making sure we are being good stewards of the land while we are doing it, and creating jobs and opportunities.

So when you think about what has happened in 6 years, and the fact that we have not had a real debate and conversation about energy, it is no wonder people want to present amendments. But we are in a situation now where there is real debate about whether we are going to have any amendments at all.

We have been sitting here in the Senate since last July—almost a year—and there have been nine amendments allowed of the Republicans' choosing to be heard, to be entertained, to be taken up on the floor of the Senate.

We are not asking for an unreasonable number. Given everything that is going on in the world, everything that is happening in the energy sector, it is understood why we would want an opportunity to present amendments. But we are not asking for the Moon here. Out of all the amendments filed to the bill, we are seeking votes on four of them. If we were to take just 15 minutes per vote, with a little extra time for statements in support or opposition, we could work those out in an afternoon.

There is no reason we need to stretch this out. Our other option is to spend the next several days arguing about whether we are going to vote at all. We are sent to the Senate to do good work, and this is a venue where the work is demanding attention, so let's get to it.

Let's advance these measures. Let's get to the debate about whether it is LNG export opportunities, whether it is the advantage from many different perspectives about the Keystone XL Pipeline, and about what more we can be doing as a nation to be a world leader with our energy resources, accessing our resources for the good of Americans, the creation of jobs to strengthen our economy, to help our trade deficit, to help our friends, and to help our allies. We can be in a position to do so much more, but we have to be able to get beyond the discussion, the debate about whether we are just going to talk about whether we are going to talk about it or whether we are going to get to it.

I am hopeful that throughout the afternoon, throughout tomorrow, and throughout the balance of the week we will have an opportunity to discuss and to vote on amendments that are energy-related amendments that will help move this country in a more positive direction when it comes to our energy policy and attach that to a fundamental anchor of a good, strong energy policy, which is energy efficiency, and that is what the Shaheen-Portman bill allows us to do.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

I want to pivot for a moment and move off the issue of energy efficiency. I wish to speak for a few more minutes this afternoon about National Police Week.

National Police Week is a week to honor our fallen law enforcement officers. It occurs next week. Next week in Washington, DC, we will see police vehicles from all over the Nation. We will see officers in uniform, perhaps some with young kids in tow, flooding the Metro system. The survivors of law enforcement tragedies will gather in Alexandria, VA, for the annual meeting of Concerns of Police Survivors.

On Tuesday night, tens of thousands will gather at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, and they will read by candlelight the names inscribed on the memorial walls this year. On Thursday, the National Peace Officers Memorial Day Service will convene on the west front of the Capitol. These are all very moving tributes to our fallen, those who have served in the line of duty and who honor us all.

For the past 11 years, I have made it a habit of honoring the fallen during National Police Week, regardless of whether any Alaska law enforcement agency suffered a line-of-duty death during that preceding year.

At times I have made note of a sad coincidence, a sad coincidence that law enforcement tragedies in the twos and threes often seem to occur in close proximity to the annual National Police Week observance.

About this time 8 years ago, the National Capital Region was grieving the loss of Michael Garbarino and Vicky Armel, the first Fairfax County police officers to die from gunfire in the line of duty. In April 2009, Pittsburgh lost three of its finest.

This year, as we anticipate the arrival of National Police Week, Alaska carries that tragic burden. Last week my home State lost two members of the Alaska State Troopers in a single incident.

On May 1, Alaska State troopers Sergeant Scott Johnson and Trooper Gabe Rich flew from Fairbanks to the village of Tanana. Tanana is an Athabascan Indian community and there are about 238 people. Tanana sits at the confluence of the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. It is a strong community, it is a resilient community, but it is a community that is truly suffering right now.

Similar to most of the Alaska Native villages, the only full-time law enforcement presence in Tanana is a single, unarmed village public safety officer. Law enforcement backup, when they are needed and called in, will fly to Tanana. Tanana is not accessible by roads, so basically the only way in and out is to fly in and out, coming in from Fairbanks, so it is about a 1-hour flight away.

The village public safety officer asked for trooper assistance to respond to an individual who had been waving a gun in the village. With no backup, other than the unarmed village public safety officer, Sergeant Johnson and Trooper Rich attempted to serve a warrant on the offender. Both officers were shot and killed. The 19-year-old son of the individual who was the subject of the warrant is now charged with the shooting.

This is a horrible tragedy for Tanana, a tragedy for Alaska, and a tragedy for the entire law enforcement community.

Tanana is, as I mentioned, a small village. It is an isolated village. It has been a very resilient village. It is a very proud and a very kind-hearted community. The Athabascan word for Tanana, known as ''Nuchalawoya,'' means ''wedding of the rivers,'' and the village has played a very central role in Athabascan culture for thousands of years.

But like many Alaska Native villages, it suffers from drug and alcohol problems. Last October there was a group of young people from the village of Tanana, and they traveled to the Alaska Federation of Natives convention.

It is the largest gathering of Alaska Natives in the State, and they did a very brave and heroic thing. They assembled on stage in front of 4,000 to 5,000 people to tell Alaskans that they had had enough of the pain and the violence, and they were determined to make their community a healthier place. It was an amazing moment. It was inspiring. There was not a sound to be heard in the huge Carlson Center in Fairbanks as these young people spoke.

So inspiring were the words of these young kids that I wrote Attorney General Holder and I asked that his department invest prevention resources in the village and others like it that were trying to turn things around, trying to face the ugly side of what happens in a small community when we have domestic violence and child sexual assault brought on by drugs and alcohol.

Tanana is absolutely devastated by what happened last week. In the words of Cynthia Erickson, who is the youth leader of the young people I mentioned, last week's incident amounts to two steps back in Tanana's effort to heal itself, but the healing process must begin and now is the time for it to begin.

We remember fallen law enforcement officers for the way they lived their lives. Vivian Eney Cross, who is the widow of a fallen U.S. Capitol police officer, said:

> It is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived.

In that spirit I wish to share with the Senate a little about the lives of our two fallen Alaskan heroes.

Sergeant Johnson was born in Fairbanks, and he grew up in the small community of Tok, which is 150-plus miles out of Fairbanks on the road system. He went to school in the Tok community, and he was a wrestler. He joined the Alaska State Troopers in 1993 after serving as a North Slope Borough police officer.

Sergeant Johnson spent his entire 20-year trooper career in Fairbanks, where he rose through the ranks to supervise the Areawide Narcotics Team and ultimately the Interior Rural Unit. Sergeant Johnson also was an accomplished canine handler and a leader of the regional SWAT team. We call it SERT in Alaska, the Special Emergency Reaction Team.

His final assignment was leader of the Interior Rural Unit, a team of four who respond to incidents in 23 Native villages. Sergeant Johnson assumed that role this year. His territory covered hundreds of miles end-to-end. Again, these are hundreds of miles without road access.

Sergeant Johnson was 45 years old. He is survived by his wife, daughters aged 16, 14, and 12, and also survived by his parents and siblings.

Trooper Gabe Rich was born in Pennsylvania. He moved to Fairbanks shortly after he was born. He graduated from Lathrop High School in 2006. He was 26 years old at the time of his death.

Trooper Rich spent 4 years working as a patrolman with the North Pole Police Department before deciding to become an Alaska State Trooper in 2011. He is survived by his fiancé, their 1-year-old son, and his parents. He was in the process of adopting his fiancé's 8-year-old boy.

Sergeant Johnson and Trooper Rich were known to those who watched the popular National Geographic series ''Alaska State Troopers.'' Undoubtedly, those who have watched the two in action are also grieving the loss, along with the people of Tanana and all of Alaska.

I think I speak for all in this body when I say we are shocked and we are saddened by the events in Tanana last week. On behalf of a grateful Senate and a grateful nation, I take this opportunity to extend my condolences to all who held Sergeant Johnson and Trooper Rich deep in their hearts.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. We are going to have, as indicated, a briefing on Ukraine at 5:30 this evening. I alert all Senators we will do our utmost to start at 5:30, and we must end at 6:30. We need everybody on time. If I am there on time, I am going to start it on time, and I will do my utmost to be there on time. People can be called upon for questions in the order they show up at the meeting.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate recess until 6:30 p.m. tonight for the purpose of an all-Senators briefing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection.

KIDNAPPING OF SCHOOLGIRLS IN NIGERIA

Mr. REID. I have had a number of titles, as all we Senators have over the years, but the title that means the most to me has always been ''Dad,'' ''Father.'' It is so important that my five children recognize me as their dad. My oldest child is a daughter, Lana, but I also have 12 granddaughters. As a father and grandfather, I can't imagine the horror of having one of these girls abducted, kidnapped, and stolen—even though Nigeria is thousands of miles away from where we sit today.

My nightmare, our nightmare—we are always worrying about our girls—is a reality in Nigeria.

On the night of April 14, more than 250 girls—I don't know the exact number—were stolen from a school by a terrorist group called Boko Haram. These kidnappers, a cowardly group of men—thugs and terrorists—have announced their attention to sell the girls in the marketplace.

It was only yesterday the leader of this organization was on television saying we have them and we are going to sell them. How would that make a mother or dad, family member feel? It is sickening to think these girls are at the mercy of these slavers. These are terrible reports. Some say—some of the reports we get—some of the girls have already been sold into Chad and Cameroon. I hope that is wrong.

So I, with my colleagues, join with the rest of the world in renouncing these heinous acts.

We must remember that this crime is only one of the many acts of terrorism of this awful group Boko Haram. They have done it before against children, against civilians.

Today the United States offered its assistance to rescue these girls. Great Britain has done the same, and other countries have as well. Nigeria, in my opinion, has been reticent to receive help. That is not my opinion, but that is what the public reports say. We want to help rescue these girls. We have some assets the Nigerians don't have, as do the Brits and others who want to help.

I am concerned the Nigerian Government's response to this crime and to dealing with Boko Haram is very tepid. Nigeria has missed opportunities to collaborate with international partners to fight terrorism in this instance and other instances. Instead of carrying out its own operation—which has been very clumsy, and there has been a disregard for human rights—they should let us help. Let the world community help.

The Nigerian Government has been disastrously slow in responding to these incidents—not only this one but on others. I urge the Nigerian Government to use all of its resources and accept international assistance to bring the abductors to justice. The world is watching. Return these daughters to their families.

Today we adopted S. Res. 433, which condemned this abduction, to add our voices to those calling for their release. I especially thank Senator MARY LANDRIEU of Louisiana and all other cosponsors for their hard work on this

legislation. The Senate, along with the rest of the world, will continue to do all we can to help our Nigerian friends. We continue to hope and pray for the safe return of these girls to their moms and dads.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time in recess count postcloture on the legislation that is now being considered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I very rarely am motivated to come to the floor simultaneously with current events, thinking that it is important to reflect and learn as much as possible about a subject before one begins to orate about it on the Senate floor. I am making an exception, however, because of the extraordinarily heinous acts that have occurred in the country of Nigeria.

I think it takes everyone's breath away in the United States of America that a terrorist organization—Boko Haram—would attack a secondary school in northeastern Nigeria and kidnap 200 girls. Most of these girls are not that much younger than my daughters. These were young women who wanted nothing more than to get an education. We are now told these terrorists have proudly proclaimed they will enslave these young women, they will sell them as slaves. They are proudly taking credit for this despicable and inhumane act.

I thank Senator MIKULSKI and Senator COLLINS for organizing a letter to the President to urge him to include Boko Haram in the United Nations Al Qaeda sanctions list. I thank the other Senators who introduced the resolution we passed this afternoon condemning this attack. But we have to do more.

It concerns me, honestly, that this is occurring in a country where the leader not too long ago signed into law a measure that anyone entering into a homosexual relationship can be imprisoned for up to 14 years. In this same country we have a terrorist organization capturing young women and enslaving them for dollars to be child brides, proudly proclaiming that it is a sin for these young women to want to get an education, that this action was necessary to purge them of their sins and marry them off.

I understand it takes all kinds of people to make up this great world. I understand there are all kinds of beliefs. But it is very hard for me to get my arms around the notion that there could be any faith that would believe kidnapping young women by the hundreds and selling them as indentured slaves to men could ever be part of any kind of faith that we should recognize. These are not people of faith; these are heinous criminals. I believe our country should look at them as archenemies of who we are as a nation and what we stand for as a government.

The name of this organization means ''Western education is a sin.'' Respect for young women is not a sin. Wanting an education is not a sin. The opportunity to better oneself is not a sin.

These incredible crimes that have been committed should not go unanswered, and I think it is incumbent on our Nation, with the great resources we have, to make sure we send the appropriate message to the world that this is Al Qaeda and this is our enemy—not just to our values and our way of life but, importantly, an enemy to innocent young women.

I wanted to come to the floor to make this statement because I cannot imagine how the parents of these young girls must be feeling and how helpless the feeling must be. I can only hope and pray that the Government of Nigeria realizes this is a moment of truth for them. Will they stand up to this kind of extremism that is not faith? They do a disservice to their professed faith by these actions. Can this country stand up to them, can we help them stand up to them and, most importantly, can we do anything to save these young women?

When I go to bed tonight I will, in my faith, thank God for my family and my children, and I will also ask for prayers for these young women in hopes they can be rescued, that they can be reunited with their desire to get educated, and that their families will not have to spend days wondering if they will ever see their children again or if their children will even survive.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support S. 2262, the Shaheen-Portman Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014. The reason I do so is because I have long felt we can't be for an all-of-the-above energy policy if we aren't promoting state-of-the-art approaches in terms of energy efficiency.

I think the Presiding Officer and I both know it isn't even a speech here in the Senate on energy policy unless the Senator says they are for an all-of-the-above at least three times every 15, 20 minutes. So I think what Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN are doing is making it clear right at the start that an all-of-the-above energy policy is their approach and their effort to pull as many as possible colleagues into innovative approaches in terms of promoting energy efficiency.

Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN have been tirelessly pursuing this legislation for 3 years now. I had a chance as the former Chair of the Energy Committee to watch what they have been doing. I will walk back a bit to make sure colleagues understand how constructive their efforts have been, both substantively and in terms of promoting collaboration here in the Senate, in hopes that these commonsense energy proposals for creating good jobs and a cleaner and healthier environment will prevail on a bipartisan basis here in the Senate.

With our colleague from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI, I have had a front-row seat over the last couple years to watch Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN in action and support their efforts. I think we should all be very appreciative of the job our new Chair, Senator LANDRIEU, is doing—again, in concert with Senator MURKOWSKI—because the two of them continue the committee's tradition, No. 1, of working in a bipartisan way but, No. 2, trying again to promote collaboration here within the Senate to promote an energy approach, which I think is not only common sense but it is absolutely essential in order to be able to go on to the other energy policy issues that surely are likely to be more contentious than energy efficiency.

To walk back a bit through what has happened, I think our colleagues know an earlier version of this legislation passed our Energy and Natural Resources Committee last year by an overwhelmingly bipartisan majority. It was then considered on the floor this past September, but it was blocked by demands for a vote on a health care amendment which had nothing to do with the premise of the underlying bill. I happen to oppose that amendment, but however a Senator feels, it has nothing to do with energy efficiency and productivity.

When the bill stalled on the Senate floor last fall, it looked pretty grim for the cause of energy efficiency, and essentially people were questioning the Senate's ability to consider an act on a range of energy issues which confront our country. I think a lot of people would have thrown in the towel at that point. They would have said: We put in all of this work and effort to win such a strong bipartisan vote in the Senate; then we were ready to go to the floor and faced unrelated issues. And I could see why the sponsors would give up. But Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN are not throw-in-the-towel

type of Senators, and in effect they doubled down and went back to work on some of the most challenging issues.

So at that point, after the unfortunate setback of last September, they in effect doubled down and worked to bring an even broader range of Members and stakeholders together here in the Senate to form a consensus and make this bill even better, improve the array of commonsense approaches taken to promote energy efficiency, and increase the chance of the best possible energy efficiency bill becoming law.

I wish to highlight at this point how challenging this work was and how pleased I was the Senate was able to get together.

At that point one of the most challenging issues dealt with the question of the then-existing requirements that new Federal buildings be designed to phase out their use of fossil-fuel-generated energy by 2030. This is important for a variety of reasons. Of course, the Federal Government is a major property owner in our country, No. 1. And No. 2, I think we all look to the Federal Government at a minimum to try to set some examples in terms of trying to deal with these issues.

In other words, it is fine for Washington, DC, to say: Everybody else would do X, Y, and Z. But if they come back and say the Federal Government is not willing to set an example, it is pretty hard to have any credibility in terms of that particular field of public policy. The reality was that while well meaning, the existing requirement that new Federal Government buildings be designed to phase out their use of fossil-fuel-generated energy by 2030 was not working particularly well by anyone's calculus.

We had folks in the natural gas industry raising questions about whether they would be able to participate. They made the point—one that I think certainly has validity—that natural gas is 50 percent cleaner than the other fossil fuels. They were saying: Well, how are we going to be able to play a role with heating in Federal buildings, which, of course, as I indicated, is very significant both because the Federal Government owns so much property and because of the example the Federal Government sets.

So reaching an agreement on how to balance repeal of this provision in existing law—well meaning, but not working very well—with the addition of provisions to enhance efficiency in Federal buildings involved innumerable meetings—meetings that I participated in personally and others were involved in that went on literally for months with all of the stakeholders—the electric and gas utility industries, the environmental advocacy organizations, the energy efficiency groups—all of them in discussions that took place over conference calls and in-person meeting after meeting.

I would submit that had those groups not been able to come together—and I believe they deserve great credit because they did—I think it may have been right at that point very difficult to advance this bill because we would have generated, for the first time, significant opposition around the core issue. Whether it be environmental groups or electric and gas groups, we would have had significant friction over an important public policy issue, which is how to promote renewable energy to the greatest extent possible in new Federal Government buildings.

I will say to colleagues who may be following this, a number of times in these discussions I thought things were going to blow up. I thought one or more of these groups would walk out and say: We will take our chances on the floor; we believe we are going to win, and if it takes this bill down, so be it. But they stayed at the table and they worked out an agreement.

As a result of their agreement—environmental organizations, those in the advocacy of energy efficiency and a variety of industry groups—the effort produced a significantly better bill, and a bill that now includes some very important and powerful additions.

For example, as a result of rewriting the provision that new Federal Government buildings be designed to phase out the use of fossil-fuel-generated energy, very substantial financial savings were generated so as to be able to include some very sensible and potentially far-reaching changes in the energy efficiency field. For example, as a result of that agreement it is possible to take some of the financial savings generated in that redo of the requirements for renewable fuels in Federal energy building and include in the legislation that is now before the Senate, the SAVE Act, a bipartisan proposal championed by our colleagues Senator ISAKSON and Senator BENNET. This provision would for the first time facilitate the accounting of energy efficiency in residential mortgages. A report by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy and the Institute for Market Transformation estimates that this proposal alone would create 83,000 new jobs in home construction, renovation, and manufacturing by 2020. These are jobs for American workers that cannot be outsourced. The agreement on Federal building efficiency would also extend the 3 percent-per-year Federal building efficiency target through 2017 and expand the coverage of this efficiency target from new buildings to include major renovations as well.

So what we have is a good bill that got out of committee. It was a good bill last September that I would have liked to have seen pass this body at that time. After it was not possible to move it forward, we had the chief sponsors, Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN, work continually to try to advance this legislation and broaden its appeal. When they bumped up against a really serious problem, which was to fix this policy with respect to the requirements for renewable energy in Federal buildings, they worked with a variety of groups and organizations and were able to make the bill better.

I wish to thank a number of Senators who were behind this effort to redo the requirements for new Federal buildings—in particular, our colleagues on this side of the aisle, Senator MANCHIN and Senator WHITEHOUSE, and on the other side of the aisle I wish to thank Senator HOEVEN. They were very involved in the nuts and bolts of redoing this legislation. Suffice it to say that the three of them would be the first to say they don't agree on every possible energy policy subject matter. Yet the three of them came together, worked with this coalition of groups I have described, and made significant improvements in the already good bill after September. As a result of their work, we have generated financial savings that made it possible to include the Isakson-Bennet legislation on residential mortgages, which is a very significant and positive development in the energy efficiency field.

This is not a small matter, taking bold steps to improve energy efficiency in residential mortgages the way our colleagues Senator ISAKSON and Senator BENNET have done in a bipartisan fashion. The reason this efficiency legislation is back is because it is sensible and has bipartisan appeal. It is about cutting waste and creating jobs. Passing this legislation would be the biggest step in years toward tapping the enormous potential of energy efficiency, which is the most sensible and cheapest energy source America has.

Here are the most relevant figures with respect to the benefits of this bill. The bill will save about 2.8 billion megawatt hours of electricity by 2030, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. To translate this into something people can put their arms around, if we are going to generate 2.8 billion megawatt hours—and that is the projection for this bill—our country would have to build 10 new nuclear powerplants, at a cost of billions of dollars each, and run them for more than 20 years. An additional provision of the bill updates and promotes voluntary model building codes, making residential and commercial buildings more efficient through the installation of new equipment, insulation, and other efficiency technologies. There is money to be saved and there is energy to be saved. That is the kind of work this legislation accomplishes.

What I have described is possibly not the most flashy of stories we might be contemplating here in Washington. It might not be at the top of every single

account on the nightly news, but businesses understand how valuable this is. Businesses understand that there is money to be made here. That is why more than 250 companies and associations endorse the bill, including the chamber of commerce, which I think would be the first to state that they don't see themselves as a bleeding heart environmental organization. I was struck by a headline in forbes.com not long ago that read ''The Shaheen-Portman Energy Savings Act: It's the economy, stupid.'' Forbes, a prominent business publication, got it right.

If Congress can pass this bill, it would immediately become one of the largest job-creating efforts the Senate will enact this year, creating an estimated 192,000 new jobs by 2030. It can also make a tremendous difference in our country's economic competitiveness, bringing savings to businesses and families, reducing demands on our electric grid, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Having watched the development of this legislation as the former chair of the Energy Committee and now chair of the Finance Committee, I think every Member of the Senate understands how important it is to secure a cleaner, more efficient, job-creating energy future. This legislation provides that opportunity. It was a good bill when the Senate considered it last September, it is an even better bill tonight, and to a great extent it is made better because colleagues such as Senator JOE MANCHIN and Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and Senator HOEVEN have worked together on a very contentious matter involving renewable energy in Federal buildings. It is the latest demonstration of good will and comity that has dominated this debate, at least as it relates to the substance of discussing energy efficiency legislation.

I thank our chair Senator LANDRIEU for the first-rate job she has done not only on this but on the matters before the Energy Committee. I also thank my good friend and colleague Senator MURKOWSKI for the same sorts of efforts she made to work with me as the chair and Senator LANDRIEU. I think those efforts are going to pay off. Let's make sure they pay off immediately with the Senate this week moving forward and passing the bipartisan Shaheen-Portman legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY WALKER, JR.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a dear friend of mine who last Friday, at the joint spring meeting in Las Vegas, received the American Bar Association's Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division's 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Larry Walker is a lawyer in Perry, GA. He is a lifetime resident of Perry and went back to his hometown of Perry to practice in 1965. I am so proud that Larry has been recognized by his peers—of which I am one, as a practicing lawyer in Georgia before I came into government. Larry epitomizes what lawyers look to when you think of someone who is a good lawyer.

The award he received recognizes solo and small firm attorneys who are widely accepted by their peers as having significant lifetime distinction, exceptional achievement, and distinction in an exemplary way. Winners are viewed by other solo and small firm practitioners as epitomizing the ideals of the legal profession of solo and small firm practitioners.

Larry began his law career, as I say, in 1965 when he came back to Perry to practice law. He became a judge of the Perry Municipal Court at the age of 23. In 1972 Larry ran for the General Assembly of Georgia and won the seat that was formerly held by soon-to-be-Senator Sam Nunn. He served in the General Assembly until 2005. In 1986 he was elected majority leader of the Georgia House of Representatives and served in that capacity for 16 years. He was the founding member of Walker, Hulbert, Gray & Moore and served as chair of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation. Larry also represented Georgia's Eighth Congressional District on the Georgia Department of Transportation from 2007 to 2009, and in August of 2009 he was appointed by then-Governor Sonny Perdue to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, where he continues to serve today.

Larry writes a weekly column for the Houston, GA, Home Journal and is the author of a book entitled ''Life on the Gnat Line,'' a composition of Larry's widely read columns on family, everything southern, reading, politics, and, of course, just folks. Larry is a frequent speaker at various community and State events, including continuing legal education seminars.

Larry has been my dear friend for over 30 years. He is not just a great lawyer, he is a great guy. He and I have had the opportunity to knock down a quail bird or two in the woods of South Georgia. We have had discussions late into the night over politics and life in general. Larry is one of those individuals who make life fun and who are a pleasure to be around, and that is why I am so excited the American Bar Association has seen fit to recognize Larry's talents, his hard work, his dedication, and his integrity to the law profession. He has been successful not because he moved to his hometown where he was well known; he has been successful because he is looked at as someone who possesses all the finest characteristics a lawyer can hope to have.

I am indeed privileged to call him a dear friend. I am indeed privileged to have an opportunity to say to Larry and to his wife Janice, congratulations. This kind of award shows that people all across this great country recognize you, Larry, for the great work you have done in our profession for all of these years since you first hung out your shingle in June of 1965.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 6:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:30 p.m., recessed until 6:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BLUMENTHAL).

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on behalf of the distinguished Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, I ask unanimous consent that he and I and the Senator from Wyoming, Mr. ENZI, and the Senator from North Dakota, Ms. HEITKAMP, be permitted to engage in a colloquy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, this colloquy is for the purpose of marking an important day in the Senate because it was on this day 1 year ago that the Senate overwhelmingly passed the Marketplace Fairness Act. We did this by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. Sixty-nine Senators, including about half of our Republican caucus, 21 Republicans, supported an 11-page bill—a rarity in this body—that is about just two words, and the words are ''States rights.''

The Marketplace Fairness Act, simply described, gives States the right to decide for themselves whether to collect or not collect State sales taxes that are already owed. This ability to collect taxes that are already owed would give States the option to reduce existing taxes or to avoid a new tax or to pay for services without raising taxes.

The Marketplace Fairness Act closes a tax loophole that prefers some businesses over other businesses and some taxpayers over other taxpayers. Out-of-State businesses are being subsidized because they don't have to collect sales taxes—taxes that are owed—and local businesses do. As a result, some taxpayers are being subsidized because some pay sales taxes and others do not even though they may owe the taxes. That is not right, and it is not fair. This legislation, which passed the Senate 1 year ago, gives States the option to decide whether to change that.

One of the best ways to lower State taxes is for the Federal Government to allow States to collect State sales taxes from everyone who owes the tax and not just from some of the people who owe the tax.

We have an honor roll of conservatives who do not think States ought to have to play ''Mother May I?'' with the Federal Government on this question. For example, Al Cardenas, chairman of the American Conservative Union; Art Laffer, President Reagan's favorite economist; Charles Krauthammer; Representative PAUL RYAN; Governor Mike Pence, a former Member of the House of Representatives; Governor Chris Christie; former Governor Jeb Bush; former Governor Mitch Daniels; and the late William F. Buckley, not to mention Governor Bill Haslam of the State of Tennessee, agree that recognizing the power of State legislators to make these decisions for themselves is consistent with the 10th amendment and our constitutional framework.

In our State of Tennessee, the Marketplace Fairness Act is an insurance policy against a State income tax. We don't have a State income tax and we don't want a State income tax.

The House of Representatives has not yet acted on this bill. The bill that was passed a year ago today by the Senate was an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. We are hopeful that the House will soon either enact our bill, which we have sent to them, or send us their version of the bill so we can confer and send a result to the President of the United States.

State and local governments have been waiting on Congress to solve this problem for more than 20 years—since 1992 when the Supreme Court said Congress has the ultimate power to resolve the issue. Now is the time to act on this legislation. We are ready to work with the House to enact that legislation this year.

In conclusion, I will read the comments of Al Cardenas, chairman of the American Conservative Union and former chairman of the Florida Republican Party. When talking about the Marketplace Fairness Act, Mr. Cardenas said,

> When it comes to state sales tax, it is time to address the area where federally mandated prejudice is most egregious—the policy towards Internet sales, the decades-old inequity between online and in-person sales as outdated and unfair.

Again, that was Al Cardenas, chairman of the American Conservative Union, speaking in support of the Marketplace Fairness Act.

I am pleased that of the four Senators who will be on the floor during this colloquy, two are already here. I see the Senator from North Dakota, and I see the Senator from Wyoming. If it is all right with the Senator from Wyoming, I will defer to the Senator from North Dakota. While the Senator may be a little modest about this—I hope she is not—she actually started it all. She has a better view of the Marketplace Fairness Act than just about anyone because of her service in the State government of North Dakota. She has an ability to explain in plain and simple language why the fair and right thing to do is to recognize the rights of States to make these decisions for themselves. Her ability to do that has been a crucial part of our debate and is one of the reasons why we had such overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, first I want to say what an honor it has been for me to participate in any amount of leadership on this issue here on the floor of the Senate with such incredible leaders as Senator ALEXANDER, Senator ENZI, and Senator DURBIN, who have long recognized the injustice that is being done to Main Street businesses and the problems we have in terms of States rights and making sure we maintain a system that recognizes the value of States rights and the value of a State prerogative so they can make their own taxing decisions without interference from the U.S. Senate or anyone in the Federal Government.

As Senator ALEXANDER has explained, when I first came to this body, Senator DURBIN suggested to his staff that they try to find out where I would be on this issue because my predecessor, Senator Dorgan, had been very active with this coalition of leaders on addressing this problem, and his staff suggested that he might want to read the caption on the Quill case since there was the name ''HEIDI HEITKAMP'' in that caption.

The reality is that back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, we saw this phenomenon of increased catalog sales. I am not talking about companies such as Sears that had a physical presence in the community and could thereby collect sales taxes but more and more boutique types of catalogs. There was more and more competition coming from catalogs.

I had more and more Main Street businesses coming to me as the tax commissioner asking: How is this fair? How is it fair that I started my little business—whether it was a wallpaper business or a fabric business, whatever it was—and people come to my store and look at my sample books that I actually have to pay for, test out the quality of the fabric, take a lot number, and leave and order it from the catalog?

That was a pretty horrible thing to happen to Main Street businesses back in the late 1980s.

Can you imagine walking into a Main Street business now and not only getting advice and information on how the product operates and what the warrantees are—not to mention all the training these Main Street businesses have given their employees—but then taking a snapshot of a barcode so you can order it on the Internet right there in the store? I can only imagine how discouraging this is for Main Street businesses. It is unfair to Main Street businesses when they are asked to support their communities, such as putting the ad in the little high school newspaper or contributing to a football billboard or the local fire department so they can serve their communities.

If you think of all the things Main Street businesses do, they are not just involved in retail, they are involved in communities. Yet those Main Street businesses are not asking for an unfair advantage; they are asking for fairness and equity. They are asking that when sales tax rates have gone up from 8 percent to 9 percent because the base dwindles—you have to raise the rate in order to collect the same amount of money—they are being basically taxed out of the marketplace through this unfair advantage that remote sellers have against them by not having the obligation to collect a tax that is honestly already owed.

I want to reiterate a couple of points Senator ALEXANDER was making because I think it is so important. One of the arguments we hear consistently about marketplace fairness is that it is a Federal imposition of a tax. Nothing could be further from the truth. This is a tax that is already owed. This is a tax that is owed to the States. It is owed by the people who make these purchases—a sales and use tax. We are doing nothing more than telling every State: If you want to pursue Main Street fairness, you have a path forward.

If a State doesn't want to tax or put a collection responsibility on remote sellers, there is nothing in this bill that requires them to do that.

This is a States rights bill, but it is also a fairness to Main Street businesses bill. It is a bill that would make sure that the promise of an equitable tax system in this country is fulfilled. This bill is a promise that if you play by the rules and do everything the way you should as a business, no one is going to get an advantage over you, and we are going to level the playing field. There is no level playing field when somebody has a 10-percent advantage over you simply because you actually invested in a community, put up bricks and mortar, trained a sales force, and yet you are going to be the disadvantaged one.

When we started this a year ago, we were joined by all manner of retailers, but I will never forget the story of a young woman who had a dream. She loves animals and pets. She trained herself in pet nutrition and opened a pet nutrition store in Missouri—it

might have been Kansas or Missouri because it was in the Kansas City area. When you combine State and local taxes where her business is located, the tax rate was 9 percent. People would come to her store and explain the ailment or condition of their pets, and her very excellent sales staff would tell them what product was best for their cat or dog. She knew when they walked out, they simply ordered it on the Internet because she could not give them a 10-percent discount. That is what happened in her business.

We told her that if she had a small Internet business with $1 million in sales, she would have to collect taxes too. She said: I would be so happy to collect a sales tax if I had $1 million in Internet sales; that would mean I was winning.

If you think about that and the mom-and-pop businesses—just a couple of kind of myth-breaking things about how this is truly going to affect small business. This is not going to have any effect at all on any business if we pass the bill we passed that has gross sales below $1 million. We have a threshold.

The other myth is that they are going to be subjected to millions of audits and millions of tax rates. The streamlined process has proven over and over that this is not higher math. We can get this done.

I have a story from the time we did the original Quill case. It got a lot of national attention, and there was a lot of discussion about this. I had a reporter from the Omaha World Herald call me. He said he had just called a major retailer to order some new shirts, and the retailer he was talking to had been very active in opposing the Quill case and very active in opposing what we were trying to do. One of their arguments was that they could not possibly know the tax rate on that shirt in his jurisdiction. When he ordered his shirt, he told the person on the other end of the phone his size, and that person said: You know, maybe you want to check because last time you ordered, it was a size 15.

This reporter said to me: If they can know my shirt size, they could probably figure out the tax rate of the jurisdiction I live in.

Think about it. It has only gotten easier.

One of our major retailers, which is adamant about how this would be the most horrible and onerous thing, offers a package for $15 if anyone wants to collect the tax.

The other fallacy here and one of the myths I want to break is that if I went to sell my old used lawnmower on the Internet, I would be subjected to sales tax. I think it is only natural that this body doesn't have a lot of experience in sales taxation. It is not what we do. It is what State and local governments do. It is what people who had my former job do. However, there is such a thing as casual sales. If you are not in the business of being a retailer in every State, you have no collection responsibility. It is only retailers, only people who are in the business of retailing and only people who have retail sales over $1 million who would be affected. And we have streamlined the process. We have made this possible. It is a small thing to ask for us to take an action in this body and in the House of Representatives to tell Main Street businesses that they still matter in the marketplace and that we are going to listen to them and we are going to do everything we can to get them fairness and justice in our tax system.

So, again, I congratulate the excellent leadership that has come before me on this floor on this issue. I pledge once again to do everything we can to get this marketplace fairness done in this Congress so that our Main Street businesses don't have to wait a day longer for tax justice in this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator from North Dakota for her eloquent statement and for her leadership. I am delighted that she has gone from being a caption on a lawsuit to a Senator who can help us pass this bill. In just a moment I will yield the leadership of this colloquy to the assistant Democratic leader, but I wish to say a word about the next Senator speaking and about Senator DURBIN as well.

Senator MIKE ENZI is the real pioneer on the Marketplace Fairness Act. He knows what he is talking about. He is a shoestore owner from Wyoming. He knows what it is like for someone to come in and try on a pair of shoes and then go home and order them on the Internet and disadvantage a smalltown owner of a shoestore as compared with an out-of-State business. He has diligently and systematically led this fight the whole time, and it was due to that diligence that the Senate had this overwhelmingly bipartisan achievement one year ago today. I thank him for his leadership.

Now I recognize the assistant Democratic leader. The truth of the matter is, the way the Senate works, we would never have been able to pass this in the Senate with such fine fashion if it hadn't been for the leadership of the assistant Democratic leader, Senator DURBIN of Illinois. I thank him very much for his leadership and congratulate him for it, and I am glad to turn the leadership of the colloquy over to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank Senator ALEXANDER for the leadership he has shown on this bill. We had a much more extensive bill designed, and I worked on it for all of the years he mentioned, which is all the years I have been here, 17 years. We made some progress every single time it came up, but there were misconceptions with it. Senator ALEXANDER suggested the solution that is the true solution for this bill. He changed it to a very brief States rights bill, not a Federal bill. This doesn't have any requirements for any State, but it has an ability for States to make up their own mind.

So I rise today with my colleagues from Illinois, Tennessee, and North Dakota to recognize the anniversary of this significant event. One year ago today, with a show of strong bipartisan support, the Senate took an important step forward to level the playing field for all retailers that collect sales taxes. But it is not really about the retailers; it is about the people who work in those stores. We are talking about middle America. They can't afford to have the employees unless they make the sales, and if they just do the sales pitch and then it is ordered online, there is no revenue the employee brought in, and if there is a prolonged period when there is no revenue, the business doesn't need the employee. This bill is about supporting the jobs we have in our towns. It is about the people who are our neighbors who work in the stores and the people who have the stores that participate in all of the community events.

As the Senator from North Dakota said—and she is probably the only one who has worked on this bill longer than I have because she was involved in it in State government when she was in North Dakota. I appreciate her expertise on this bill. Without some of the explanations she was able to give on the history of this bill, we wouldn't have been able to get it done.

Of course, Senator DURBIN and I have been speaking for what seems like years now trying to explain how this bill works, taking into consideration any concerns people had and trying to overcome those concerns. I couldn't guess how many hundreds of meetings there have been over trying to get this bill right and to get it fair, all so the States still have the revenue they need to operate without imposing perhaps a personal income tax. In the case of Virginia, I think they are not going to raise the gas tax if this bill passes. So this is a States rights bill. It takes money to the States, and it is money that is really owed right now.

I did a little checking. Wyoming started collecting their sales tax in 1935, and it has been virtually unchanged since that time. There is a provision in the sales tax law that requires a form, so that if someone buys something from out of State and didn't pay sales and use tax on it, they are supposed to fill out this form before the end of the month and send the sales and use tax with the form to the State government to pay it.

One of the surprises I discovered is there is about $1½ million a year collected in Wyoming that way—people obeying the law. But that is pretty tough to keep track of and especially if one doesn't make out-of-State purchases every day. So the State, of course, imposed on local retailers the requirement that they collect sales tax, and then people don't have to fill out that form. They don't have to send it in before the end of the month.

So they made it a lot easier by making the retailers collect the money. Unfortunately, they weren't able to make all of the retailers collect the money. Because of a court case, they aren't able to do it out of State, and that is very important because it is a huge loss of revenue. I think Wyoming actually loses about $23 million a year because of purchases over the Internet where no sales tax is paid.

On May 6, 2013, this Chamber passed the Marketplace Fairness Act, and we passed it with 69 votes. Some of the votes we had were as high as 76 votes. That is very significant around here. Sixty-nine is an incredible number for the Senate to produce on any bill. It came from a majority of both sides of the aisle, which is important. I wish to remind my colleagues that this bill is about fairness. It is about leveling the playing field between brick-and-mortar and online companies, and it is about collecting that tax that is already due. It is not about raising taxes. It isn't about taxing the Internet, and it isn't about taxing Internet access. I think we are all opposed to that. But we are in favor of the States, if they wish, to be able to collect the taxes they have imposed on the people who live in their State. So it is a States rights bill.

In a nutshell, the Marketplace Fairness Act is a straightforward, 11-page bill that brings clarity to a vexing area of sales tax collection inequity. Online sales often go without collection of the sales tax from the point of purchase, while the Main Street stores and the other brick-and-mortar stores in town typically face established collection procedures—no choice, regular reports.

Wyoming shouldn't subsidize online retailers that operate and sell to people in our State. Neither should Illinois or North Dakota or Tennessee or any other State that has sales tax laws. But right now, online retailers can offer lower prices than the local businesses that hire the local people who pay the property taxes and that participate in the community events; the most important thing being those local jobs, simply because they do not have to charge the same sales tax out of State that all our local merchants do.

Sales taxes are important. They pay for the roads we drive on. They pay for the schools our kids go to. In Wyoming, with the particularly small towns, they rely on sales tax for the fire protection and the police protection. When people ask me about the sales tax bill, I ask them what county they are from and, if it is a small town, I say: Check with your fire department and see if, without sales tax, they would be able to function. When people understand it is part of their fire protection and part of their law enforcement protection, they are much more interested in it and understand why the sales tax needs to be collected. I don't want to see a situation where other taxes will have to be raised to cover basic local services because the online retailers are not collecting the sales taxes that are owed on the products they sell.

I remember going into a camera store—I try to get into some stores on the weekend and find out what kinds of decisions they have to make, particularly decisions that have to do with the Federal Government. I was in the camera store and the fellow was explaining he had just lost a sale. The sales tax rate in that town is 6 percent. A man came in to buy a camera, and the camera was $2,000. But this owner of the store—the only employee of the store—took the time to help him with all of the different gadgets and how to operate it, and showed him what he needed and how to do it. Then the customer took a picture of the bar code and ordered it online because he saved $120. Technically, he still owed $120 to his State. Whether he filled out one of those forms and got it in by the end of the month, I doubt it, but that is the law. If a State meets the simplification requirements outlined in the bill, it may choose to require collection of sales taxes that are already due at the point of purchase, including sales conducted through e-commerce. Congress is not forcing States to do anything because the Federal Government should not have the role or authority in telling a State how to manage its finances. This bill specifically says that it is up to the States to enforce the law, and it is 100 percent optional. If the States do act, they are collecting taxes that are already due by the consumers.

I have been working on this sales tax fairness or marketplace fairness issue—or any of the number of names we have had on it through the years as we gained more and more support and as people came to understand more and more of what was involved—since 1997. As a former small business owner, it is important to ensure parity for all retailers by modernizing rules for sales tax collection in a way that respects technology advances and the existing practices of large and small and more traditional businesses, and this bill accomplishes that. It uniquely balances the interests of all businesses and respects the existing laws and rights of states.

The Senator from North Dakota mentioned there is a $1 million exclusion. This is to help out small businesses, new start-up businesses. If you have a start-up business or a small business, until you have sold $1 million online or through a catalog in a given year, you don't have to comply with this. But once you hit that $1 million mark, you can consider yourself a success. We know that is a very small percentage of the Nation, but an important part of the total sales of the Nation. I think that is why one year ago, 68 of our Senators joined me in supporting that Marketplace Fairness Act.

This evening, my lead cosponsors and I are again taking a stand in favor of good public policy for our Nation's retailers while highlighting the need to fix some long-standing sales tax system complexities. By balancing this collection inequity, the Marketplace Fairness Act would help States ensure the viability of the sales tax as a major revenue source for State budgets. We found in Wyoming that it often constitutes 40 percent of a municipality's revenue. It also would close opportunities that encourage tax avoidance.

Beyond the walls of Congress, the Marketplace Fairness Act has received broad support. Trade associations, Governors, mayors, legislators, and numerous businesses have expressed support for the legislation.

But there is work still to be done. Our colleagues in the House need to pass the Marketplace Fairness Act. I know some Members in the other Chamber are working on this issue. A companion Marketplace Fairness Act has been introduced. A hearing has been held, and new Members are engaged in the issue. I appreciate those efforts, and I hope our colleagues in the House will pick up the baton and complete the effort to guarantee sales tax fairness. This is the year to finish the work. Our States and businesses and employees in those businesses cannot wait longer. Enacting the Marketplace Fairness Act is the right thing to do.

In conclusion, I wish to thank everyone associated with this bill for their hard work and efforts in getting us to this point: our countless supporters across the country, the 68 Senators who joined me to vote for a bill a year ago, the 29 cosponsors of the bill for their support, and especially my colleagues who joined me tonight for their unwavering support of this bill. I can't thank Senator ALEXANDER, Senator HEITKAMP, and Senator DURBIN enough for their efforts. I am going to yield the floor and turn it over to Senator DURBIN who has been a real champion and one of the best explainers of the parts of this bill that I have ever run into. I really appreciate his efforts and his help. We wouldn't be this far were it not for his efforts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague from Wyoming. The most frequently asked question, no

matter where I appear in Illinois or at fundraising events, is, Why can't you folks get along in Washington? What is it like to be in a place where everybody is at one another's throats and you can't accomplish anything? Why can't you do things on a bipartisan basis? What is it like today, and how do you compare it to what it was like a few years ago?

I say to them there are times when we do come together and do something important. This is one of those times—the Marketplace Fairness Act.

It was 1 year ago that Senator ENZI led the fight on this. I do not know exactly when he started it, but I was happy to join in, in his effort, when Senator Byron Dorgan retired. I called Senator ENZI and said: I would like to step in and help you with this bill. He said: Let's do it. We brought in LAMAR ALEXANDER, who made some valuable contributions to it. Then along comes HEIDI HEITKAMP, the new Senator from North Dakota. Was she ever ready for this fight—a former sales tax commissioner in that State and a former attorney general. She knew this issue inside and out. She has been a terrific ally.

So there were the four of us. What an odd grouping: two Republicans, two Democrats from literally all over the United States. We worked together, and 1 year ago today we passed this basic bill, the marketplace fairness bill. The reason for passing it was just look at the name of it: fairness.

I think about two people when I think about this bill. One of them is the mayor of Normal, IL. His name is Chris Koos, a great friend of mine and a terrific mayor. Chris, in addition to being the mayor, runs a shop where he sells running shoes and bicycles and lots of running equipment and stuff.

So I visited his shop, a great little shop. He is a terrific businessperson. He told me a story, which I have heard over and over, about people coming in, picking out the bicycle, picking out the shoes. That is perfect. Let me try them on. Let me get out and ride this. Then they say: I will get back to you. And he never sees them again. They turn around and buy the product on the Internet. So Chris is running a showroom as much as a business. There is no fairness there.

When those sales are made on the Internet, instead of in Chris Koos's shop, there is no revenue coming back to the city of Normal, IL, or McLean County. That is Chris's story, but it is the story of thousands, maybe millions, of businesses across America that are losing out now to Internet competition that is not collecting the sales tax that is supposed to be paid.

Then I met another man. I will not disclose the name of his company, but he is a major retailer in the United States. He came to visit me in my office in February or March, and he said: I want to tell you, in this last Christmas season, which is the biggest time of the year for my big-box business, we had a downturn of 8 percent in sales. Based on our projections, we thought for sure we would have more sales. We had a downturn of 8 percent. He said: I lost them to the Internet. Senator, I can't stay in business this way. I can't run a showroom for people who want to sell things on the Internet.

What we are talking about is the basic collection of sales tax for purchases on the Internet. In my State—in virtually all the States with a sales tax—there is a legal obligation to pay it. I did not realize that until a few years ago. My bookkeeper was doing my family tax return for my wife and myself. She called and said: Senator, do you want to pay the taxes you owe on Internet purchases? I said: Yes, I think I want to pay the taxes I owe. She said: Well, how much did you buy on the Internet? I said: I will try to put it together. I called her back, gave her a number. She said: Here is the calculation. On your State income tax return we will declare that you are going to pay X dollars that you owe for Illinois sales tax for purchases you made on the Internet. When I said: Is that what I am supposed to do? She said: Yes. We did it. We have done it every year since.

It turns out only 5 percent of Illinois taxpayers fill in that line on a State income tax return. I am guessing more than 5 percent of taxpayers make Internet purchases. But folks do not know their obligation, they do not follow through on their obligation, and the losers are, of course, our State and local units of government.

This bill says, if Illinois, if Indiana, if Wyoming wishes, on a voluntary basis, they may use this bill to start collecting sales tax when it comes to Internet sales into their State. It is voluntary. The States have to decide to do it. It is not a new tax. This has been said over and over: It is the existing sales tax wherever it may be—in your State, county or city—existing sales tax.

The bill provides if you are an Internet seller and have less than $1 million worth of sales in a given year—whether it is Grandma Donnelly's applesauce or whatever it happens to be—you are not covered by this, but if you have more than $1 million, yes, you have to collect the sales tax.

How can you collect it? First, the States have to provide you with the software so your business does not run into the expense of how to collect it. You say: I bet that is an elaborate undertaking. You can buy the basic software to identify the sales tax based on the consumer's address for about $15 for the basic package or maybe a couple hundred dollars at the most.

But in this situation the States are going to help the Internet retailers in developing the software so that when someone makes a purchase from Chicago, IL, or Springfield, IL, whoever is selling to me on the Internet will then forward that sales tax to the Illinois Department of Revenue. End of story. It is just that simple.

What it does, of course, is level the playing field for bricks-and-mortar businesses, providing a new source of revenue that should be collected and is owed legally in these States to the local units of government.

We passed this with enormous support from the retail community. It is not surprising. And it just was not the shop owners. It is people who understand the importance of this. This has been said over and over: These bricks-and-mortar shops around America do so much more than just sell a product. They are citizens in the community, corporate business citizens in the community. They participate. When the local high school is having their graduation program and they want somebody to help sponsor it, they will go down to the local sporting goods store for a helping hand on the program. That happens over and over. Whether it is Khoury League or Pop Warner, they are in there helping in the communities.

Isn't it important and fair that they be treated fairly here? Sixty-nine Members of the Senate thought so. Democrats and Republicans voted for it—Senator ENZI and I, Senator ALEXANDER and Senator HEITKAMP. We had 29 cosponsors of this bill who sat down and said: Let's pass it.

We passed it. We sent it to the House of Representatives, and nothing has happened—nothing. There have been some statements made over there, and I hope those statements lead to action, but it is time for them to pick up this bill and this responsibility. If they have a better approach, let's see it. Let's work on it. Let's do it on a bipartisan basis. Let's come up with an approach that works.

I cannot tell you how many different businesses have come through my door—from Sears, Roebuck down to just basic mom-and-pop businesses—and said: What are we going to do about the House of Representatives? They just will not take up this measure.

I hope they will. They still have time to do it. We have waited 1 year. I do not want to wait much longer. In an election year, it will be almost impossible to do it.

So I hope we can get this done. It is going to mean that local businesses that are important and the backbone of our community are going to have the resources they need because the sales will take place that otherwise are not taking place today, and the local units of government will receive the proceeds from the sales tax that is collected.

One of the major marketplace retailers on the Internet is Amazon. Amazon may be the biggest. They support this bill. If you ask them why, they say: We don't want to fight this battle in 50 States and all the different cities and counties as to how much sales tax. Let's just make it uniform across the country.

That is what the bill does. So Amazon supports this. They are prepared to collect that sales tax and remit it to the States. They do not believe it is an onerous burden that they are going to face. I hope others will join them.

As I have said, 1 year ago today Members of the Senate did something we don't do enough. We put aside the partisan differences that cause so much gridlock around here and came together to pass bipartisan legislation—the Marketplace Fairness Act. On this day last year 69 Members of the Senate agreed that we need to help create jobs, invest in our communities, and keep Main Street alive and able to compete.

The Marketplace Fairness Act levels the playing field for retailers by allowing States to treat brick-and-mortar retailers the same as remote retailers in the collection of State and local sales and use taxes.

Those that benefit under our current system—retailers that have a 5- to 10-percent price advantage over their competitors on Main Street—want to continue the status quo. But it is not fair to the thousands of Main Street businesses that have worked hard to grow their businesses only to become showrooms because of this price advantage. People come in, look around, even try on merchandise, and then leave and buy the product online.

This happens many times because sales and use taxes are not collected when a product is purchased online, so it seems cheaper. But we all know the tax is still owed by the customer. In Illinois about 5 percent of customers end up paying that tax.

Abt Electronics, a retailer in Glenview, IL, knows about this challenge all too well. It is president, Michael Abt, said that ''often times with consumer electronics, the profit margin is 10 percent or less . . . when an online competitor doesn't collect taxes and then offers free shipping, it's a huge advantage for the competition.''

Abt is one of the lucky ones—it is a fine example of a successful American business that has continued to grow since opening in 1936 and supports about 1,100 jobs. It also has an online presence so it can reach even more customers.

But there are others that haven't been so lucky.

Soccer Plus in Palatine is an example of what happens when it becomes too difficult to compete with online retailers that have a 5- to 10-percent price advantage.

A year ago when Soccer Plus went out of business we lost good-paying jobs. And Palatine lost a business that was a part of our community.

There is nothing we can do now for Soccer Plus. But we can still help thousands of retailers avoid the same fate as Soccer Plus by leveling the playing field for Main Street retailers.

Since the Senate passed the Marketplace Fairness Act 1 year ago, the inequity between Main Street retailers and online retailers has only increased as e-commerce has grown.

Online retail spending grew 14 percent last year alone, to $263.3 billion, and is estimated to reach over $300 billion in 2014.

Unlike 20 years ago, or even 10 years ago, we are no longer talking about a few online retailers without access to the technology necessary to collect sales and use taxes. We are talking about hundreds of retailers, many of which are large billion-dollar businesses that have a price advantage over small Main Street businesses because they don't collect sales and use taxes.

It is time we update our laws so they match our 21st century marketplace.

Retailers in Illinois can now reach customers all over the country through this new marketplace and software has been developed to calculate sales and use tax for every jurisdiction in the country—yes, all 6,000 of them.

It is time to end this idea that technology can't handle calculating sales and use taxes. Many retailers are already using this technology to collect and remit these taxes and similar technology to calculate shipping costs. This is especially true when talking about online retailers who by their very definition use technology to sell their products.

The internet and e-commerce is no longer a baby in its crib. The baby is all grown up, running at full speed, and using outdated laws to threaten Main Street businesses.

The Senate passed a bill to update our laws and correct this inequity 1 year ago. The bill was supported by over 280 business, State, local, and labor organizations, both progressives and conservatives alike.

Yet the House has done little more than hold a hearing which was added to the long list of hearings already held on this issue over the last 20 years.

Each week that the House doesn't act is another week that Congress is picking winners and losers—the losers being Main Street retailers, the jobs these retailers provide, and the communities these businesses support.

Recently, 1,064 of these businesses sent a letter urging Chairman Goodlatte to move legislation to address the inequity they face every day. Many of these businesses were from the chairman's home State of Virginia.

How long can we expect our small businesses that are partners in our communities to stay in business when we are tying one hand behind their back?

I urge them to hold on as long as possible, but the only real solution is for Congress to act.

I strongly urge my colleagues in the House, Chairman GOODLATTE, and others, to give Main Street retailers a fighting chance by passing sales tax fairness legislation as soon as possible.

We welcome the opportunity to work with our House colleagues so that one day soon we can offer businesses and States a solution to level the playing field for retailers that is simple and fair.

In closing, I want to recognize the work Senators ENZI, ALEXANDER, and HEITKAMP have done on this issue.

Senator ENZI introduced the first bill more than a decade ago to level the playing field because he understands firsthand, being a former retailer, how unfair this is for Main Street retailers.

Last year when we passed the Marketplace Fairness Act we came one step closer to leveling this playing field by allowing States to require both brick and mortar retailers and online retailers to play by the same set of rules.

It will ensure that Main Street businesses, like Abt, have a fighting chance and no more stores will have to close because of the current inequity they face.

Again, I urge the House to pass sales tax fairness legislation. I hope that the House Judiciary Committee will move forward in the coming weeks and offer any help I can give.

I am not going to take much longer. I think we have covered the subject well, and I thank Senator ENZI from Wyoming, as well as Senator HEITKAMP from North Dakota, and especially Senator ALEXANDER from Tennessee for kicking this off.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this article by Donnie Eatherly. Donnie is the president of P&E Distributors in Tennessee. He is also a member of the Alliance for Main Street Fairness Small Business Advisory Board. He wrote this article on May 6 that is entitled: ''It's Time To Level The Playing Field For Main Street Businesses,'' and it is a good article. It says, in the simplest terms, what he, as a businessman, sees this issue to mean.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

(Commentary, May 6, 2014)

IT'S TIME TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR MAIN STREET BUSINESSES

(By Donnie Eatherly)

Small-business owners like myself have for years urged Congress to create a level playing field that will allow us to compete with our online-only competitors. One year ago this week, the Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation that would accomplish this goal, and we're counting on the Republican-led House of Representatives to do the same.

Thanks to an antiquated tax loophole, large out-of-state online retailers can avoid

collecting state sales tax on purchases made by residents in my state, which gives them a significant 9.75 percent competitive advantage over traditional brick-and-mortar shops that follow the law and collect those taxes.

To fix this unfair system, a bipartisan group of 69 senators last year passed the Marketplace Fairness Act, a common-sense reform that would ensure all businesses play by the same rules. Unfortunately, the legislation has stalled in the House.

As each week passes with no action, brick-and-mortar businesses continue losing sales to a common practice known as ''showrooming,'' in which customers browse and test items at local stores and then head home to buy them online knowing they will not have to pay state sales tax.

For many small businesses such as mine, every sale counts and losing this revenue hurts our ability to grow our businesses and hire new employees. We cannot wait any longer for a federal solution to this problem.

Main Street business owners are not asking for a handout, and we're certainly not afraid of competition from the big guys. But it simply does not make sense for out-of-state online retailers to enjoy such a big competitive edge over local businesses that give back to their communities.

Despite what some have said about the Marketplace Fairness Act, this is not a new tax, nor does it create any taxes. These taxes are already on the books, and the legislation would simply give states the necessary tools to collect them. As conservative Republican Rep. Steve Womack of Arkansas has said, ''It's not new, it's due!''

Not only does this level the playing field for all businesses, but it would also put additional revenues in state coffers to fund vital services such as education and public safety. Importantly, the legislation also includes a $1 million exemption on remote sales so to put that into perspective, over 99 percent of all online sellers will not be affected by this legislation in any way. In other words, all the mom and pop stores who do business on the Internet don't have to worry about it.

Additionally, for the less than 1 percent of online sellers who will be subject to collecting sales and use taxes under this bill, the legislation requires each participating state to provide free tax software that will allow them to quickly and efficiently calculate, collect and remit sales tax. The proposal also includes liability protections for sellers and limits against audits.

This reform is long overdue, and Main Street businesses cannot wait any longer for help. For those who believe in state's rights and the basic principle of limited government, we should all agree that Washington, D.C., should no longer be in the business of picking winners and losers in the marketplace.

It's time for the House of Representatives to stand up for the small businesses in their districts, follow the Senate's lead and finally pass marketplace fairness.

Mr. DURBIN. So let's get together. We did it in the Senate on a bipartisan basis, with a big vote—some 69 votes. We can do it in the House of Representatives. Let's get something done this year that is going to help businesses across America be profitable and hire more people, put more folks to work across the United States.

At this time, I yield the floor to my friend from Wyoming.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Illinois for his excellent explanation. I have been joining him and watching him do that for several years. It would be nice to get this finished.

There are a few things we may not have mentioned that are sometimes raised when people ask me about marketplace fairness. One of them is from small towns. They say: We have to go on the Internet because there is not enough selection in our town and we can get things we cannot buy in town and some of the things we can get at a lower price by going out of town.

I always ask them, when they are figuring that lower price, are they figuring it without sales tax or with sales tax, because it is not truly a lower price if what you are doing is just cheating your local merchant out of the right to collect the sales tax—which he does not get paid for anyway—and submitting it, when the out-of-State retailer does not have to do that.

As to the revenue that companies are voluntarily collecting now—and there are a number of them that recognize it is difficult for everybody to keep track of their purchases, so they voluntarily collect it—the question I have had is, Does that money they voluntarily collect go back to the States? Yes, it absolutely does, and it will work that way under the bill as well. It is not money that you are just sending to wherever you ordered it from. You are sending it to where it was ordered from, and then they are sending it back to States.

That is what these programs the Senator from Illinois mentioned do. They keep track of what State all the purchases were from. Here is how difficult that is. When you call in your order or you do it online, at some point you have to put in an address with a ZIP Code. That ZIP Code is all the program needs in order to be able to assess your tax. That is how those programs are designed. So if you have to give an address, you have to give the ZIP Code. If you have to give the ZIP Code, they already know what the tax is going to be. So there is no difficulty for any size retailer to be able to figure out what the tax is they are supposed to be doing.

Another argument I hear is the online place provides free shipping. I want you to know your local retailer provides free shipping and immediate pickup. Somebody had to pay the shipping on it. It got to the store, and you can pick it up right there, instantly. You do not have to wait 2 or 3 days or pay a special rate to get it overnight. You can get it right then.

One of the things that is discouraging for retailers is, if you waited on somebody and they got the barcode and they ordered it online and it came in and it was not exactly what they wanted, then they come to you and say: Well, this is the brand you are selling. Won't you take it back?

Let's see, they did not make anything on it, they used a whole bunch of time, and now they want you to put it in your inventory. That is very discouraging.

So think about those local clerks. They are your friends and neighbors who are being hired locally who really depend on a job. If everything gets ordered online, they will not have a job. Your friends will have to move, and you will not have as much selection as you have right now in your local store.

Again, I wish to thank all those who voted for it, all those who have worked on it, and all those who are considering voting for it the next time they get it because I know we have picked up some momentum since we did it last time. There are people who have heard from their communities now who say: Well, I did not vote right last time, but I will get it right next time. I am looking forward to that, and I am looking for the House to finish it and send it to the President.

Thanks again, I say to Senator DURBIN, for his tremendous effort.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING KEN DUGAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the career of Ken Dugan, center director of the Sierra Nevada Job Corps. Ken is retiring this month after spending 39 years in the Job Corps program, 36 of which as a center director. Throughout this time, Ken has worked tirelessly to help improve the lives of at-risk teenagers and young adults through vocational and academic training.

When Ken started his first assignment with the San Jose Job Corps in 1975, he never envisioned that almost 4 decades later he would be retiring with the organization. However, Job Corps and its mission soon became a way of life for him. After stints as center director at the San Jose and Hawaii Job Corps centers, we in Nevada were extremely fortunate to have Ken take over as center director for the Sierra Nevada Job Corps, the only Job Corps center in the State. During his 19 years with Sierra Nevada, Ken oversaw the relocation and new construction of the center, the third time he had done so with a center. The new center, with Ken at its head, has greatly enhanced

the living and learning environment for thousands of students over the years.

During his unprecedented 36-year tenure as a center director, the Job Corps centers Ken has run have been honored with numerous performance awards from the U.S. Department of Labor, not to mention Recognition of Performance and Community Value awards by the legislatures and Congressional delegations of California, Hawaii, and Nevada. On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I commend Ken Dugan on a lifetime of public service, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

AROOSTOOK ASPIRATIONS INITIATIVE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to engage my fellow Senator from Maine in a colloquy regarding a new citizen-led education enterprise in our great State, the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative, AAI.

Aroostook County, where I was born and raised, is defined by an extraordinary work ethic and the enduring spirit of its people. It is Maine's northernmost and largest county, and its economy depends on an able and educated workforce. Too often, the goals of hard-working students in Aroostook County are impeded by the costs of higher education and the complexities of choosing a career. Thanks to the extraordinary commitment of Ray and Sandy Gauvin, those obstacles are being addressed in dramatic and dynamic ways.

Cognizant of the needs of students and indebted to a community that enabled their own success, the Gauvins have designed a multifaceted program aimed not only at educating but also empowering students in Aroostook County. Through AAI, they have established a scholarship fund, launched by their own generous donation, for high school students seeking postsecondary education. These scholarships target economically disadvantaged and first-generation college students throughout the county. AAI collaborates with the University of Maine at Presque Isle and at Fort Kent, the Northern Maine Community College, Husson University, area businesses and entrepreneurs to offer seminars to guide students throughout their postsecondary education. Students can also team up with Aroostook County employers through a cooperative internship program that gives them practical experience in careers they would like to pursue. These internships help lay the foundation for invaluable relationships with professional mentors.

I am extremely proud of the Gauvins, the business leaders with whom they have joined forces, and the accomplished students they have supported and will continue to assist through this wonderful program. I am confident that this initiative will enrich Aroostook County, its families, its future workforce, and its economy.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the comments of the senior Senator from Maine. I, too, am proud to commend the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative, AAI, and the Gauvin County Scholarship Fund for their efforts to increase educational and economic opportunity in Aroostook County. AAI's partnerships with all 16 of the county's high schools and all 4 of the county's institutions of higher education serve as a model of what forward-thinking private citizens, schools, colleges, universities, and businesses can accomplish when they set out to better their communities.

The initiative takes on the goal of increasing access to education for first-generation college students and those from lower income families, clearly critical in its own right as a matter of fairness and pairs it with measures designed to harness the benefits these students will bring to the local economy. Scholarship recipients are directed to local colleges and universities, allowing them to forge connections with local business leaders through AAI-coordinated internships. As a capstone, AAI matches scholarship recipients with mentors who help them craft business plans in their senior year of college, ensuring that each graduate has a roadmap as they enter the workforce. The first group of scholarship recipients will graduate in 2015, and I look forward to observing their accomplishments and the added energy they will bring to their communities.

None of this would be possible without the vision and generosity of Ray and Sandy Gauvin, along with that of the businesses, schools, colleges, and community organizations that have heeded their call in supporting AAI. The Gauvins' personal experience, as a first-generation college student and a career teacher, respectively, clearly inspired the effort they have spearheaded. As they noted in an interview with the Bangor Daily News, they believe ''education is the great equalizer,'' and I could not agree more. I thank the Gauvins and the initiative's business and education partners for stepping up to support the county's next generation of leaders. I cannot wait to see, with their communities behind them, what these students will achieve.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, last week, Armenians and friends of Armenians around the world solemnly remembered the horrific dislocation and slaughter that began in 1915 and resulted in more than 1.5 million deaths and another half million Armenians driven from their ancient homeland. The Armenian Genocide was carried out by the Ottoman Empire in its waning years amidst the chaos of World War I. For what was an undeniably gruesome period in human history, Theodore Roosevelt called the Armenian Genocide ''the greatest crime of the war.''

It is this terrible chapter, more than any other single event, that led to the Armenian diaspora, including in the United States and my home State of Rhode Island. For generations, the Armenian community has been a strong and hardworking part of our Rhode Island family, producing great leaders in both government and business. Whether at flag raising ceremonies, church festivals, the wonderful St. Vartanantz Annual Bazaar at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, or at commemorations of the Armenian Genocide at the monument in the North Burial Ground in Providence, Armenians are part of the fabric of Rhode Island.

Since achieving independence after the fall of the Soviet Union, Armenia has at last established a foothold for democracy in the Caucasus after centuries of outside domination and totalitarian rule. I have long supported foreign assistance to Armenia to help grow its economy and strengthen its Democratic institutions, and I will continue to do so.

But perhaps the most meaningful thing we can do for Armenia and for Armenians in Rhode Island is to help cast a light on that brutal genocide 99 years ago. To this day, too many people are unaware of this tragedy, due in part to the unwillingness of some to call it what it was. But make no mistake; the slaughter of innocent Armenians was genocide, plain and simple. Indeed, our modern term ''genocide'' was first coined to describe both the Jewish Holocaust and the plight of the Armenians under Ottoman persecution.

Along with my Rhode Island colleague Senator JACK REED, I have proudly cosponsored resolutions in the Senate condemning the genocide and calling on the President of the United States to ensure that U.S. foreign policy appropriately and without equivocation reflects the realities of the Armenian Genocide. This solemn recognition is important not only to so many Armenians in Rhode Island and throughout the world, but to our human obligation to the truth.

IMMIGRATION RULE CHANGE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, the Departments of Homeland Security and Commerce announced a proposed rule change that would extend employment authorizations to spouses of certain H–1B workers. The rule says that spouses who have already begun the process of seeking legal permanent resident status

through employment, or those who have been granted an extension beyond their 6-year limit of stay in the country, are eligible for employment authorizations.

On a call with media today, Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Mayorkas said that the intent of this regulation is to make it more attractive for foreign workers to come to and stay in the United States. Under current law, Congress authorized 85,000 H–1B visas to be available each year for high-skilled workers. Yet, with this sweeping rule, more workers will be allowed to come, work, and compete with U.S. workers in high-skilled fields despite the well-documented fraud in the H–1B program. The Department believes that the rule change will allow more than 97,000 people to obtain employment authorization in the first year alone.

While we're all interested in attracting the best and the brightest foreign workers to the United States, the Obama administration clearly doesn't seem concerned with the millions of unemployed Americans, and those who have been forced out of their jobs because companies prefer to hire lower-paid workers from abroad.

In addition to their lack of compassion and understanding for American workers, it is disturbing that the administration is once again circumventing Congress and implementing their own rules. As with other unilateral actions this administration has taken, I question their legal authority to issue this rule.

In 2001, Congress explicitly laid out in statute that the Secretary could provide work authorizations to certain spouses of foreign workers. Congress said that work authorizations could be given to spouses of L1, intercompany transfers, and E, treaty traders/investors, visa holders. Congress did not, at that time, give spouses of H–1B visa holders the permission to work. It could have, but it did not.

The administration may claim that it has broad authority to issue work authorizations to anyone in the United States. If the executive branch has such broad authority, then why would Congress explicitly lay out the category of visa holders and foreign nationals who could work in the U.S.?

And, what will come next? Where will this administration stop? What other categories of individuals will be granted work authorizations? The rule allows spouses of ''certain'' H–1B visa holders to work. What about the others? Why didn't the administration do a more comprehensive rule for all H–1B spouses? Maybe the Department realized they were already pushing the envelope with its authority. Will the administration push back against advocates of other nonimmigrant categories, or refuse to expand the rule to all spouses of H–1B visa holders?

What is frustrating about this rule is that it flies in the face of the immigration bill that the Senate passed last summer. The bill, if passed, would allow spouses of H–1B holders to work. Section 4102 of S. 744 would give the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to issue work authorization to those who are accompanying or following to join a principal H–1B worker. Inclusion of this provision signals that the Secretary does not currently have authority.

Originally, the bill written by the Gang of Eight, only gave that authority to the Secretary if the home country of the foreign national did the same for U.S. workers. The Gang of Eight's bill said, ''The Secretary of Homeland Security shall authorize the alien spouse to engage in employment in the United States only if such spouse is a national of a foreign country that permits reciprocal employment.''

The intent of the authors of the Senate bill was to ensure that American spouses were treated equally. The rule does not take this into consideration.

The Obama administration claims it wants immigration reform, but they can not wait for Congress. They act on their own. And, they do it to the detriment of American workers. We need to get immigration reform right, and doing ad-hoc rules that fly in the face of the statute are not helpful to the process. What is next? Will the President unilaterally legalize the undocumented population because he can not have his way with Congress? President Obama has to prove that he can be trusted. Otherwise, American workers and the American people will continue to lose out because of his policies.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID THIBODEAUX

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished coach and sports enthusiast, Mr. David ''Big Daddy'' Clyde Thibodeaux. Coach Thibodeaux is best known throughout his hometown of Acadiana as ''Big Daddy'' for his warm and fatherly spirit to his family and former players alike. Mr. Thibodeaux served with distinction as head coach of both the Stone Junkies Softball Team and AAU Team Louisiana. In 2005, Coach Thibodeaux was awarded for his remarkable coaching career when he was inducted into the AAU Louisiana Hall of Fame.

Coach Thibodeaux disseminated his sage knowledge of the game to more than just his players. Through his work as a sports announcer, Coach Thibodeaux also imparted his wisdom of basketball and football with sports fans from around the country. Over the course of his announcing career Coach Thibodeaux broadcast live on KPEL's ESPN 1420 Radio, Friday Night Football, Big Time Sports Show on Sundays, and Kevin Foote's Wednesday Football Show in the morning, as well as the online show of PrepBallers.net. His love of people and sports was evident to everyone who met Coach Thibodeaux, and his life embodied a career of service to others and God.

David Thibodeaux is survived by his wife, Rose A. Thibodeaux; his son Derrick and Niema LeBlanc Sr., of Petal, MS; his daughter, Adrienne and Johnathan Goodie of Breaux Bridge; two step brothers, Raymond Green of New Iberia and Colby Green of Dallas, TX; his uncle, Yancy Thibodeaux of Reno, NV; his brother-in-law, Nolan Hamilton Sr. of New Iberia; his nephew and godchild, Nolan Hamilton Jr., of New Iberia; six grandchildren, Dayton LeBlanc, Braylen Goodie, Derrick LeBlanc Jr., Carmyn Goodie, Kennedy LeBlanc, and Jalen Goodie; two nieces, Patience Thibodeaux and Setonya Mouton; nephew, Gregory Martin Thibodeaux Jr; great niece, Zaylen Mouton; great nephew, Zyren Lastrapes; and his aunt, Janzina Thibodeaux.

It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me, along with David ''Big Daddy'' Thibodeaux's family, in recognizing the life and many accomplishments of this incredible coach, mentor, and friend, as well as his lasting impact throughout the State of Louisiana.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT BATON ROUGE CENTENNIAL

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Southern University located in Baton Rouge, LA, as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. Southern University at Baton Rouge was established on March 9, 1914, when Southern University moved from New Orleans to Scott's Bluff, overlooking the Mississippi River in the northern section of Baton Rouge. The University opened its doors just outside of Baton Rouge with nine professors and just one central building to 47 students. The original building, now called the Archives and Information Center, housed the administration, all classrooms, and even served as an all-girls dorm. The original campus is now a part of the Louisiana African American Heritage Trail.

Southern University remains the only land-grant school in the State of Louisiana and now has more than 200 buildings worth more than $200 million. This year's Southern University and A&M College at Baton Rouge, SUBR, Centennial Celebration will honor Southern's historical contributions as well as acknowledge exceptional alumni in a variety of fields, including its first president, Dr. Joseph Samuel Clark. The Jaguar Nation of Southern University is well-known for its role in the civil rights movement in the State

of Louisiana and for its nationally recognized marching band nicknamed, ''the Human Jukebox.''

Undergirding all of the centennial events will be an ambitious fundraising effort that will solicit financial support from corporations, foundations, businesses, religious organizations, alumni, university retirees, former and current board members, former system presidents and chancellors, former student campus leaders and athletes, current faculty, staff and students, elected and appointed officials, community leaders, and the public in general. The funds generated will be credited to a scholarship fund to assist qualified SUBR students.

Today, Southern University at Baton Rouge enrolls more than 7,000 across 44 undergraduate degree programs. Southern also offers 30 post-graduate degree programs including six doctoral programs and an ABA-accredited law school program. It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Southern University at Baton Rouge as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CLAY COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Clay County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Clay County worth over $20 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $997,000 to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be their work through Main Street Iowa to renovate the Spencer Community Theater. In 1982, this building was transformed from the vacant Spencer Grocer Building into the Spencer City Theatre, a center for arts, culture, and community gathering. This funding has allowed for the space to again be transformed. With these renovations, the Spencer City Theatre is now a facility that can better serve the Clay County community.

Among the highlights:

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics; It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Spencer to use that money to leverage other investments to jump-start change and renewal. I am so pleased that Clay County has earned $50,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Clay County has received $797,135 in Harkin Grants. Similarly, schools in Clay County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $110,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Clay County has received more than $14 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Clay County's fire departments have received over $705,345 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Clay County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Clay County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Clay County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

SAC COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic

development, make smart investments to expand opportunity and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Sac County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $5.6 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be Sac County's excellent work to secure funding for firefighting equipment through Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, fire grants. I look forward to seeing how Fremont County has implemented this important funding in their community.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northwest Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Sac County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Sac County, I have fought for funding for small airport funding at the Federal Aviation Administration, which allowed community leaders to successfully acquire over $1.5 million in airport improvements, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Sac County has received $158,167 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Sac County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $99,430.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Sac County has received more than $3.1 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Sac County's fire departments have received over $585,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Sac County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Sac County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Sac County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

REMEMBERING JOE DINI

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise in remembrance of Joe Dini, a true Nevada statesman and dedicated public servant.

Joe found his calling leading Nevada's citizens in the legislature through more than 20 years of public service. Elected for an unprecedented eight sessions, he is remembered as a friend and a gentleman by both his colleagues and me. His leadership and exemplary contributions to the State of Nevada are, and continue to remain, unmatched.

A quiet and humble man with an aptitude for compromise, Joe unquestionably sustained our State throughout his long tenure. Supporting Nevada's economic backbone through his involvement in the gaming industry, Joe expanded Nevada's economy and presence among the Nation. As a legislator, his focus was not only on issues of importance in his rural district, such as agriculture and water policy, but also on issues of necessity in the entire State regarding education, health care, and, of course, his legacy, the bistate Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Moreover, his loyalty and dedication to his community civics was exceptional. Knowing and fighting for his constituency's concerns, all while searching for what was best for Nevada, despite rifts in political ideologies, are two things Nevadans will never forget about Joe.

Born in 1929, rising from modest beginnings, Joe, the son of an Italian immigrant saloonkeeper, was raised in Yerington, a very small, rural community in Nevada. Yet through achievement of self and service, he became one of the most influential Nevadans in our State's rich history. His motivation

and selflessness embodies the ''Battle Born'' State. With his passing, Nevada lost a great man who is immortalized for encouraging respect among his community and fellow assemblymen.

My entire family extends our thoughts and condolences to Joe's loved ones, and we thank them for their service as well.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Assemblyman Dini for his unwavering loyalty and dedication to Nevada.●

COMMENDING NEW JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to honor 59 high school seniors in Camden County, NJ for their commendable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Of these 59, 18 have elected to join the United States Army: Troy Anderson, Cody Andreczski, Jacob Bauscher, Ennajee Brisbane, Juliana Davis, Nicholas Dzindzio, Kristopher Espinal, Tyler Fisher, Glenn Gray, Rajven Herrera, Austin Hughes, Velez Lopez Velez, Anthony Nigro, Chandler Pons, Tyron Robinson, Orlando Santos, Joshua White, and Gordon Zenzola. Five have joined the United States Navy: Raul Paneto, Spencer Wiggin, Taquayla Wilson, Angel Gonzalez, and Kenneth Ralph. Five have elected to join the United States Air Force: Ryan Swift, Ryan Bauer, Alam Nazmul, Christian Burgos, and Alex Thach. Nineteen have elected to join the United States Marine Corps: Michael Porch, Thomas Hutchison, Johnny Nunez, Jerome Williamston, Jordan Freeman, David Zane, Anthony Reed, Emily Krowicki, Randy Nguyen, Nicholas Celenza, Ian MacKenzie, William Hemphill, Steven Charyszyn, James Pitcher, Ryan Gustafson, Douglas Bardalesarevalo, Ezekiel Williams, Kyle Azzari, and Michael Hurley. And 12 have elected to join the New Jersey National Guard: Caitlyn Mount, Clarimar Rodriguez-Vargas, Zachary Blome, Christopher Foschini, Michael Lombardo, Kevin Martina, Patrick Martina, Patrick O'Hanlon, Kristie Siegman, Christopher Robinson, Kylah Thomas, and Charles Reiss.

These 59 will also be honored on May 20, 2014 at an ''Our Community Salutes South Jersey'' recognition ceremony in Voorhees Township, NJ.

The future of our Nation remains strong because of young men and women like these 59 individuals who have decided to step forward and commit themselves to the defense of our Nation and to upholding the ideals upon which it was founded. Indeed, these New Jerseyans represent the very best of America, and they should rest assured that the full support of the Senate as well as the American people, are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

It is thanks to the dedication of untold numbers of patriots like these 59 that we are able to meet here today, in the Senate, and openly debate the best solutions to the many and diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom throughout the world. We owe them, along with all those who serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5580. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''alpha-Alkyl-omega-Hydroxypoly (Oxypropylene) and/or Poly (Oxyethylene) Polymers Where the Alkyl Chain Contains a Minimum of Six Carbons etc.; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance; Technical Correction'' (FRL No. 9907–59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5581. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fenoxaprop-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9909–72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5582. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9909–31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5583. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Importation of Cape Gooseberry From Colombia Into the United States'' (RIN0579–AD79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5584. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5585. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–13–0093) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5586. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5587. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5588. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5589. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a section of the Arms Export Control Act (RSAT 13–3700); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5590. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014–0049—2014–0053); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5591. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Secretary of the Army's recommendation to authorize the Willamette River Floodplain Restoration Project, Lower Coast Fork and the Middle Fork, Oregon; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5592. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Secretary of the Army's recommendation to authorize the Neuse River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project, North Carolina; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5593. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Region 4 States; Visibility Protection Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9910–42–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5594. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Virginia; Regional Haze Five-Year Progress Report State Implementation Plan'' (FRL No. 9910–34–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5595. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Delaware; Regional Haze

Five-Year Progress Report State Implementation Plan'' (FRL No. 9910–33–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5596. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Determination of Attainment of the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9910–32–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5597. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: 2013 Cellulosic Biofuel Standard'' (FRL No. 9910–18–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5598. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Washington: Puget Sound Ozone Maintenance Plan'' (FRL No. 9910–02–Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5599. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California San Francisco Bay Area and Chico Nonattainment Areas; Fine Particulate Matter Emissions Inventories; Correction'' (FRL No. 9909–16–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5600. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Identification of Nonattainment Classification and Deadlines for Submission of State Implementation Plan (SIP) Provisions for the 1997 Fine Particle (PM2.5) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS'' (FRL No. 9909–93–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5601. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Agency's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2014 through 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5602. A joint communication from the Director of National Intelligence and the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to foreign counterspace programs; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC–5603. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2014''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–5604. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System for Federally Qualified Health Centers; Changes to Contracting Policies for Rural Health Clinics; and Changes to Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 Enforcement Actions for Proficiency Testing Referral'' ((RIN0938–AR62) (CMS–1443-FC)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5605. A communication from the Public Printer, Government Printing Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1611. A bill to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans (Rept. No. 113–157).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2291. A bill to require that Peace Corps volunteers be subject to the same limitations regarding coverage of abortion services as employees of the Peace Corps with respect to coverage of such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2292. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2293. A bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2294. A bill to require a survey of the preferences of members of the Armed Forces regarding military pay and benefits; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COONS, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. WALSH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2295. A bill to establish the National Commission on the Future of the Army, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BURR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. Res. 438. A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 15th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 4 through May 10, 2014; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 439. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 370

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 654

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 933, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2018.

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, supra.

S. 942

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve operations of recovery auditors under the Medicare integrity program, to increase transparency and accuracy in audits conducted by contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 1143

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1143, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1188

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1188, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of the individual mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1239

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to expand the research and awareness activities of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to scleroderma, and for other purposes.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1622

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1645

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1645, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to support early learning.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1728, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2004, a bill to ensure the safety of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, as they travel on and across federally funded streets and highways.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2154

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2154, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2177

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2177, a bill to establish an Office of Forensic Science and a Forensic Science Board, to strengthen and promote confidence in the criminal justice system by ensuring scientific validity, reliability, and accuracy in forensic testing, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2208

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 2208, a bill to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2231, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide an individual with a mental health assessment before the individual enlists in the Armed Forces or is commissioned as an officer in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2270

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2270, a bill to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 2277

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2277, a bill to prevent further Russian aggression toward Ukraine and other sovereign states in Europe and Eurasia, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 225

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 225, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should establish a joint select committee to investigate and report on the attack on the United States diplomatic facility and American personnel in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012.

S. RES. 353

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 353, a resolution designating September 2014 as ''National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month''.

S. RES. 364

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 364, a resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

S. RES. 421

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 421, a resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and military achievement by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending them for leadership and valor in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

At the request of Mr. MORAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 421, supra.

S. RES. 433

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 433, a resolution condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 433, supra.

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 433, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2292. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to announce the introduction of emergency legislation to provide relief to students and young graduates who are drowning in debt. Make no mistake. This is an emergency. Student loan debt is exploding, and it threatens the stability of our young people and the future of our economy.

Outstanding student loan debt now totals $1.2 trillion, and each year students are taking on more and more debt. In 2012 an astonishing 71 percent of college seniors owed student loans. From 2004 to 2012 the average student loan balance increased by 70 percent. Millions of young people are struggling to keep up with student loan payments.

The economic impact is real. Federal watchdog agencies such as the Federal Reserve, the Treasury, and the Consumer Protection Bureau are all sounding the alarm. Every day this exploding debt stops more and more young people from moving out of their parents' homes, from saving for a downpayment, from buying a home, from buying cars, from starting small businesses, from saving for retirement, from making the purchases that keep this economy moving forward.

It doesn't have to be this way. Congress set interest rates on student loans at artificially high rates that generate extra money for the government. The GAO recently projected that the government will bring in $66 billion just on the slice of student loans from 2007 to 2012. Those are the kinds of profits that would make a Fortune 500 CEO proud.

We should cut those interest rates and we should cut those government profits. We should give our young people a break and boost our economy. This morning two dozens Senators joined to introduce the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act which will do just that. The idea is simple. With interest rates near historic lows, homeowners, businesses, and even local governments have refinanced their debts, but many people who took out student loans before July 1 of last year are locked into a rate of nearly 7 percent. Older loans run 8 percent, 9 percent, and even higher. We need to bring those rates down, and we need to do it now.

Bank on Students would give student loan borrowers the opportunity to lower their interest rates on old loans to match the rates the government offers to new borrowers today; that is, 3.86 percent for undergraduate loans, 5.41 percent for graduate loans, and 6.41 percent for PLUS loans. I want to be clear—those rates are still higher than what it costs the government to run its student loan program. Our work will not be done until we have eliminated

all of the profits from the student loan program, but this legislation is an important step in that direction.

Forty million borrowers in this country have student loan debt, and many of those individuals could save hundreds or even thousands of dollars a year with this bill. They need this help now.

Last year nearly every Republican in Congress—in the House and in the Senate—voted for the exact same loan rates that are in this legislation. Republican leaders, such as Speaker of the House JOHN BOEHNER, embraced 3.86 percent for new undergraduate borrowers as ''consistent'' with Republican policy proposals. OK, it may not be my preferred rate, but if Republicans believe that 3.86 percent is good enough for new undergraduate borrowers, then it should be good enough for existing undergraduate borrowers who also worked hard to get an education and need to refinance their loans. Let's bring down this rate for all our kids because there is no reason on Earth to say that some kids can get a better deal when they all worked hard to do exactly what we wanted them to do—get an education.

This legislation won't add a single dime to our deficit. The Bank on Students legislation adopts the Buffett rule, which limits tax loopholes for millionaires and billionaires, and it requires that every dollar we bring in as a result of that change go directly to supporting lower interest rates on existing student loans. It is simple: Invest in billionaires or invest in students.

Refinancing won't fix everything that is broken in our higher education system. We need to bring down the cost of college and we need more accountability for how schools spend Federal dollars. Many of my Democratic colleagues have introduced or are introducing legislation aimed at lowering the overall cost of college, and I support those efforts.

The need for comprehensive reform must not blind us to the urgency of addressing the massive debt that is already crushing young people. This is a question of economics, but it is also a question of values. These young people are saddled with student loan debt not because they went to the mall and ran up charges on a credit card. They worked hard and learned new skills that would benefit the country and help us build a stronger America. They deserve a fair shot at an affordable education.

This is personal for me. I was the first person in my family to graduate from college. I went to a commuter college where the tuition was $50 a semester, and it opened a million doors for me. I got a fair shot because I grew up in an America that made it a priority to invest in young people.

I believe in an America that puts students ahead of billionaires, an America that puts education within reach of every kid who works hard, an America that will give every kid a fair shot at building a future.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2294. A bill to require a survey of the preferences of members of the Armed Forces regarding military pay and benefits; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today I am introducing, with Senator CORNYN, the Servicemembers' Compensation Empowerment Act of 2014. This bipartisan legislation will direct the Department of Defense's (DoD) Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission to formally survey military personnel on pay and benefits, and to take relative preferences into account as the Commission prepares its recommendations.

Virginia is more connected to the military than any other State. As I have traveled throughout the Commonwealth, I have had the opportunity to meet and discuss military benefits with servicemembers, veterans, and their families. The overriding concern on the part of our military and their families is sequestration. It has forced the military to allow the budget to drive strategy, rather than strategy to drive our budget. As a member of both the Senate Armed Services and Budget Committees, I firmly believe that all budget proposals should be considered carefully in light of the need for deficit reduction, the need to maintain a strong military, and the responsibility we have to support our servicemembers with resources to complete their mission.

The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission was established by the fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, to conduct a review of military compensation and retirement systems and to make recommendations to enable the quality of life of our military and their families and achieve fiscal sustainability for the future. As of now, no official study has been conducted by the Commission to determine the relative value of compensation and benefit programs to the military personnel who depend on them. Under my legislation, the Commission would be required to survey randomly selected members of the military concerning basic pay, housing allowances, bonuses and special pay, dependent healthcare and retirement pay and report its results to Congress.

Servicemembers deserve to have their voices heard as changes to the pay and benefits packages they depend on most are considered. By formally surveying military personnel on the benefits they value most, we can ensure the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission and members of Congress have the best possible understanding of how cost-saving proposals would impact our servicemembers and their families, allowing them to make decisions with evidence-based analysis.

This bill gives servicemembers a voice in the process, and will assure that reforms will take a scientific study into account. We must balance the competing needs to control rising costs with ensuring we meet the needs of military personnel and their families.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 438—CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 15TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK, TO BE HELD MAY 4 THROUGH MAY 10, 2014

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BURR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. SCOTT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 438

Whereas charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition and enroll any student who wants to attend a charter school, often through a random lottery when too many students want to attend a single charter school;

Whereas high-performing charter schools deliver a high-quality public education and challenge all students to reach their potential for academic success;

Whereas charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas charter schools throughout the United States provide millions of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas high-performing charter schools are dramatically increasing student achievement and college-going rates;

Whereas charter schools are authorized by a designated public entity and—

(1) respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States; and

(2) promote the principles of quality, accountability, choice, and innovation;

Whereas in exchange for flexibility and autonomy, charter schools are held accountable by the public authorizers of such charter schools for improving student achievement and for sound financial and operational management;

Whereas charter schools are required to meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools often set higher expectations for students, beyond the requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), to ensure that such charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 42 States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas more than 6,400 charter schools serve more than 2,500,000 children;

Whereas in the United States—

(1) in 135 school districts, more than 10 percent of public school students are enrolled in charter schools;

(2) in 32 school districts, at least 20 percent of public school students are enrolled in charter schools; and

(3) in 7 districts, at least 30 percent of public school students are enrolled in charter schools;

Whereas charter schools improve the achievement of students enrolled in such charter schools and collaborate with traditional public schools to improve public education for all students;

Whereas charter schools—

(1) give parents the freedom to choose public schools;

(2) routinely measure parental satisfaction levels; and

(3) must prove their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and the communities served by such charter schools;

Whereas approximately 920,000 students were on waiting lists to attend charter schools before the beginning of the 2012–2013 academic year; and

Whereas the 15th annual National Charter Schools Week is scheduled to be celebrated the week of May 4 through May 10, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the students, families, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for—

(A) their ongoing contributions to education;

(B) their impressive strides in closing the academic achievement gap in schools in the United States, particularly schools with some of the most disadvantaged students in both rural and urban communities; and

(C) improving and strengthening the public school system in the United States;

(2) supports the ideals and goals of the 15th annual National Charter Schools Week, a week-long celebration to be held the week of May 4 through May 10, 2014, in communities throughout the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for charter schools.

SENATE RESOLUTION 439—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 439

Whereas each year, the underground utility infrastructure of the United States, including pipelines, electric, gas, telecommunications, water, sewer, and cable television lines, is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to have underground lines located prior to digging;

Whereas some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground, making the lines easy to strike, even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas digging prior to locating underground utility lines often results in unintended consequences, such as service interruption, environmental damage, personal injury, and even death;

Whereas the month of April marks the beginning of the peak period during which excavation projects are carried out around the United States;

Whereas in 2002, Congress required the Department of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a 3-digit, nationwide, toll-free number to be used by State ''One Call'' systems to provide information on underground utility lines;

Whereas in 2005, the Federal Communications Commission designated ''811'' as the nationwide ''One Call'' number for homeowners and excavators to use to obtain information on underground utility lines before conducting excavation activities;

Whereas ''One Call'' has helped reduce the number of digging damages caused by failure to call before digging from 48 percent in 2004 to 25 percent in 2012;

Whereas the 1,600 members of the Common Ground Alliance, who are dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services, promote the national ''Call Before You Dig'' campaign to increase public awareness about the importance of homeowners and excavators calling 811 to find out the exact location of underground lines;

Whereas the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 affirmed and expanded the ''One Call'' program by eliminating exemptions given to local and State government agencies and their contractors on notifying ''One Call'' centers before digging; and

Whereas the Common Ground Alliance has designated April as ''National Safe Digging Month'' to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the United States and to celebrate the anniversary of 811, the national ''Call Before You Dig'' number: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; and

(2) encourages all homeowners and excavators throughout the United States to call 811 before digging.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2985. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2986. Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2987. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2988. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2989. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2990. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2991. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WALSH, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. LEE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. COATS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HELLER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. AYOTTE, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2992. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. HELLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2993. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2994. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2995. Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2996. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2997. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2998. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2999. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3000. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3001. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3002. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3003. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3004. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3005. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3006. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3007. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3008. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3009. Mr. UDALL, of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2985. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE VI—ENERGY FREEDOM AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY ACT OF 2014

Subtitle A—Short Title; etc.

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCE TO 1986 CODE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the ''Energy Freedom and Economic Prosperity Act of 2014''.

(b) REFERENCE TO 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Subtitle B—Repeal of Energy Tax Subsidies

SEC. 611. EARLY TERMINATION OF CREDIT FOR QUALIFIED FUEL CELL MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 30B is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subparagraph (A) of section 24(b)(3) is amended by striking '', 30B''.

(2) Paragraph (2) of section 25B(g) is amended by striking '', 30B,''.

(3) Subsection (b) of section 38 is amended by striking paragraph (25).

(4) Subsection (a) of section 1016 is amended by striking paragraph (35) and by redesignating paragraphs (36) and (37) as paragraphs (35) and (36), respectively.

(5) Subsection (m) of section 6501 is amended by striking '', 30B(h)(9)''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart B of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 30B.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 612. EARLY TERMINATION OF NEW QUALIFIED PLUG-IN ELECTRIC DRIVE MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 30D is repealed.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to vehicles placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 613. REPEAL OF CREDIT FOR ALCOHOL USED AS FUEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 40 is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subsection (b) of section 38 is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(2) Subsection (c) of section 196 is amended by striking paragraph (3) and by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (14) as paragraphs (3) through (13), respectively.

(3) Paragraph (1) of section 4101(a) is amended by striking '', and every person producing cellulosic biofuel (as defined in section 40(b)(6)(E))''.

(4) Paragraph (1) of section 4104(a) is amended by striking '', 40''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to fuel sold or used after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 614. REPEAL OF ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 43 is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subsection (b) of section 38 is amended by striking paragraph (6).

(2) Paragraph (4) of section 45Q(d) is amended by inserting ''(as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Energy Freedom and Economic Prosperity Act of 2014)'' after ''section 43(c)(2)''.

(3) Subsection (c) of section 196, as amended by sections 105 and 106 of this Act, is amended by striking paragraph (5) and by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (12) as paragraphs (5) through (11), respectively.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 43.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to costs paid or incurred after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 615. REPEAL OF CREDIT FOR PRODUCING OIL AND GAS FROM MARGINAL WELLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 45I is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (b) of section 38 is amended by striking paragraph (19).

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 45I.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to production in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 616. TERMINATION OF CREDIT FOR PRODUCTION FROM ADVANCED NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 45J(d)(1) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2021'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 617. REPEAL OF CREDIT FOR CARBON DIOXIDE SEQUESTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 45Q is repealed.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to carbon dioxide captured after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 618. TERMINATION OF ENERGY CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) TERMINATION.—No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) for any period after December 31, 2014.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 619. REPEAL OF QUALIFYING ADVANCED COAL PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48A is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 46 is amended by striking paragraph (3) and by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart E of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 48A.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 620. REPEAL OF QUALIFYING GASIFICATION PROJECT CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48B is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 46, as amended by this Act, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart E of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 48B.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 621. REPEAL OF QUALIFYING ADVANCED ENERGY PROJECT CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48C is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 46, as amended by this Act, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart E of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 48C.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

Subtitle C—Reduction of Corporate Income Tax Rate

SEC. 631. CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE REDUCED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe, in lieu of the rates of tax under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 11(b), section 1201(a), and paragraphs (1), (2), and (6) of section 1445(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, such rates of tax as the Secretary estimates would result in—

(1) a decrease in revenue to the Treasury for taxable years beginning during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, equal to

(2) the increase in revenue for such taxable years by reason of the amendments made by title I of this Act.

(b) MAINTENANCE OF GRADUATED RATES.—In prescribing the tax rates under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that each rate modified under such subsection is reduced by a uniform percentage.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The rates prescribed by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning more than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2986. Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CREATE A TAX OR FEE ON CARBON EMISSIONS.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, or conference report that includes a Federal tax or fee imposed on carbon emissions from any product or entity that is a direct or indirect source of the emissions.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(1) WAIVER.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SA 2987. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV, add the following:

Subtitle F—Energy Consumers Relief

SEC. 451. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Energy Consumers Relief Act of 2014''

SEC. 452. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) COVERED ENERGY-RELATED RULE.—The term ''covered energy-related rule'' means a rule of the Environmental Protection Agency that—

(A) regulates any aspect of the production, supply, distribution, or use of energy or provides for that regulation by States or other governmental entities; and

(B) is estimated by the Administrator or the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to impose direct costs and indirect costs, in the aggregate, of more than $1,000,000,000.

(3) DIRECT COSTS.—The term ''direct costs'' has the meaning given the term in chapter 8 of the document of the Environmental Protection Agency entitled ''Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses'' and dated December 17, 2010.

(4) INDIRECT COSTS.—The term ''indirect costs'' has the meaning given the term in chapter 8 of the document of the Environmental Protection Agency entitled ''Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses'' and dated December 17, 2010.

(5) RULE.—The term ''rule'' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 453. PROHIBITION AGAINST FINALIZING CERTAIN ENERGY-RELATED RULES THAT WILL CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECTS TO THE ECONOMY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator shall not promulgate as final any covered energy-related rule if the Secretary determines under section 454(d) that the rule will result in significant adverse effects to the economy.

SEC. 454. REPORTS AND DETERMINATIONS PRIOR TO PROMULGATING AS FINAL CERTAIN ENERGY-RELATED RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before promulgating as final any covered energy-related rule, the Administrator shall carry out the activities described in subsections (c) through (d).

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—For each covered energy-related rule, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report (and transmit a copy to the Secretary) containing—

(1) a copy of the rule;

(2) a concise general statement relating to the rule;

(3) an estimate of the total costs of the rule, including the direct costs and indirect costs of the rule;

(4) an estimate of—

(A) the total benefits of the rule; and

(B) when those benefits are expected to be realized;

(5) a description of the modeling, the assumptions, and the limitations due to uncertainty, speculation, or lack of information associated with the estimates under paragraph (4);

(6) an estimate of the increases in energy prices, including potential increases in gasoline or electricity prices for consumers, that may result from implementation or enforcement of the rule; and

(7) a detailed description of the employment effects, including potential job losses and shifts in employment, that may result from implementation or enforcement of the rule.

(c) INITIAL DETERMINATION ON INCREASES AND IMPACTS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall prepare an independent analysis to determine whether the covered energy-related rule will cause—

(1) any increase in energy prices for consumers, including low-income households, small businesses, and manufacturers;

(2) any impact on fuel diversity of the electricity generation portfolio of the United States or on national, regional, or local electric reliability;

(3) any adverse effect on energy supply, distribution, or use due to the economic or technical infeasibility of implementing the rule; or

(4) any other adverse effect on energy supply, distribution, or use (including a shortfall in supply and increased use of foreign supplies).

(d) SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATION ON ADVERSE EFFECTS TO THE ECONOMY.—If the Secretary determines, under subsection (c), that the rule will result in an increase, impact, or effect described in that subsection, then the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall—

(1) determine whether the rule will result in significant adverse effects to the economy, taking into consideration—

(A) the costs and benefits of the rule and limitations in calculating those costs and benefits due to uncertainty, speculation, or lack of information; and

(B) the positive and negative impacts of the rule on economic indicators, including those related to gross domestic product, unemployment, wages, consumer prices, and business and manufacturing activity; and

(2) publish the results of that determination in the Federal Register.

SA 2988. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. _____. CREDIT FOR CONVERSION OF HOME HEATING USING OIL FUEL TO USING NATURAL GAS OR BIOMASS FEEDSTOCKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 25C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to nonbusiness energy property) is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting '', and'', and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) the amount of the qualifying heating conversion expenditures paid or incurred by the taxpayer during such taxable year.''.

(b) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) LIMITATION.—Subsection (b) of section 25C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) LIMITATION ON QUALIFYING HEATING CONVERSION EXPENDITURES.—The amount of the credit allowed under this section by reason of paragraph (3) of subsection (a) for any taxable year with respect to any taxpayer shall not exceed $5,000.''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (1) of section 25C(b) of such Code is amended by inserting ''by reason of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)'' after ''The credit allowed under this section''.

(2) NO DOUBLE COUNTING.—Section 25C(e) of such Code (relating to special rules) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) NO DOUBLE COUNTING.—No amount taken into account for purposes of determining a credit under this section by reason of paragraph (3) of subsection (a) shall be taken into account for purposes of determining a credit under this section by reason of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).''.

(c) QUALIFYING HEATING CONVERSION EXPENDITURES.—Section 25C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to residential energy property expenditures) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) QUALIFYING HEATING CONVERSION EXPENDITURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualifying heating conversion expenditures' means expenditures made by the taxpayer for qualified heating conversion property which—

''(A) meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (d)(1), and

''(B) is used as a heating or cooling system on a building or structure located in a community (as determined under section 19(a)(1) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936) in which the average residential expenditure for home energy is more than 200 percent of the national average residential expenditure for home energy (as determined by the Energy Information Agency using the most recent data available).

''(2) AMOUNTS INCLUDED.—The term 'qualifying heating conversion expenditures' includes expenditures—

''(A) for labor costs properly allocable to the onsite preparation, assembly, or original installation of property described in paragraph (1), including fuel service connection installation costs specifically related to fuel service to the qualified energy property used in such conversion, and

''(B) the removal of the fuel oil equipment (including any storage tank) for such a building or structure.

''(3) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not include expenditures for soil cleanup.

''(4) QUALIFIED HEATING CONVERSION PROPERTY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the

term 'qualified heating conversion property' means property which—

''(A) is placed in service before January 1, 2019,

''(B) meets the performance and quality standards described in subsection (d)(2)(B), and

''(C) is a product which qualifies under the Energy Star program and meets the requirements for such property under such program.''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (g) of section 25C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to termination) is amended by striking ''This section'' and inserting ''Paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2989. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, insert the following:

Subtitle E—Smart Water Resource Management Pilot Program

SEC. 241. SMART WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a utility;

(B) a municipality;

(C) a water district; and

(D) any other authority that provides water, wastewater, or water reuse services.

(2) SMART WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ''smart water resource management pilot program'' or ''pilot program'' means the pilot program established under subsection (b).

(b) SMART WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and carry out a smart water resource management pilot program in accordance with this section.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the smart water resource management pilot program is to award grants to eligible entities to demonstrate novel and innovative technology-based solutions that will—

(A) increase the energy and water efficiency of water, wastewater, and water reuse systems;

(B) improve water, wastewater, and water reuse systems to help communities across the United States make significant progress in conserving water, saving energy, and reducing costs; and

(C) support the implementation of innovative processes and the installation of advanced automated systems that provide real-time data on energy and water.

(3) PROJECT SELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make competitive, merit-reviewed grants under the pilot program to not less than 3, but not more than 5, eligible entities.

(B) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting an eligible entity to receive a grant under the pilot program, the Secretary shall consider—

(i) energy and cost savings;

(ii) the novelty of the technology to be used;

(iii) the degree to which the project integrates next-generation sensors, software, analytics, and management tools;

(iv) the anticipated cost-effectiveness of the pilot project in terms of energy efficiency savings, water savings or reuse, and infrastructure costs averted;

(v) whether the technology can be deployed in a variety of geographic regions and the degree to which the technology can be implemented on a smaller or larger scale; and

(vi) whether the project will be completed in 5 years or less.

(C) APPLICATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), an eligible entity seeking a grant under the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(ii) CONTENTS.—An application under clause (i) shall, at a minimum, include—

(I) a description of the project;

(II) a description of the technology to be used in the project;

(III) the anticipated results, including energy and water savings, of the project;

(IV) a comprehensive budget for the project;

(V) the names of the project lead organization and any partners;

(VI) the number of users to be served by the project; and

(VII) any other information that the Secretary determines to be necessary to complete the review and selection of a grant recipient.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall select grant recipients under this section.

(B) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall annually carry out an evaluation of each project for which a grant is provided under this section that—

(i) evaluates the progress and impact of the project; and

(ii) assesses the degree to which the project is meeting the goals of the pilot program.

(C) TECHNICAL AND POLICY ASSISTANCE.—On the request of a grant recipient, the Secretary shall provide technical and policy assistance.

(D) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall make available to the public—

(i) a copy of each evaluation carried out under subparagraph (B); and

(ii) a description of any best practices identified by the Secretary as a result of those evaluations.

(E) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of each evaluation carried out under subparagraph (B).

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use not less than $7,500,000 of amounts made available to the Secretary to carry out this section.

(2) PRIORITIZATION.—In funding activities under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding in the following manner:

(A) Any unobligated amounts made available to the Secretary to carry out energy efficiency and renewable energy activities.

(B) Any unobligated amounts (other than those described in subparagraph (A)) made available to the Secretary.

SA 2990. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

DIVISION B—INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014''.

TITLE XXI—INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT AMENDMENTS

SEC. 2101. INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2602(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) consult with each applicable Indian tribe before adopting or approving a well spacing program or plan applicable to the energy resources of that Indian tribe or the members of that Indian tribe.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) PLANNING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program established by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide technical assistance to interested Indian tribes to develop energy plans, including—

''(i) plans for electrification;

''(ii) plans for oil and gas permitting, renewable energy permitting, energy efficiency, electricity generation, transmission planning, water planning, and other planning relating to energy issues;

''(iii) plans for the development of energy resources and to ensure the protection of natural, historic, and cultural resources; and

''(iv) any other plans that would assist an Indian tribe in the development or use of energy resources.

''(B) COOPERATION.—In establishing the program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall work in cooperation with the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs of the Department of Energy.''.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY INDIAN ENERGY EDUCATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 2602(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', intertribal organization,'' after ''Indian tribe'';

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) activities to increase the capacity of Indian tribes to manage energy development and energy efficiency programs;''.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.—Section 2602(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''or a tribal energy development organization'' after ''Indian tribe'';

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''guarantee'' and inserting ''guaranteed'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'';

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) a tribal energy development organization, from funds of the tribal energy development organization.''; and

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking ''The Secretary of Energy may'' and inserting ''Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014, the Secretary of Energy shall''.

SEC. 2102. INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE REGULATION.

Section 2603(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3503(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''on the request of an Indian tribe, the Indian tribe'' and inserting ''on the request of an Indian tribe or a tribal energy development organization, the Indian tribe or tribal energy development organization''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting ''or tribal energy development organization'' after ''Indian tribe''.

SEC. 2103. TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE AGREEMENTS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 2604 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) an electric production, generation, transmission, or distribution facility (including a facility that produces electricity from renewable energy resources) located on tribal land; or''; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by inserting '', at least a portion of which have been'' after ''energy resources'';

(bb) by inserting ''or produced from'' after ''developed on''; and

(cc) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end and inserting ''or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) pooling, unitization, or communitization of the energy mineral resources of the Indian tribe located on tribal land with any other energy mineral resource (including energy mineral resources owned by the Indian tribe or an individual Indian in fee, trust, or restricted status or by any other persons or entities) if the owner of the resources has consented or consents to the pooling, unitization, or communitization of the other resources under any lease or agreement; and''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) a lease or business agreement described in paragraph (1) shall not require review by, or the approval of, the Secretary under section 2103 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 81), or any other provision of law, if the lease or business agreement—

''(A) was executed—

''(i) in accordance with the requirements of a tribal energy resource agreement in effect under subsection (e) (including the periodic review and evaluation of the activities of the Indian tribe under the agreement, to be conducted pursuant to subparagraphs (D) and (E) of subsection (e)(2)); or

''(ii) by the Indian tribe and a tribal energy development organization—

''(I) for which the Indian tribe has obtained certification pursuant to subsection (h); and

''(II) the majority of the interest in which is, and continues to be throughout the full term or renewal term (if any) of the lease or business agreement, owned and controlled by the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes); and

''(B) has a term that does not exceed—

''(i) 30 years; or

''(ii) in the case of a lease for the production of oil resources, gas resources, or both, 10 years and as long thereafter as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities.'';

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—An Indian tribe may grant a right-of-way over tribal land without review or approval by the Secretary if the right-of-way—

''(1) serves—

''(A) an electric production, generation, transmission, or distribution facility (including a facility that produces electricity from renewable energy resources) located on tribal land;

''(B) a facility located on tribal land that extracts, produces, processes, or refines energy resources; or

''(C) the purposes, or facilitates in carrying out the purposes, of any lease or agreement entered into for energy resource development on tribal land; and

''(2) was executed—

''(A) in accordance with the requirements of a tribal energy resource agreement in effect under subsection (e) (including the periodic review and evaluation of the activities of the Indian tribe under the agreement, to be conducted pursuant to subparagraphs (D) and (E) of subsection (e)(2)); or

''(B) by the Indian tribe and a tribal energy development organization—

''(i) for which the Indian tribe has obtained certification pursuant to subsection (h); and

''(ii) the majority of the interest in which is, and continues to be throughout the full term or renewal term (if any) of the right-of-way, owned and controlled by the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes); and

''(3) has a term that does not exceed 30 years.'';

(3) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) VALIDITY.—No lease or business agreement entered into, or right-of-way granted, pursuant to this section shall be valid unless the lease, business agreement, or right-of-way is authorized by subsection (a) or (b).'';

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''(2)(A)'' and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(2) PROCEDURE.—

''(A) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is 271 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a tribal energy resource agreement from an Indian tribe under paragraph (1), the tribal energy resource agreement shall take effect, unless the Secretary disapproves the tribal energy resource agreement under subparagraph (B).

''(ii) REVISED TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE AGREEMENT.—On the date that is 91 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a revised tribal energy resource agreement from an Indian tribe under paragraph (4)(B), the revised tribal energy resource agreement shall take effect, unless the Secretary disapproves the revised tribal energy resource agreement under subparagraph (B).'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''(B)'' and all that follows through ''if—'' and inserting the following:

''(B) DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary shall disapprove a tribal energy resource agreement submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) or (4)(B) only if—'';

(II) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) the Secretary determines that the Indian tribe has not demonstrated that the Indian tribe has sufficient capacity to regulate the development of the specific 1 or more energy resources identified for development under the tribal energy resource agreement submitted by the Indian tribe;'';

(III) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv) and indenting appropriately;

(IV) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) a provision of the tribal energy resource agreement would violate applicable Federal law (including regulations) or a treaty applicable to the Indian tribe;

''(iii) the tribal energy resource agreement does not include 1 or more provisions required under subparagraph (D); or''; and

(V) in clause (iv) (as redesignated by subclause (III))—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''includes'' and all that follows through ''section—'' and inserting ''does not include provisions that, with respect to any lease, business agreement, or right-of-way to which the tribal energy resource agreement applies—''; and

(bb) in subclause (XVI)(bb), by striking ''or tribal'';

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''the approval of'' after ''with respect to'';

(II) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) the identification of mitigation measures, if any, that, in the discretion of the Indian tribe, the Indian tribe might propose for incorporation into the lease, business agreement, or right-of-way;'';

(III) in clause (iii)(I), by striking ''proposed action'' and inserting ''approval of the lease, business agreement, or right-of-way'';

(IV) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(V) in clause (v), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(VI) by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) the identification of specific classes or categories of actions, if any, determined by the Indian tribe not to have significant environmental effects.'';

(iv) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking ''subparagraph (B)(iii)(XVI)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (B)(iv)(XV)''; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) A tribal energy resource agreement that takes effect pursuant to this subsection shall remain in effect to the extent any provision of the tribal energy resource agreement is consistent with applicable Federal law (including regulations), unless the tribal energy resource agreement is—

''(i) rescinded by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (7)(D)(iii)(II); or

''(ii) voluntarily rescinded by the Indian tribe pursuant to the regulations promulgated under paragraph (8)(B) (or successor regulations).

''(G)(i) The Secretary shall make a capacity determination under subparagraph (B)(i) not later than 120 days after the date on which the Indian tribe submits to the Secretary the tribal energy resource agreement of the Indian tribe pursuant to paragraph (1), unless the Secretary and the Indian tribe mutually agree to an extension of the time period for making the determination.

''(ii) Any determination that the Indian tribe lacks the requisite capacity shall be

treated as a disapproval under paragraph (4) and, not later than 10 days after the date of the determination, the Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe—

''(I) a detailed, written explanation of each reason for the determination; and

''(II) a description of the steps that the Indian tribe should take to demonstrate sufficient capacity.

''(H) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an Indian tribe shall be considered to have demonstrated sufficient capacity under subparagraph (B)(i) to regulate the development of the specific 1 or more energy resources of the Indian tribe identified for development under the tribal energy resource agreement submitted by the Indian tribe pursuant to paragraph (1) if—

''(i) the Secretary determines that—

''(I) the Indian tribe has carried out a contract or compact under title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.); and

''(II) for a period of not less than 3 consecutive years ending on the date on which the Indian tribe submits the tribal energy resource agreement of the Indian tribe pursuant to paragraph (1) or (4)(B), the contract or compact—

''(aa) has been carried out by the Indian tribe without material audit exceptions (or without any material audit exceptions that were not corrected within the 3-year period); and

''(bb) has included programs or activities relating to the management of tribal land; or

''(ii) the Secretary fails to make the determination within the time allowed under subparagraph (G)(i) (including any extension of time agreed to under that subparagraph).'';

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''date of disapproval'' and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting the following: ''date of disapproval, provide the Indian tribe with—

''(A) a detailed, written explanation of—

''(i) each reason for the disapproval; and

''(ii) the revisions or changes to the tribal energy resource agreement necessary to address each reason; and

''(B) an opportunity to revise and resubmit the tribal energy resource agreement.'';

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''(B) Subject to'' and inserting the following:

''(B) Subject only to''; and

(II) by striking ''subparagraph (D)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (C) and (D)'';

(ii) in subparagraph (C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''to perform the obligations of the Secretary under this section and'' before ''to ensure''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) Nothing in this section absolves, limits, or otherwise affects the liability, if any, of the United States for any—

''(I) term of any lease, business agreement, or right-of-way under this section that is not a negotiated term; or

''(II) losses that are not the result of a negotiated term, including losses resulting from the failure of the Secretary to perform an obligation of the Secretary under this section.''; and

(D) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''has demonstrated'' and inserting ''the Secretary determines has demonstrated with substantial evidence'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''any tribal remedy'' and inserting ''all remedies (if any) provided under the laws of the Indian tribe'';

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking ''determine'' and all that follows through the end of the clause and inserting the following: ''determine—

''(I) whether the petitioner is an interested party; and

''(II) if the petitioner is an interested party, whether the Indian tribe is not in compliance with the tribal energy resource agreement as alleged in the petition.'';

(II) in clause (ii), by striking ''determination'' and inserting ''determinations''; and

(III) in clause (iii), in the matter preceding subclause (I) by striking ''agreement'' the first place it appears and all that follows through '', including'' and inserting ''agreement pursuant to clause (i), the Secretary shall only take such action as the Secretary determines necessary to address the claims of noncompliance made in the petition, including'';

(iv) in subparagraph (E)(i), by striking ''the manner in which'' and inserting '', with respect to each claim made in the petition, how''; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, the Secretary shall dismiss any petition from an interested party that has agreed with the Indian tribe to a resolution of the claims presented in the petition of that party.'';

(5) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (j); and

(6) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN LIEU OF ACTIVITIES BY THE SECRETARY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any amounts that the Secretary would otherwise expend to operate or carry out any program, function, service, or activity (or any portion of a program, function, service, or activity) of the Department that, as a result of an Indian tribe carrying out activities under a tribal energy resource agreement, the Secretary does not expend, the Secretary shall, at the request of the Indian tribe, make available to the Indian tribe in accordance with this subsection.

''(2) ANNUAL FUNDING AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall make the amounts described in paragraph (1) available to an Indian tribe through an annual written funding agreement that is negotiated and entered into with the Indian tribe that is separate from the tribal energy resource agreement.

''(3) EFFECT OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)—

''(A) the provision of amounts to an Indian tribe under this subsection is subject to the availability of appropriations; and

''(B) the Secretary shall not be required to reduce amounts for programs, functions, services, or activities that serve any other Indian tribe to make amounts available to an Indian tribe under this subsection.

''(4) DETERMINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall calculate the amounts under paragraph (1) in accordance with the regulations adopted under section 2103(b) of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014.

''(B) APPLICABILITY.—The effective date or implementation of a tribal energy resource agreement under this section shall not be delayed or otherwise affected by—

''(i) a delay in the promulgation of regulations under section 2103(b) of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014;

''(ii) the period of time needed by the Secretary to make the calculation required under paragraph (1); or

''(iii) the adoption of a funding agreement under paragraph (2).

''(h) CERTIFICATION OF TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which an Indian tribe submits an application for certification of a tribal energy development organization in accordance with regulations promulgated under section 2103(b) of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the application.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall approve an application for certification if—

''(A)(i) the Indian tribe has carried out a contract or compact under title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.); and

''(ii) for a period of not less than 3 consecutive years ending on the date on which the Indian tribe submits the application, the contract or compact—

''(I) has been carried out by the Indian tribe without material audit exceptions (or without any material audit exceptions that were not corrected within the 3-year period); and

''(II) has included programs or activities relating to the management of tribal land; and

''(B)(i) the tribal energy development organization is organized under the laws of the Indian tribe and subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the Indian tribe;

''(ii) the majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization is owned and controlled by the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes); and

''(iii) the organizing document of the tribal energy development organization requires that the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes) own and control at all times a majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization.

''(3) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—If the Secretary approves an application for certification pursuant to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall, not more than 10 days after making the determination—

''(A) issue a certification stating that—

''(i) the tribal energy development organization is organized under the laws of the Indian tribe and subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the Indian tribe;

''(ii) the majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization is owned and controlled by the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes);

''(iii) the organizing document of the tribal energy development organization requires that the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes) own and control at all times a majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization; and

''(iv) the certification is issued pursuant this subsection;

''(B) deliver a copy of the certification to the Indian tribe; and

''(C) publish the certification in the Federal Register.

''(i) SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.—Nothing in this section waives the sovereign immunity of an Indian tribe.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Indian

Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014, the Secretary shall promulgate or update any regulations that are necessary to implement this section, including provisions to implement—

(1) section 2604(g) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504(g)) including the manner in which the Secretary, at the request of an Indian tribe, shall—

(A) identify the programs, functions, services, and activities (or any portions of programs, functions, services, or activities) that the Secretary will not have to operate or carry out as a result of the Indian tribe carrying out activities under a tribal energy resource agreement;

(B) identify the amounts that the Secretary would have otherwise expended to operate or carry out each program, function, service, and activity (or any portion of a program, function, service, or activity) identified pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

(C) provide to the Indian tribe a list of the programs, functions, services, and activities (or any portions of programs, functions, services, or activities) identified pursuant subparagraph (A) and the amounts associated with each program, function, service, and activity (or any portion of a program, function, service, or activity) identified pursuant to subparagraph (B); and

(2) section 2604(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504(h)), including the process to be followed by, and any applicable criteria and documentation required for, an Indian tribe to request and obtain the certification described in that section.

SEC. 2104. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.

Section 2602(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES.—In addition to providing grants to Indian tribes under this subsection, the Secretary shall collaborate with the Directors of the National Laboratories in making the full array of technical and scientific resources of the Department of Energy available for tribal energy activities and projects.''.

SEC. 2105. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—Section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501) is amended by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

''(11) The term 'tribal energy development organization' means—

''(A) any enterprise, partnership, consortium, corporation, or other type of business organization that is engaged in the development of energy resources and is wholly owned by an Indian tribe (including an organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 U.S.C. 477) or section 3 of the Act of June 26, 1936 (25 U.S.C. 503) (commonly known as the 'Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act')); or

''(B) any organization of 2 or more entities, at least 1 of which is an Indian tribe, that has the written consent of the governing bodies of all Indian tribes participating in the organization to apply for a grant, loan, or other assistance under section 2602 or to enter into a lease or business agreement with, or acquire a right-of-way from, an Indian tribe pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) or (b)(2)(B) of section 2604.''.

(b) INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.—Section 2602 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''tribal energy resource development organizations'' and inserting ''tribal energy development organizations''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''tribal energy resource development organizations'' each place it appears and inserting ''tribal energy development organizations''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''tribal energy resource development organization'' and inserting ''tribal energy development organization''.

(c) WIND AND HYDROPOWER FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Section 2606(c)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3506(c)(3)) is amended by striking ''energy resource development'' and inserting ''energy development''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2604(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''(1) On the date'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date''; and

(B) by striking ''for approval'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)(iv) (as redesignated by section 2103(a)(4)(A)(ii)(III))—

(A) in subclause (XIV), by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) by striking subclause (XV); and

(C) by redesignating subclause (XVI) as subclause (XV);

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''(3) The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(3) NOTICE AND COMMENT; SECRETARIAL REVIEW.—The Secretary''; and

(B) by striking ''for approval'';

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking ''(4) If the Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(4) ACTION IN CASE OF DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary'';

(5) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking ''(5) If an Indian tribe'' and inserting the following:

''(5) PROVISION OF DOCUMENTS TO SECRETARY.—If an Indian tribe''; and

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''approved'' and inserting ''in effect'';

(6) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking ''(6)(A) In carrying out'' and inserting the following:

''(6) SECRETARIAL OBLIGATIONS AND EFFECT OF SECTION.—

''(A) In carrying out'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by indenting clauses (i) and (ii) appropriately;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''approved'' and inserting ''in effect''; and

(D) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''an approved tribal energy resource agreement'' and inserting ''a tribal energy resource agreement in effect under this section''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking ''approved by the Secretary'' and inserting ''in effect''; and

(7) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by striking ''(7)(A) In this paragraph'' and inserting the following:

''(7) PETITIONS BY INTERESTED PARTIES.—

''(A) In this paragraph'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''approved by the Secretary'' and inserting ''in effect'';

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''approved by the Secretary'' and inserting ''in effect''; and

(D) in subparagraph (D)(iii)—

(i) in subclause (I), by striking ''approved''; and

(ii) in subclause (II)—

(I) by striking ''approval of'' in the first place it appears; and

(II) by striking ''subsection (a) or (b)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(2)(A)(i) or (b)(2)(A)''.

TITLE XXII—MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS

SEC. 2201. ISSUANCE OF PRELIMINARY PERMITS OR LICENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 800(a)) is amended by striking ''States and municipalities'' and inserting ''States, Indian tribes, and municipalities''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall not affect—

(1) any preliminary permit or original license issued before the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014; or

(2) an application for an original license, if the Commission has issued a notice accepting that application for filing pursuant to section 4.32(d) of title 18, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), before the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014.

(c) DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBE.—For purposes of section 7(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 800(a)) (as amended by subsection (a)), the term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

SEC. 2202. TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to establish a biomass demonstration project for federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native corporations to promote biomass energy production.

(b) TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–278; 118 Stat. 868) is amended—

(1) in section 2(a), by striking ''In this section'' and inserting ''In this Act''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 3. TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

''(a) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS OR SIMILAR AGREEMENTS.—For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019, the Secretary shall enter into stewardship contracts or similar agreements (excluding direct service contracts) with Indian tribes to carry out demonstration projects to promote biomass energy production (including biofuel, heat, and electricity generation) on Indian forest land and in nearby communities by providing reliable supplies of woody biomass from Federal land.

''(b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—In each fiscal year for which projects are authorized, at least 4 new demonstration projects that meet the eligibility criteria described in subsection (c) shall be carried out under contracts or agreements described in subsection (a).

''(c) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—To be eligible to enter into a contract or agreement under this section, an Indian tribe shall submit to the Secretary an application—

''(1) containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

''(2) that includes a description of—

''(A) the Indian forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe; and

''(B) the demonstration project proposed to be carried out by the Indian tribe.

''(d) SELECTION.—In evaluating the applications submitted under subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

''(1) take into consideration—

''(A) the factors set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2(e); and

''(B) whether a proposed project would—

''(i) increase the availability or reliability of local or regional energy;

''(ii) enhance the economic development of the Indian tribe;

''(iii) result in or improve the connection of electric power transmission facilities serving the Indian tribe with other electric transmission facilities;

''(iv) improve the forest health or watersheds of Federal land or Indian forest land or rangeland;

''(v) demonstrate new investments in infrastructure; or

''(vi) otherwise promote the use of woody biomass; and

''(2) exclude from consideration any merchantable logs that have been identified by the Secretary for commercial sale.

''(e) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) ensure that the criteria described in subsection (c) are publicly available by not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section; and

''(2) to the maximum extent practicable, consult with Indian tribes and appropriate intertribal organizations likely to be affected in developing the application and otherwise carrying out this section.

''(f) REPORT.—Not later than September 20, 2017, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes, with respect to the reporting period—

''(1) each individual tribal application received under this section; and

''(2) each contract and agreement entered into pursuant to this section.

''(g) INCORPORATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS.—In carrying out a contract or agreement under this section, on receipt of a request from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall incorporate into the contract or agreement, to the maximum extent practicable, management plans (including forest management and integrated resource management plans) in effect on the Indian forest land or rangeland of the respective Indian tribe.

''(h) TERM.—A contract or agreement entered into under this section—

''(1) shall be for a term of not more than 20 years; and

''(2) may be renewed in accordance with this section for not more than an additional 10 years.''.

(c) ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION.—The term ''Alaska Native corporation'' has the meaning given the term ''Native Corporation'' in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

(B) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means—

(i) land of the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(ii) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)), the surface of which is administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(C) FOREST LAND.—The term ''forest land'' means land that—

(i) is conveyed to an Alaska Native corporation pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

(ii)(I) is considered chiefly valuable for the production of forest products or to maintain watershed or other land values enhanced by a forest cover (including commercial and noncommercial timberland and woodland), regardless of whether a formal inspection and land classification action has been taken; or

(II) formerly had a forest or vegetative cover that is capable of restoration.

(D) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means—

(i) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service; and

(ii) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) AGREEMENTS.—For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019, the Secretary shall enter into a stewardship contract or similar agreement (excluding a direct service contract) with 1 or more Alaska Native corporations to carry out a demonstration project to promote biomass energy production (including biofuel, heat, and electricity generation) on forest land of the Alaska Native corporations and in nearby communities by providing reliable supplies of woody biomass from Federal land.

(3) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—In each fiscal year for which projects are authorized, at least 1 new demonstration project that meets the eligibility criteria described in paragraph (4) shall be carried out under contracts or agreements described in paragraph (2).

(4) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—To be eligible to enter into a contract or agreement under this subsection, an Alaska Native corporation shall submit to the Secretary an application—

(A) containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

(B) that includes a description of—

(i) the forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Native corporation; and

(ii) the demonstration project proposed to be carried out by the Alaska Native corporation.

(5) SELECTION.—In evaluating the applications submitted under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall—

(A) take into consideration whether a proposed project would—

(i) increase the availability or reliability of local or regional energy;

(ii) enhance the economic development of the Alaska Native corporation;

(iii) result in or improve the connection of electric power transmission facilities serving the Alaska Native corporation with other electric transmission facilities;

(iv) improve the forest health or watersheds of Federal land or Alaska Native corporation forest land or rangeland;

(v) demonstrate new investments in infrastructure; or

(vi) otherwise promote the use of woody biomass; and

(B) exclude from consideration any merchantable logs that have been identified by the Secretary for commercial sale.

(6) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) ensure that the criteria described in paragraph (4) are publicly available by not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this subsection; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, consult with Alaska Native corporations and appropriate Alaska Native organizations likely to be affected in developing the application and otherwise carrying out this subsection.

(7) REPORT.—Not later than September 20, 2017, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes, with respect to the reporting period—

(A) each individual application received under this subsection; and

(B) each contract and agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection.

(8) TERM.—A contract or agreement entered into under this subsection—

(A) shall be for a term of not more than 20 years; and

(B) may be renewed in accordance with this subsection for not more than an additional 10 years.

SEC. 2203. WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM.

Section 413(d) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6863(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) RESERVATION OF AMOUNTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B) and notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the Secretary shall reserve from amounts that would otherwise be allocated to a State under this part not less than 100 percent, but not more than 150 percent, of an amount which bears the same proportion to the allocation of that State for the applicable fiscal year as the population of all low-income members of an Indian tribe in that State bears to the population of all low-income individuals in that State.

''(B) RESTRICTIONS.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply only if—

''(i) the tribal organization serving the low-income members of the applicable Indian tribe requests that the Secretary make a grant directly; and

''(ii) the Secretary determines that the low-income members of the applicable Indian tribe would be equally or better served by making a grant directly than a grant made to the State in which the low-income members reside.'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''The sums'' and inserting ''ADMINISTRATION.—The amounts'';

(B) by striking ''on the basis of his determination'';

(C) by striking ''individuals for whom such a determination has been made'' and inserting ''low-income members of the Indian tribe''; and

(D) by striking ''he'' and inserting ''the Secretary''; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking ''In order'' and inserting ''APPLICATION.—In order''.

SEC. 2204. APPRAISALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XXVI of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 2607. APPRAISALS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For any transaction that requires approval of the Secretary and involves mineral or energy resources held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian tribe or by an Indian tribe subject to Federal restrictions against alienation, any appraisal relating to fair market value of those resources required to be prepared under applicable law may be prepared by—

''(1) the Secretary;

''(2) the affected Indian tribe; or

''(3) a certified, third-party appraiser pursuant to a contract with the Indian tribe.

''(b) SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an appraisal prepared by or for an Indian tribe under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

''(1) review the appraisal; and

''(2) approve the appraisal unless the Secretary determines that the appraisal fails to meet the standards set forth in regulations promulgated under subsection (d).

''(c) NOTICE OF DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary determines that an appraisal submitted for approval under subsection (b) should be disapproved, the Secretary shall give written notice of the disapproval to the Indian tribe and a description of—

''(1) each reason for the disapproval; and

''(2) how the appraisal should be corrected or otherwise cured to meet the applicable standards set forth in the regulations promulgated under subsection (d).

''(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section, including standards the Secretary shall use for approving or disapproving the appraisal described in subsection (a).''.

SEC. 2205. LEASES OF RESTRICTED LANDS FOR NAVAJO NATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e)(1) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (commonly known as the ''Long-Term Leasing Act'') (25 U.S.C. 415(e)(1)), is amended—

(1) by striking '', except a lease for'' and inserting '', including a lease for'';

(2) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) in the case of a business or agricultural lease, 99 years;'';

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) in the case of a lease for the exploration, development, or extraction of any mineral resource (including geothermal resources), 25 years, except that—

''(i) any such lease may include an option to renew for 1 additional term of not to exceed 25 years; and

''(ii) any such lease for the exploration, development, or extraction of an oil or gas resource shall be for a term of not to exceed 10 years, plus such additional period as the Navajo Nation determines to be appropriate in any case in which an oil or gas resource is produced in a paying quantity.''.

(b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to Congress a report describing the progress made in carrying out the amendment made by subsection (a)(4).

SA 2991. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WALSH, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. LEE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. COATS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HELLER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. AYOTTE, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. KEYSTONE XL APPROVAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. may construct, connect, operate, and maintain the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in the application filed on May 4, 2012, by TransCanada Corporation to the Department of State (including any subsequent revision to the pipeline route within the State of Nebraska required or authorized by the State of Nebraska).

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement issued by the Secretary of State in January 2014, regarding the pipeline referred to in subsection (a), and the environmental analysis, consultation, and review described in that document (including appendices) shall be considered to fully satisfy—

(1) all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) any other provision of law that requires Federal agency consultation or review (including the consultation or review required under section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a))) with respect to the pipeline and facilities referred to in subsection (a).

(c) PERMITS.—Any Federal permit or authorization issued before the date of enactment of this Act for the pipeline and cross-border facilities referred to in subsection (a) shall remain in effect.

(d) FEDERAL JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any legal challenge to a Federal agency action regarding the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, that are approved by this Act, and any permit, right-of-way, or other action taken to construct or complete the project pursuant to Federal law, shall only be subject to judicial review on direct appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

(e) PRIVATE PROPERTY SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act alters any Federal, State, or local process or condition in effect on the date of enactment of this Act that is necessary to secure access from an owner of private property to construct the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a).

SA 2992. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. HELLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV, add the following:

Subtitle F—Public Land Renewable Energy Development

SEC. 451. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2014''.

PART I—GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

SEC. 461. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF GEOTHERMAL STEAM ACT OF 1970.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 234(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15873(a)) is amended by striking ''in the first 5 fiscal years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''through fiscal year 2020''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 234(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15873(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Amounts'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) AUTHORIZATION.—Effective for fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, amounts deposited under subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior for expenditure, subject to appropriation and without fiscal year limitation, to implement the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) and this Act.''.

PART II—DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY ON PUBLIC LAND

SEC. 471. DEFINITIONS.

In this part:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term ''covered land'' means land that is—

(A)(i) public land administered by the Secretary; or

(ii) National Forest System land administered by the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) not excluded from the development of solar or wind energy under—

(i) a land use plan established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(ii) a land use plan established under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.); or

(iii) other law.

(2) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ''pilot program'' means the wind and solar leasing pilot program established under section 473(a).

(3) PUBLIC LAND.—The term ''public land'' has the meaning given the term ''public lands'' in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(4) SECRETARIES.—The term ''Secretaries'' means—

(A) in the case of public land administered by the Secretary, the Secretary; and

(B) in the case of National Forest System land administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Agriculture.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 472. PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS AND LAND USE PLANNING.

(a) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—As soon as practicable but not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) prepare and publish in the Federal Register a notice of intent to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to analyze the potential impacts of—

(A) a program to develop solar and wind energy on National Forest System land administered by the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) any necessary amendments to land use plans for the land; and

(2) amend any land use plans as appropriate to provide for the development of renewable energy in areas considered appropriate by the Secretary of Agriculture immediately on completion of the programmatic environmental impact statement.

(b) EFFECT ON PROCESSING APPLICATIONS.—The requirement for completion of programmatic environmental impact statements under this section shall not result in

any delay in processing or approving applications for wind or solar development on National Forest System land.

(c) MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall conduct a study, and prepare a report, for States that have not completed the analysis that—

(A) identifies locations on land withdrawn from the public domain and reserved for military purposes that—

(i) exhibit a high potential for solar, wind, geothermal, or other renewable energy production;

(ii) are disturbed or otherwise have comparatively low value for other resources; and

(iii) could be developed for renewable energy production in a manner consistent with all present and reasonably foreseeable military training and operational missions and research, development, testing, and evaluation requirements; and

(B) describes the administration of public land withdrawn for military purposes for the development of commercial-scale renewable energy projects, including the legal authorities governing authorization for that use.

(2) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS.—Not later than 1 year after the completion of the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall prepare and publish in the Federal Register a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact analysis document to support a program to develop renewable energy on withdrawn military land identified in the study as suitable for the production.

(3) REPORTS.—On completion of the report, the Secretary and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly submit the report required by paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 473. DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY ON PUBLIC LAND.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a wind and solar leasing pilot program on covered land administered by the Secretary.

(2) SELECTION OF SITES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date the pilot program is established under this subsection, the Secretary shall (taking into consideration the multiple resource values of the land) select 2 sites that are appropriate for the development of a solar energy project, and 2 sites that are appropriate for the development of a wind energy project, on covered land administered by the Secretary as part of the pilot program.

(B) SITE SELECTION.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall seek to select sites—

(i) for which there is likely to be a high level of industry interest;

(ii) that have a comparatively low value for other resources; and

(iii) that are representative of sites on which solar or wind energy is likely to be developed on covered land.

(C) INELIGIBLE SITES.—The Secretary shall not select as part of the pilot program any site for which a notice of intent has been issued.

(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—Prior to any lease sale, the Secretary shall establish qualifications for bidders that ensure bidders—

(A) are able to expeditiously develop a wind or solar energy project on the site for lease;

(B) possess—

(i) financial resources necessary to complete a project;

(ii) knowledge of the applicable technology; and

(iii) such other qualifications as are determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

(C) meet the eligibility requirements for leasing under the first section of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181).

(4) LEASE SALES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D)(ii), not later than 180 days after the date sites are selected under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall offer each site for competitive leasing to qualified bidders under such terms and conditions as are required by the Secretary.

(B) BIDDING SYSTEMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In offering the sites for lease, the Secretary may vary the bidding systems to be used at each lease sale, to ensure a fair return to the public, including—

(I) cash bonus bids with a requirement for payment of the royalty established under this subtitle;

(II) variable royalty bids based on a percentage of the gross proceeds from the sale of electricity produced from the lease, except that the royalty shall not be less than the royalty required under this subtitle, together with a fixed cash bonus; and

(III) such other bidding system as ensures a fair return to the public consistent with the royalty established under this subtitle.

(ii) ROUND.—The Secretary shall limit bidding to 1 round in any lease sale.

(iii) EXPENDITURES.—In any case in which the land that is subject to lease has 1 or more pending applications for the development of wind or solar energy at the time of the lease sale, the Secretary shall give credit toward any bid submitted by the applicant for expenditures of the applicant considered by the Secretary to be qualified and necessary for the preparation of the application.

(C) REVENUES.—Bonus bids, royalties, rentals, fees, or other payments collected by the Secretary under this section shall be subject to section 474.

(D) LEASE TERMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—As part of the pilot program, the Secretary may vary the length of the lease terms and establish such other lease terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(ii) DATA COLLECTION.—As part of the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(I) offer on a noncompetitive basis on at least 1 site a short-term lease for data collection; and

(II) on the expiration of the short-term lease, offer on a competitive basis a long-term lease, giving credit toward the bonus bid to the holder of the short-term lease for any qualified expenditures to collect data to develop the site during the short-term lease.

(5) COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS.—In offering for lease the selected sites under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall comply with all applicable environmental and other laws.

(6) REPORT.—The Secretary shall—

(A) compile a report of the results of each lease sale under the pilot program, including—

(i) the level of competitive interest;

(ii) a summary of bids and revenues received; and

(iii) any other factors that may have impacted the lease sale process; and

(B) not later than 90 days after the final lease sale, submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives the report described in subparagraph (A).

(7) RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—During the pendency of the pilot program, the Secretary shall continue to issue rights-of-way, in compliance with authority in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, for available sites not selected for the pilot program.

(b) SECRETARIAL DETERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall make a joint determination on whether to establish a leasing program under this section for wind or solar energy, or both, on all covered land.

(2) SYSTEM.—If the Secretaries determine that a leasing program should be established, the program shall apply to all covered land in accordance with this subtitle and other provisions of law applicable to public land or National Forest System land.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretaries shall establish a leasing program unless the Secretaries determine that the program—

(A) is not in the public interest; and

(B) does not provide an effective means of developing wind or solar energy.

(4) CONSULTATION.—In making the determinations required under this subsection, the Secretaries shall consult with—

(A) the heads of other relevant Federal agencies;

(B) interested States, Indian tribes, and local governments;

(C) representatives of the solar and wind industries;

(D) representatives of the environment, conservation, and outdoor sporting communities;

(E) other users of the covered land; and

(F) the public.

(5) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making the determinations required under this subsection, the Secretaries shall consider the results of the pilot program.

(6) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which any determination is made to establish a leasing program, the Secretaries shall jointly promulgate final regulations to implement the program.

(7) REPORT.—If the Secretaries determine that a leasing program should not be established, not later than 60 days after the date of the determination, the Secretaries shall jointly submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the basis and findings for the determination.

(c) TRANSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretaries determine under subsection (b) that a leasing program should be established for covered land, until the program is established and final regulations for the program are issued—

(A) the Secretary shall continue to accept applications for rights-of-way on covered land, and provide for the issuance of rights-of-way on covered land within the jurisdiction of the Secretary for the development of wind or solar energy pursuant to each requirement described in title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761 et seq.) and other applicable law; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture shall continue to accept applications for authorizations, and provide for the issuance of the authorizations, for the development of wind or solar energy on covered land within the jurisdiction of the Secretary pursuant to applicable law.

(2) EXISTING RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning on the date on which the wind or solar leasing programs are established and final regulations are issued, the Secretaries shall not renew an existing right-of-way or other authorization for wind or solar energy development at the end of the term of the right-of-way or authorization.

(B) LEASE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), at the end of the term of the right-of-way or other authorization for the wind or solar energy project, the Secretary or, in the case of National Forest System land, the Secretary of Agriculture, shall grant, without a competitive process, a lease to the holder of the right-of-way or other authorization for the same covered land as was authorized under the right-of-way or other authorization if (as determined by the Secretary concerned)—

(I) the holder of the right-of-way or other authorization has met the requirements of diligent development; and

(II) issuance of the lease is in the public interest and consistent with applicable law.

(ii) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Any lease described in clause (i) shall be subject to—

(I) terms and conditions that are consistent with this subtitle and the regulations issued under this subtitle; and

(II) the regulations in effect on the date of renewal and any other terms and conditions that the Secretary considers necessary to protect the public interest.

(3) PENDING RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Effective beginning on the date on which the wind or solar leasing programs are established and final regulations for the programs are issued, the Secretary or, with respect to National Forest System land, the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide any applicant that has filed a plan of development for a right-of-way or, in the case of National Forest System land, for an applicable authorization, for a wind or solar energy project with an option to acquire a lease on a noncompetitive basis, under such terms and conditions as are required by this subtitle, applicable regulations, and the Secretary concerned, for the same covered land included in the plan of development if—

(A) the plan of development has been determined by the Secretary concerned to be adequate for the initiation of environmental review;

(B) granting the lease is consistent with all applicable land use planning, environmental, and other laws;

(C) the applicant has made a good faith effort to obtain a right-of-way or, in the case of National Forest System land, other authorization, for the project; and

(D) issuance of the lease is in the public interest.

(d) LEASING PROGRAM.—If the Secretaries determine under subsection (b) that a leasing program should be established, the program shall be established in accordance with subsections (e) through (k).

(e) COMPETITIVE LEASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), leases for wind or solar energy development under this section shall be issued on a competitive basis with a single round of bidding in any lease sale.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the Secretary or, with respect to National Forest System land, the Secretary of Agriculture determines that—

(A) no competitive interest exists for the covered land;

(B) the public interest would not be served by the competitive issuance of a lease;

(C) the lease is for the placement and operation of a meteorological or data collection facility or for the development or demonstration of a new wind or solar technology and has a term of not more than 5 years; or

(D) the covered land is eligible to be granted a noncompetitive lease under subsection (c).

(f) PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall jointly establish—

(A) fees, rentals, bonuses, or other payments to ensure a fair return to the United States for any lease issued under this section; and

(B) royalties pursuant to section 475 that apply to all leases issued under this section.

(2) BONUS BIDS.—The Secretaries may grant credit toward any bonus bid for a qualified expenditure by the holder of a lease described in subsection (e)(2)(C) in any competitive lease sale held for a long-term lease covering the same land covered by the lease described in subsection (e)(2)(C).

(g) QUALIFICATIONS.—Prior to any lease sale, the Secretary shall establish qualifications for bidders that ensure bidders meet the requirements described in subsection (a)(3).

(h) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretaries shall ensure that any activity under a leasing program is carried out in a manner that—

(1) is consistent with all applicable land use planning, environmental, and other laws; and

(2) provides for—

(A) safety;

(B) protection of the environment and fish and wildlife habitat;

(C) mitigation of impacts;

(D) prevention of waste;

(E) diligent development of the resource, with specific milestones to be met by the lessee as determined by the Secretaries;

(F) coordination with applicable Federal agencies;

(G) a fair return to the United States for any lease;

(H) use of best management practices, including planning and practices for mitigation of impacts;

(I) public notice and comment on any proposal submitted for a lease under this section;

(J) oversight, inspection, research, monitoring, and enforcement relating to a lease under this section;

(K) the quantity of acreage to be commensurate with the size of the project covered by a lease; and

(L) efficient use of water resources.

(i) LEASE DURATION, SUSPENSION, AND CANCELLATION.—

(1) DURATION.—A lease under this section shall be for—

(A) an initial term of 25 years; and

(B) any additional period after the initial term during which electricity is being produced annually in commercial quantities from the lease.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall establish terms and conditions for the issuance, transfer, renewal, suspension, and cancellation of a lease under this section.

(3) READJUSTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Royalties, rentals, and other terms and conditions of a lease under this section shall be subject to readjustment—

(i) on the date that is 15 years after the date on which the lease is issued; and

(ii) every 10 years thereafter.

(B) LEASE.—Each lease issued under this subtitle shall provide for readjustment in accordance with subparagraph (A).

(j) SURFACE-DISTURBING ACTIVITIES.—The Secretaries shall—

(1) regulate all surface-disturbing activities conducted pursuant to any lease issued under this section; and

(2) require any necessary reclamation and other actions under the lease as are required in the interest of conservation of surface resources.

(k) SECURITY.—The Secretaries shall require the holder of a lease issued under this section—

(1) to furnish a surety bond or other form of security, as prescribed by the Secretaries;

(2) to provide for the reclamation and restoration of the area covered by the lease; and

(3) to comply with such other requirements as the Secretaries consider necessary to protect the interests of the public and the United States.

(l) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, the Secretary shall conduct a review of the adequacy of the surety bond or other form of security provided by the holder of a lease issued under this section.

SEC. 474. DISPOSITION OF REVENUES.

(a) DISPOSITION OF REVENUES.—Of the amounts collected as bonus bids, royalties, rentals, fees, or other payments under a right-of-way, permit, lease, or other authorization for the development of wind or solar energy on covered land—

(1) 25 percent shall be paid by the Secretary of the Treasury to the State within the boundaries of which the income is derived;

(2) 25 percent shall be paid by the Secretary of the Treasury to the 1 or more counties within the boundaries of which the income is derived;

(3) 15 percent shall—

(A) for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on date the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act, be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to help facilitate the processing of renewable energy permits by the Bureau of Land Management, including the transfer of the funds by the Bureau of Land Management to other Federal agencies and State agencies to facilitate the processing of renewable energy permits on Federal land; and

(B) beginning on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act, be deposited in the Fund; and

(4) 35 percent shall be deposited in the Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund established by subsection (c).

(b) PAYMENTS TO STATES AND COUNTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts paid to States and counties under subsection (a) shall be used consistent with section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191).

(2) IMPACTS ON FEDERAL LAND.—Not less than 33 percent of the amount paid to a State shall be used on an annual basis for the purposes described in subsection (c)(2)(A).

(c) RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE CONSERVATION FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the ''Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund'',

to be administered by the Secretary for use in regions impacted by the development of wind or solar energy.

(2) USE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Secretary, who may make amounts available to the Secretary of Agriculture and to other Federal or State agencies, as appropriate, for the purposes of—

(i) addressing and offsetting the impacts of wind or solar development on Federal land, including restoring and protecting—

(I) fish and wildlife habitat for affected species;

(II) fish and wildlife corridors for affected species; and

(III) water resources in areas impacted by wind or solar energy development;

(ii) securing recreational access to Federal land through an easement, right-of-way, or fee title acquisition from willing sellers for the purpose of providing enhanced public access to existing Federal land that is inaccessible or significantly restricted; and

(iii) carrying out activities authorized under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460*l*–4 et seq.) in the State.

(B) ADVISORY BOARD.—The Secretary shall establish an independent advisory board composed of key stakeholders and technical experts to provide recommendations and guidance on the disposition of any amounts expended from the Fund.

(3) MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS.—The expenditure of funds under this subsection shall be in addition to any mitigation requirements imposed pursuant to any law, regulation, or term or condition of any lease, right-of-way, or other authorization.

(4) INVESTMENT OF FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any amounts deposited in the Fund shall earn interest in an amount determined by the Secretary of the Treasury on the basis of the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States of comparable maturities.

(B) USE.—Any interest earned under subparagraph (A) may be expended in accordance with this subsection.

SEC. 475. ROYALTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall require as a term and condition of any lease, right-of-way, permit, or other authorization for the development of wind or solar energy on covered land the payment of a royalty established by the Secretaries pursuant to a joint rulemaking that shall be a percentage of the gross proceeds from the sale of electricity at a rate that—

(1) encourages production of solar or wind energy;

(2) ensures a fair return to the public comparable to the return that would be obtained on State and private land; and

(3) encourages the maximum energy generation while disturbing the least quantity of covered land and other natural resources, including water.

(b) AMOUNT.—The royalty on electricity produced using wind or solar resources shall be—

(1) not less than 1 percent, and not more than 2.5 percent, of the gross proceeds from the sale of electricity produced from the resources during the first 10 years of production; and

(2) not less than 2 percent, and not more than 5 percent, of the gross proceeds from the sale of electricity produced from the resources during each year after that initial 10-year period.

(c) DIFFERENT ROYALTY RATES.—The Secretaries may establish—

(1) a different royalty rate for wind or solar energy generation; and

(2) a reduced royalty rate for projects located within a zone identified for development of solar or wind energy.

(d) ROYALTY IN LIEU OF RENT.—During the period of production, a royalty shall be collected in lieu of any rent for the land from which the electricity is produced.

(e) ROYALTY RELIEF.—To promote the generation of renewable energy, the Secretaries may reduce any royalty otherwise required on a showing by clear and convincing evidence by the person holding a lease, right-of-way, permit, or other authorization for the development of wind or solar energy on covered land under which the generation of energy is or will be produced in commercial quantities that—

(1) collection of the full royalty would unreasonably burden energy generation; and

(2) the royalty reduction is in the public interest.

(f) PERIODIC REVIEW AND REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall—

(A) complete a review of collections and impacts of the royalty and fees provided under this subtitle; and

(B) submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the results of the review.

(2) TOPICS.—The report shall address—

(A) the total revenues received (by category) on an annual basis as royalties from wind, solar, and geothermal development and production (specified by energy source) on covered land;

(B) whether the revenues received for the development of wind, solar, and geothermal development are comparable to the revenues received for similar development on State and private land;

(C) any impact on the development of wind, solar, and geothermal development and production on covered land as a result of the royalties; and

(D) any recommendations with respect to changes in Federal law (including regulations) relating to the amount or method of collection (including auditing, compliance, and enforcement) of the royalties.

(g) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall jointly issue final regulations to carry out this section.

SEC. 476. ENFORCEMENT OF ROYALTY AND PAYMENT PROVISIONS.

(a) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall establish a comprehensive inspection, collection, fiscal, and production accounting and auditing system—

(1) to accurately determine royalties, rentals, interest, fines, penalties, fees, deposits, and other payments owed under this subtitle; and

(2) to collect and account for the payments in a timely manner.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW.—The Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (including the civil and criminal enforcement provisions of that Act) shall apply to leases, permits, rights-of-way, or other authorizations issued for the development of solar or wind energy on covered land and the holders and operators of the leases, permits, rights-of-way, or other authorizations (and designees) under this title, except that in applying that Act—

(1) ''wind or solar leases, permits, rights-of-way, or other authorizations'' shall be substituted for ''oil and gas leases'';

(2) ''electricity generated from wind or solar resources'' shall be substituted for ''oil and gas'' (when used as nouns);

(3) ''lease, permit, right-of-way, or other authorization for the development of wind or solar energy'' shall be substituted for ''lease'' and ''lease for oil and gas'' (when used as nouns); and

(4) ''lessee, permittee, right-of-way holder, or holder of an authorization for the development of wind or solar energy'' shall be substituted for ''lessee''.

SEC. 477. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 302(c) and 303 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732(c), 1733) shall apply to activities conducted on covered land under this title.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.—Nothing in this title reduces or limits the enforcement authority vested in the Secretary or the Attorney General by any other law.

SEC. 478. SEGREGATION FROM APPROPRIATION UNDER MINING AND FEDERAL LAND LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On covered land identified by the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture for the development of solar or wind power under this title or other applicable law, the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture may temporarily segregate the identified land from appropriation under the mining and public land laws.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Segregation of covered land under this section—

(1) may only be made for a period not to exceed 10 years; and

(2) shall be subject to valid existing rights as of the date of the segregation.

SEC. 479. REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall carry out a study on the siting, development, and management of projects to determine the feasibility of carrying out a conservation banking program on land administered by the Secretaries.

(2) CONTENTS.—The study under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify areas in which—

(i) privately owned land is not available to offset the impacts of solar or wind energy development on federally administered land; or

(ii) mitigation investments on federally administered land are likely to provide greater conservation value for impacts of solar or wind energy development on federally administered land; and

(B) examine—

(i) the effectiveness of laws (including regulations) and policies in effect on the date of enactment of this Act in facilitating the development of conservation banks;

(ii) the advantages and disadvantages of using conservation banks on Federal land to mitigate impacts to natural resources on private land; and

(iii) any changes in Federal law (including regulations) or policy necessary to further develop a Federal conservation banking program.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall jointly submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) the recommendations of the Secretaries relating to—

(A) the most effective system for Federal land described in subsection (a)(2)(A) to meet the goals of facilitating the development of a conservation banking program on Federal land; and

(B) any change to Federal law (including regulations) or policy necessary to address more effectively the siting, development, and management of conservation banking programs on Federal land to mitigate impacts to natural resources on private land; and

(2) any administrative action to be taken by the Secretaries in response to the recommendations.

(c) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the report described in subsection (b) is submitted to Congress, the Secretaries shall make the results of the study available to the public.

SEC. 480. APPLICABILITY OF LAW.

(a) RENTAL FEE EXEMPTION.—Wind or solar generation projects with a capacity of 20 megawatts or more that are issued a lease, right-of-way, permit, or other authorization under applicable law shall not be subject to the rental fee exemption for rights-of-way under section 504(g) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1764(g)).

(b) FEES, CHARGES, AND COMMISSIONS.—Section 304 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1734) shall apply to an application made under section 473.

SA 2993. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SECTION 504. USE OF FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS AND STRUCTURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 327. USE OF ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS AND STRUCTURES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'energy-efficient product' means a product that—

''(A) meets or exceeds the requirements for designation under an Energy Star program established under section 324A of the of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6294a); or

''(B) meets or exceeds the requirements for designation as being among the highest 25 percent of equivalent products for energy efficiency under the Federal Energy Management Program; and

''(2) the term 'energy-efficient structure' means a residential structure, a public facility, or a private nonprofit facility that meets or exceeds the requirements of American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard 90.1–2010 or the 2013 International Energy Conservation Code, or any successor thereto.

''(b) USE OF ASSISTANCE.—A recipient of assistance relating to a major disaster or emergency may use the assistance to replace or repair a damaged product or structure with an energy-efficient product or energy-efficient structure.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to assistance made available under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act that is expended on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2994. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5____. FUEL SWITCHING UNDER WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 415(c)(1) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6865(c)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following:

''(E) the cost of making heating and cooling modifications, including replacement (including, at the option of the State, nonrenewable fuel switching when replacing furnaces or appliances if the new unit is more efficient than the replaced unit).''.

SA 2995. Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

DIVISION B—WEATHERIZATION AND STATE ENERGY PROGRAMS

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act''.

SEC. 2002. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the State energy program established under part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.) (referred to in this section as ''SEP'') and the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons established under part A of title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861 et seq.) (referred to in this section as ''WAP'') have proven to be beneficial, long-term partnerships among Federal, State, and local partners;

(2) the SEP and the WAP have been reauthorized on a bipartisan basis over many years to address changing national, regional, and State circumstances and needs, especially through—

(A) the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.);

(B) the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.);

(C) the State Energy Efficiency Programs Improvement Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–440; 104 Stat. 1006);

(D) the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13201 et seq.);

(E) the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801 et seq.); and

(F) the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17001 et seq.);

(3) the SEP, also known as the ''State energy conservation program''—

(A) was first created in 1975 to implement a State-based, national program in support of energy efficiency, renewable energy, economic development, energy emergency preparedness, and energy policy; and

(B) has come to operate in every sector of the economy in support of the private sector to improve productivity and has dramatically reduced the cost of government through energy savings at the State and local levels;

(4) Federal laboratory studies have concluded that, for every Federal dollar invested through the SEP, more than $7 is saved in energy costs and almost $11 in non-Federal funds is leveraged;

(5) the WAP—

(A) was first created in 1976 to assist low-income families in response to the first oil embargo;

(B) has become the largest residential energy conservation program in the United States, with more than 7,100,000 homes weatherized since the WAP was created;

(C) saves an estimated 35 percent of consumption in the typical weatherized home, yielding average annual savings of $437 per year in home energy costs;

(D) has created thousands of jobs in both the construction sector and in the supply chain of materials suppliers, vendors, and manufacturers who supply the WAP;

(E) returns $2.51 in energy savings for every Federal dollar spent in energy and nonenergy benefits over the life of weatherized homes;

(F) serves as a foundation for residential energy efficiency retrofit standards, technical skills, and workforce training for the emerging broader market and reduces residential and power plant emissions of carbon dioxide by 2.65 metric tons each year per home; and

(G) has decreased national energy consumption by the equivalent of 24,100,000 barrels of oil annually;

(6) the WAP can be enhanced with the addition of a targeted portion of the Federal funds through an innovative program that supports projects performed by qualified nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated capacity to build, renovate, repair, or improve the energy efficiency of a significant number of low-income homes, building on the success of the existing program without replacing the existing WAP network or creating a separate delivery mechanism for basic WAP services;

(7) the WAP has increased energy efficiency opportunities by promoting new, competitive public-private sector models of retrofitting low-income homes through new Federal partnerships;

(8) improved monitoring and reporting of the work product of the WAP has yielded benefits, and expanding independent verification of efficiency work will support the long-term goals of the WAP;

(9) reports of the Government Accountability Office in 2011, Inspector General's of the Department of Energy, and State auditors have identified State-level deficiencies in monitoring efforts that can be addressed in a manner that will ensure that WAP funds are used more effectively;

(10) through the history of the WAP, the WAP has evolved with improvements in efficiency technology, including, in the 1990s, many States adopting advanced home energy audits, which has led to great returns on investment; and

(11) as the home energy efficiency industry has become more performance-based, the WAP should continue to use those advances in technology and the professional workforce.

TITLE XXI—WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SEC. 2101. REAUTHORIZATION OF WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 422 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6872) is amended by striking ''appropriated—'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''appropriated $450,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.''.

SEC. 2102. GRANTS FOR NEW, SELF-SUSTAINING LOW-INCOME, SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY HOUSING ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL PROGRAMS TO ELIGIBLE MULTISTATE HOUSING AND ENERGY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

The Energy Conservation and Production Act is amended by inserting after section 414B (42 U.S.C. 6864b) the following:

''SEC. 414C. GRANTS FOR NEW, SELF-SUSTAINING LOW-INCOME, SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY HOUSING ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL PROGRAMS TO ELIGIBLE MULTISTATE HOUSING AND ENERGY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

''(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

''(1) to expand the number of low-income, single-family and multifamily homes that receive energy efficiency retrofits;

''(2) to promote innovation and new models of retrofitting low-income homes through new Federal partnerships with covered organizations that leverage substantial donations, donated materials, volunteer labor, homeowner labor equity, and other private sector resources;

''(3) to assist the covered organizations in demonstrating, evaluating, improving, and replicating widely the model low-income energy retrofit programs of the covered organizations; and

''(4) to ensure that the covered organizations make the energy retrofit programs of the covered organizations self-sustaining by the time grant funds have been expended.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED ORGANIZATION.—The term 'covered organization' means an organization that—

''(A) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code; and

''(B) has an established record of constructing, renovating, repairing, or making energy efficient a total of not less than 250 owner-occupied, single-family or multifamily homes per year for low-income households, either directly or through affiliates, chapters, or other direct partners (using the most recent year for which data are available).

''(2) LOW-INCOME.—The term 'low-income' means an income level that is not more than 200 percent of the poverty level (as determined in accordance with criteria established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget) applicable to a family of the size involved, except that the Secretary may establish a higher or lower level if the Secretary determines that a higher or lower level is necessary to carry out this section.

''(3) WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME PERSONS.—The term 'Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons' means the program established under this part (including part 440 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations).

''(c) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall make grants to covered organizations through a national competitive process for use in accordance with this section.

''(d) AWARD FACTORS.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall consider—

''(1) the number of low-income homes the applicant—

''(A) has built, renovated, repaired, or made more energy efficient as of the date of the application; and

''(B) can reasonably be projected to build, renovate, repair, or make energy efficient during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the application;

''(2) the qualifications, experience, and past performance of the applicant, including experience successfully managing and administering Federal funds;

''(3) the number and diversity of States and climates in which the applicant works as of the date of the application;

''(4) the amount of non-Federal funds, donated or discounted materials, discounted or volunteer skilled labor, volunteer unskilled labor, homeowner labor equity, and other resources the applicant will provide;

''(5) the extent to which the applicant could successfully replicate the energy retrofit program of the applicant and sustain the program after the grant funds have been expended;

''(6) regional diversity;

''(7) urban, suburban, and rural localities; and

''(8) such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(e) APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall request proposals from covered organizations.

''(2) ADMINISTRATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an applicant shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(3) AWARDS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of issuance of a request for proposals, the Secretary shall award grants under this section.

''(f) ELIGIBLE USES OF GRANT FUNDS.—A grant under this section may be used for—

''(1) energy efficiency audits, cost-effective retrofit, and related activities in different climatic regions of the United States;

''(2) energy efficiency materials and supplies;

''(3) organizational capacity—

''(A) to significantly increase the number of energy retrofits;

''(B) to replicate an energy retrofit program in other States; and

''(C) to ensure that the program is self-sustaining after the Federal grant funds are expended;

''(4) energy efficiency, audit and retrofit training, and ongoing technical assistance;

''(5) information to homeowners on proper maintenance and energy savings behaviors;

''(6) quality control and improvement;

''(7) data collection, measurement, and verification;

''(8) program monitoring, oversight, evaluation, and reporting;

''(9) management and administration (up to a maximum of 10 percent of the total grant);

''(10) labor and training activities; and

''(11) such other activities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(g) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant provided under this section shall not exceed—

''(1) if the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year is $225,000,000 or more, $5,000,000; and

''(2) if the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year is less than $225,000,000, $1,500,000.

''(h) GUIDELINES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue guidelines to implement the grant program established under this section.

''(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The guidelines—

''(A) shall not apply to the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons, in whole or major part; but

''(B) may rely on applicable provisions of law governing the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons to establish—

''(i) standards for allowable expenditures;

''(ii) a minimum savings-to-investment ratio;

''(iii) standards—

''(I) to carry out training programs;

''(II) to conduct energy audits and program activities;

''(III) to provide technical assistance;

''(IV) to monitor program activities; and

''(V) to verify energy and cost savings;

''(iv) liability insurance requirements; and

''(v) recordkeeping requirements, which shall include reporting to the Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs of the Department of Energy applicable data on each home retrofitted.

''(i) REVIEW AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall review and evaluate the performance of any covered organization that receives a grant under this section (which may include an audit), as determined by the Secretary.

''(j) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW.—Nothing in this section or any program carried out using a grant provided under this section supersedes or otherwise affects any State or local law, to the extent that the State or local law contains a requirement that is more stringent than the applicable requirement of this section.

''(k) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress annual reports that provide—

''(1) findings;

''(2) a description of energy and cost savings achieved and actions taken under this section; and

''(3) any recommendations for further action.

''(l) FUNDING.—Of the amount of funds that are made available to carry out the Weatherization Assistance Program for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 under section 422, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019—

''(1) 2 percent of the amount if the amount is less than $225,000,000;

''(2) 5 percent of the amount if the amount is $225,000,000 or more but less than $260,000,000;

''(3) 10 percent of the amount if the amount is $260,000,000 or more but less than $400,000,000; and

''(4) 20 percent of the amount if the amount is $400,000,000 or more.''.

SEC. 2103. STANDARDS PROGRAM.

Section 415 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6865) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) STANDARDS PROGRAM.—

''(1) CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATION.—Effective beginning January 1, 2015, to be eligible to carry out weatherization using funds made available under this part, a contractor shall be selected through a competitive bidding process and be—

''(A) accredited by the Building Performance Institute;

''(B) an Energy Smart Home Performance Team accredited under the Residential Energy Services Network; or

''(C) accredited by an equivalent accreditation or program accreditation-based State certification program approved by the Secretary.

''(2) GRANTS FOR ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL PROGRAMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under section 414C, a covered organization (as defined in section 414C(b)) shall use a crew chief who—

''(i) is certified or accredited in accordance with paragraph (1); and

''(ii) supervises the work performed with grant funds.

''(B) VOLUNTEER LABOR.—A volunteer who performs work for a covered organization that receives a grant under section 414C shall not be required to be certified under this subsection if the volunteer is not directly installing or repairing mechanical equipment or other items that require skilled labor.

''(C) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall use training and technical assistance funds available to the Secretary to assist covered organizations under section 414C in providing training to obtain certification required under this subsection, including provisional or temporary certification.

''(3) MINIMUM EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.—Effective beginning October 1, 2015, the Secretary shall ensure that—

''(A) each retrofit for which weatherization assistance is provided under this part meets minimum efficiency and quality of work standards established by the Secretary after weatherization of a dwelling unit;

''(B) at least 10 percent of the dwelling units are randomly inspected by a third party accredited under this subsection to ensure compliance with the minimum efficiency and quality of work standards established under subparagraph (A); and

''(C) the standards established under this subsection meet or exceed the industry standards for home performance work that are in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.''.

TITLE XXII—STATE ENERGY PROGRAM

SEC. 2201. REAUTHORIZATION OF STATE ENERGY PROGRAM.

Section 365(f) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6325(f)) is amended by striking ''$125,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012'' and inserting ''$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019''.

SA 2996. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. STUDY OF REGULATIONS THAT LIMIT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM EXISTING POWER PLANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effect that regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants would have on jobs and energy prices.

(b) DETERMINATION.—If, based on the study conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy determines that the regulations described in that subsection would directly or indirectly destroy jobs or raise energy prices, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not finalize the regulations.

SA 2997. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF EPA REGULATIONS WITH HIGH COMPLIANCE COSTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the cost of compliance with a regulation of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency exceeds $1,000,000,000, the regulation shall not take effect unless Congress enacts a law that approves the regulation.

SA 2998. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. DOMESTIC OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION GOAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In developing an onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing program for the Department of the Interior, subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall determine a domestic strategic production goal for the development of oil and natural gas from Federal onshore and offshore areas, which goal shall be—

(1) the best estimate of the practicable increase in domestic production of oil and natural gas from the outer Continental Shelf and Federal onshore areas; and

(2) focused on—

(A) meeting domestic demand for oil and natural gas;

(B) reducing the dependence of the United States on foreign energy; and

(C) the production increases achieved by the leasing program at the end of each of the 15- and 30-year periods beginning on the effective date of the program.

(b) PROGRAM GOAL.—For purposes of the onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing program of the Department of the Interior, the production goal determined under subsection (a) shall be an increase by January 1, 2032, of the greater of—

(1)(A) not less than 3,000,000 barrels in the quantity of oil produced per day; and

(B) not less than 10,000,000,000 cubic feet in the quantity of natural gas produced per day; or

(2) not less than the projected 30-year percentage increase in the production of oil and natural gas from non-Federal areas, as determined by the Energy Information Administration.

(c) REPORT.—Beginning on the date that is 1 year after the effective date of the onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing program and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the progress of the program in meeting the production goal under subsection (a) that includes an identification of projections for production and any problems with leasing, permitting, or production that will prevent meeting the goal.

SA 2999. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 4____. STUDY OF EFFECT OF TIER 3 MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION AND FUEL STANDARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effect that the Tier 3 motor vehicle emission and fuel standard would have on the price of gasoline.

(b) DETERMINATION.—If, based on the study conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy determines that the Tier 3 motor vehicle emission and fuel standard would result in an increase in the price of gasoline, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not finalize the standard.

SA 3000. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION AND DISBURSEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER PERSONAL INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not establish any searchable online database of the personal information of any owner, operator, or employee of a livestock or farming operation.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of subsection (a), personal information includes—

(1) names of the owners, operators, or employees or of family members of the owners, operators, or employees;

(2) telephone numbers;

(3) email addresses;

(4) physical or mailing addresses;

(5) number of livestock;

(6) Global Positioning System coordinates; or

(7) other personal information regarding the owners, operators, or employees.

(c) FOIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Personal information described in subsection (b) shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), this section shall be considered a statute described in section 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5, United States Code.

SA 3001. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings

and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) is repealed.

(b) EFFECT OF REPEAL.—The repeal under subsection (a) shall not affect any incentive, loan, or other assistance provided under section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) on or before January 1, 2014.

SA 3002. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. GROUND-LEVEL OZONE STANDARDS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), in promulgating a national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for ozone, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency—

(1) shall not propose a national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for ozone that is lower than the standard established under section 50.15 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1, 2014), until at least 85 percent of the counties that were nonattainment areas under that standard as of January 1, 2014, achieve full compliance with that standard;

(2) shall only consider all or part of a county to be a nonattainment area under the standard on the basis of direct air quality monitoring;

(3) shall take into consideration feasibility and cost; and

(4) shall include in the regulatory impact analysis for the proposed and final rule at least 1 analysis that does not include any calculation of benefits resulting from reducing emissions of any pollutant other than ozone.

SA 3003. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. GUIDELINES TO ENCOURAGE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO HELP REDUCE ENERGY USE AND COSTS.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue to the head of each Federal agency guidelines to reduce energy costs at that Federal agency by requiring employees of the Federal agency—

(1) to turn off the lights in the work areas of the employees at the end of the work day; and

(2) to turn off or unplug other devices that consume energy during periods in which the employees are not in the office.

SA 3004. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. INSTALLATION RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT DATABASE.

(a) LIMITATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a searchable database to uniformly report information regarding installation renewable energy projects undertaken since 2010.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The database established under subsection (a) shall include, for each installation energy project—

(1) the estimated project costs;

(2) estimated power generation;

(3) estimated total cost savings;

(4) estimated payback period;

(5) total project costs;

(6) actual power generation;

(7) actual cost savings to date;

(8) current operational status; and

(9) access to relevant business case documents, including the economic viability assessment.

(c) UPDATES.—The database established under subsection (a) shall be updated not less than quarterly.

SA 3005. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall certify that the amount of energy cost savings over a 10-year period as a result of each project or activity funded under this Act or an amendment made by this Act would equal or exceed the cost of the project or activity.

(b) ACTUAL ENERGY USE.—On completion of a project or activity provided funds under this Act or an amendment made by this Act, the Secretary shall certify that, over a 10-year period, as a result of the project or activity—

(1) there was a reduction in actual energy use; and

(2) the energy cost savings exceeded the costs of the project or activity.

SA 3006. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 82, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 4___. EVALUATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF DUPLICATIVE GREEN BUILDING PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The term ''administrative expenses'' has the meaning given the term by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 504(b)(2) of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (31 U.S.C. 1105 note; Public Law 111–85), except that the term shall include, for purposes of that section and this section, with respect to an agency—

(A) costs incurred by the agency and costs incurred by grantees, subgrantees, and other recipients of funds from a grant program or other program administered by the agency; and

(B) expenses related to personnel salaries and benefits, property management, travel, program management, promotion, reviews and audits, case management, and communication about, promotion of, and outreach for programs and program activities administered by the agency.

(2) APPLICABLE PROGRAMS.—The term ''applicable programs'' means the programs listed in Table 9 (pages 348-350) of the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''2012 Annual Report: Opportunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Revenue''.

(3) APPROPRIATE SECRETARIES.—The term ''appropriate Secretaries'' means—

(A) the Secretary;

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(C) the Secretary of Defense;

(D) the Secretary of Education;

(E) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(F) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

(G) the Secretary of Transportation;

(H) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(I) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(J) the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(K) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(4) SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term ''services'' has the meaning given the term by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The term ''services'' shall be limited to activities, assistance, and aid that provide a direct benefit to a recipient, such as—

(i) the provision of medical care;

(ii) assistance for housing or tuition; or

(iii) financial support (including grants and loans).

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2014, the appropriate Secretaries shall submit to Congress and post on the public Internet websites of the agencies of the appropriate Secretaries a report on the outcomes of the applicable programs.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In reporting on the outcomes of each applicable program, the appropriate Secretaries shall—

(A) determine the total administrative expenses of the applicable program;

(B) determine the expenditures for services for the applicable program;

(C) estimate the number of clients served by the applicable program and beneficiaries who received assistance under the applicable program (if applicable);

(D) estimate—

(i) the number of full-time employees who administer the applicable program; and

(ii) the number of full-time equivalents (whose salary is paid in part or full by the Federal Government through a grant or contract, a subaward of a grant or contract, a cooperative agreement, or another form of financial award or assistance) who assist in administering the applicable program;

(E) describe the type of assistance the applicable program provides, such as grants, technical assistance, loans, tax credits, or tax deductions;

(F) describe the type of recipient who benefits from the assistance provided, such as individual property owners or renters, local governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, or State governments; and

(G) identify and report on whether written program goals are available for the applicable program.

(c) PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than January 1, 2015, the appropriate Secretaries shall jointly submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an analysis of whether any of the applicable programs should be eliminated or consolidated, including any legislative changes that would be necessary to eliminate or consolidate the applicable programs; and

(2) ways to improve the applicable programs by establishing program goals or increasing collaboration so as to reduce the overlap and duplication identified in—

(A) the 2011 report of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''Federal Initiatives for the NonFederal Sector Could Benefit from More Interagency Collaboration''; and

(B) the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''2012 Annual Report: Opportunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Revenue''.

(d) PROGRAM ELIMINATIONS.—Not later than January 1, 2015, the appropriate Secretaries shall—

(1) identify—

(A) which applicable programs are specifically required by law; and

(B) which applicable programs are carried out under the discretionary authority of the appropriate Secretaries;

(2) eliminate those applicable programs that are not required by law; and

(3) transfer any remaining applicable projects and nonduplicative functions into another green building program within the same agency.

SA 3007. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REPEAL OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) is repealed.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) takes effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Any amounts made available to carry out section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) (as in effect before the amendment made by subsection (a)) that are not obligated as of the date of enactment of this Act are rescinded.

SA 3008. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5___. IDENTIFICATION OF WATERS PROTECTED BY THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Secretary of the Army nor the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall—

(1) finalize the proposed rule entitled ''Definition of 'Waters of the United States' Under the Clean Water Act'' (79 Fed. Reg. 22188 (April 21, 2014)); or

(2) use the proposed rule described in paragraph (1), or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance, as the basis for any rulemaking or any decision regarding the scope or enforcement of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

(b) RULES.—The use of the proposed rule described in subsection (a)(1), or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance, as the basis for any rulemaking or any decision regarding the scope or enforcement of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) shall be grounds for vacation of the final rule, decision, or enforcement action.

SA 3009. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 610. RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) BASE QUANTITY OF ELECTRICITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'base quantity of electricity' means the total quantity of electric energy sold by a retail electric supplier, expressed in terms of kilowatt hours, to electric customers for purposes other than resale during the most recent calendar year for which information is available.

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'base quantity of electricity' does not include—

''(i) electric energy that is not incremental hydropower generated by a hydroelectric facility; and

''(ii) electricity generated through the incineration of municipal solid waste.

''(2) BIOMASS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'biomass' means—

''(i) cellulosic (plant fiber) organic materials from a plant that is planted for the purpose of being used to produce energy;

''(ii) nonhazardous plant or algal matter that is derived from—

''(I) an agricultural crop, crop byproduct, or residue resource; or

''(II) waste, such as landscape or right-of-way trimmings (but not including municipal solid waste, recyclable postconsumer waste paper, painted, treated, or pressurized wood, wood contaminated with plastic, or metals);

''(iii) animal waste or animal byproducts; and

''(iv) landfill methane.

''(B) NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND CERTAIN OTHER PUBLIC LAND.—In the case of organic material removed from National Forest System land or from public land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the term 'biomass' means only organic material from—

''(i) ecological forest restoration;

''(ii) precommercial thinnings;

''(iii) brush;

''(iv) mill residues; or

''(v) slash.

''(C) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (B), the term 'biomass' does not include material or matter that would otherwise qualify as biomass if the material or matter is located on the following Federal land:

''(i) Federal land containing old growth forest or late successional forest unless the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture determines that the removal of organic material from the land—

''(I) is appropriate for the applicable forest type; and

''(II) maximizes the retention of—

''(aa) late-successional and large and old growth trees;

''(bb) late-successional and old growth forest structure; and

''(cc) late-successional and old growth forest composition.

''(ii) Federal land on which the removal of vegetation is prohibited, including components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

''(iii) Wilderness study areas.

''(iv) Inventoried roadless areas.

''(v) Components of the National Landscape Conservation System.

''(vi) National Monuments.

''(3) EXISTING FACILITY.—The term 'existing facility' means a facility for the generation of electric energy from a renewable energy resource that is not an eligible facility.

''(4) INCREMENTAL HYDROPOWER.—The term 'incremental hydropower' means additional generation that is achieved from increased efficiency or additions of capacity made on or after—

''(A) the date of enactment of this section; or

''(B) the effective date of an existing applicable State renewable portfolio standard program at a hydroelectric facility that was placed in service before that date.

''(5) INDIAN LAND.—The term 'Indian land' means—

''(A) any land within the limits of any Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria;

''(B) any land not within the limits of any Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria title to which was on the date of enactment of this section held by—

''(i) the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or

''(ii) any Indian tribe or individual subject to restriction by the United States against alienation;

''(C) any dependent Indian community; or

''(D) any land conveyed to any Alaska Native corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

''(6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian tribe' means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaskan Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), that

is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

''(7) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term 'renewable energy' means electric energy generated by a renewable energy resource.

''(8) RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE.—The term 'renewable energy resource' means solar, wind, ocean, tidal, geothermal energy, biomass, landfill gas, incremental hydropower, or hydrokinetic energy.

''(9) REPOWERING OR COFIRING INCREMENT.—The term 'repowering or cofiring increment' means—

''(A) the additional generation from a modification that is placed in service on or after the date of enactment of this section, to expand electricity production at a facility used to generate electric energy from a renewable energy resource;

''(B) the additional generation above the average generation during the 3-year period ending on the date of enactment of this section at a facility used to generate electric energy from a renewable energy resource or to cofire biomass that was placed in service before the date of enactment of this section; or

''(C) the portion of the electric generation from a facility placed in service on or after the date of enactment of this section, or a modification to a facility placed in service before the date of enactment of this section made on or after January 1, 2001, associated with cofiring biomass.

''(10) RETAIL ELECTRIC SUPPLIER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'retail electric supplier' means a person that sells electric energy to electric consumers (other than consumers in Hawaii) that sold not less than 1,000,000 megawatt hours of electric energy to electric consumers for purposes other than resale during the preceding calendar year.

''(B) INCLUSION.—The term 'retail electric supplier' includes a person that sells electric energy to electric consumers that, in combination with the sales of any affiliate organized after the date of enactment of this section, sells not less than 1,000,000 megawatt hours of electric energy to consumers for purposes other than resale.

''(C) SALES TO PARENT COMPANIES OR AFFILIATES.—For purposes of this paragraph, sales by any person to a parent company or to other affiliates of the person shall not be treated as sales to electric consumers.

''(D) GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the term 'retail electric supplier' does not include—

''(I) the United States, a State, any political subdivision of a State, or any agency, authority, or instrumentality of the United States, State, or political subdivision; or

''(II) a rural electric cooperative.

''(ii) INCLUSION.—The term 'retail electric supplier' includes an entity that is a political subdivision of a State, or an agency, authority, or instrumentality of the United States, a State, a political subdivision of a State, a rural electric cooperative that sells electric energy to electric consumers, or any other entity that sells electric energy to electric consumers that would not otherwise qualify as a retail electric supplier if the entity notifies the Secretary that the entity voluntarily agrees to participate in the Federal renewable electricity standard program.

''(b) COMPLIANCE.—For calendar year 2014 and each calendar year thereafter, each retail electric supplier shall meet the requirements of subsection (c) by submitting to the Secretary, not later than April 1 of the following calendar year, 1 or more of the following:

''(1) Federal renewable energy credits issued under subsection (e).

''(2) Certification of the renewable energy generated and electricity savings pursuant to the funds associated with State compliance payments as specified in subsection (e)(4)(G).

''(3) Alternative compliance payments pursuant to subsection (h).

''(c) REQUIRED ANNUAL PERCENTAGE.—For each of calendar years 2014 through 2039, the required annual percentage of the base quantity of electricity of a retail electric supplier that shall be generated from renewable energy resources, or otherwise credited towards the percentage requirement pursuant to subsection (d), shall be the applicable percentage specified in the following table:

"Calendar Years	Required Amount percentage
2014	6.0
2015	8.5
2016	8.5
2017	11.0
2018	11.0
2019	14.0
2020	14.0
2021	17.5
2022	17.5
2023	21.0
2024	21.0
2025	23.0
2026 and thereafter through 2039	25.0.

''(d) RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A retail electric supplier may satisfy the requirements of subsection (b)(1) through the submission of Federal renewable energy credits—

''(A) issued to the retail electric supplier under subsection (e);

''(B) obtained by purchase or exchange under subsection (f); or

''(C) borrowed under subsection (g).

''(2) FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS.—A Federal renewable energy credit may be counted toward compliance with subsection (b)(1) only once.

''(e) ISSUANCE OF FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish by rule a program—

''(A) to verify and issue Federal renewable energy credits to generators of renewable energy;

''(B) to track the sale, exchange, and retirement of the credits; and

''(C) to enforce the requirements of this section.

''(2) EXISTING NON-FEDERAL TRACKING SYSTEMS.—To the maximum extent practicable, in establishing the program, the Secretary shall rely on existing and emerging State or regional tracking systems that issue and track non-Federal renewable energy credits.

''(3) APPLICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity that generates electric energy through the use of a renewable energy resource may apply to the Secretary for the issuance of renewable energy credits.

''(B) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for the issuance of the credits, the applicant shall demonstrate to the Secretary that—

''(i) the electric energy will be transmitted onto the grid; or

''(ii) in the case of a generation offset, the electric energy offset would have otherwise been consumed onsite.

''(C) CONTENTS.—The application shall indicate—

''(i) the type of renewable energy resource that is used to produce the electricity;

''(ii) the location at which the electric energy will be produced; and

''(iii) any other information the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(4) QUANTITY OF FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the Secretary shall issue to a generator of electric energy 1 Federal renewable energy credit for each kilowatt hour of electric energy generated by the use of a renewable energy resource at an eligible facility.

''(B) INCREMENTAL HYDROPOWER.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purpose of compliance with this section, Federal renewable energy credits for incremental hydropower shall be based on the increase in average annual generation resulting from the efficiency improvements or capacity additions.

''(ii) WATER FLOW INFORMATION.—The incremental generation shall be calculated using the same water flow information that is—

''(I) used to determine a historic average annual generation baseline for the hydroelectric facility; and

''(II) certified by the Secretary or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

''(iii) OPERATIONAL CHANGES.—The calculation of the Federal renewable energy credits for incremental hydropower shall not be based on any operational changes at the hydroelectric facility that is not directly associated with the efficiency improvements or capacity additions.

''(C) INDIAN LAND.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue 2 renewable energy credits for each kilowatt hour of electric energy generated and supplied to the grid in a calendar year through the use of a renewable energy resource at an eligible facility located on Indian land.

''(ii) BIOMASS.—For purposes of this paragraph, renewable energy generated by biomass cofired with other fuels is eligible for 2 credits only if the biomass was grown on the land.

''(D) ON-SITE ELIGIBLE FACILITIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of electric energy generated by a renewable energy resource at an on-site eligible facility that is not larger than 1 megawatt in capacity and is used to offset all or part of the requirements of a customer for electric energy, the Secretary shall issue 3 renewable energy credits to the customer for each kilowatt hour generated.

''(ii) INDIAN LAND.—In the case of an on-site eligible facility on Indian land, the Secretary shall issue not more than 3 credits per kilowatt hour.

''(E) COMBINATION OF RENEWABLE AND NONRENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES.—If both a renewable energy resource and a nonrenewable energy resource are used to generate the electric energy, the Secretary shall issue the Federal renewable energy credits based on the proportion of the renewable energy resources used.

''(F) RETAIL ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS.—If a generator has sold electric energy generated through the use of a renewable energy resource to a retail electric supplier under a contract for power from an existing facility and the contract has not determined ownership of the Federal renewable energy credits associated with the generation, the Secretary shall issue the Federal renewable energy credits to the retail electric supplier for the duration of the contract.

''(G) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD PROGRAMS.—Payments

made by a retail electricity supplier, directly or indirectly, to a State for compliance with a State renewable portfolio standard program, or for an alternative compliance mechanism, shall be valued at 1 credit per kilowatt hour for the purpose of subsection (b)(2) based on the quantity of electric energy generation from renewable resources that results from the payments.

''(f) RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDIT TRADING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A Federal renewable energy credit may be sold, transferred, or exchanged by the entity to whom the credit is issued or by any other entity that acquires the Federal renewable energy credit, other than renewable energy credits from existing facilities.

''(2) CARRYOVER.—A Federal renewable energy credit for any year that is not submitted to satisfy the minimum renewable generation requirement of subsection (c) for that year may be carried forward for use pursuant to subsection (b)(1) within the next 3 years.

''(3) DELEGATION.—The Secretary may delegate to an appropriate market-making entity the administration of a national tradeable renewable energy credit market for purposes of creating a transparent national market for the sale or trade of renewable energy credits.

''(g) RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDIT BORROWING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2014, a retail electric supplier that has reason to believe the retail electric supplier will not be able to fully comply with subsection (b) may—

''(A) submit a plan to the Secretary demonstrating that the retail electric supplier will earn sufficient Federal renewable energy credits within the next 3 calendar years that, when taken into account, will enable the retail electric supplier to meet the requirements of subsection (b) for calendar year 2014 and the subsequent calendar years involved; and

''(B) on the approval of the plan by the Secretary, apply Federal renewable energy credits that the plan demonstrates will be earned within the next 3 calendar years to meet the requirements of subsection (b) for each calendar year involved.

''(2) REPAYMENT.—The retail electric supplier shall repay all of the borrowed Federal renewable energy credits by submitting an equivalent number of Federal renewable energy credits, in addition to the credits otherwise required under subsection (b), by calendar year 2022 or any earlier deadlines specified in the approved plan.

''(h) ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PAYMENTS.—As a means of compliance under subsection (b)(4), the Secretary shall accept payment equal to the lesser of—

''(1) 200 percent of the average market value of Federal renewable energy credits and Federal energy efficiency credits for the applicable compliance period; or

''(2) 3 cents per kilowatt hour (as adjusted on January 1 of each year following calendar year 2006 based on the implicit price deflator for the gross national product).

''(i) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—The Secretary may collect the information necessary to verify and audit—

''(1)(A) the annual renewable energy generation of any retail electric supplier; and

''(B) Federal renewable energy credits submitted by a retail electric supplier pursuant to subsection (b)(1);

''(2) the validity of Federal renewable energy credits submitted for compliance by a retail electric supplier to the Secretary; and

''(3) the quantity of electricity sales of all retail electric suppliers.

''(j) ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Incremental hydropower shall be subject to all applicable environmental laws and licensing and regulatory requirements.

''(k) STATE PROGRAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section diminishes any authority of a State or political subdivision of a State—

''(A) to adopt or enforce any law (including regulations) respecting renewable energy, including programs that exceed the required quantity of renewable energy under this section; or

''(B) to regulate the acquisition and disposition of Federal renewable energy credits by retail electric suppliers.

''(2) COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION.—No law or regulation referred to in paragraph (1)(A) shall relieve any person of any requirement otherwise applicable under this section.

''(3) COORDINATION WITH STATE PROGRAM.—The Secretary, in consultation with States that have in effect renewable energy programs, shall—

''(A) preserve the integrity of the State programs, including programs that exceed the required quantity of renewable energy under this section; and

''(B) facilitate coordination between the Federal program and State programs.

''(4) EXISTING RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS.—In the regulations establishing the program under this section, the Secretary shall incorporate common elements of existing renewable energy programs, including State programs, to ensure administrative ease, market transparency and effective enforcement.

''(5) MINIMIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS AND COSTS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall work with the States to minimize administrative burdens and costs to retail electric suppliers.

''(l) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—An electric utility that has sales of electric energy that are subject to rate regulation (including any utility with rates that are regulated by the Commission and any State regulated electric utility) shall not be denied the opportunity to recover the full amount of the prudently incurred incremental cost of renewable energy obtained to comply with the requirements of subsection (b).

''(m) PROGRAM REVIEW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the Academy shall conduct a comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of the program established under this section.

''(2) EVALUATION.—The study shall include an evaluation of—

''(A) the effectiveness of the program in increasing the market penetration and lowering the cost of the eligible renewable energy technologies;

''(B) the opportunities for any additional technologies and sources of renewable energy emerging since the date of enactment of this section;

''(C) the impact on the regional diversity and reliability of supply sources, including the power quality benefits of distributed generation;

''(D) the regional resource development relative to renewable potential and reasons for any investment in renewable resources; and

''(E) the net cost/benefit of the renewable electricity standard to the national and State economies, including—

''(i) retail power costs;

''(ii) the economic development benefits of investment;

''(iii) avoided costs related to environmental and congestion mitigation investments that would otherwise have been required;

''(iv) the impact on natural gas demand and price; and

''(v) the effectiveness of green marketing programs at reducing the cost of renewable resources.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2018, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report describing the results of the evaluation and any recommendations for modifications and improvements to the program.

''(n) STATE RENEWABLE ENERGY ACCOUNT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury a State renewable energy account.

''(2) DEPOSITS.—All money collected by the Secretary from the alternative compliance payments under subsection (h) shall be deposited into the State renewable energy account established under paragraph (1).

''(3) GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Proceeds deposited in the State renewable energy account shall be used by the Secretary, subject to annual appropriations, for a program to provide grants—

''(i) to the State agency responsible for administering a fund to promote renewable energy generation for customers of the State or an alternative agency designated by the State; or

''(ii) if no agency described in clause (i), to the State agency developing State energy conservation plans under section 362 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6322).

''(B) USE.—The grants shall be used for the purpose of—

''(i) promoting renewable energy production; and

''(ii) providing energy assistance and weatherization services to low-income consumers.

''(C) CRITERIA.—The Secretary may issue guidelines and criteria for grants awarded under this paragraph.

''(D) STATE-APPROVED FUNDING MECHANISMS.—At least 75 percent of the funds provided to each State for each fiscal year shall be used to promote renewable energy production through grants, production incentives, or other State-approved funding mechanisms.

''(E) ALLOCATION.—The funds shall be allocated to the States on the basis of retail electric sales subject to the renewable electricity standard under this section or through voluntary participation.

''(F) RECORDS.—State agencies receiving grants under this paragraph shall maintain such records and evidence of compliance as the Secretary may require.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. prec. 2601) is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title VI the following:

''Sec. 609. Rural and remote communities electrification grants.

''Sec. 610. Renewable electricity standard.''.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on May 8, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Hearing on the nomination of the Secretary of Health and Human Services-Designate, Sylvia Mathews Burwell.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Emily Schlichting of the committee staff on (202) 224–6840.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on May 13, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Strengthening Minority Serving Institutions: Best Practices and Innovations for Student Success.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Aissa Canchola of the committee staff on (202) 224–2009.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''New Routes for Funding and Financing Highways and Transit.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2014, at 3 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled ''Ukraine—Countering Russian Intervention and Supporting a Democratic State.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''A More Efficient and Effective Government: Cultivating the Federal Workforce.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator LANDRIEU, I ask unanimous consent that Megan Brewster, a fellow in Senator LANDRIEU's office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 113th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDING HEIGHT RULES CLARIFICATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4192, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4192) to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4192) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 438 submitted earlier today by Senators LANDRIEU and ALEXANDER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 438) congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 15th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 4 through May 10, 2014.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 438) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 439, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 439) supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 439) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 7, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2262, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, postcloture, and that the time during the adjournment count postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. The 30 hours of postcloture debate on the motion to

proceed to S. 2262 would expire at 5:45 p.m. tomorrow. Senators will be notified when the next vote is scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:16 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 6, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

HONORING DR. SAM DAVIS

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Sam Davis as he celebrates his 30th anniversary as pastor of Beulah Grove Baptist Church in Augusta, Georgia.

Dr. Davis was born in Barnwell, South Carolina, and is a graduate of Voorhees College, Morehouse School of Religion, and the Columbia Theological Seminary. Under Dr. Davis' leadership, Beulah Grove has greatly expanded its reach and increased its rank.

Beulah Grove is 100 years old, and Dr. Davis is only the ninth pastor in the church's history, but he has led that church for almost a third of that century. He has followed in the church's greatest traditions and led it into the 21st century as one of the most visionary communities of faith in the region.

To Dr. Davis, his wife, Beverly, and to the entire Beulah Grove Baptist community, I extend the heartiest of congratulations on this milestone, and I wish you all many, many more.

HONORING HENRY Y. KUHL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedicated public service of the Honorable Henry Y. Kuhl, a great patriot, family patriarch, public servant, businessman, and close friend, who for 35 years has served as chairman of the Hunterdon County Republican Committee. Henry will retire from his position this June, leaving a legacy that will stand the test of time in the history of New Jersey.

Henry's love of country, our State, and Hunterdon County has served as the foundation of his beliefs and his devotion to our system of government in the United States, based on faith in God, respect for the individual, self-reliance, free enterprise, and service to the larger community.

Henry's record as Republican county chairman is unparalleled. During his distinguished tenure, he has led an organization that has been overwhelmingly successful in producing winning majorities for Federal, State, county, and municipal candidates.

Henry has also been a delegate to 10 Republican National Conventions, helping shape the direction of our party under the leadership of Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush.

I have known Henry my entire life. He is a respected mentor and ally, and our families' paths have crossed for more than a century. His late father, Paul Kuhl, and my late father, Wesley L. Lance, were lifelong friends.

Henry's devotion to public service has been matched by his devotion to his family, church, community, and business. He and his beloved late wife, Elsa, raised two fine sons, who today are raising, with their spouses, their own families.

A dedicated member of the Flemington Presbyterian Church, Henry has been involved in many charitable endeavors. He is a proud alumnus of Flemington High School and Rider University. His family's business, Kuhl Corporation, is a world leader in manufacturing egg washing and other patented equipment, based on the agricultural heritage of Hunterdon County and of the Kuhl family.

When the Hunterdon County Republican Committee reorganizes following the June primary election, Henry will assume the role of chairman emeritus and continue to advance the causes to which he has dedicated his life.

My wife, Heidi Rohrbach, joins me in thanking the Honorable Henry Y. Kuhl for his service to Hunterdon County and the State of New Jersey. I know that he will be an esteemed leader for many years to come, based on the great tradition of the American people: friend helping friend, neighbor helping neighbor, citizen helping citizen.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, this morning, our Nation's leading climate scientists released the country's third National Climate Assessment. The report confirms that climate change is real, is being caused by humans, and is already harming communities across America. The report tells us that the scientific evidence is ''unequivocal.'' The impacts are being felt in every region, and they are growing more urgent. They are going to get worse if we don't act.

A record drought is destroying crops in California, torrential rains have flooded Florida, and wildfires are getting more intense. Coastal areas are being inundated as sea levels rise. No sector of our economy—from oyster hatcheries on the west coast to maple syrup producers in New England—are untouched. Even allergy sufferers are affected, as the pollen season starts earlier and lasts longer.

The National Climate Assessment concludes that unless we act now to cut carbon pollution, these impacts will intensify. No State, no community, and no congressional district will be spared from climate change. We will all be affected.

And so we are at a crossroads. One path is to listen to the scientists. We can protect our environment by curbing carbon pollution from power plants and oil refineries. We can lead the world in developing the clean energy technologies of the future, like solar and wind energy. We can meet our moral obligation to preserve our fragile atmosphere for our children and grandchildren.

The other path is to deny the science and ignore the growing threat of climate change. We can watch our coastlines flood, our forests burn, and our crops wither. We can let the Chinese and other countries dominate the trillion-dollar market for the clean, renewable energy of the future.

It should be an easy choice, but the special interests that profit from fossil

fuels are spending hundreds of millions of dollars to obscure the issues. The Koch brothers, the coal companies, and the oil industry have joined forces to stop any action to address climate change in Congress.

Consider this: earlier this year, virtually every Republican Member of the House voted to block EPA regulation of dangerous carbon pollution. They even voted to deny that climate change is occurring.

I am the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. This committee has jurisdiction over our Nation's energy policy. Over the last 3 years, Representative BOBBY RUSH, the ranking member of the Energy Subcommittee, and I have sent over 30 letters requesting that we hold hearings on climate science so we can make informed decisions. Not even one hearing on the science has been held.

Thankfully, President Obama is not waiting for Congress to act. The President is listening to the scientists. He recognizes the danger of uncontrolled climate change and is using his authority under existing law to cut carbon pollution.

The President is absolutely right to act. His climate action plan is reasonable, it is affordable, and it will protect our atmosphere for our children and future generations. It accelerates a transition to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs.

The President has said he is willing to listen to other ideas, but Republicans have offered no alternatives. I have repeatedly asked the House Republicans, If you don't like the President's plan, what is your proposal? But I have never gotten an answer because they don't have one.

Saying ''no'' to every solution is not a plan. Doing nothing is not a plan. Denying the science is not a plan. No one can accept what the scientists are telling us and fail to support a plan of action. If Republicans aren't going to offer solutions, the President must continue to act. He deserves our support.

We still have time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change presented by the National Climate Assessment. But the window is closing fast. We must act now to stop carbon pollution and invest in the clean energy technologies of the future.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day. Please help us to use it well.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given. Help them to meet their responsibilities during these days, to attend to the immediate needs and concerns of the moment, all the while enlightened by the majesty of Your creation and Your eternal spirit.

The season of graduation for millions of American youth is upon us. May our appreciation as a Nation of the value of education among those who are our future be incentive enough to guarantee its importance in our public policy considerations.

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IT'S ABOUT TIME TO GET THE FACTS ON BENGHAZI

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been 19 months since terrorists stormed the American consulate in Benghazi. Four Americans were murdered. Today, their killers still roam free somewhere in Libya. Why have none of them been apprehended?

Meanwhile, back in the United States, more questions than answers remain for this administration.

Who is responsible for failing to rescue those victims? Who is responsible for the massive secrecy campaign of hiding what actually happened? Where was the administration during the time of the attack? Why did Ambassador Rice mislead the world on national television as to the facts?

A new email has surfaced from the White House entitled, ''PREP CALL with Susan,'' where the administration created a goal ''to underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy.''

Why didn't the administration just tell America the truth about what happened?

I applaud Speaker BOEHNER for establishing a select committee on Benghazi to find out the truth. People in government that concealed and botched the Benghazi murders and the terrorists who killed Americans should be held accountable. Justice requires it—and justice is what we do.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING MYSTIC AQUARIUM

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to announce that this Thursday Mystic Aquarium of Mystic, Connecticut, will be awarded the 2014 Institute for Museum and Library Service's 2014 National Medal. This prestigious award is only given to 10 institutions each year, and it is the highest honor bestowed upon museums and libraries for exceptional service to their communities. The award will be presented by First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the medals program.

Mystic Aquarium is a crown jewel of eastern Connecticut. Founded in 1973, it has more than 4,000 animals and over 300 species, including New England's only beluga whale. It has played an important role for Connecticut residents and visitors alike, with numerous education, research, and cultural exchange programs for students from around the country.

Dr. Stephen Coan, CEO and president of Sea Research Foundation, the parent of Mystic Aquarium, will accept the award on behalf of the aquarium. It has pioneered ocean exploration, including extensive undersea research in

the submersible, the *Nautilus*, skippered by Dr. Robert Ballard, best known for his discovery of the *Titanic*.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Mystic Aquarium and Dr. Coan as they receive the 2014 IMLS National Medal. I thank them for their monumental dedication and contribution to the Mystic community.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI MURDERS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people have lost faith in the administration.

When four of America's heroes were brutally murdered at the consulate in Benghazi, Libya, the President promised the families of the fallen that he would bring those responsible to justice and prevent a future attack.

Congress has held countless hearings to conduct oversight responsibilities for the last 19 months. Last week, a secret memo was discovered. Despite subpoenas, unanswered questions remain as to how the administration handled the attack.

We must continue to pursue every avenue to ensure all Americans remain safe from terrorist attacks at home and abroad. Because the administration continues to provide a misleading and duplicitous coverup, we owe it to those who have died for America to develop a select committee to continue the investigation of the Benghazi murders.

I am very grateful House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER picked a proven prosecutor for the job. Congressman TREY GOWDY of South Carolina is most capable of forcing the administration to reveal the truth.

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

THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE TRUTH

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Buddha once said there are three things that cannot be hidden long: the Sun, the Moon, and the truth.

It has been 18 months since the attack in Benghazi, and this piece of proverbial wisdom has again proved prescient.

Evidence is mounting that the Obama administration manipulated the truth of what happened on September 11, 2012, when our Ambassador and three other Americans were killed in what early reports indicated was a planned attack on a U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi.

Sadly, repeated attempts by this House to ascertain the truth of what happened have been dismissed by the administration as ''politicizing'' the tragedy. The deep irony is that it was the White House's political maneuvering which led to the truth being buried in the first place.

The emails released last week shed more light on the White House's response to the attacks. More will be learned as the investigation continues.

Coverups, like clouds, are temporary. They can't hold back the light forever. Americans want answers, and they will get them.

HONORING NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, back in my home community of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Northampton Township Volunteer Fire Company is celebrating 100 years—a century of service—and the community that I represent proudly recognizes the spirit and unflinching courage of its dedicated and skilled volunteers who remain faithful and ready to protect their neighbors year after year.

The fire company continues to serve the Northampton Township community with a staunch group of trained firefighters who consistently demonstrate the highest order of public service, risking their lives as they do to save others. Each of the firefighters and company officers are an integral part of the history of the century-old fire company, and each reflects the true spirit of first responders everywhere.

Throughout its history, the Northampton Township Volunteer Fire Company and its members have set an example of selfless volunteerism and dedication for others to follow. I congratulate them on this landmark anniversary.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 5, 2014 at 5:19 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 436.

Election of the Honorable Andrew B. Willison as Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to section 743(b)(3) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113–76), I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to the National Commission on Hunger:

Dr. Deborah Alice Frank, MD, Brookline, MA.

William Howard Shore, Boston, MA.

Thank you for your attention to these appointments.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 6, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 6, 2014 at 10:22 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4120.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CAPITAL ACCESS FOR SMALL COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT OF 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3584) to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3584

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. PRIVATELY INSURED CREDIT UNIONS AUTHORIZED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF A FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(a) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1424(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) CERTAIN PRIVATELY INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of subparagraph (B), a credit union shall be treated as an insured depository institution for purposes of determining the eligibility of such credit union for membership in a Federal home loan bank under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

''(B) CERTIFICATION BY APPROPRIATE SUPERVISOR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph and subject to clause (ii), a credit union which lacks Federal deposit insurance and which has applied for membership in a Federal home loan bank may be treated as meeting all the eligibility requirements for Federal deposit insurance only if the appropriate supervisor of the State in which the credit union is chartered has determined that the credit union meets all the eligibility requirements for Federal deposit insurance as of the date of the application for membership.

''(ii) CERTIFICATION DEEMED VALID.—If, in the case of any credit union to which clause (i) applies, the appropriate supervisor of the State in which such credit union is chartered fails to make a determination pursuant to such clause by the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the application, the credit union shall be deemed to have met the requirements of clause (i).

''(C) SECURITY INTERESTS OF FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK NOT AVOIDABLE.—Notwithstanding any provision of State law authorizing a conservator or liquidating agent of a credit union to repudiate contracts, no such provision shall apply with respect to—

''(i) any extension of credit from any Federal home loan bank to any credit union which is a member of any such bank pursuant to this paragraph; or

''(ii) any security interest in the assets of such credit union securing any such extension of credit.

''(D) PROTECTION FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK ADVANCES.—Notwithstanding any State law to the contrary, if a Bank makes an advance under section 10 to a State-chartered credit union that is not federally insured—

''(i) the Bank's interest in any collateral securing such advance has the same priority and is afforded the same standing and rights that the security interest would have had if the advance had been made to a federally-insured credit union; and

''(ii) the Bank has the same right to access such collateral that the Bank would have had if the advance had been made to a federally-insured credit union.''.

(b) COPIES OF AUDITS OF PRIVATE INSURERS OF CERTAIN DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED TO SUPERVISORY AGENCIES.—Section 43(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831t(a)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) in the case of depository institutions described in subsection (e)(2)(A) the deposits of which are insured by the private insurer which are members of a Federal home loan bank, to the Federal Housing Finance Agency, not later than 7 days after the audit is completed.''.

SEC. 3. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit a report to Congress—

(1) on the adequacy of insurance reserves held by a private deposit insurer that insures deposits in an entity described in section 43(e)(2)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831t(e)(2)(A)); and

(2) for an entity described in paragraph (1) the deposits of which are insured by a private deposit insurer, information on the level of compliance with Federal regulations relating to the disclosure of a lack of Federal deposit insurance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 3584, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for their efforts in drafting the legislation before us this afternoon.

The Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act is bipartisan legislation that passed the House Financial Services Committee by a vote of 55–0 earlier this spring. This bill will provide meaningful regulatory relief for privately insured credit unions by allowing them to become members of the Federal Home Loan Bank system.

There are approximately 130 privately insured credit unions, with nearly $13 billion in assets in nine States across the country. These credit unions currently cannot join the Federal Home Loan Bank system, which provides an additional source of mortgage funding for its members. Allowing privately insured credit unions to join the Federal Home Loan Bank system will allow these credit unions to increase the availability of mortgage credit in the communities that they serve.

I commend the office for identifying this inequity and putting forth this legislation. This issue is not new. Similar provisions were included in the previous regulatory relief measures that passed the House with overwhelming support.

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

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

I rise to support H.R. 3584, a bill that permits credit unions insured by private companies access to the Federal Home Loan Bank system. Today, there are 132 credit unions with approximately $13 billion in assets that cannot access additional liquidity for mortgage credit but for a statutory obstacle requiring credit unions to have Federal insurance. With membership, privately insured credit unions will be able to offer their members mortgages at more affordable rates and other products, which, in turn, helps many communities across the country.

In the past, some Members raised concerns that the home loan banks should only serve federally insured institutions, but I believe that those concerns have been largely addressed with the adoption of several helpful amendments both before and during the committee markup of this bill.

Mrs. BEATTY, for example, worked with Mr. STIVERS to address some of the concerns of the Federal credit union regulator. In addition, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) offered two amendments to better protect the Federal Home Loan Bank system against a bank run among privately insured credit unions.

All that being said, these credit unions and their private insurer fared remarkably well during the last financial crisis even as many of their federally insured counterparts failed. As a

result, these credit unions helped bolster many communities through the economic downturn.

So I would like to thank the sponsors of this bill, Mr. STIVERS as well as his Democratic cosponsor Mrs. BEATTY, for all of their efforts to work across the aisle to assist community financial institutions and their members.

I support the adoption of H.R. 3584, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I would now like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), the author of this bill.

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I would thank the gentlelady from West Virginia for her support.

I rise in support of H.R. 3584, the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act. This bill simply makes a statutory change that would allow nonfederally insured credit unions the right to apply for membership with the Federal home loan banks. It does not guarantee that they would receive membership. They would have to go through the membership application like everyone else. Similar legislation passed the House in 2006, with a bipartisan vote of 415 for, none against.

Purchasing a home is part of the American Dream, and this bill will help these small credit unions be able to make more mortgage loans as they use the Federal Home Loan Bank for liquidity and help more people live the American Dream. This bill would help those credit unions be able to have the liquidity that they don't have today.

The Federal Home Loan Bank, which was established in 1932, has been an important part of credit and liquidity for mortgage lending for the past 80 years for most Main Street institutions. Unfortunately, 132 small credit unions don't have that support right now. While most large and small institutions who are members of the Federal Home Loan Bank are able to use it every day for liquidity and to serve their customers, these 132 small credit unions in nine States with assets that total about $11 billion are left out because of a glitch in the law.

There will not be any additional risk to the Federal Home Loan Banks as a result of this. No more than $4 billion would be pledged, probably, as a result of this. So there is no real concentration risk.

I do want to thank Mr. MEEKS from New York for his amendments that helped strengthen the bill. And while these credit unions don't have, I think, much risk to the institution, I think Mr. MEEKS' amendments will ensure that the Federal Home Loan Bank is never put at risk by the authorizing language in this legislation.

You know, credit unions didn't have Federal insurance until the 1970s, and many small credit unions have continued to have private insurance and remain State-regulated. Those are the institutions we are talking about today, and there is precedent for institutions like them to join the Federal Home Loan Bank. So I believe that it is appropriate to allow them to not be discriminated against and allow them to use the Federal Home Loan Bank and ensure that they can serve their customers the same way other Main Street banks and credit unions can.

Again, this bill does not guarantee that any institution will become a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank; it simply gives them the ability to apply.

I want to thank Mrs. BEATTY from Columbus, Ohio, and Ranking Member WATERS for their support in the Financial Services Committee. I want to thank Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. MEEKS for working with me on this bill.

As you heard, this bill passed the Financial Services Committee by a vote of 55–0. I would ask my colleagues to support this legislation and correct an oversight that doesn't allow these institutions to use the Federal Home Loan Bank and doesn't allow many of their customers to live the American Dream. So hopefully we can correct that today by supporting this.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), the coauthor of H.R. 3584.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Ranking Member WATERS for all of her support and her leadership.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3584, the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act, as amended.

Today I stand here, joining my colleague from Ohio, Congressman STEVE STIVERS, in support of final passage of this bipartisan legislation. I thank the gentleman for introducing this bill on which I partnered as the lead Democrat. In a show of bipartisanship, we were able to work together to have the legislation unanimously reported out of the Financial Services Committee, as it is certainly worth noting again, with a vote of 55–0.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3584, if enacted, would permit privately insured credit unions to apply for membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank system. It would not, however, mandate that these privately insured credit unions become members of the Federal Home Loan Bank. Currently, out of roughly some 6,000 credit unions across the country, there are 132 privately insured credit unions operated in nine States. These States include Alabama, California, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Nevada, my home State of Ohio, and Texas.

In particular, this bill would improve access to home mortgage loans for members of the three privately insured credit unions that are based in my Third Congressional District of Ohio. H.R. 3584 is an extremely important piece of legislation for these privately insured credit unions because it will help give members and businesses greater access to credit in a tight credit market.

Additionally, this legislation would also benefit the exclusive insurers of privately insured credit unions across the country, which are based in central Ohio, just north of my congressional district, which provide employment for many Ohioans.

□ 1645

In addition, Madam Speaker, in order to ensure the best-drafted bill, Congressman MEEKS and I offered amendments that were accepted during the committee markup.

My amendment does two things. First, it removes any language referencing the National Credit Union Administration from the text of the legislation—clarifying that this legislation would not grant any supervisory jurisdiction to the NCUA over privately insured credit unions.

Secondly, it created a Government Accountability Office study and report to Congress on the adequacy of insurance reserves held by the private insurer of these credit unions and also on the compliance of these credit unions with Federal regulations requiring consumers to receive disclosures explaining that such credit unions are privately—not federally—insured.

These changes were supported by the NCUA and unanimously by the entire Financial Services Committee.

Indeed, H.R. 3584, the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act, as amended, comes to the floor today because of the efforts of many members of the Financial Services Committee who worked to advance the legislation through regular order of the committee.

I would urge support of H.R. 3584 because this bipartisan legislation is good policy, it is good for small credit unions, and it is an easy and effective way to demonstrate bipartisan, nationwide support for local communities and businesses.

Madam Speaker, I believe this legislation is a perfect example of the type of regular order, committee-driven action that we should use as a template for bipartisan cooperation in the House, and which, if enacted, would bring real benefits to the national housing markets. I urge all of the Members to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 3584, as amended.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, so if the gentlelady would like to close, then I will follow.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I simply ask for support for this important legislation, and I commend both

Mr. STIVERS and Mrs. BEATTY for the wonderful job that they did in providing the kind of leadership that brought both sides of the aisle together. I would simply ask for support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. I want to thank both the sponsors, as well, and the committee chair and Ms. WATERS for her work on this bill. I echo her sentiments. I would like to urge support and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3584, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

HELPING EXPAND LENDING PRACTICES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES ACT

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2672) to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for a county to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2672

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act''.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF RURAL AREA.

(a) APPLICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall establish an application process under which a person who lives or does business in a State may, with respect to an area identified by the person in such State that has not been designated by the Bureau as a rural area for purposes of a Federal consumer financial law (as defined under section 1002 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010), apply for such area to be so designated.

(b) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—When evaluating an application submitted under subsection (a), the Bureau shall take into consideration the following factors:

(1) Criteria used by the Director of the Bureau of the Census for classifying geographical areas as rural or urban.

(2) Criteria used by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to designate counties as metropolitan or micropolitan or neither.

(3) Criteria used by the Secretary of Agriculture to determine property eligibility for rural development programs.

(4) The Department of Agriculture rural-urban commuting area codes.

(5) A written opinion provided by the State's bank supervisor, as defined under section 3(r) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(r)).

(6) Population density.

(c) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after receiving an application submitted under subsection (a), the Bureau shall—

(A) publish such application in the Federal Register; and

(B) make such application available for public comment for not fewer than 90 days.

(2) LIMITATION ON ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Bureau, during the public comment period with respect to an application submitted under subsection (a), to accept an additional application with respect to the area that is the subject of the initial application.

(d) DECISION ON DESIGNATION.—Not later than 90 days after the end of the public comment period under subsection (c)(1) for an application, the Bureau shall—

(1) grant or deny such application, in whole or in part; and

(2) publish such grant or denial in the Federal Register, along with an explanation of what factors the Bureau relied on in making such determination.

(e) SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS.—A decision by the Bureau under subsection (d) to deny an application for an area to be designated as a rural area shall not preclude the Bureau from accepting a subsequent application submitted under subsection (a) for such area to be so designated, so long as such subsequent application is made after the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date that the Bureau denies the application under subsection (d).

(f) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have any force or effect after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 2672, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, the legislation before us this afternoon makes an important improvement to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's qualified mortgage rule that went into effect this past January. Under the Bureau's proposed rule, a community bank or credit union operating in a rural community would be afforded some flexibility to underwrite mortgages that otherwise would not be deemed a qualified mortgage. These products, sometimes referred to as balloon loans, are a critical source of mortgage credit in rural and agricultural communities. Although the Bureau has recognized the importance of this type of credit in rural communities, the definition that they used for a rural community will result in fewer mortgage options for consumers in rural communities.

The Bureau relied on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Urban Influence Codes to define a rural community. Under this definition, half of the counties in the State of West Virginia are considered urban. Well, I think those of us who have driven through West Virginia would find that hard to believe. According to the Bureau, Clay County, West Virginia, which has a population density of 30 people per square mile, is urban. Similarly, neighboring Calhoun County, which has a population density of 27 people per square mile, is also deemed urban by the Bureau. These examples demonstrate a complete lack of understanding of rural America.

Mr. BARR's legislation sets up a process by which a community can petition the Bureau to be reclassified as rural. This commonsense approach strikes an appropriate balance that will allow consumers in rural areas to continue to have access to mortgage credit. I commend Mr. BARR of Kentucky for authoring this legislation and deftly navigating it through the House Financial Services Committee, where it passed 55–1.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical piece of legislation. Obviously, it will have a great impact on rural America, which is where I live and where many of us do, too. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker and Members, I rise in support of H.R. 2672, the CFPB Rural Designation Petition and Correction Act. I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) for working with the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) to introduce this bipartisan legislation.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has recognized the challenges rural communities with limited access to banking services face and are appropriately reconsidering how to designate rural counties.

However, some large counties can have both large urban centers and rolling farmland within their borders, preventing them from being considered rural. This measure would direct the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to establish an application process so that a lender who lives or does business in a county that does not meet the rural definition can still apply to serve

as a rural lender under the CFPB's qualified mortgage rule.

While balloon payments were a feature of many of the risky and predatory loans that ended in financial disaster for American families, there are some specific places and times when they may make sense, especially in rural communities.

I am pleased that this legislation is narrowly tailored to ensure the kinds of institutions that would be allowed to make these loans are truly community banks—small institutions that play an active role in their communities, with personal knowledge of their customers and their needs.

As we have learned from flood insurance reform, applying map-based standards uniformly across the diverse geography of the U.S. is incredibly challenging. This legislation would ensure that in areas that may not fit the standard, but where common sense shows them to be rural, the local community would have input into the process.

I also want to acknowledge the CFPB for acting very quickly in the face of the feedback it received on the rural definition it initially proposed, making certain that credit continued to flow to borrowers by offering a 2-year waiver for all small creditors during the process of re-proposing its rural definition.

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I now would like to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky, Congressman BARR, the author and sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee for her leadership on this important legislation. I want to thank also my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have joined us in a bipartisan way to advance this sensible legislative correction.

Madam Speaker, obviously, government bureaucrats don't always know best, and they certainly don't know our local communities better than we do. That is why I introduced H.R. 2672, the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act, or HELP Rural Communities Act, which would help remedy a bizarre situation created by a flawed, one-size-fits-all government regulation that is making life harder for millions of Americans, including my constituents in central and eastern Kentucky.

My legislation, the HELP Rural Communities Act, is about making the Federal Government more responsive to the people who know their communities better than regulators in Washington, D.C. It is a simple, pragmatic, and bipartisan solution that says that if Federal bureaucrats are going to impose different rules based on the localized characteristics of an area, then they actually need to listen to the input of the people in the communities who know those characteristics of those communities.

A few weeks ago, I was visiting with constituents in a rural county in my district, Bath County, in a country general store. And when I was sitting there talking to my constituents, a horse-drawn buggy passed by. Now, this is far from an uncommon occurrence. This was just another reminder that Bath County, Kentucky, in my district, is very much a rural area.

Amazingly, however, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington does not recognize Bath County as rural. Instead, the bureaucrats at the CFPB improperly designated Bath County as nonrural. Now, there are plenty of similar examples throughout the country of the CFPB oddly and incorrectly designating undeniably rural areas as nonrural, which is why H.R. 2672, the HELP Rural Communities Act, enjoys broad, bipartisan support and passed out of the Financial Services Committee by a vote of 55–1.

You may be wondering why this rural versus nonrural distinction matters. Well, here is why: the CFPB imposes more stringent lending rules and restrictions on local financial institutions based in nonrural communities than it does on financial institutions in rural communities. So when the Bureau gets these rural designations wrong all throughout the country, the consequence is that it constrains the availability of credit, including for balloon loans, to rural customers of community banks and community credit unions.

But don't just take it from me. Charles Vice, who is the top banking regulator in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions and the chairman of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, has emphasized the importance of preserving balloon loans in rural communities.

In his testimony before our committee, the Financial Services Committee, in the House in June, Commissioner Vice stated:

> When used responsibly, balloon loans are a useful source of credit for borrowers in all areas. Properly underwritten balloon loans are tailored to the needs and circumstances of the borrower, including situations where the borrower or property is otherwise ineligible for standard mortgage products.

So the need for this legislation has been made clear by the regulators themselves. But it has also been made clear to me by a community banker in Bath County, a community banker who has been part of his local institution for multiple generations. His father was the president of the community bank, his grandfather was the president of the community bank and, before that, his great-grandfather. This young man, Thomas Richards, testified before our committee in December.

He said:

> Unnecessary restrictions on balloon loans will lead to some qualified borrowers not receiving the credit that they deserve, and from a small community's standpoint, these restrictions would be devastating to the livelihood of that area.

It was really interesting to hear Mr. Richards testify because he said that his small, little community bank in Bath County, Kentucky, had survived the great economic changes over the centuries. It had survived the Great Depression, it survived the stagflation of the late 1970s and the early 1980s, and it even survived the financial crisis in 2008. But he said that the greatest single threat facing his small, community bank in rural Bath County, Kentucky, was the avalanche of red tape coming out of Washington in 2013 and 2014.

□ 1700

If left unfixed, these rules will block customers in rural communities from obtaining responsibly underwritten balloon loans. These are loans which Kentucky bankers throughout my district commonly use to provide credit to local customers who may not fit perfectly into Washington-dictated lending straitjackets.

These loans are vital to all kinds of individuals in rural America, from businessowners on Main Street, who simply seek to preserve their business, to farmers preparing for the next planting season.

A balloon loan can be the lifeline that finally helps a young family purchase a home; or it can help an individual repair their car, so they can get to work each day. At its core, balloon loans are common throughout rural America because they offer consumers flexibility and help community banks and community credit unions mitigate interest rate risk.

As you can see, these loans are tailored to the credit needs of the customer, which is why they are so popular throughout Kentucky. The tradition of community backing in Kentucky has always been about relationship banking. It is about truly knowing your customer and having that development of trust, so that the banker knows whether or not the customer can repay that loan.

H.R. 2672 is necessary because it preserves the best traditions of rural community banking, which are now being jeopardized by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's incorrect rural designations throughout the country.

Really quickly, what does the bill exactly do? This bill creates a petition process in which individuals within a State could petition the Bureau to have it reconsider an improper designation of nonrural status for an area that is plainly rural.

Instead of limiting applicants to only being able to challenge a designation based on county lines, H.R. 2672 would give the applicant the flexibility to define the specified and bounded area that they would like to see switched from nonrural to rural.

In other words, we don't want to lock people into using counties when they don't have to. This is important because county sizes can vary significantly throughout the country, particularly in Western States, and I want to thank my colleague and friend on the other side of the aisle, Congressman HINOJOSA, for his contribution to this feature of the legislation.

The legislation specifies a number of commonsense factors that CFPB must consider when evaluating an application. In addition to the local input of the applicant, these factors include population density; a written opinion provided by the State's bank supervisor; and criteria used by the Census, OMB, and the Department of Agriculture for properly classifying geographic areas as either rural or urban.

Upon receiving an application, the CFPB is to provide for a 90-day public comment period and then grant or deny such applications within an additional 90 days. The Bureau shall then publish in the Federal Register an explanation of the factors it relied on in making its ultimate determination.

Once again, I am pleased that this is a bipartisan bill. I want to thank especially Congressman HINOJOSA for his input in helping to improve this legislation. I also want to thank all of the other cosponsors of the bill, which is endorsed by a broad coalition, including the Kentucky Bankers Association, the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, the Kentucky Credit Union League, the Credit Union National Association, the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, the American Bankers Association, the Independent Community Bankers of America, the National Association of Realtors, and the chairman of the Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions—again, the top banking regulator in Kentucky, Commissioner Charles Vice.

This is a commonsense and simple bill, and I appreciate the opportunity to present it here today. I urge my colleagues to support this simple reform piece of legislation, and I urge the support and immediate passage of this legislation.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), a cosponsor of H.R. 2672.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 2672, the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act, as amended. I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, Congressman BARR of Kentucky, for your leadership on this bill.

As the chairman of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus, I have dealt with the varying definitions of rural for many years. Given that the definitions promulgated by the USDA are problematic on many counts, I was very concerned when I learned that the CFPB originally used them as a guide for their rule.

The original rule by the CFPB would exclude Hidalgo County in my 15th Congressional District in deep south Texas. Hidalgo County includes some urban areas, but much of it is also rural.

It is home to the most colonias in the Nation. Colonias often lack basic infrastructure, such as indoor plumbing and electricity. They are rural by definition. We need to ensure that community banks and credit unions are not prevented from investing in such rural communities.

The CFPB's new mortgage rules discourage risky mortgage lending practices that sparked the financial crisis. However, community banks and credit unions did not cause the crisis and have legitimate reasons for flexibility when it comes to serving rural America.

Rural community bankers know their customers by name; often, they are the only option for credit within hundreds of miles. They understand the unique financial needs of their community and how best to serve the farmers, to serve the ranchers and small businesses that rely on them.

I appreciate that the CFPB has heard our concerns and has responded by offering a short exemption. I believe the petition process enacted by this legislation will only strengthen the CFPB's final rule.

This is an important opportunity given that rural is not easily defined and looks different by region. It makes good sense for the CFPB to follow the USDA's lead and for communities to be able to petition their rural status.

I thank Congressman BARR for his outstanding work on this bill and for including the changes that I proposed. Defining rural on a county-level basis is too arbitrary, given the large size of counties in Texas and other Western States. I do not believe the bill undermines the CFPB's commitment to consumer protection, and I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2672.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I would simply like to ask all of my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I would like to commend Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. BARR, and I would also like to commend Mrs. CAPITO and all who have worked so well together to ensure that we pay attention to the problems of rural communities, and this bill certainly does that.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I echo the comments of the ranking member, and I thank her for her help on this bill. I thank Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. BARR for their good, hard work.

As I said earlier in my opening statement, rural America does have a different way of trying to access credit and to make sure that homeownership becomes the reality that many of us hope for our families. I would like to congratulate the sponsors, and I urge passage of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2672, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MONEY REMITTANCES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4386) to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4386

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Money Remittances Improvement Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. COMPLIANCE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON MONETARY INSTRUMENT TRANSACTIONS.—Section 5318(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

''(6) rely on examinations conducted by a State supervisory agency of a category of financial institution, if the Secretary determines that—

''(A) the category of financial institution is required to comply with this subchapter and regulations prescribed under this subchapter; or

''(B) the State supervisory agency examines the category of financial institution for compliance with this subchapter and regulations prescribed under this subchapter; and''.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—Section 128 of Public Law 91–508 (12 U.S.C. 1958) is amended—

(1) by striking ''this title'' and inserting ''this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1829b)''; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following: ''The Secretary may rely on examinations conducted by a State supervisory agency of a category of financial institution, if the Secretary determines that the category of financial institution is required to comply with this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (and regulations prescribed under this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act), or the State supervisory agency examines the category of financial institution for compliance with this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (and regulations prescribed under this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act).''.

(c) CONSULTATION WITH STATE AGENCIES.—In issuing rules to carry out section 5318(a)(6) of title 31, United States Code, and section 128 of Public Law 91–508 (12 U.S.C. 1958), the Secretary of the Treasury shall consult with State supervisory agencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous material on H.R. 4386, the bill currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I would like to thank Mr. ELLISON and Mr. PAULSEN from the Financial Services Committee for drafting the legislation before us today. I know that many of their constituents rely on money transfer services—as many do across this country—to remit money to family members living abroad.

One of the current challenges facing the money service business and the regulatory agencies that enforce the law is a lack of information-sharing between the State and Federal entities. The end result is these entities are examined for compliance both at the State and Federal level.

H.R. 4386 seeks to reduce the compliance burden for these businesses by allowing for greater information sharing between State and Federal agencies. This legislation will make it easier for consumers seeking money transfers to access these services.

I commend the authors of this legislation for identifying the duplication between State and Federal compliance and putting forth a proposal to streamline the regulatory framework for these businesses.

Consumers will have greater access to the financial services they need and want, while at the same time making it easier for these businesses—and the financial institutions they partner with—to make sure they are in compliance with the law. I urge adoption of this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4386, the Money Remittances Improvement Act, offered by the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), a member of the House Financial Services Committee and a cochair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Representative ELLISON has worked diligently to get this important bill to the floor for some time, and I thank him for that. I am also grateful to Financial Services Committee Chairman JEB HENSARLING for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor today.

H.R. 4386 is a commonsense measure that will strengthen Bank Secrecy Act examinations of the nonbank financial institutions that lack a Federal regulator by permitting the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, known as FinCEN, to rely on examinations already conducted by State supervisory agencies where they meet Federal standards.

This straightforward change will make better use of limited State and Federal resources and will ensure that the wide range of nonbank financial institutions, currently subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service as delegated by FinCEN, will be subject to more consistent and effective oversight.

In addition to furthering our national security interests, the enhanced regulatory coordination and robust oversight of nonbank antimoney-laundering compliance provided for in this bill will make it easier for lawful and well-regulated nonbank institutions, such as money service businesses, to provide remittances and other essential financial services.

Access to remittances is particularly important in States like Minnesota, Ohio, Washington, and California, which are home to diaspora communities from the east African nations of Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia, and elsewhere.

For family members living in fragile states, remittances sent from the United States often provide an essential lifeline during difficult periods of drought famine, conflict, and economic disruption.

In an environment where banks and credit unions are understandably eager to reduce risks of all kinds, this is exactly the type of legislation we need. By strengthening oversight of nonbank money transmitters and other nonbank actors, this bill will help increase the confidence banks and credit unions rely on in determining whether to provide the account services that nonbank institutions need to stay in business.

□ 1715

It will also do so without diluting the important risk-based due diligence requirement banks and credit unions are subject to under the Bank Secrecy Act.

Appropriately, current law requires that banks and credit unions take steps to ensure that their nonbank customers meet core Bank Secrecy Act compliance obligations, including recordkeeping and reporting requirements, ongoing monitoring for suspicious activity, and training for employees to ensure they are familiar with their obligations under the law.

While banks, credit unions, and their executives must be expected to meet obligations under the law, we must also do more to provide them with the tools necessary to access compliance risk, distinguish between good and bad actors. To strengthen our national security, promote a more sound financial system, save taxpayers money, and provide fairness and relief to immigrant communities across this Nation and their families around the globe, I urge all Members of the House to vote in favor of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I would like to reserve the balance of my time. I have no further speakers.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I would like to start out by thanking Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS. I would also like to thank the people who I have worked closely with on the bill, including my own staff, who did a fine job, but also Congressman PAULSEN, who has been my friend of many years; Congressman DUFFY, who is away tending to family affairs with a newborn baby; and also Congressman HINOJOSA and many others.

The fact is that this is a commonsense good piece of legislation. It is the kind of thing that it would be great if we worked on more of. Both Federal and State regulators have a responsibility to provide oversight over nonbank financial institutions like money services businesses, jewelry merchants, and mortgage brokers. However, Federal regulators have not been able to rely on the information that comes from the State exams for their oversight purposes. This bill changes that. In so doing, it reduces duplicative exams and increases efficiency.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this bill because it reduces duplication in exams between State agencies and the IRS and makes the system more efficient. One reason I introduced the bill is because I want to see more money service businesses have access to bank accounts. Financial institutions will feel more assured in providing bank accounts because more nonbank financial institutions will now be formally examined.

Groups ranging from Oxfam America to Dahabshiil agree. New Americans know that their ability to send money back to their families in Somalia and elsewhere is literally a matter of life and death. For many Americans, remittances are a lifeline, providing food, shelter, education, and economic development.

This bill is an example of how robust oversight can reduce risk, resulting in greater beneficial activity. This bill received a great deal of support from a wide range of supporters.

Again, I would like to thank my cosponsors for the bill. I would also like to thank the Senate leads on the bill, Senators KIRK and KLOBUCHAR, and finally, again, Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS for prioritizing the need to improve regulatory oversight, which also meets humanitarian needs.

I urge my colleagues to support the Money Remittances Improvement Act, H.R. 4386.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close if the gentlewoman from California is also prepared.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I would like to thank all of those who have worked on this legislation.

This is a fine example of how you take a rather difficult and complicated problem and work through ways by which you can ensure security and that lawful actions are continued in order to make sure that the banking laws are being recognized and being honored and still do something for those people who are dependent on these remittances.

I yield back the balance of my time and ask all of my colleagues for their support on this bill.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the sponsors of the bill. We have done a great job of working together as two State colleagues. I urge support of this bill as well.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUFFY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in favor of H.R. 4386, the Money Remittances Improvement Act.

I want to thank my colleague Rep. ELLISON for his hard work and leadership on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, I proudly come from a family of 13—10 brothers and sisters—and my wife Rachel comes from a family of six. Both of our families are spread across the United States and at times are spread across the world. It has always been a comfort to know that we can rely on each other in good and hard financial times, and that's a value Rachel and I hope to pass on to our six—soon to be seven—children.

Sadly, duplicative requirements under current law for money service businesses make it difficult to wire money outside the United States to certain countries. Congress enacted laws to restrict money being sent internationally for illegal or fraudulent activity, but they never required the Federal government to coordinate many of those protections with State financial regulators. In fact, current law actually restricts these parties from sharing much of that information.

Not only does this create inefficiencies, but it creates confusion as well. And this confusion often prevents the hardworking Hmong in my district from sending money to their loved ones, cutting off financial support. That is why they are supporting H.R. 4386, and I submit their letter of support.

Madam Speaker, by requiring the Federal government to better communicate with State financial regulators of Wisconsin and the United States, as H.R. 4386 does, families spread across the world will enjoy the same peace of mind that Rachel and I do.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation that will not only protect everyone from unscrupulous financial activity but also improve the lives of all hardworking families throughout the world.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 4386.

WAUSAU AREA HMONG
MUTUAL ASSOCIATION,
Wausau, Wisconsin, May 6, 2014.

Hon. Rep. SEAN DUFFY,
7th Congressional District of Wisconsin, Washington, DC.

DEAR REP. DUFFY: Thank you for your hard work and for being a cosponsor of the proposed legislation ''The Money Remittances Improvement Act of 2013, H.R. 1694/S. 1840.'' This proposed bill is what many Hmong families in Central Wisconsin need to help their families and relatives in Laos.

As you are aware, Central Wisconsin is home to nearly 7,000 Hmong American residents, making the area the second largest Hmong community in the state. Wisconsin has the third largest Hmong population in the nation following California and Minnesota. Most Hmong American families in the U.S. still have close family members or relatives whom they left behind in Laos. These Hmong families are living in very poor conditions with no support from their government and are dependent on their families in the U.S. for financial assistance.

Each year, hundreds of Hmong individuals and families in Central Wisconsin would send monies to help their poor relatives in Laos. The Money Remittances Improvement Act, no doubt, would make it easier for Hmong Americans to send financial support to help their poverty stricken family members and relatives.

We support The Money Remittances Improvement Act and urge the House of Representatives to pass this bill as soon as possible. We thank you for your diligent work on behalf of the citizens of Central and Northern Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

PETER YANG,
Executive Director, Wausau Area Hmong Mutual Association, Inc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4386.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE FIND LOIS LERNER IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

Mr. ISSA, from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, submitted a privileged supplemental report (Rept. No. 113–415, Part II) on the resolution recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOSTERING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3329) to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3329

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

SECTION 1. CHANGES REQUIRED TO SMALL BANK HOLDING COMPANY POLICY STATEMENT ON ASSESSMENT OF FINANCIAL AND MANAGERIAL FACTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall publish in the Federal Register proposed revisions to the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement on Assessment of Financial and Managerial Factors (12 C.F.R. part 225–appendix C) that provide that the policy shall apply to bank holding companies and savings and loan holding companies which have pro forma consolidated assets of less than $1,000,000,000 and that—

(1) are not engaged in any nonbanking activities involving significant leverage; and

(2) do not have a significant amount of outstanding debt that is held by the general public.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 171(b)(5)(C) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5371(b)(5)(C)) is amended by inserting ''or small savings and loan holding company'' after ''any small bank holding company''.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed as limiting the authority of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to exclude a bank holding company or a savings and loan holding company from the policy statement described under subsection (a), if such action is warranted for supervisory purposes.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) BANK HOLDING COMPANY.—The term ''bank holding company'' has the meaning given that term under section 2 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841).

(2) SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANY.—The term ''savings and loan holding company'' has the meaning given that term under section 10(a) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(a)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and then submit extraneous materials for the record on H.R. 3329, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. MURPHY of Florida for drafting the legislation before us this afternoon and for working together on the Financial Services Committee.

H.R. 3329 provides targeted regulatory relief for small bank holding companies. Under the current regulatory framework, the Federal Reserve's rules sometimes make it difficult for small banks to make acquisitions. This is because the acquiring institution often uses debt financing to make the acquisition.

Recognizing that many small institutions rely on debt financing for an institution, the Federal Reserve requires policy statements to ensure the debt is managed properly and subsidiary banks are well capitalized. The legislation before us today makes it easier to form new holding companies, fund existing holding companies and make acquisitions by issuing debt at the holding company level by raising the threshold from $500 million in consolidated assets to $1 billion in consolidated assets.

I commend the authors of this bill for their hard work on this bipartisan legislation which passed the committee by voice vote last November. This is about creating jobs, getting credit across the country for consumers and for small business owners.

I urge adoption of the bill and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for her leadership on this and countless issues that come before our committee.

I also want to thank the gentlewoman from West Virginia, the chair of Financial Institutions, for her constant willingness to come to the center and work for the greater good of our country.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) for his outstanding leadership working for true regulatory relief to create jobs while protecting consumers. This is not the first bill that we have worked on together, and I hope it is not the last.

Across the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches, the constituents that I am privileged to represent know that small businesses are the backbone of our economy. They understand that capital is the lifeblood that enables those businesses to grow, spurring innovation and creating jobs.

Community banks are on the front lines providing that capital, but they are being strangled by well-intentioned but excessive regulation. Let me be clear: I am not against reining in the excesses of Wall Street banks.

After the financial crisis nearly took down the economy and cost Americans $17 trillion worth of wealth and equity, the country's biggest banks should be held to a higher standard. It doesn't take a CPA to see the difference between a $2 trillion interconnected, globalized Wall Street bank and the 550 community banks on the town square under $1 billion in assets that do not yet get the regulatory relief provided by the Fed policy statement. We are here today to change that.

This bill would provide much-needed regulatory relief to community banks. Everyone says they are for community banks. Today is the day to prove it.

Madam Speaker, I include a letter of support from the Independent Community Bankers of America into the RECORD.

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKERS OF AMERICA®,
Washington, DC., May 5, 2014.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the more than 6,500 community banks represented by the Independent Community Bankers of America, I write to express our strong support for H.R. 3329, which is scheduled for floor consideration this week. Introduced by Reps. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R–MO), Patrick Murphy (D–FL), Tom Cotton (R–AR), Mike Quigley (D–IL), and Ann Kuster (D–NH), H.R. 3329 is bipartisan legislation that would direct the Federal Reserve to increase the qualifying asset threshold of the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement from $500 million to $1 billion and allow small savings and loan holding companies to be covered by its provisions. This legislation is a key priority for ICBA and a provision of our Plan for Prosperity: A Regulatory Relief Agenda to Empower Local Communities. ICBA urges all members of the House to vote YES on H.R. 3329.

Revising the Policy Statement will make it easier for small bank and savings and loan holding companies to raise both debt and equity and downstream the proceeds to their subsidiary banks. The Policy Statement contains a number of safeguards to ensure that the debt is managed responsibly and subsidiary banks remain well capitalized. Increasing the eligibility threshold to $1 billion to account for inflation, industry consolidation, and asset growth will help an additional 515 bank and savings and loan holding companies raise capital for additional consumer and small business lending, leading to job creation and community development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CAMDEN R. FINE,
President & CEO.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, with that, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the Luetkemeyer-Murphy bill, and with no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Mr. LUETKEMEYER be permitted to control the remaining balance of my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

I want to thank both Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS for their support of my bill as well as the hard work of Chairman Congresswoman CAPITO here for her help and support today, as well as Congressman MURPHY for his sponsorship as well.

At a time when regulators are requiring more and more from small and community-based institutions, I appreciate the opportunity to work across party lines to offer some commonsense relief.

Small bank and thrift holding companies face unique challenges with regards to capital formation, which is a particular concern at a time when regulators are demanding higher capital levels in response to Basel III. Understanding these challenges, the Federal Reserve has recognized that small bank holding companies have limited access to financing and, as a result, face difficulties in the acquisition of small banks by small holding companies, which often requires the use of debt.

The Federal Reserve Bank holding company policy statement, first issued in 1980, allows for relief from certain requirements, making it necessary for a small bank holding company to raise the necessary capital and issue debt. The policy statement also simplifies acquisitions and formation of new bank and thrift holding companies. These

are important tools in ensuring that our smallest institutions can continue to lend in their communities, hire new staff, and survive what remains of a very difficult time for community banks.

H.R. 3329 simply increases the threshold in the Fed's policy statement from $500 million to $1 billion in assets.

□ 1730

The $500 million threshold has not been touched since 2006.

In the past 7 years, our Nation's smallest bank and thrift holding companies have faced significant recession, consolidation, and an alarming number of bank failures. While this bill does offer regulatory relief to our Nation's smallest institutions, it also includes safeguards that allow the Fed to continue to monitor for safety and soundness. The Fed retains the right to impose capital standards on a holding company if the Board of Governors decides it is needed to protect the safety and soundness of that institution and its customers.

Additionally, the policy statement outlines requirements that limit a bank holding company's ability to benefit from this relief. H.R. 3329 keeps these safeguards in place. This noncontroversial bill will help more than 500 of our Nation's smallest banks and thrift holding companies.

H.R. 3329 has bipartisan support and the support of the Independent Community Bankers of America and the American Bankers Association.

H.R. 3329 will go a long way in ensuring that these institutions are able to grow stronger and continue to serve their communities.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3329.

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

CREDIT UNION SHARE INSURANCE FUND PARITY ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3468) to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to extend insurance coverage to amounts held in a member account on behalf of another person, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3468

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act''.

SEC. 2. INSURANCE OF AMOUNTS HELD ON BEHALF OF OTHERS.

Section 207(k) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(k)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by inserting after ''payable to any member'' the following: '', or to any person with funds lawfully held in a member account,''; and

(B) by striking ''and paragraphs (5) and (6)'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''(as determined under paragraph (5))'';

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) COVERAGE FOR INTEREST ON LAWYERS TRUST ACCOUNTS (IOLTA) AND OTHER SIMILAR ESCROW ACCOUNTS.—

''(A) PASS-THROUGH INSURANCE.—The Administration shall provide pass-through share insurance for the deposits or shares of any interest on lawyers trust account (IOLTA) or other similar escrow accounts.

''(B) TREATMENT OF IOLTAS.—

''(i) TREATMENT AS ESCROW ACCOUNTS.—For share insurance purposes, IOLTAs are treated as escrow accounts.

''(ii) TREATMENT AS MEMBER ACCOUNTS.—IOLTAs and other similar escrow accounts are considered member accounts for purposes of paragraph (1), if the attorney administering the IOLTA or the escrow agent administering the escrow account is a member of the insured credit union in which the funds are held.

''(C) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph:

''(i) INTEREST ON LAWYERS TRUST ACCOUNT.—The terms 'interest on lawyers trust account' and 'IOLTA' mean a system in which lawyers place certain client funds in interest-bearing or dividend-bearing accounts, with the interest or dividends then used to fund programs such as legal service organizations who provide services to clients in need.

''(ii) PASS-THROUGH SHARE INSURANCE.—The term 'pass-through share insurance' means, with respect to IOLTAs and other similar escrow accounts, insurance coverage based on the interest of each person on whose behalf funds are held in such accounts by the attorney administering the IOLTA or the escrow agent administering a similar escrow account, in accordance with regulations issued by the Administration.

''(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—No provision of this paragraph shall be construed as authorizing an insured credit union to accept the deposits of an IOLTA or similar escrow account in an amount greater than such credit union is authorized to accept under any other provision of Federal or State law.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill, H.R. 3468.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of the Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act. This is a bill which passed out of the Financial Services Committee on a voice vote. This is bipartisan, commonsense legislation. The bill is supported by the Credit Union National Association, the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues, as well as the American Bar Association.

What this bill does is to ensure that there is parity in the treatment of trust accounts covered by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the FDIC.

The Financial Services Committee has heard the testimony of credit unions from West Virginia to Texas that:

> There is no public policy reason for deposit insurance purposes to distinguish credit union interest on lawyer trust accounts (IOLTAs) from those insured by FDIC. It is essential for the NCUA's share insurance fund to be treated identically in order to maintain parity between the two Federal insurance programs.

Specifically, the bill amends the Federal Credit Union Act to require that pass-through share insurance coverage be provided when a credit union member holds funds on behalf of a nonmember in an IOLTA or other similar account.

Unlike FDIC coverage, currently the National Credit Union Administration treats funds held by credit union members on behalf of those who are not federally insured credit union members as not covered by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund. This has created, of course, a disparity in coverage, specifically when looking at IOLTAs and prepaid debit master accounts.

Part of the mission of credit unions from their very beginning has been to reach out to the community around them, especially to reach out to the underserved. Maintaining a strong commitment to the IOLTA community and removing a barrier to greater participation sustains that very mission.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, a bill which corrects a technical disparity between the way trust accounts are federally insured at credit unions and at banks.

I look forward to the statement of the other ED, the gentleman from Colorado, my friend, who has been a champion of this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. ROYCE of California, for his remarks, and I yield myself such time as I may consume. As I say: ''Two EDs are better than one.'' So we will start with that.

This bill is designed to create parity between certain accounts held at credit unions and those held at FDIC insured banks.

As a preliminary matter, I introduce into the RECORD six letters.

The first is a letter dated September 17, 1996, signed by Richard Schulman, the associate general counsel of the National Credit Union Administration.

Second is a letter dated October 8, 2008. That is from Sheila A. Albin, associate general counsel.

A letter dated May 6, 2014, from the American Bar Association, signed by the president, James R. Silkenat.

A letter dated May 5, 2014, signed by Brad Thaler of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions.

A letter dated May 5, 2014, signed by Bill Cheney, president of the Credit Union National Association.

And finally, a letter signed by Scott Earl from Mountain West Credit Union Association.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1996.

Re Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (''IOLTA''), (Your August 22, 1996, Letter)

ELYSE E. ROGERS, Esq.,
Mette, Evans & Woodside,
Harrisburg, PA.

DEAR MS. ROGERS: In your letter, you requested our opinion as to whether Pennsylvania attorneys can maintain client trust funds, in association with Pennsylvania's IOLTA Program, in share draft accounts at credit unions regulated by the National Credit Union Administration. As discussed below, the answer depends upon the credit union membership status of the clients whose funds are contained in the IOLTA account.

ANALYSIS

Generally, an IOLTA account is set-up by an attorney or a law firm as an escrow account containing pooled client funds. In a credit union, an IOLTA account would be set-up as an ''agent'' account. Section 745.3(a)(2) of NCUA's Regulations defines an agent account as ''[f]unds owned by a principal [member] and deposited in one or more accounts in the names of agents or nominees. . . .'' The client continues to own the funds while the attorney or law firm serves only as a custodial agent.

A federal credit union (FCU) can only accept funds belonging to its member or those that qualify for membership. There are limited exceptions which permit an FCU to accept nonmember funds if it serves predominately low-income members and thereby has a ''low-income'' designation. 12 U.S.C. §1757(6). NCUA Regulations define a member as ''those persons enumerated in the credit union's field of membership.'' 12 C.F.R. §745.1(b). Membership in an FCU is limited ''to groups having a common bond of occupation or association, or to groups within a well-defined neighborhood, community, or rural district.'' 12 U.S.C. §1759. An FCU's charter outlines its membership. 12 U.S.C. §§1753, 1754.

With an agent account, the membership status of the client (owner of the funds) and not that of the agent (attorney, law firm or IOLTA Board) is determinative as to whether an IOLTA account can be properly maintained. Consequently, in order for an attorney or law firm to maintain an IOLTA account at an FCU, either all of the clients whose funds would be deposited must be members of that FCU or the FCU must be designated as a low income which would allow it to accept nonmember funds.

Sincerely,

RICHARD S. SCHULMAN,
Associate General Counsel.

OCTOBER 8, 2008.

Re Insurance Coverage for Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Accounts

MARY HOEFT SMITH,
Trust Account Program Administrator, Supreme Court of Wisconsin, Office of Lawyer Regulation, Madison, WI.

DEAR MS. HOEFT SMITH: You have asked us about the insurance coverage by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) for IOLTA accounts in federal and state-chartered credit unions and those designated as ''low-income.'' As discussed below, client funds in an IOLTA account are insured for those clients who are members of the credit union or, if a credit union is designated as low-income, all funds are insured regardless of the client's membership status.

Under IOLTA programs, lawyers and law firms establish accounts to hold their clients' funds in trust to pay costs related to legal services. Participation in IOLTA programs by lawyers and law firms is required in some states and is optional in other states. A lawyer or law firm opens an IOLTA account and, as an agent, deposits its clients' funds in the account and holds them there in trust until they are needed. The interest earned from the money in the IOLTA accounts is aggregated and paid generally to another state agency or private nonprofit organization, such as a state bar association, to subsidize legal aid services or for other charitable purposes.

The clients, not their lawyers or law firms, own the funds in an IOLTA account. The lawyers or law firms are merely the agents holding the funds in trust for their clients. While NCUSIF insurance coverage might cover clients as the beneficial owners of the funds, 12 C.F.R. §745.3(a)(2); see, e.g., OGC Op. 96–0841 (Sept. 17, 1996), OGC Op. 94–0119 (Feb. 9, 1994) (available on NCUA's website at www.ncua.gov), the NCUSIF insures only member accounts. Therefore, client funds in an IOLTA account are insured by the NCUSIF only for those clients who are members of the credit union. 12 C.F.R. §§745.0, 745.1(b). In the event of a credit union's liquidation, the amount of each client's insured funds in IOLTA accounts is added together with any other individual account of the client. 12 C.F.R. §745.3. Insurance coverage is the same whether the credit union is a federal or state-chartered credit union. 12 C.F.R. Part §745.

You have also asked about NCUSIF insurance coverage for IOLTA accounts at federal and state-chartered credit unions designated as low-income. Both federal credit unions and state-chartered credit unions designated as low-income can accept nonmember funds. 12 U.S.C. §1757(6); 12 C.F.R. §701.34; see, e.g., OGC Op. 96–0841. A state-chartered credit union can also be designated as low-income. 12 C.F.R. §741.204(b). Nonmembers at low-income credit unions are considered members for purposes of NCUSIF coverage. 12 C.F.R. §745.1(b). Therefore, a nonmember client's funds in an IOLTA account at a low-income credit union are entitled to NCUSIF coverage. 12 C.F.R. §745.1(b).

Sincerely,

SHEILA A. ALBIN,
Associate General Counsel.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION,
Chicago, IL, May 6, 2014.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: On behalf of the American Bar Association and its nearly 400,000 members, I am writing in support of H.R. 3468, the ''Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act.''

This legislation would benefit state charitable programs receiving revenue from Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) by providing attorneys the ability to hold client funds in credit unions, which have historically provided higher interest rates than other financial institutions. More than 90 percent of IOLTA grants fund the delivery of legal services to Americans living in poverty. Legal aid and pro bono programs receiving IOLTA funds provide legal assistance to veterans, domestic violence victims, those coping with the after-effects of natural disasters, and those undergoing foreclosures and other housing issues.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. The ABA stands ready to assist you in helping this legislation become law.

Sincerely,

JAMES R. SILKENAT,
President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS,
Arlington, VA, May 3, 2014.

Re Support and Pass H.R. 3468, the Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: On behalf of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU), the only trade association exclusively representing the interests of our nation's federal credit unions, I write in strong support of the Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act (H.R. 3468), and to urge swift passage of this important bipartisan legislation.

Maintaining parity between the coverage provided by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) on all types of deposits and accounts is imperative and a longstanding goal of NAFCU member credit unions. Consumers often do not distinguish between the government backing on accounts at financial institutions. It is important that the law dictate that there is no difference in coverage, so as not to favor one type of institution over another in the marketplace. NAFCU is pleased that the legislation, as favorably reported out of committee, will provide NCUSIF parity with the FDIC for certain accounts, including Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTAs).

We applaud and thank the bill's sponsors, as well as House leadership, for addressing this important issue as it will provide much needed relief to our nation's credit unions. We appreciate your consideration of this measure and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further should you need additional information. If my colleagues or I can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact myself or NAFCU's Director of Legislative Affairs, Jillian Pevo.

Sincerely,

BRAD THALER,
Vice President of Legislative Affairs.

CREDIT UNION NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE. On behalf of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), I am writing in support of certain regulatory relief measures scheduled on the suspension calendar this week. CUNA is the largest credit union advocacy organization in the United States, representing America's state and federally chartered credit unions and their 99 million members.

Credit unions face a crisis of creeping complexity with respect to regulatory burden. It is not any one regulatory change or requirement that is causing this crisis, but the ever-increasing, never decreasing accumulation of regulations over time that cripples credit unions' ability to efficiently serve their members. The bills that the House will consider this week will take small steps toward alleviating some of that burden, and better enable credit unions to more fully serve their members.

Credit unions support H.R. 3584, the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act; H.R. 3468, the Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act; and H.R. 2672, the CFPB Rural Designation Petition and Correction Act. We urge the House to pass these measures.

H.R. 3584—CAPITAL ACCESS FOR SMALL COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT

H.R. 3584, introduced by Representatives Steve Stivers (R–OH) and Joyce Beatty (D–OH), seeks to correct a drafting error in the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) Act that prohibits state chartered, privately insured credit unions from joining the FHLB system. This legislation was reported out of the Financial Services Committee on March 14, 2014 by a vote of 55–0; similar legislation has also been approved by the House of Representatives as part of comprehensive regulatory relief legislation in 2006 and 2008. By correcting the oversight in the original legislation, 132 privately insured credit unions across the country will be eligible for membership in the FHLB system and have additional opportunities to provide mortgage credit to their members.

H.R. 3468—CREDIT UNION SHARE INSURANCE FUND PARITY ACT

H.R. 3468, introduced by Representatives Ed Royce (R–CA) and Ed Perlmutter (D–CO), provide National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) coverage for trust accounts, such as Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTAS) and other similar accounts. This legislation is necessary because the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) has interpreted that the Federal Credit Union Act does not permit it to extend such coverage. The legislation would direct the NCUA to extend share insurance to the fund held in trust accounts opened and managed by credit union members, even if the funds in such accounts are owned by one or more nonmembers. This would provide parity in the insurance treatment of trust accounts offered by credit unions with the treatment of similar accounts offered by banks.

H.R. 3468 was reported out of the Financial Services Committee on November 14, 2013 by voice vote.

H.R. 2672—CFPB RURAL DESIGNATION PETITION AND CORRECTION ACT

H.R. 2672, introduced by Representative Andy Barr (R–KY) would direct the CFPB to establish an application process determining whether a county should be designated as a rural area if the CFPB has not designated it as one. Designation of ''rural'' by the CFPB has many implications for credit unions, particularly with respect to the type of products credit unions may offer their members in these areas. For instance, the Escrow Requirements under the Truth in Lending Act Rule require certain lenders to create an escrow account for at least five years for higher-priced mortgage loans. If those loans are made by small lenders that operate predominately in rural or underserved counties, they are exempt from this requirement. Another example includes the Ability to Repay and Qualified Mortgage (QM) Standards Under the Truth in Lending Act rule by which mortgage loans with balloon payments do not meet the QM standard. Like the Escrow Rule, small lenders that operate predominately in rural areas are eligible to originate balloon-payment QMs. The CFPB has defined ''rural'' by using the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Services' urban influence codes.

H.R. 2672 was reported out of the Financial Services Committee on March 14, 2014 by a vote of 54–1.

CONCLUSION

Each of these bills would reduce credit unions regulatory burden and help them better serve their members. They were all subject to thorough consideration by the Financial Services Committee, and as the votes indicate, they are noncontroversial. We urge you to support the bills when they come to the floor.

On behalf of America's credit unions and their 99 million members, thank you very much for your consideration of our views.

Best regards,

BILL CHENEY,
President & CEO.

MOUNTAIN WEST
CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION,
Denver, CO.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER. On behalf of the Mountain West Credit Union Association, the trade association that represents Colorado credit unions, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 3468—Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act, which provides the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) coverage for trust accounts, such as interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTAS) and other similar accounts.

As you know, attorneys routinely receive client funds that are to be placed in IOTLA accounts. These accounts generate interest for charitable causes, primarily civil legal services for economically disadvantaged citizens. Currently, credit unions are unable to offer IOTLA accounts to members because the Federal Credit Union Act does not permit NCUA to extend insurance coverage to these accounts. As a result, credit union members that would like to open IOLTAS are then forced to go to thrift or a bank.

If passed, this legislation would provide parity in the insurance treatment of these accounts for credit unions.

On behalf of Mountain West Credit Union Association and our member credit unions, I want to thank you and Congressman Royce for your leadership in sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

SCOTT EARL,
President/CEO.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Specifically, the bill extends insurance coverage to Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts, as Mr. ROYCE said, and I will call those ''trust accounts or similar escrow accounts,'' those that are held at credit unions that are otherwise fully insured at FDIC-insured banks up to $250,000.

As a practicing lawyer for 25 years, I know Lawyer Trust Accounts in Colorado as COLTAs, or Colorado Lawyer Trust Accounts, which we established for our clients so that interest can be earned for various charities that might exist. For instance, legal aid which provides assistance to veterans or people involved in domestic violence situations.

Under our bill, if a credit union were ever to fail and needed to be resolved, then the client funds held in an escrow account would be insured and thus protected, regardless if the beneficiary is a member of the credit union or not. In my instance, if I had a trust account which had a number of different clients, some clients might be members of the credit union, others are not. Only those under current law that are members of the credit union are covered by share insurance. Those that are not members of the credit union are not covered. So we are trying to stop this differentiation between banks and credit unions.

Currently, the NCUA's regulations and legal opinions as established in 1996, which is one of the letters we are introducing today, do not allow Federal deposit insurance equal to the coverage provided by the FDIC for accounts held by credit union members that contain funds owned by one or more nonmembers.

IOLTA accounts often contain funds from many clients, some of whom may not be members of the particular credit union where the attorney or the escrow agent has opened the account.

With an IOLTA account or other escrow accounts held in trust, under current law, the membership status of the client/beneficiary, and not of the agent or the attorney, is determinative as to whether an IOLTA account can be properly maintained. In order for a law firm or a real estate escrow company to maintain an IOLTA account at a credit union, either all of the clients whose funds would be deposited must be members of that credit union or the credit union must be designated as a low-income, which would allow it to accept nonmember funds.

Many States or bar associations require the funds in an IOLTA to be fully insured, meaning a lawyer may not be able to use a credit union for these accounts if they can't be fully covered.

It is important to note that this legislation should not be seen as an authorization to take nonmember deposits beyond the current regulatory limits, nor should it be seen as an authorization for the NCUA to increase those thresholds.

What we have before us today is a negotiated compromise. The language as

introduced in the manager's amendment narrowly defines which accounts will be extended Credit Union Share Insurance Fund coverage. This includes IOLTA/COLTAFs and other escrow accounts held in trust.

I thank my friend from California for bringing this legislation. It is time that there be parity and that all of the clients be covered by the Share Insurance Fund.

I urge quick passage of H.R. 3468, the Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3468, as amended.

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

FOREIGN CULTURAL EXCHANGE JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4292) to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4292

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY OF FOREIGN STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1605 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY FOR CERTAIN ART EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If—

''(A) a work is imported into the United States from any foreign country pursuant to an agreement that provides for the temporary exhibition or display of such work entered into between a foreign state that is the owner or custodian of such work and the United States or one or more cultural or educational institutions within the United States,

''(B) the President, or the President's designee, has determined, in accordance with subsection (a) of Public Law 89–259 (22 U.S.C. 2459(a)), that such work is of cultural significance and the temporary exhibition or display of such work is in the national interest, and

''(C) the notice thereof has been published in accordance with subsection (a) of Public Law 89–259 (22 U.S.C. 2459(a)),

any activity in the United States of such foreign state, or of any carrier, that is associated with the temporary exhibition or display of such work shall not be considered to be commercial activity by such foreign state for purposes of subsection (a)(3).

''(2) NAZI-ERA CLAIMS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply in any case asserting jurisdiction under subsection (a)(3) in which rights in property taken in violation of international law are in issue within the meaning of that subsection and—

''(A) the property at issue is the work described in paragraph (1);

''(B) the action is based upon a claim that such work was taken in connection with the acts of a covered government during the covered period;

''(C) the court determines that the activity associated with the exhibition or display is commercial activity, as that term is defined in section 1603(d); and

''(D) a determination under subparagraph (C) is necessary for the court to exercise jurisdiction over the foreign state under subsection (a)(3).

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) the term 'work' means a work of art or other object of cultural significance;

''(B) the term 'covered government' means—

''(i) the Government of Germany during the covered period;

''(ii) any government in any area in Europe that was occupied by the military forces of the Government of Germany during the covered period;

''(iii) any government in Europe that was established with the assistance or cooperation of the Government of Germany during the covered period; and

''(iv) any government in Europe that was an ally of the Government of Germany during the covered period; and

''(C) the term 'covered period' means the period beginning on January 30, 1933, and ending on May 8, 1945.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any civil action commenced on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4292, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I would like to thank Chairman GOODLATTE, Ranking Member CONYERS, and my friend from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for cosponsoring this legislation.

This is simple, straightforward legislation. It clarifies the relationship between the Immunity from Seizure Act and the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to encourage the foreign lending of art to the United States.

Currently, artwork loaned by foreign governments is commonly immune to Federal court decisions and cannot be confiscated if the President finds that their display is in the national interest. However, foreign governments do not have immunity when commercial activity is involved. This bill seeks to clarify that artwork imported into the U.S. for temporary display is not commercial activity and should thus be immune from seizure. Specifically, my legislation would revise the United States Code and make clear that the import of artwork is not legally considered commercial activity if three elements are met:

First, the United States, or an educational institute therein, and a foreign government must agree to the exchange of artwork;

Second, the President must determine that such work is of cultural significance and the temporary exhibition of such work is in the national interest;

And third, the President's determination must be published in the Federal Register.

In enacting the Immunity from Seizure Act, Congress recognized that cultural exchange would produce substantial benefits to the United States, both artistically and diplomatically. Foreign lending should be allowed to continue to aid cultural understanding and increase public exposure to archeological artifacts. This bill reaffirms our country's commitment to the foreign lending of artwork to American museums.

However, for artwork and cultural objects owned by foreign governments, the intent of the Immunity from Seizure Act is being frustrated currently by the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. A provision of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act opens foreign governments up to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts for court actions if foreign government-owned artwork is temporarily imported into the U.S.

Similar to its Senate companion, this bill includes a Nazi-era exception which provides that immunity does not apply to cases in which property was taken in violation of international law, and those are things which are in question, and the action is based upon a claim that such work was taken in connection with acts of the German Government during the period of January 30, 1933, through May 8, 1945.

□ 1745

According to the American Association of Museum Directors, current law has led to, on several occasions, foreign governments declining to exchange artwork and cultural objects with the United States for temporary exhibitions.

In 2010, for example, the Russian Federation imposed a ban on state-owned

art loans to American museums on the grounds that such works could be subject to legal action. As a result of this ban, several U.S. museums, which had loan agreements with the Russian national institutions, were forced to cancel long-planned Russian art exhibits.

In order to keep the exchange of foreign government-owned art flowing, Congress needs to clarify the relationship between these two acts that I previously described.

This legislation does just that: ensuring that museums, like the Cincinnati Museum Center and the Cincinnati Art Museum—both in my district—and other similar museums all across the country, may continue to present first-class exhibits and educate the public on cultural heritage and artwork from all around the globe.

Through the enactment of this legislation, we can secure foreign lending to American museums and ensure that foreign art lenders are not entangled in unnecessary litigation.

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

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

It is nice to see a Tennessean in the chair. James Knox Polk might have been the last one who was more permanent as Speaker of the House. Yes, it is good to see you.

To my friend, Mr. CHABOT, it is an honor to rise and to cosponsor this bill with you and with Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. CONYERS.

Madam Speaker, I do rise in support of H.R. 4292, the Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act, also known as the FCEJIC Act.

This makes a modest, but important amendment to the expropriation exception of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976.

Specifically, it ensures that foreign states are immune from suits for damages concerning the ownership of cultural property when that property is in the United States pursuant to an agreement between the foreign state and the U.S. or a U.S.-based cultural or educational institution, when the President has granted the work at issue immunity from seizure pursuant to the Immunity from Seizure Act, and when the President's grant of immunity from seizure is published in the Federal Register.

The expropriation exception remains available to all claims concerning misappropriated cultural property to which these factual circumstances do not apply.

Additionally, H.R. 4292 ensures that the expropriation exception remains available for all Nazi-era claims. This is appropriate in light of the particularly concerted effort of the Nazis to seize artwork and other cultural property from citizens at that time, victims of the Holocaust and others.

There have been quite a few movies recently about some of the people in our armed services who helped rescue some of that artwork, which is to be commended, and it really brought out the horrific things in that area that the Nazis did. They did so many horrific things, but they just wanted to destroy all culture, so any artwork that might be part of those claims would still be available.

With this finely and narrowly tailored amendment, we will have more opportunities to see art from Europe and from around the world. It is important to have exchanges of culture, so that people around the world understand the other cultures and so that it maybe makes the planet a little more safe. I support the bill as I understand that it still makes available redress for those who committed acts of expropriation during the Nazi era.

I thank Mr. CHABOT, who is my friend and who has done a great job, and we hope to keep the river flowing and the *Delta Queen* alive. I thank the Judiciary Committee chairman, BOB GOODLATTE, and our ranking member, the esteemed JOHN CONYERS, for their leadership.

I urge the House to pass the bill, and I would like to offer for the RECORD a letter from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, which speaks for itself, and for the American Jewish Congress in their stating that they would not oppose the passage of this bill.

CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY, INC.
New York, NY, December 19, 2013.

Mr. TIMOTHY RUB,
President, Association of Art Museum Directors, The George D. Widener Director and CEO, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA.

DEAR MR. RUB, Anita Difanis has now sent us the language of the most recent draft of the immunity bill (the ''Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act'') that the AAMD is asking be introduced to the Congress. We have reviewed the points that concerned us, namely those in regard to Nazi Era claims.

While we are not persuaded of the need for this special legislation, we have no objection to it. The American Jewish Committee concurs with this view.

Sincerely yours,

GREG SCHNEIDER,
Executive Vice-President.

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I would like to begin by thanking Mr. CHABOT for introducing this legislation and by thanking Mr. CONYERS and Mr. COHEN for their support as well.

Madam Speaker, the Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act strengthens the ability of U.S. museums and educational institutions to borrow foreign government-owned artwork and cultural artifacts for temporary exhibition or display.

The United States has long recognized the importance of encouraging the cultural exchange of ideas through exhibitions of artwork and other artifacts loaned from other countries.

These exchanges expose Americans to other cultures and foster understanding between people of different nationalities, languages, religions, and races. Unfortunately, the future success of cultural exchanges is severely threatened by a disconnect between the Immunity from Seizure Act and the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

Loans of artwork and cultural objects depend upon foreign lenders having confidence that the items they loan will be returned and that the loan will not open them up to lawsuits in U.S. courts.

For 40 years, the Immunity from Seizure Act provided foreign government lenders with this confidence. However, rulings in several recent Federal cases have undermined the protection provided by the Immunity from Seizure Act.

In these decisions, the Federal courts have held that the Immunity from Seizure Act does not preempt the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. The effect has been to open foreign governments up to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts simply because they loaned artwork or cultural objects to an American museum or educational institution.

This has significantly impeded the ability of U.S. institutions to borrow foreign government-owned items. It has also resulted in cultural exchanges being curtailed as foreign government lenders have become hesitant to permit their cultural property to travel to the United States.

This bill addresses this situation. It provides that, if the State Department grants immunity to a loan of artwork or cultural objects from—under the Immunity from Seizure Act, then the loan cannot subject a foreign government to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

This is very narrow legislation. It only applies to one of the many grounds for jurisdiction under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. Moreover, it requires the State Department to grant the artwork immunity under the Immunity from Seizure Act before its provisions apply, and in order to preserve the claims of victims of the Nazi government and its allies during World War II, the bill has an exception for claims brought by these victims.

If we want to encourage foreign governments to continue to lend artwork and other artifacts to American museums and educational institutions, we must enact this legislation.

Without the protections this bill provides, foreign governments will avoid the risk of lending their cultural items to American institutions, and the American public will lose the opportunity to view and appreciate these cultural objects from abroad.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, in closing, I just want to comment that Mr. GOODLATTE's committee has now produced this bill and the next bill, the Lummis-Cohen bill, and we came together to work against sex trafficking last week.

So the Judiciary Committee, under the leadership of Mr. GOODLATTE, is starting to produce a lot of good, bipartisan legislation. I commend him for that work, and I hope we see more of it.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I will be very brief. I would like to, first of all, thank the Cincinnati Museum Center and the Cincinnati Art Museum for bringing this matter to my attention.

I want to particularly thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for his leadership on this bill, as well as to thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, and also the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS, for their leadership.

Without having any additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4292.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

OPEN BOOK ON EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2919) to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require annual reports to Congress on, and the maintenance of databases on, awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2919

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act''.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROVISIONS.

(a) AGENCY PROCEEDINGS.—Section 504 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking '', United States Code'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (i); and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e)(1) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, after consultation with the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, shall report to the Congress, not later than March 31 of each year, on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to this section. The report shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in the controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid the Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards. The report shall be made available to the public online.

''(2)(A) The report required by paragraph (1) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this section that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to nondisclosure provisions.

''(B) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under subparagraph (A) does not affect any other information that is subject to nondisclosure provisions in the settlement agreement.

''(f) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing the following information with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this section:

''(1) The case name and number of the adversary adjudication, if available, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

''(2) The name of the agency involved in the adversary adjudication.

''(3) A description of the claims in the adversary adjudication.

''(4) The name of each party to whom the award was made.

''(5) The amount of the award.

''(6) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

''(g) The online searchable database described in subsection (f) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or court order.

''(h) The head of each agency shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of subsections (e), (f), and (g).''.

(b) COURT CASES.—Section 2412(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5)(A) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall submit to the Congress, not later than March 31 of each year, a report on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to this subsection. The report shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in each controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid the Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards. The report shall be made available to the public online.

''(B)(i) The report required by subparagraph (A) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this subsection that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to nondisclosure provisions.

''(ii) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under clause (i) does not affect any other information that is subject to nondisclosure provisions in the settlement agreement.

''(C) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall include and clearly identify in the annual report under subparagraph (A), for each case in which an award of fees and other expenses is included in the report—

''(i) any amounts paid from section 1304 of title 31 for a judgment in the case;

''(ii) the amount of the award of fees and other expenses; and

''(iii) the statute under which the plaintiff filed suit.

''(6) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing the following information with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this subsection:

''(A) The case name and number, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

''(B) The name of the agency involved in the case.

''(C) The name of each party to whom the award was made.

''(D) A description of the claims in the case.

''(E) The amount of the award.

''(F) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

''(7) The online searchable database described in paragraph (6) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or court order.

''(8) The head of each agency shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), including the Attorney General of the United States and the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(3), by striking ''United States Code,''; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking ''of section 2412 of title 28, United States Code,'' and inserting ''of this section''; and

(B) by striking ''of such title'' and inserting ''of this title''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall first apply with respect to awards of fees and other expenses that are made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) INITIAL REPORTS.—The first reports required by section 504(e) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(5) of title 28, United States Code, shall be submitted not later than March 31 of the calendar year following the first calendar year in which a fiscal year begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) ONLINE DATABASES.—The online databases required by section 504(f) of title 5,

United States Code, and section 2412(d)(6) of title 28, United States Code, shall be established as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, but in no case later than the date on which the first reports under section 504(e) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(5) of title 28, United States Code, are required to be submitted under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2919, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I would like to begin by thanking Representative CYNTHIA LUMMIS and the Constitution Subcommittee ranking member again, Mr. COHEN from Tennessee, for introducing this important government transparency legislation.

Every year, pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, the Federal Government, through settlement or court order, pays millions of dollars in legal fees and costs to parties to lawsuits and administrative adjudications that involve the Federal Government.

However, despite the large number of taxpayer dollars paid out each year through the Act, the Federal Government no longer comprehensively keeps track of the amount of fees and other expenses awarded, why these fees and expenses were awarded, and to whom these costs were awarded.

This is because, in 1995, Congress repealed the Department of Justice's reporting requirements and defunded the Administrative Conference of the United States, which is the agency charged with reporting this basic information to Congress—to us.

The Administrative Conference was reestablished in 2010, but the requirements to report the fee and cost payments have not been reenacted. Accordingly, there has been no official governmentwide accounting of this information since fiscal year 1994, almost 20 years ago.

This lack of transparency is troubling, given that the Equal Access to Justice Act is considered by many to be the most important Federal fee-shifting statute. Fundamentally, the Act recognizes that there is an enormous disparity of resources between the Federal Government and individuals and small businesses that seek to challenge the Federal actions.

Congress enacted the Equal Access to Justice Act to provide individuals, small businesses, and small nonprofit groups with financial assistance to bring suit against the Federal Government or to defend themselves from lawsuits brought by the Federal Government.

As the Supreme Court has noted, the Act was adopted with the ''specific purpose . . . of eliminating for the average person the financial disincentive to challenge unreasonable governmental actions.''

But how can we know if the Act is working well toward this end if we have no data on awards?

Without the data, this bill requires the Administrative Conference to compile and report that we have nothing more than anecdotal evidence as to whether the Act is working.

The legislation we are considering today will end this lack of transparency and will restore the reporting requirements that were repealed back in 1995.

I want to, once again, thank Representatives LUMMIS and COHEN for introducing this bill. It is good legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2919, the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act, also known as the Longworth 1004 Act.

This bipartisan legislation makes a modest, but important improvement to the Equal Access to Justice Act, also known as EAJA. That Act, which was enacted in 1980, allows parties, under certain circumstances, to be awarded attorneys' fees and court costs when they prevail in litigation against the United States.

EAJA enables ordinary citizens, such as veterans, senior citizens, and advocates for clean air and clean water, to fight unfair or illegal government actions without fear of the court costs involved.

Over the years, the Act has succeeded, but since 1995, when certain reporting requirements were eliminated, we have had no reliable data on how much money the government has awarded in these proceedings. The public has a right to know how taxpayer funds are used, and Congress ought to be able to assess the impact and effectiveness of EAJA.

□ 1800

To address this failing, H.R. 2919 would require the Administrative Conference of the United States, or ACUS, a highly respected nonpartisan agency, to prepare an annual report for Congress on the fees and costs awarded in these cases. The reports would also include the number and nature of the claims involved.

The Conference would also be required to establish a publicly accessible, searchable database with this information, as well as the case name, the agency involved, and the basis of the award.

I am very pleased to sponsor this bill along with the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS), who has done a great job bringing this to this floor, shepherding it through to, hopefully, passage and becoming law. We have worked on a bipartisan basis to address this issue.

H.R. 2919 represents a compromise with respect to a broader bill related to EAJA which Mrs. LUMMIS previously introduced. It is an excellent example of what happens when there is bipartisan cooperation.

This legislation will promote greater transparency with respect to our government and provide valuable information for Congress and our citizens. It exemplifies the bipartisan cooperation we are capable of in this Chamber.

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2919, the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act. I want to thank the ranking member, STEVE COHEN, for joining me in introducing this legislation. The gentleman from Tennessee was the person from whom I inherited the hallowed halls of Longworth 1004. Our staff shared duties, including each other's phone duties when meetings were being held in our offices. It was a great partnership and a wonderful bipartisan relationship that I have enjoyed ever since coming to Congress.

I deeply thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his friendship. He was instrumental in securing bipartisan support for passage of H.R. 2919 through the Judiciary Committee.

H.R. 2919 reinstates the tracking and reporting of attorneys fees paid out by the Federal Government under the Equal Access to Justice Act, also known as EAJA.

EAJA was first enacted in 1980, with the goal of protecting small businesses and other citizens facing unreasonable government action. It was meant to address the David and Goliath situation that exists when a citizen has to go to court against the Federal Government's vast financial and legal resources.

Consistent with this theme, EAJA was amended in 1985 to facilitate its application to Social Security claims. It was again amended in 1992 to include claims before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

EAJA has been subject to numerous reviews and revisions over the years to

keep it up to date. Its requirement for agencies to track and report on attorneys' fees helped inform Congress in its past efforts to improve the law. This transparency was also a safeguard for the Federal taxpayers who finance the law.

Prior to 1995, EAJA payments trickled out at a rate of about $3 million annually. But since tracking and reporting requirements were eliminated in 1995, EAJA has operated in the dark.

As a Government Accountability Office report made clear, most agencies do not track payments—and won't—unless Congress gives them direction to do so. Madam Speaker, that is why we are here today.

As the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), mentioned, we only have anecdotal evidence as to how much we are spending on attorney fees, which agencies pay out the fees, and for what types of claims. We need transparency to better monitor this law moving forward.

H.R. 2919 both reinstates transparency and improves it by requiring the information be posted online in a searchable database. We owe this to the small businesses, veterans, Social Security claimants, and others who rely on EAJA for their once-in-a-lifetime court battles with the Federal Government. And we owe it to the hardworking taxpayers who are financing this law.

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

Mr. CHABOT. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I deeply appreciate it.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2919.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, in great appreciation and deference to the gentleman on the Judiciary Committee, and especially to my cosponsor, Mr. COHEN, I gratefully acknowledge his cosponsorship—he supported this bill—and the hard work of the House Judiciary Committee.

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS), as well as the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for their bipartisan support in this most important bill.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2919, the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act, which increases transparency and works to ensure that the Equal Access to Justice Act, or EAJA, does what it was always intended to do: protect citizens and small businesses against the limited resources of the Federal Government when they have to go to court.

This law was written to give individuals like our veterans, seniors, and small businesses a way to dispute unfair treatment by the government. However, the original intent of EAJA has been lost in a sea of habitual litigation, especially when it involves the management of our natural resources and our public lands and projects that bring much-needed jobs and tax revenues to local communities. Much of this litigation is awarded with millions of hard-earned taxpayer dollars. That is unacceptable.

In Montana, we have seen firsthand the consequences of some of this litigation. Montanans rely on healthy forests and rangelands for their livelihoods. Loggers, ranchers, miners, outfitters and guides, and others, rely on healthy land management to feed their families.

In recent decades, inflexible Federal policies and unrelenting appeals and lawsuits have imposed a huge administrative burden on our Federal agencies, limited our mills' access to timber, and ultimately resulted in the mismanagement of our forests, leaving our homes and businesses at risk for wildfire and crippling job growth in the timber industry.

In Montana, we used to have 30 sawmills. Today, we have just nine. Collaborative projects that the Montana timber industry and conservation leaders have spent countless hours negotiating are sometimes stopped in court. True conservation is on-the-ground stewardship by hardworking individuals directly reliant on the land. It is not done in the courtroom.

At the very least, the American people ought to know how much of their hard-earned tax dollars are going towards these litigants and the information that led to their claims against the Federal agency. The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act will provide that much-needed transparency which, hopefully, can limit these lawsuits and help save hundreds of American jobs.

I urge support for H.R. 2919.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Ohio.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act, and I thank the gentlelady from Wyoming and the gentleman from Tennessee, my friend on the Judiciary Committee, for their hard work on this. Also, Mr. CHABOT.

There are a lot of times we get to disagree on things, but this is one we can come together and agree on. And that is a good thing for not only our committee, it is good for the American people.

The Equal Access to Justice Act supports one of our Nation's founding principles—equal justice under the law—by making our legal system more accessible for all Americans.

Today's bipartisan legislation simply ensures that Equal Access to Justice programs observe commonsense reporting and transparency requirements. This good government bill will ensure proper oversight of this program by providing both Congress and the public the data they need to make informed decisions.

The original Equal Access to Justice Act rightfully included tracking and reporting requirements concerning payments made under the authority of this law. Taxpayers should not be on the hook for untold amounts of attorneys' fees for special interest groups that sue the Federal Government to change policy without public input.

My constituents simply don't believe their hard-earned money should go to groups that push their agenda through litigation instead of the regular legislative process. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that the Federal Government is truly working on behalf of the Americans who fund it. The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act will help ensure that the original law is working as Congress intended.

With greater transparency through reporting, the American people will have greater confidence that their tax dollars are being well spent.

I would like to thank again the sponsors for offering this. I am proud to be an original cosponsor on this.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2919.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings

will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4292 and H.R. 3584, as amended; and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

FOREIGN CULTURAL EXCHANGE JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY CLARIFICATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4292) to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 4, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 194]

YEAS—388

Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

NAYS—4

Amash
Ribble
Sanford
Stutzman

NOT VOTING—39

Aderholt
Bachmann
Blumenauer
Brooks (IN)
Butterfield
Campbell
Carson (IN)
Coble
Crawford
Deutch
Duffy
Ellmers
Gingrey (GA)
Granger
Griffin (AR)
Gutiérrez
Jones
Joyce
King (NY)
Kingston
Lankford
Lewis
McAllister
Messer
Miller, Gary
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Nunnelee
Payne
Pittenger
Richmond
Roby
Rohrabacher
Royce
Rush
Schwartz
Stockman
Waxman
Young (IN)

□ 1856

Mrs. CAPPS and Ms. SPEIER changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 194 I was stuck at the airport—flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

CAPITAL ACCESS FOR SMALL COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAULSEN). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3584) to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 0, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 195]

YEAS—395

Amash
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent

DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—36

Aderholt
Bachmann
Blumenauer
Brooks (IN)
Butterfield
Campbell
Carson (IN)
Coble
Crawford
Deutch
Duffy
Ellmers
Gingrey (GA)
Granger
Griffin (AR)
Gutiérrez
Jones
Joyce
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Labrador
Lankford
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Messer
Miller, Gary
Murphy (FL)
Nunnelee
Pittenger
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Rush
Schwartz
Stockman
Waxman
Young (IN)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1904

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 195, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 253, nays 127, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 196]

YEAS—253

Amodei
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Becerra
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu
Cicilline
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Gerlach
Gibbs
Goodlatte
Gosar
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Horsford
Huelskamp
Huffman
Hultgren
Hurt
Issa
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Kaptur
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stutzman
Takano
Thornberry
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Vargas
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Webster (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

NAYS—127

Amash
Barber
Bass
Benishek
Brady (PA)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Capuano
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Connolly
Costa
Cotton
Crowley
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
Duckworth
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Fudge
Garamendi
Garcia
Garrett
Gibson
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Hanna
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Jordan
Keating
Kilmer
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Lance
Langevin
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
LoBiondo
Lowenthal
Lynch
Maffei
McDermott
McGovern
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Moore
Mulvaney
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
Nugent
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rogers (AL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard

Ryan (OH)	Stivers	Valadao
Sánchez, Linda T.	Swalwell (CA)	Veasey
Sanchez, Loretta	Terry	Visclosky
Sarbanes	Thompson (CA)	Walberg
Schakowsky	Thompson (MS)	Walden
Sewell (AL)	Thompson (PA)	Waters
Sires	Tiberi	Weber (TX)
Slaughter	Tipton	Wittman
Smith (MO)	Turner	Woodall
	Upton	

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—2

Gohmert	Owens

NOT VOTING—49

Aderholt	Griffin (AR)	Murphy (FL)
Bachmann	Grijalva	Nunnelee
Bishop (NY)	Gutiérrez	Pascrell
Blumenauer	Harper	Pittenger
Brooks (IN)	Holt	Richmond
Butterfield	Jones	Rohrabacher
Campbell	Joyce	Rush
Carson (IN)	Kelly (IL)	Schrader
Chaffetz	King (NY)	Schwartz
Coble	Kingston	Stockman
Crawford	Lankford	Van Hollen
Deutch	Luetkemeyer	Waxman
Duffy	Maloney, Sean	Welch
Ellmers	Meng	Wenstrup
Gardner	Messer	Young (IN)
Gingrey (GA)	Miller, Gary	
Granger	Moran	

□ 1911

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN JIM OBERSTAR

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, today, I rise to pay tribute to a former colleague, son of a miner, who rose to become the esteemed and respected chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—the longest-serving Member of Congress from the great State of Minnesota—my predecessor, our dear friend, Congressman Jim Oberstar.

Jim passed away quite unexpectedly over the weekend. My wife and I and several other Members of the House here were just with him on Wednesday night, and Jim was as fit as a fiddle, as fit as he has ever been.

I commented to another couple there that Jim does 1,000 pushups every day, in addition to riding his bike; and Jim laughed and said: No, I only do 100 pushups every day.

He was a remarkable person.

I am joined here today by my colleagues from Minnesota—Congressman KLINE, Congresswoman MCCOLLUM, Congressmen PETERSON, WALZ, PAULSEN, and ELLISON—joining me in this brief tribute.

□ 1915

Mr. Speaker, Jim's respect in this House was really quite unparalleled. I recall one day last year when Jim came into the well of the House here and he was spotted by some of our colleagues. And someone started to applaud him, and the entire House burst into spontaneous applause—Democrats, Republicans, conservatives, liberals. The only time I had ever seen anything like that happen before was when Hubert Humphrey walked into the House of Representatives, when he was on his death bed.

Jim had just a giant intellect, spoke numerous languages. He had a big heart. He was a passionate public servant and a man of enormous accomplishment. There is no question our Nation is a truly better, more decent, more compassionate place for every day that he served so selflessly, with such honor and dignity and good humor. We loved him dearly, and we will miss him terribly.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that the House of Representatives observe a moment of silence to honor the incredible life of Chairman Jim Oberstar, our friend, our colleague.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Nurses Week, which is celebrated annually from May 6 through May 12.

Nurses all over the country serve as the first line of defense in the prevention of sickness and injury. From hospitals and care facilities to nurse's offices at schools and local businesses, nurses play an essential role in keeping our society healthy and safe.

From better educating our children about the importance of health to helping fathers and mothers better care for a newborn child, to helping seniors better manage disease or disability, our Nation's nurses are indispensable.

This year's National Nurses Week theme is ''Nurses: Leading the Way.'' During this National Nurses Week, we take time to give thanks to these professionals for doing just that: leading the way through the promotion and the work of bringing better care and better health to our friends and family and neighbors and loved ones.

NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of National Teacher Day, a day when we honor our teachers who contribute so much to our students, our schools, and our country.

I am pleased to recognize Myrna Betancourt, Miami-Dade's Teacher of the Year. She and other former Teachers of the Year like recipient Fred Ingram, who now leads the United Teachers of Dade, are shining examples of the kind of educators who find the best in their students.

My brother, Gaby, and his wife, Cathy, are both teachers who inspire every day with their dedication to their students. When I was a student, one of my own teachers, Pat Collins, helped fuel in me a passion for learning and kindled my lifelong commitment to public service.

All over the country teachers make a difference in the lives of their students every day. We owe them our deepest appreciation.

DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Debbie's Dream Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing stomach cancer research, and it recently hosted its Fifth Annual Dream Makers Gala in my area in south Florida.

Each year, the event mobilizes efforts to fight stomach cancer, a disease that will be diagnosed in more than 22,000 Americans and kill almost 11,000 Americans this year alone. Although stomach cancer is the second most prevalent cancer killer worldwide, it receives the least amount of Federal funding for death of any type of cancer.

I was proud to lead a letter with my fellow Floridian colleague, LOIS FRANKEL, and 55 of our House colleagues to include stomach cancer in a list of cancers eligible for Department of Defense research funding.

Thanks to Debbie Zelman, her incredible team, and their determination and perseverance, we can help Debbie's Dream of curing stomach cancer a reality soon.

CONGRATULATING CALIFORNIA CHROME

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I stand on the House floor today to congratulate a star athlete from my district, an athlete who rose to the national spotlight with a remarkable win, with millions of people watching on TV and in front of a crowd of more than 160,000 people. I am talking of course about California Chrome, the winner of the 2014 Kentucky Derby.

California Chrome is a resident of Yuba City, where he lives with his human friends Perry and Denise Martin. The Martins bought California Chrome's mother for only $8,000, a bargain by horse racing standards. California Chrome's storybook rags-to-

riches tale is sure to delight horse racing fans for years to come.

Congratulations, California Chrome, his jockey Victor Espinoza, and the Martin family. I know my family will be watching as you, California Chrome, aim to get one step closer to the Triple Crown at the Preakness on Saturday, May 17.

You have made California's Third Congressional District proud. Thank you, California Chrome.

RECOGNITION OF LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lupus Awareness Month. As cochair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus, I am honored to help raise awareness of lupus throughout the month of May.

Lupus is a painful and devastating autoimmune disease. It is estimated that 1.5 million Americans are currently living with lupus. This disease is unpredictable, difficult to diagnose, challenging to treat, and especially hard to live with. Unfortunately, I understand these challenges all too well as my cousin Kathleen Rooney was diagnosed with lupus and died of the disease in her early thirties.

Years later, the cause of lupus is still unknown and a cure has yet to be found. With better understanding of the disease through recent research, we have developed new treatment methods that control symptoms and help to improve the quality of life for individuals living with lupus—but we still have a ways to go.

On behalf of Kathleen and those with lupus and those who have yet to be diagnosed, I urge my colleagues to support investments in research towards a cure for lupus.

I also ask my colleagues to join me in helping to educate and advocate and raise awareness for lupus during Lupus Awareness Month by wearing purple on May 16, ''Put on Purple Day.''

IN MEMORY OF BILLY FRANK, JR.

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning quite suddenly Billy Frank, Jr., passed away.

Billy was chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. He was our region's foremost advocate for restoration of Indian fishing treaty rights, a dream he lived to realize. He was our region's foremost advocate for clean water for salmon.

So powerful was his advocacy, his charisma, his personality, his moral authority, that no fewer than two books have been written about him, and he was the recipient of the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award.

They say a person dies twice: the first time, and the second time when they stop telling stories about him. Billy Frank is going to live forever. There are no words I can share, however, more powerful than his own. So, thanks to my friend Martha Kongsgaard who provided me with Billy's words recently, I share those now with you:

I don't believe in magic, Billy once said. I believe in the Sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, and the wind talking. Their measurements, they tell us how healthy things are, how healthy we are, because we and they are the same. That is what I believe in.

Those who learn to listen to the world that sustains them can hear the message brought forth by the salmon.

Thank you, dear friend, Billy. You shall forever be missed and forever remembered.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support and recognition of Israel's Independence Day.

Israel is one of our closest allies in the Middle East, and for 66 years it has been the stronghold of democracy and a model for those who seek freedom and prosperity.

The success of the Jewish State makes it a target for oppressive regimes that seek the destruction of Western ideals, such as the advancement of women's rights.

Iran is chief among these threats. It has openly and repeatedly called for Israel's eradication. This threat may become a reality if Iran is allowed to obtain nuclear weapons. Mr. Speaker, we simply can't allow that to happen.

This administration must be clear-eyed in dealing with Iran, and it must do whatever is necessary to protect our vital interests in the region, including Israel.

With that, I offer my sincere congratulations to our Israeli friends on this 66th anniversary of their country's independence and wish them a very happy and prosperous Independence Day.

RECOGNIZING THE GREAT DEMOCRATIC JEWISH STATE OF ISRAEL

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize the great democratic Jewish State of Israel, one of our strongest partners for peace and stability, for its 66 years of independence.

Since its founding on May 14, 1948, Israel has been a beacon of democracy and prosperity and America's stalwart ally in the often tumultuous Middle East.

As the historic home of the Jewish people, Israel has stood for hope in the face of persecution, freedom from oppression, and opportunity for its diverse population.

We were the first nation to recognize Israel's independence, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue building stronger bonds between the United States and Israel.

I am fully committed to our special relationship, which is based upon our shared values and common interests. Mr. Speaker, on this joyous day, I am honored to congratulate Israel on its 66th Independence Day.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, May is Mental Health Month, a month where we step up our efforts to raise awareness for mental health and work to remove the stigma of seeking help for mental illness.

This issue is very close to my heart, as I worked in the New York State Assembly to pass Timothy's Law, which provides parity in mental health coverage in my home State.

We work in a very divided environment here, Mr. Speaker, in Washington, but one of the few things I believe we can all agree on is the need to focus more on individuals and families that struggle with mental illness. That means providing better resources, more robust programs, enhanced coordination, and a more comprehensive mental health national program.

Mental illness affects all ages, all races, tax brackets, and political ideologies, and our response to mental illness must be as comprehensive as the group of people it affects. We can only do this by joining together, reflecting in our budget our commitment to overcoming the challenges mental illnesses pose, and passing the Strengthening Mental Health in Our Communities Act, legislation that my colleagues and I introduced just today.

□ 1930

IN MEMORY OF JAMES OBERSTAR

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today, I am terribly, terribly saddened by the news of the passing of

my very close friend and former colleague, Congressman James Oberstar. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, Jean, his children, and grandchildren.

Mr. Oberstar was a true ''transportation guru.'' There was no one in Washington and most likely in the entire world who knew more about transportation than Chairman Oberstar. And he could tell you about it in several different languages.

For 36 years, Congressman Oberstar served the people of Minnesota's Eighth. I traveled on many codels with Mr. Oberstar, including a trip to Haiti, where he taught English there at the U.S. Embassy early in his career. I remember being so impressed not just by the amount of knowledge he had about Haiti, its history, politics, and infrastructure, but that he spoke French as well as in Haitian.

In closing, I take from the Bible: Mr. Oberstar has fought a good fight, he has run the race, he has finished his work, he has done a great job. God has blessed America by giving us Mr. James Oberstar.

HONORING ISRAEL'S 66TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESANTIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tonight's Special Order is meant to honor Israel's 66th Independence Day. Last year, I also had the honor of leading a similar Special Order.

Much is made about the contention in the United States Congress. Therefore, it pleases me to say that the security of Israel remains bipartisan in every aspect. I have a number of Members with us tonight who I will yield my time to to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

First, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), my colleague, a distinguished member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I thank the gentlelady for her passionate support of the State of Israel. It has been an honor to serve with you on the Foreign Affairs Committee and to be an active member of the Jewish Caucus here in the House.

I rise today to celebrate 66 years of independence by the State of Israel and 66 years of lasting friendship between our two nations.

On May 14, 1948, under the leadership of future Israeli Prime Minister David-Ben Gurion, Jewish leaders established the State of Israel. At that time, President Harry Truman recognized the new state and sent a strong message to countries throughout the Middle East and the world that Israel would not face its future challenges alone.

Since that time, Israel has thrived and become a strong democracy. Today, our two nations remain closely aligned as a result of our shared values and common interests. During these 66 years Israel has overcome many difficult challenges and the continued existence of a Jewish state is a testament to the will and strength of the people of Israel.

As we reflect on the achievements of this great country, we must also remember its modern beginnings. Israel was established as a safe haven for the Jewish people who survived centuries of persecution and oppression.

Today, the people of Israel continue to face many threats to their way of life and to their country. There are those who believe violence is the solution to resolving their differences with the State of Israel.

But to promote security throughout this region, what the Middle East really needs is stability and peace. I want to take a moment to commend our President, President Obama, and Secretary of State John Kerry for their commitment to securing a lasting peace and their work toward achieving that goal.

On the 66th anniversary of the establishment of Israel, we strongly affirm our commitment to Israel as both a friend and ally, and double down on our efforts to bring peace to this region of the world. As President Truman so eloquently noted: Israel has ''a glorious future before it, not just as another sovereign nation, but as an embodiment of the great ideals of our civilization.''

I know we have all had the opportunity to visit Israel and to see firsthand the success of this democracy and the prosperity of this country surviving and thriving in a very difficult neighborhood. It has been a great honor to be here in Congress and to continue to support the relationship between our two great countries, but to really honor the success of 66 years of independence of a country that shares our values, that continues to be an example to the world of a great democracy.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for your articulate and passionate remarks.

Now it gives me great pleasure to yield to the very distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS), another colleague of mine on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and truly for this time where we have come together to not only celebrate the 66th anniversary of Israel, but a time of remembrance.

As important as a celebration may be each and every year, we must reflect back on what brought this Nation to be. It was really rooted many years prior to its birth in unbelievable tragedy, grief, oppression, when almost 7 million Jews—moms, dads, sons and daughters, husbands and wives—were killed and terminated in a way that many of us can only try to grasp why that could have possibly happened in this world.

Yet today, we see that the antisemitic rhetoric throughout much of Europe has grown to levels that we have not seen since those days of Hitler. So we must take this day and every day to make sure that we voice not only our support for Israel, but our support for a Jewish nation in which America enjoys a great partnership and friendship, but truly an unyielding resolve of brotherly affection.

So today, I thank the gentlewoman for her time and allowing me to speak on this particular issue. But it is important that we remember that even though there was years ago a great tragedy, that today if we do not speak up that things can continue to happen and be a downward spiral, for right at this moment as we speak there are some 100,000 missiles aimed at Israel.

We can live in relative peace and comfort here in America, yet in cities and neighborhoods all across Israel they have to live in fear of a siren going off and a missile perhaps coming in. Yet, it is this partnership and friendship that we have with Israel that must remain solid and be strong.

We have a country that is some 10,000 square miles in Israel, surrounded by 5.2 million square miles of oil-rich country. Yet Israel has no iron, no gold, no silver, no lead, no oil to speak of, and yet over and over again she is attacked. And so you have to ask yourself, why? Why is it that so many people call Israel the aggressor when the missiles are aimed towards her?

I stand today to not only thank the gentlewoman for her time, but also to acknowledge the greatness of Israel, our friendship that is unyielding, and to say Happy 66th Independence Day.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Thank you, Mr. MEADOWS, for your very moving comments. I appreciate you being here with us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield to the gentleman from California, Mr. ALAN LOWENTHAL, another one of my distinguished colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee and a fellow first-term Member whom I had the

honor of traveling to Israel with our freshman class.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida for inviting me. I too was moved by the speech and the talking from my dear friend and colleague from North Carolina.

As we know, 66 years ago, with the darkness of the Holocaust still fresh in all of our minds, the State of Israel was born as a shining beacon of freedom and democracy.

I was born just as the Second World War was beginning. I remember when the State of Israel was founded. My family, my mother, was an immigrant; my father was the first of his family to be born in the United States from immigrant parents. Now I am so proud to be here as a Member of the House of Representatives and to recognize also that my country was the first nation to recognize Israel.

Since 1948, and as I can say, there was such great pride I took when Israel fought its war of independence, when Israel became a state, and Israel has persevered against great threats both large and small while at the same time building a dynamic, thriving, and innovative economy.

Today, we are so proud of our unbreakable bonds with Israel, built upon our common foundation of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Israel is without question the United States' closest ally in the Middle East and most likely our closest ally throughout the world. The people of Israel continue to be a symbol of democratic courage in the Middle East and throughout the world.

As I remember and we recall the independence and the founding of the State of Israel 66 years ago, I am reminded of the words of President John F. Kennedy, who said:

> Israel was not created in order to disappear. Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and home of the brave. It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom.

Happy Independence Day—Yom Ha'atzmaut Sameach.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Thank you, Mr. LOWENTHAL, for your very heartfelt comments.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Israel commemorated Memorial Day to honor the memory of more than 24,000 Israeli men, women, and children who have been killed in terror attacks and wars over the past 66 years.

Immediately following Memorial Day Israel transitioned to Independence Day, when Israelis and Jews across the globe celebrate the modern-day revival of the State of Israel. This abrupt transition from the solemn Memorial Day to the celebration of Independence Day embodies the Israel and Jewish narrative of resilience in the face of adversity. We recognize our suffering while we appreciate our survival.

Mr. Speaker, as commented by my colleagues who preceded me, the importance of Israel as our best ally in a very unstable region is so significant in this United States Congress that each year the first-term Members take a tour of Israel. We visit leaders and members of civil society. I was honored to be on that trip this summer.

When we visited Israel, we saw a nation at the forefront of innovation, science, and technology, a country where booming modernity sits side by side in stark contrast with ancient history.

□ 1945

Sixty-six years ago, Israel began as a modest nation of 800,000 people, fighting for its very survival. Today, Israel's population stands at well over 8 million. It is a thriving, liberal democracy, the homeland for the Jewish people, a global economic and high-tech powerhouse, and it maintains the region's most powerful military force; yet, as my colleagues mentioned, Israel still faces threats.

For anyone who has ever been to the small Middle Eastern country, you are immediately struck by the proximity of unfriendly or unstable neighbors; the border with Syria, where war has ravaged the country for years, threatening to destabilize the surrounding region; the border with Egypt, where the largest Arab nation faces great uncertainty; then the border with Gaza from an Israeli kibbutz that suffered thousands of rocket attacks. We witnessed, ourselves, how the good people live in fear each day.

Of course, there is the perpetual threat of a nuclear-armed Iran. For Israel, an Iran armed with nuclear weapons represents an unimaginable threat. Without even firing a single weapon, Iran would be able to extend its nuclear umbrella to its terrorist proxies across the globe, including to Hamas and Hezbollah, sitting on Israel's doorstep.

Even more terrifying, we would see a proliferation of nuclear arsenals throughout the region; yet, even in the face of these threats, Israelis remain optimistic for their future and proud of their national identity. So, tonight, I want to say that we are proud as Israeli allies, and we join them in celebrating their 66th year of independence.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to share the story of one of my constituents. His name is Aron Bell. He is 85 years old, and he is a proud Jewish American resident of Palm Beach County. Today, he is celebrating Israeli Independence Day, but this is more than just a celebration for him; it is a memory.

Aron Bell was born Aron Bielski. For those of you who may have seen Daniel Craig's blockbuster movie ''Defiance,'' you are familiar with the Bielski brothers—the Jewish partisans who saved over 1,000 Jews from death camps by building a village of defiance in the forest of Nazi-occupied Poland. Aron was the youngest of these brothers depicted in the film.

After his traumatic survival during World War II, Aron emigrated to the British Mandate for Palestine, having witnessed the horrors of the Holocaust and having understood the increased urgency for Jewish self-determination.

In 1948, when Israel declared its independence and was immediately attacked by five surrounding Arab nations, Aron fought in order to protect the Israelis' dream of independence.

Aron's journey, though remarkable, is not unique. The story of the Jewish people is riddled with triumph and tragedy. Israel's national anthem, called Hatikvah—meaning ''the hope''—sings of the 2,000-year-old dream to be free in a land of our own. After centuries of pogroms, inquisitions, and genocide, the dream has been realized in the establishment of the State of Israel.

I know I speak for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle tonight when I say we celebrate the independence—the birth—of the great State of Israel; and we are here to protect and secure Israel for eternity.

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the State of Israel's Sixty-Sixth year of independence.

As the grandson of a Holocaust survivor, I understand the importance of a Jewish state as both a democratic society and a refuge of culture and heritage. I am proud to celebrate its continued success.

The spirit of Israel is as strong today as it was in 1948 when Great Britain's mandate expired and a new nation was born. Its people continue to seek academic advancement, participate in international commerce, and support the arts. All this, while managing threats to its security.

My respect for this nation and its people is great. Having traveled to Israel I observed the reality of bomb children's recreation center. As a father I cannot grasp the chilling fear of wondering if it's okay for my kids to play today or if they need to go to the reinforced recreation center. The fear of becoming yet another victim to terrorism while riding a bus or eating in a café could be enough to bring stagnation to a bustling economy. However, not in Israel. Its people rally in the name of freedom and out of the hope for a lasting peace. Their economy—and their nation are strong.

Sixty-six years following its declaration of independence, Israel has grown into a strategic ally of the United States. Our nation's commitment to its economy, defense, and people are critically important.

I look forward to continuing to support Israel and am again happy to join my colleagues in celebrating its independence.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of the sixty-sixth anniversary of Israel's

independence and to honor a country that has made huge strides since its independence in 1948. As the only true democracy in the Middle East, America and Israel share so much. We both celebrate democracy and freedom. We feel an obligation to make the world a better place for all people.

The United States has considered the existence of Israel a profound moral and spiritual imperative and was the first Nation to recognize the State of Israel. Israel's security is of paramount importance, and our support for that security is unbreakable. We should take this occasion to reinforce our bond and renew our commitment to end tyranny and protect democracy.

On the anniversary of its independence, the United States commends the nation of Israel as it pursues peace and security for its people.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and thank Congresswoman LOIS FRANKEL for organizing this special order to recognize the significance of Israel's Independence at the kind invitation of Linda Kline.

I was pleased to join Rabbi Jean Eglinton of B'Nai Sholom Congregation; Senior Pastor Chuck Lawrence of Christ Temple Church; Martin Greenberg, executive director for the Network of Independent Communities for the Jewish Federations of North America; Rabbi Victor Urecki of B'Nai Jacob Congregation; and, City of Huntington, West Virginia, Mayor Steve Williams for the 4th Annual West Virginia Israel Independence Celebration at Pullman Square, Huntington, West Virginia on Sunday, May 4, 2014. I was pleased to deliver the following remarks:

In a State where the official motto is, ''Mountaineers are always free,'' we cherish independence as much as anyone. And while we are the first to lend a hand to a neighbor in need, we admire independence in others. All that West Virginia independence, some would suggest, is rooted in the rugged living our mountains impose upon us. But I think it might just run a little deeper than that.

We all know the story of America's Independence Day, July 4th 1776. But on that same day, the Continental Congress passed a lesser known resolution appointing to another committee three of the men who had just helped to draft the Declaration of Independence. Their task was to design a seal for the newly formed United States of America. Two of those men, Dr. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, spent considerable time over the next five weeks working on designs that included the story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.

Franklin's design incorporated Moses standing on the shore, extending his hand over the sea, beckoning Pharaoh's demise. Jefferson's depicted the Israelis in the wilderness, led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

From our earliest beginnings, our roots have run deep with Israel and the Jewish people. And that includes our country's Judeo-Christian heritage that is so deeply engrained in us. It shines especially bright in America's spirited independence.

So, we quite naturally welcome the opportunity to join in celebrating Israel's Independence Day.

But there is more to celebrate today than history and heritage. In today's world, practical realities have to take first order. The simple fact is that Israel is America's strongest, most dependable ally in the Middle East. And as I have said, time and again, a stable Middle East is in the long-term best interests of the United States.

Israel's security is paramount to that regional stability. Syria's domestic chaos and tragic loss of innocent lives; the uncertainty of a volatile nuclear threat from nearby Iran; the continual threat of terrorist organizations infiltrating and working their will in country after country; all these call for our constant vigilance as a strong partner in Israel's security needs.

That's why I have cosponsored and strongly supported heavy sanctions against Iran and its nuclear weapons advancement. That's why I have supported defensive tools for Israel like the Iron Dome program. And that's why I have co-sponsored and strongly supported the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act to foster the close alliance we have enjoyed with Israel over the decades.

Today's anniversary of Israel's independence is a good time to review and re-assess our partnership. Clearly, Israel has earned its seat at the table with the independent nations of the world. And she has done so as a strong U.S. ally. It is incumbent upon our leaders to return that respect and confidence.

As a world leader, we have a tremendous responsibility to actively help bring long-term peace to the Middle East. That must always include a free and independent state of Israel. America's interaction in the region must reflect the maturity of our place among other Nation states as a seasoned and substantial diplomatic leader.

My bottom line to any administration and to my colleagues in the Congress is that the U.S. must be a positive presence in the Middle East. This is in our and Israel's best interests. That requires the utmost care in both the words we use and the deeds we employ to maintain that positive presence.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Jewish state of Israel on the 66th anniversary of its declaration of independence, Yom Ha'atzmaut. For 66 years, Israel has not only defied all odds to survive in the face of existential threats, but it has transformed from a country of agricultural pioneers into the high-tech powerhouse that it is today.

For 66 years, the United States has had a special friend and steadfast ally in Israel, dating back to when President Harry Truman first recognized the State of Israel just 11 minutes after it had declared independence. Since that time, Israel has become an indispensable for security cooperation and scientific and technological research.

Israel is a beacon of democracy and freedom in a region where both are far too scarce. Israeli citizens of all stripes, including its many minorities, enjoy extensive personal freedoms and thrive in every aspect of society, from the military to the Knesset.

In these uncertain times in the Middle East and North Africa, Israel seems surrounded by chaos. On its southern border, Israel must rely on Egypt, a country grappling with a rocky transition to democracy, to intercept the weapons smuggling into the Hamas-run extremist hub of the Gaza Strip. To the North, in Lebanon, Hezbollah continues to amass its arsenal of long-range missiles capable of hitting all major cities in Israel and promises future war. In Syria, the ongoing civil war remains a source of instability and uncertainty for the entire region, empowering terrorist groups on both sides of the conflict. The Palestinian Authority's decision to reconcile with Hamas, a faction that continues to call for Israel's destruction, has undermined any progress made during recent U.S.-led peace negotiations. And despite the interim agreement with world powers, Iran's illicit nuclear program will remain an existential threat to Israel until the day a final, verifiable agreement is reached that removes the possibility of a nuclear Iran.

After years of terrorist attacks, war, and regional instability knocking on its doorsteps, Israel continues to persevere with remarkable poise. Israel has become a leader in technology and science, and its society prospers. There is much to be proud of on this Yom Hàatzmaut.

As Israel prepares to make difficult decisions about peace and security, it should know that the United States' commitment to the Jewish state is unshakeable.

I join my colleagues in wishing the people and government of Israel a Chag Sameach, a happy holiday on this 66th Independence Day.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the state of Israel and its people on the 66th anniversary of Israel's founding.

Israel is the only stable democracy in the Middle East and the United States' closest ally and friend. Our relationship, built on trust, shared values and a common experience, serves to advance the cause of democracy and freedom worldwide.

Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people. It has been the spiritual center for Jews for thousands of years. In recent years, Israel has become a hub of technology and innovation. In 66 short years, the Jewish people have built a thriving economy in the shadow of their ancient ruins.

Last month, I stood at the Babi Yar memorial in Ukraine. Alone at the site of a massacre with only a yahrtzeit candle flickering, where Einzatzgruppen killed tens of thousands of Jews, I reflected on my heritage. My four grandparents were from Ukraine, and I've often thought that if it weren't for their foresight in leaving Ukraine when they did, I would never have been born. I reflected on the thousands who have been killed because of their faith.

While Israel was not founded because of the Holocaust, the Holocaust is a powerful reminder of what the world could look like without a safe haven for the Jewish people. Israel is its own protector and the United States must stand with Israel as Israel seeks to defend itself against existential threats.

As we celebrate Israel's Independence Day, we also remember those who have fallen in service to their country. I am proud to stand here in celebration of the freedoms that Israel stands for.

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas

(Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my dear friend and colleague, Ms. FRANKEL, for a wonderful presentation.

I know, in having traveled with Congresswoman FRANKEL, that we share a great respect and admiration for the nation of Israel, and we should be the best friend Israel has in the world because they believe in the things we do, in the same values.

Where else in the Middle East do people get to vote, whether you are Muslim, Jewish, Christian, except in Israel? If you are a woman, where are you respected and given the full rights that men have, except for in Israel? Where in the Middle East are homosexuals not persecuted and even killed?

We ought to be Israel's best friend in the world; and I am very concerned that, at times, it feels like we may not be. So I join my friend in wanting to do everything we can to shore up that relationship with Israel, and I thank her for her dedication.

I also believe firmly that it is true that those who bless Israel seem to end up being blessed. Go figure. So I am grateful for that presentation.

Mr. Speaker, I did want to answer or attempt to answer a question that I have been asked many times about media reporting and presentations and why some stories get covered by the mainstream media, particularly by the three main networks for broadcast television and CNN and MSNBC as well.

I saw a chart that was put together by a group, called the Minority Report, but I wasn't as interested in the group as I was in finding out if the relationships set forth in the chart were actually accurate, so I had my staff help me. Let's find out. Is this chart really accurate? I was really staggered by what was in the chart.

This is not the entire chart, but it is most of it. Their chart was entitled, ''Keeping It in the Family,'' and it was very interesting.

As you see the chart here, at CNN, the vice president and deputy bureau chief in Washington is Virginia Moseley, who is married to Tom Nides, who is the former Deputy Secretary of State under Hillary Clinton, the former Secretary of State.

You have Bianna Golodryga, married to Peter Orszag, who was the former Director of the Office of Management and Budget under the Obama administration. You have Ben Sherwood, and he is the brother of Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, who is the former adviser to JOE BIDEN and also an adviser to the President.

At ABC News, you have Ian Cameron, who is the former executive producer of ''This Week,'' and he is married to someone named Susan Rice, who, obviously, was the National Security Advisor to the President before she went to the U.N.

You have Claire Shipman, who is married to someone named Jay Carney. Claire Shipman is a correspondent with ABC News. Then you have Matthew Jaffe, who is married to Katie Hogan. Katie Hogan was the Deputy Press Secretary for President Obama's 2012 reelection campaign; and she is the spokesperson for Organizing for Action, OFA, which is working hard, apparently, to turn Texas blue, as they say. Anyway, Matthew Jaffe is a reporter with ABC News.

Then not to leave out NBC News, you have Robert Gibbs, the former White House Press Secretary for President Obama. You have him as a contributor to NBC News. You have the former senior adviser to the President, David Axelrod, who is known for the massive and important advice he has given to President Obama as a senior political analyst for MSNBC.

Oh, we don't want to forget, over here, CBS News. You have the president of CBS News, who is David Rhodes. David Rhodes is akin to—is the brother of—Ben Rhodes, who is the person who coined the phrase ''kinetic military action,'' instead of using the word ''war.''

He coordinated the edits, apparently, of the Benghazi talking points, and of course, he had a great deal to do with what was done in Libya by this administration and the way that was discussed with the media.

So it is not necessarily surprising that Sharyl Attkisson ran into the buzz saw she did at CBS News when the president of CBS News is the brother of someone who was helping pull the strings at the White House.

In fact, some of the articles that were pulled to point out some of these relationships—an article by Ed Morrissey on April 29 of 2014 talked about the newly released White House email, which shows that the Rice talking points on Benghazi were politically motivated.

It says, in part, in the article:

> The YouTube story was designed to distract from ''policy failures,'' according to Barack Obama's aide Ben Rhodes—or the brother to the president of CBS News.

Then it goes on to set out part of Mr. Ben Rhode's email, and he says in the email, Ben Rhodes does—the brother of David Rhodes, the president of CBS News:

> To convey that the United States is doing everything that we can to protect our people and facilities abroad; to underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video and not a broader failure of policy; to show that we will be resolute in bringing people who harm Americans to justice and standing steadfast through these protests; to reinforce the President and administration's strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges.

On the toplines, he says:

> Since we began to see protests in response to this Internet video, the President has directed the administration to take a number of steps. His top priority has been the safety and security of all Americans serving abroad.

Indeed, that was exactly what people in the administration were saying. That was what the people at CBS News were parroting. Since that came from the brother of the CBS News president, that seems to have worked pretty effectively.

There is another article here, ''Worldly at 35, and Shaping Obama's Voice.'' It was an article in The New York Times in March of 2013 by Mark Landler.

It says:

> As President Obama prepares to visit Israel next week, he is turning, as he often does, to Benjamin J. Rhodes, a 35-year-old Deputy National Security Advisor with a soft voice, strong opinions, and a reputation around the White House as the man who channels Mr. Obama on foreign policy.

□ 2000

Mr. Rhodes is drafting the address to the Israeli people the President plans to give in Jerusalem. But his influence extends beyond what either his title or speech-writing duties suggest. Drawing on personal ties and a philosophical kinship with Mr. Obama that go back to the 2008 campaign, Mr. Rhodes helped prod his boss to take a more activist policy toward Egypt and Libya when those countries erupted in 2011.

On further in the article it points out:

> Two years ago, when protesters thronged Tahrir Square in Cairo, Mr. Rhodes urged Mr. Obama to withdraw three decades of American support for President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. A few months later, Mr. Rhodes was among those agitating for the President to back a NATO military intervention in Libya to head off a slaughter by Colonel Muammar Qaddafi.

Further down in the article it says:

> At the White House, Mr. Rhodes first came to prominence after he wrote Mr. Obama's landmark address to the Muslim world in Cairo in June, 2009. The speech was notable for Mr. Obama's assertion that governments should ''reflect the will of the people,'' prefiguring his policy in dealing with Mr. Mubarak and Colonel Qaddafi.

Another article from March of 2011 by Rick Moran. It starts out with a reference to Alice in Wonderland, when Rick Moran says:

> A ''war'' is a war, is a ''war,'' right? Not if you live in the Rabbit Hole and have to answer to Alice—

talking about Alice in Wonderland—

as Commander in Chief.

But Byron York is quoted—and I take it this was an article by Byron York inserted in Mr. Moran's piece—and says:

> In the last few days, Obama administration officials have frequently faced the question: Is the fighting in Libya a war? For military officers to White House spokesmen up to the President himself, the answer is ''no.'' But that leaves the question: What is it?
>
> In a briefing onboard Air Force One Wednesday, Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes—

Again, this is 2011—

—took a crack at an answer. ''I think what we are doing is enforcing a resolution that has a very clear set of goals, which is protecting the Libyan people, averting a humanitarian crisis, and setting up a no-fly zone,'' Rhodes said. ''Obviously, that involves kinetic military action, particularly on the front end.''

That came from Ben Rhodes.

And then Mr. Moran's article says:

What we are doing in Libya is making war, whether the Obama administration admits it or not. People aren't getting killed by ''kinetic'' anything. They are dying the old-fashioned way—they are getting blown up.

This gives a whole new meaning to ''KIA.''

Another article from Patrick Howley from May 11, 2013, entitled, ''Top Obama Official's Brother is President of CBS News, May Drop Reporter Over Benghazi Coverage.''

It says:

The brother of a top Obama administration official is also the president of CBS News, and the network may be days away from dropping one of its top investigative reporters for covering the administration's scandals too aggressively.

Down further it says:

That reporting revealed that President Obama's Deputy National Security Advisor, Ben Rhodes—brother of CBS News president David Rhodes—was instrumental in changing the talking points in September, 2012.

The article further down says more about Mr. Rhodes being a 35-year-old New York native; David Rhodes, president of CBS news since 2011.

So it is rather amazing, but it should be more clear to people. People wonder why the mainstream gives such favorable coverage to the Obama administration. Well, blood is thicker than water, is one saying.

In the case of our mainstream media, they totally dropped the ball on Benghazi and continue to report on anything else they can besides Benghazi.

I am very grateful that the mainstream media on the left and right back in the seventies did not drop the Watergate investigation. They stayed on it until the truth came out. Back in those days, the mainstream media was so important to protecting our freedom and protecting Americans from a President who had an enemies' list and protecting America from a President that seemed a bit paranoid at times.

A man, a fellow Christian and an amazing man of faith after his conversion during the Watergate investigation, Chuck Colson, talked in his book, ''Born Again'' about how after the Kent State debacle and students were killed, it turned basically into a bunker at the White House. It was ''we'' against ''they,'' and if you were critical at all, you didn't deserve to be in the bunker. You were an enemy.

We are very fortunate that when a President begins to have that kind of mentality and so afraid of anybody who is critical, we are fortunate he did not understand just how far a President, how far an administration could push the IRS into going after political enemies, as we have now seen that it has.

Whether or not the IRS's weaponization was before the 2012 election, the President had a call to arms right here in front of the House and the Senate and the Cabinet members, Joint Chiefs of Staff and Supreme Court, sitting right here, when he mistakenly asserted what he believed were facts about the Citizens United ruling by the Supreme Court, and it was so wrong, to the point that Justice Alito sat right here just feet away from where I am standing, shaking his head and saying, Not true, not true, not true.

Nonetheless, people at the IRS heard the call. They paid attention. And they came to understand that maybe the Supreme Court says conservatives can run ads and get involved in political issues like union groups do, but maybe we can stop them. And they effectively did that by putting their investigations into their tax status on hold and refusing to give them any kind of decision until well after the 2012 election, thereby silencing those voices.

I have had reporters who obviously don't understand the Tax Code and the power of the IRS say, Well, what difference does it make? Those groups probably shouldn't have been applying for tax status like they were anyway. Obviously, showing the ignorance of the reporters when they ask such questions. Because the way the Internal Revenue Code is set up, if someone in the general population just decides I want to get a bunch of friends together who have political beliefs like I do and we are going to pool our money together and then we are going to start spending it on issues to educate the American public, and somebody has got to account for all that money, you don't want the IRS coming after you as you accumulate money to spend on political education of America.

So you have to go begging to the IRS for the proper designation so that you can go about gathering money without them coming against you as being a single individual raising money to spend on political issues.

That also, Mr. Speaker, is one of the reasons why we need to throw out the Internal Revenue Code. Just pass a bill that says as of a certain date the Internal Revenue Code will be totally void, and that gives us a deadline to shoot for.

I like the idea of a flat tax. There are people that I love and respect that think a fair tax is a better way to go. But by scrapping the Internal Revenue Code, throwing it out on a date certain, then we would only have so long to get a new Tax Code figured out. We would be serving notice to people that that is when it would change.

I have heard our President say so many times that people need to pay their fair share. Well, it doesn't look like that is ever going to happen until we have a flat tax, where if you make more, you pay more; you make less, you pay less. That is what we ought to be doing.

Anyway, as a result, we have an IRS that became weaponized on behalf of one political party and one administration. And we do need a special prosecutor. I have been pointing that out for quite some time. There are criminals laws that may have been violated. That is why we need a special prosecutor, not the Justice Department. We have seen their kind of ''just us'' rather than ''justice.''

We need a special prosecutor that is not appointed by Eric Holder. We need to get to the bottom of who violated the law. Because it appears laws were broken.

But some wonder why the mainstream media doesn't get into the IRS weaponization more. We see the familial relationships between the mainstream media—not that I am saying CNN and MSNBC on the extreme left are mainstream media, but they are part of the media who avoids reporting anything negative about this President. Well, you hate to report things negative on your own family. So that is understandable.

So, Mr. Speaker, it explains a lot, once you begin to see all of the marriages and all of the sibling relationships between this administration and people in the media—siblings in the media—people calling the shots and giving the advice in our major news media.

Mr. Speaker, we also sometimes are a little surprised as the mainstream media tries to desperately change the subject from the false reports and statements that were made about Benghazi and the coverup that we are now finding out about Benghazi. They are constantly trying to change the subject, in their desperation to protect their familial relationships in the administration.

I had a call today wanting me to come on the news tomorrow and talk about climate change. It used to be called global warming until people realized, wow, it is not really warming anything very serious, so we better start calling it climate change. And as any real scientists know, when you come up with a scientific theory, then there are certain facts that will prove your theory or your assertion. But when we talk about climate change, people are not doing that.

□ 2015

Whatever happens, if there are a lot of tornados, they say: see, it is climate change. If there are very few tornados, they say: see, it is climate change. If we have numerous hurricanes, they say: see, it is climate change. If there are not many hurricanes, they say: see, it is climate change.

No matter what happens in the weather, we are told it is climate change. The truth is I believe in climate change. I not only believe in climate change, I know it is happening, usually, most places, four times a year. They are called seasons.

Then we have climate changing—I will never forget, back in the midseventies, there was a cover of one of the main American magazines about how we were approaching—heading into a new ice age. I thought, well, that doesn't make sense. I do believe the Bible, and I don't believe the world is going to end in ice.

That just doesn't seem right, yet we heard scientists telling us: oh, no, we are at the beginning of a new ice age in the mid-1970s. We are at the beginning of a new ice age.

They were wanting to change everything we were doing. Oh, we have got to change everything we are doing about power, about fossil fuels, everything because we are at the beginning of a new ice age. About 10 years later, people saw: well, we may be slightly warming, so we had better quit talking about global cooling, and now, we are talking about global warming.

There is an interesting article that came out today from Mario Lewis entitled, ''National Climate Assessment report: Alarmists offer untrue, unrelenting doom and gloom.''

This article today says:

Tuesday, the U.S. Government's Global Change Research Program released its latest ''National Assessment'' report on climate change impacts in the United States.

As with previous editions, the new report is an alarmist document designed to scare people and build political support for unpopular policies such as carbon taxes, cap-and-trade, and EPA regulatory mandates.

Also in keeping with past practice, the latest report confuses climate risk with climate change risk.

Droughts, storms, floods, and heat waves are all part of the natural climate. Our risk of exposure to such extremes has much more to do with where we happen to live than with any gradual climate changes associated with the 1.3 degree Fahrenheit to 1.9 degree Fahrenheit increase in average U.S. temperature since the 1880s.

Since even immediate and total shutdown of all carbon dioxide-emitting vehicles, power plants, and factories in the U.S. would decrease global warming by only a hypothetical and undetectable two-tenths of a degree Celsius by 2100—

Eighty-five years, even if they got everything they wanted for 85 years, the article says:

It is misleading to imply, as the report does, that the Obama administration's climate policies can provide any measurable protection from extreme weather events.

The assessment is flatout wrong that climate change is increasing our vulnerability to heat stress. As hot weather has become more frequent, people and communities have adapted to it, and heat-related mortality in the U.S. has declined.

Cities with the most frequent hot weather, such as Tampa; Florida; and Phoenix, Arizona, have practically zero heat-related mortality. That is the most probable future for most U.S. cities if global warming continues.

The report also foolishly predicts that climate change ''intensify air pollution.'' As EPA's own data show, despite allegedly ''unprecedented'' warming, the U.S. air quality has improved decade by decade since 1970 as emissions declined.

The report blames climate change for the Midwest drought of 2012, but the government's own analysis concluded otherwise: ''Neither ocean states nor human-induced climate change, factors that can provide long-lead predictability, appeared to play significant roles in causing severe rainfall deficits over the major corn-producing regions of central Great Plains.''

This assessment ignores substantial data and research, finding no long-term increase in the strength and frequency of tropical cyclones and no trend in extreme weather-related damages once losses are ''normalized'' or adjusted for changes in population, wealth, and consumer price index.

For example, the report says trends in the frequency and intensity of tornadoes are ''uncertain,'' whereas, in fact, there is no trend, and a new study by University of Colorado Professor Roger Pielke, Jr., finds ''with some certainty'' that ''the number of years with very large tornado losses has actually decreased'' during 1993–2013 compared to 1950–1970.

Similarly, the U.S. is currently in the longest period on record with no major category 3–5 hurricane landfalls.

This good news is not included in the report.

The assessment gives short shrift to the warming ''pause,'' which it calls ''short-term.'' In the assessment, the ''pause'' is depicted as running from 1998 through 2012. That is 15 years. In fact, the pause is now 17 years and 8 months long.

More tellingly, the assessment does not discuss the growing divergence between climate model predictions and observations.

The divergence, now in its 34th year and accelerating due to the pause, raises questions about the climate sensitivity assumptions on which dire climate change scenarios depend. Climate sensitivity is an estimate of how much warming will eventually result from a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations relative to preindustrial levels.

In its discussion of sensitivity, the assessment basically endorses the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2007 ''likely'' sensitivity range of 3.6 to 8.1 degrees Fahrenheit and ''best estimate'' of 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit. It neglects to mention that, partly due to the pause and model overshoot of observed temperatures, the IPCC's 2013 report lowered the bottom end of the likely range and declined to offer a ''best'' estimate.

More importantly, the assessment presents the debate over climate sensitivity as a ''he said, she said,'' as if a single paper by John Fasullo and Kevin Trenberth balances out some 16 recent papers indicating that the IPCC climate sensitivity estimates are too hot.

In other words, they are just wrong. The article says:

So despite an occasional fig leaf to hide the nakedness of its alarm message, the report does acknowledge that climate change has lengthened growing seasons, helping to make food more abundant and affordable, the assessment is unrelenting gloom and doom.

Its only hopeful message is that it's not too late to implement Kyoto-style climate policies.

Sorry, that's not good enough even for government work.

Mario Lewis is a Ph.D., a senior fellow at Competitive Enterprise institute.

And it really is important to real realize what is at stake here. It is something that shocked me back when we were trying, in my freshman term, to amend and reform the Endangered Species Act that has wreaked such havoc with our economy and continues to cause people to lose jobs.

There was reported decline in the unemployment rate from 6.7 to 6.3, and you heard all of the mainstream media, in helping their family members in this administration, just all abuzz and aglow with how wonderful that fourtenths of a percent drop was, failing completely to mention that that was only a fraction of the 800,000 who got so tired of not finding work—800,000 people gave up and quit looking for work and are now considered, under statistics, to no longer be unemployed, even though they are unemployed.

It doesn't account for all the people that are underemployed, that are out of college and can't find jobs; the historic high unemployment rate of our veterans coming back and looking for jobs, even as this administration not only wants to cut the military back to a fraction of its former self, back to pre-World War II levels, when we were not a superpower, and hatred and genocide began to reign supreme.

That doesn't explain why the administration and some people here in the House, friends of mine here in the House, that are saying: You know what? Let's give the few jobs left in our military to people that are not lawfully in this country.

If they will do that, even though it will displace one of the few military jobs left after we cut the military back so far and even though it will push them into an even-growing high unemployment rate for veterans, let's go ahead and give those few jobs left to people who are not lawfully in the country. It is not a good idea.

After pushing for over a year and a half for a select committee to get to the bottom of what happened at Benghazi and after we still haven't gotten to the bottom of the Department of Justice's role in forcing guns, which we know they did, forced guns to be sold to criminals and people that should not have had guns, that ended up with drug cartels in Mexico, with reports of hundreds of Mexicans killed by the weapons we forced into improper and illegal criminal hands, we—being the Justice Department of this administration—we haven't gotten answers to that.

That is why, even today, as I stand here, the highest-ranking law enforcement officer in the land stands in contempt of Congress; although I was gratified to hear him say, in answer to

a question of mine, that I am not supposed to ever presume that it wasn't a big deal to him.

Unfortunately, he said, a year ago to ABC News that it wasn't any kind of big deal at all because, to be a big deal, he would have had to have respect for the people that voted for the contempt; and since he had no respect for the people that voted for the contempt, it wasn't a big deal to him.

So a year ago, it wasn't a big deal; and this year, apparently, it is still a big deal, but I am not supposed to think that it is not a big deal to him, even though that is what he said, and the familial relationships in the mainstream media continue to give cover.

As I have continued to complain about the inadequate investigation into the Tsarnaevs—the failure of this administration to properly investigate the Tsarnaevs, even after the Russians, who are not our friends, gave us, twice, a heads up. Look out. The older Tsarnaev has been radicalized.

Now, you have got people in the mainstream media parroting what the Obama administration is saying. Well, those darned old Russians, they should have given us more information.

They did us a favor giving us a heads up. We are not their friends. They gave us a heads up anyway.

They don't even—they purged the FBI training material, so our agents don't know the proper questions to ask to find out if someone has been radicalized.

□ 2030

They won't allow people that have spent their adult lives studying radical Islam—people like that, like Steve Coughlin—they are not allowed to even go give a briefing to people to explain what radical Islam is.

And then we hear people like the Department of Homeland Security Secretary at the time, Janet Napolitano, who seemed to take the position that, gee, you know, we are just not able to connect the dots. But yet it appears that, under her watch, not only did she promote what Egyptian Muslim Brother publications said were top Muslim Brother people into top Homeland Security and Obama administration positions, but she gave a secret clearance—and there is no way it could have been given after proper vetting because proper vetting would have showed that he was a main speaker giving tribute to the man of vision, the Ayatollah Khomeini, who has a foundation called the Freedom and Justice Foundation, which is the same name as the Muslim Brother political party in Egypt who defended the convicted terrorist supporter of the head of the Holy Land Foundation, said there was nothing wrong with what he was doing.

I am very proud of the Senator from Iowa. I want to do a shout-out, Mr. Speaker, down the hall and read a letter from Senator GRASSLEY. I was just there in Iowa a few days ago, Senator GRASSLEY's territory. The senior Senator from Iowa, CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, wrote a letter to the new Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, and he said:

My office recently received copies of disturbing internal Department of Homeland Security, DHS, emails regarding the admittance of individuals into the United States with potential ties to terrorism.

The May 2012 email chain between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, surrounds the question of whether to admit someone who had scheduled an upcoming flight into the U.S. Allegedly, the individual was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and a close associate of a supporter of ''Hamas, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Islamic jihad.'' According to the same email, the individual had been in secondary inspection ''several dozen times of the past several years,'' but had not had a secondary inspection since 2010.

One of the responses to the initial email states: ''The CBP National Targeting Center, NTC, watch commander advised that the subject has sued CBP twice in the past and that he's one of the several hands-off passengers nationwide. Apparently, his records were removed in December 2010, and the DHS Secretary was involved in the matter.'' The email continues:

I'm puzzled how someone could be a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and unindicted coconspirator in the Holy Land Foundation trial—

Which, parenthetically, was a trial in which people were convicted of supporting terrorism, providing financial support for terrorism, convicted, and this individual mentioned was a named coconspirator in the pleadings.

The message and the email goes on:

—be an associate of (redacted), say that the U.S. is staging car bombings in Iraq and that it is okay for men to beat their wives, question who was behind the 9/11 attacks, and be afforded the luxury of a visitor visa and de-watchlisted. It doesn't appear that we'll be successful with denying him entry tomorrow, but maybe we could reevaluate the matter in the future since the decision to de-watchlist him was made 17 months ago.

Senator GRASSLEY's message to Secretary Johnson of DHS said:

In order to understand the events described in these emails, please provide the committee with answers to the following questions:

One, why was this individual removed from the watchlist in December 2010?

Two, please describe the nature, extent, and reasons for the involvement of the DHS Secretary or her staff in the removal of the individual from the watchlist.

Three, what is the current watchlist status of this individual?

Four, how many people are on the hands-off list mentioned in the email?

Five, what qualifies someone to receive the ''hands-off'' designation?

Six, does filing a lawsuit result in being designated ''hands-off'' and, thus, avoiding secondary security screenings?

Seven, who makes the determination that an individual should be considered ''hands-off''?

Senator GRASSLEY says: I would appreciate receiving answers to these questions by March 3, 2014. Should you have any questions regarding the letter—and he goes on, and he signs it, CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Ranking Member.

Then there is an attachment to his letter. And there is so much that is redacted here, Mr. Speaker, that there are a lot of gaps. But even so, it is easy to see how serious this is.

This was from Thursday, May 10, 2012, not quite a year before the Boston bombing. But as was pointed out in the letter, this email was from a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol protection. The body says:

The NTC watch commander advised that the subject has sued CBP twice in the past and that he's one of several hands-off passengers nationwide. He said he checked if there was a copy of the lawsuits filed against CBP in the historical logs. Can you pass the lawsuits if they are at NTC? I assume the lawsuits were against the heads of DHS and presume it was a civil proceeding, but who knows where it was filed, since the subject lives outside the U.S. I didn't know that a Canadian citizen who lives in (blank) could sue DHS. Also not sure if the lawsuits were regarding him being stopped frequently or his admissibility/inadmissibility or both. If the lawsuits weren't about his admissibility/inadmissibility, we should proceed forward regarding that once the lawsuits are reviewed.

If the lawsuits aren't readily accessible at CBP/NTC, I can check with someone at CBP headquarters to get them. Apparently his records were removed in December 2010, and the DHS Secretary was involved in the matter.

I'm puzzled how someone could be a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and unindicted coconspirator in the Holy Land Foundation trial, be an associate of (blank), say that the U.S. is staging car bombings in Iraq and that is okay for men to beat their wives, question who was behind the 9/11 attacks and be afforded the luxury of a visitor visa and de-watchlisted. It doesn't appear that we'll be successful with denying him entry tomorrow, but maybe we could reevaluate the matter in the future since the decision to de-watchlist him was made 17 months ago. Thanks.

And then the name is blotted out.

Anyway, other messages. One in response down the email chain:

I spoke with CBP (blank) who is obviously very familiar with this traveler. I am of the opinion that (blank) meets the parameters for refusal based on the three INA 212(a)(3) terrorism charges and that when he enters the U.S. on a B1/B2 for lectures/speeches for organizations or for events where a registration fee is required or admission needs to be paid, he should probably be seeking an R–1 or an O–1 visa instead.

Perhaps one of the reasons he has not applied for an O–1 visa or R–1 visa is because of the terrorist-related questions these forms ask that he would then be forced to answer.

Does NTC have any background information or guidance it can share on the logs or former records this subject has had? Or if he has applied for any waivers of inadmissibility? Does NTC have any objections if CBP denies admission to (blank) under either terrorism grounds or improper non-immigrant visa?

Based on a review of the statements of the subject, I think it is clear that he meets the definition of endorsing and inciting. If he'd like to enter the U.S. in the future, he can seek a waiver to overcome those inadmissibility grounds, but none has been sought to my knowledge.

And the email prior to that said:

Yesterday afternoon, we, HSI (blank) office, received a lead regarding (blank) AKA (blank), an Egyptian-born Canadian citizen who is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and close associate of (blank), an individual residing in (blank) who supports Hamas, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Islamic jihad. (Blank) has been looked at in secondary inspections several dozen times over the past several years. However, he has not been secondaried since (blank) 2010. (Blank) has a reservation to depart (blank) Canada at (blank) on this Friday morning for a flight to (blank) that stops in (blank) first.

He is scheduled to speak at some conference, in some city, on some night—it is all blacked out.

I am passing this right up to (blank) at HSI to forward to CBP regarding possible inadmissibility grounds related to INA 2012(a)(3) terrorism charges because (blank)'s potential inciting, endorsing, and association with terrorists. (Blank) has been looked at in the past, but hopefully this collection of 20 supporting open source articles will assist with making an informed inadmissibility determination.

But anyway, apparently, despite all of those open inadmissibility issues, according to the later email, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security herself at the time, Janet Napolitano, had a hands-off list apparently including people like this member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

When it comes to the Boston bombing, I have met some of the Boston Police. I was impressed. And I would bet if the City of Boston Police Department had been given a heads-up by either the FBI or CIA that the Russians say this Tsarnaev guy has been radicalized, is capable of murder, then it would have entirely changed the investigation by the Boston Police Department into people that were killed that were known to Tsarnaev.

And I would bet you, since I am not aware of the Boston Police Department having had their training materials purged to exclude anything that might offend a radical Islamist, they may have been able to go out to the mosque and ask about Tsarnaev if they had known the allegation that he had been radicalized, and they may have been able to answer better questions about the type of Islamic leaders that the older Tsarnaev liked, that he read, that he endorsed, and they could have made a better decision than our own Justice Department did on whether or not he had been radicalized.

□ 2045

That should have been shared with the Boston police. If they had had that information without having had their training materials purged, they may have done a better job of protecting those people at the Boston Marathon.

Then you read emails going back and forth among our ICE agents, Customs and Border Patrol people who were shocked that a guy who is a Muslim Brother, who has incited people to hatred against the United States, who was a named coconspirator with people who were convicted of supporting terrorism, how it is the Secretary of Homeland Security could give him a pass, just as she did to a reported member of the Muslim Brotherhood—reported by an Egyptian magazine supportive of the Muslim Brotherhood—how she could just give him a secret security clearance. And even after I tell her about his downloading two documents from a classified source that she gave him access to and pointed out to her about a reporter saying he had tried to shop the two documents, she said she investigated, but I know they didn't because they never even talked to that one reporter that knew about the documents being shopped. They never checked.

As far as I know, he is still giving advice at the top level of Homeland Security as a Muslim Brother, according to the Egyptians. He is given access to our classified documents, and then we see that same Homeland Security Secretary that gave him access to classified documents that he reportedly—and according to somebody I trust—he had shopped them and tried to get a national news media to publish them. They didn't even look into it. They didn't even investigate that properly.

How safe can America be when Homeland Security is creating hands-off lists that put us at risk? With that, I yield back my time.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2148

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLE) at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE REPORT 113–415 AND AN ACCOMPANYING RESOLUTION, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 565, APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–439) on the resolution (H. Res. 568) relating to the consideration of House Report 113–415 and an accompanying resolution, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 565) calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4438, AMERICAN RESEARCH AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–440) on the resolution (H. Res. 569) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4438) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of the recent tornadoes in Alabama.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of the recent tornadoes in Arkansas.

Mr. NUNNELEE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of the recent tornadoes in Mississippi.

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of attending to a family matter.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4120. An act to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5544. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report of multiple violations of the Antideficiency Act by the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and Health Resources and Services Administration, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

5545. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of 6 officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5546. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on Preventive Services and Obesity-related Services Available to Medicaid Enrollees; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5547. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2013 MDUFA Financial Report required by the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5548. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting annual financial report as required by the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act for FY 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5549. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2013 Medicaid Integrity Program Report; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5550. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [EPA-R07-OAR-2013-0672; FRL-9909-43-Region 7] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5551. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R06-OAR-2012-0100; FRL-9909-51-Region 6] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5552. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Air Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills; State of Missouri [EPA-R07-OAR-2013-0692; FRL-9909-45-Region 7] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5553. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances; Withdrawal [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2013-0739; FRL-9909-25] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5554. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Underground Storage Tank Program: Codification of Approved State Program for South Carolina (EPA-R04-UST-2013-0679; FRL-9909-12-Region 4) received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5555. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a copy of the report entitled, ''Certification of the Fiscal Year 2014 Total Local Source General Fund Revenues (Net of Dedicated Taxes) in Support of the District's Issuance of $495,425,000 in General Obligation Bonds (Series 2013A)'', pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5556. A letter from the Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5557. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5558. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0740; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-24-AD; Amendment 39-17804; AD 2014-05-32] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5559. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0174; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-212-AD) (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5560. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0976; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-198-AD; Amendment 39-17686; AD 2013-24-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5561. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0545; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-048-AD; Amendment 39-17787; AD 2014-05-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5562. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System for Federally Qualified Health Centers; Changes to Contracting Policies for Rural Health Clinics; and Changes to Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 Enforcement Actions for Proficiency Testing Referral [CMS-1443-FC] (RIN: 0938-AR62) received May 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

5563. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report required by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1807; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Intelligence (Permanent Select).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 863. A bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–411, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Supplemental Report to Accompany Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Rept. 113–415, Pt. 2) Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2919. A bill to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require annual reports to Congress on, and the maintenance of databases on, awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–434). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4292. A bill to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title (Rept. 113–435). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4228. A bill to require the Department of Homeland Security to improve discipline, accountability, and transparency in acquisition program management; with an amendment (Rept. 113–436). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 503. A bill to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–437). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2430. A bill to adjust the boundaries of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 113–438). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NUGENT: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 568. Resolution relating to the

consideration of House Report 113–415 and an accompanying resolution, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 565) calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service (Rept. 113–439). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House. Resolution 569. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4438) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit (Rept. 113–440). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself and Mr. GARRETT):

H.R. 4564. A bill to amend the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act to improve the crowdfunding provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself and Mr. GARRETT):

H.R. 4565. A bill to amend the securities laws to improve the small company capital formation provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. YOHO):

H.R. 4566. A bill to establish a commission to conduct a comprehensive review over 6 years of Federal agencies and programs and to recommend the elimination or realignment of duplicative, wasteful, or outdated functions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 4567. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to broaden the special rules for certain governmental plans under section 105(j) to include plans established by political subdivisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 4568. A bill to enhance the ability of smaller reporting companies to access the public securities markets by allowing forward incorporation by reference on Form S-1, to add listing and registration of a class of common equity securities on a national securities exchange as an additional basis for satisfying the requirements of General Instruction I.B.1. of Form S-3, and to remove such listing and registration as a requirement of General Instruction I.B.6. of such form; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARRETT (for himself and Mr. HURT):

H.R. 4569. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to make certain improvements to form 10-K and regulation S-K, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARRETT (for himself and Mr. MCHENRY):

H.R. 4570. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise Regulation D relating to exemptions from registration requirements for certain sales of securities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 4571. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its rules so as to increase the threshold amount for requiring issuers to provide certain disclosures relating to compensatory benefit plans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 4572. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 4573. A bill to protect children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARBER (for himself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MATSUI, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 4574. A bill to maximize the access of individuals with mental illness to community-based services, to strengthen the impact of such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, Education and the Workforce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 4575. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land to operate a visitor center for Joshua Tree National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 4576. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish and implement a fatigue management plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 4577. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure equal access of Medicare beneficiaries to community pharmacies in underserved areas as network pharmacies under Medicare prescription drug coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. FARR, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 4578. A bill to require that Peace Corps volunteers be subject to the same limitations regarding coverage of abortion services as employees of the Peace Corps with respect to coverage of such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 4579. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to verify that individuals have made a commitment to serve in the Armed Forces or in public service, or otherwise are a borrower on an eligible loan which has been submitted to a guaranty agency for default aversion or is already in default, before such individuals obtain a consolidation loan for purposes specified under section 455(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 4580. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4581. A bill to prohibit the United States from funding projects that discriminate against Israeli organizations that operate beyond the 1949 armistice lines; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TIERNEY (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 4582. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Mr. PETRI, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ENYART, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER):

H.R. 4583. A bill to modify certain requirements for countable resources and income under the Supplemental Security Income program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 4584. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and extend the new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles credit and to enable such credit to be converted to a rebate at the point of sale; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H. Res. 567. A resolution providing for the Establishment of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself and Mr. MEEKS):

H. Res. 570. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. HANNA, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. TERRY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. REED, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. MARINO, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Ms. JENKINS):

H. Res. 571. A resolution recognizing the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing the Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PETERS OF CALIFORNIA (for himself, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. HONDA, Ms. CHU, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. FARR, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BARBER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H. Res. 572. A resolution expressing support for designation of the first full week of May as ''National Mental Health No Stigma Week''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. WILSON OF FLORIDA (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. BASS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SIRES, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Ms. HANABUSA):

H. Res. 573. A resolution condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the terrorist group known as Boko Haram in northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California introduced A bill (H.R. 4585) for the relief of Antonia Esmeralda Aguilar Belmontes; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 4564.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 4565.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 4566.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, section 8, clause 1:

The Congress shall have power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Article One, section 8, clause 18:

The Congress shall have Power—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 4567.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 4568.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to the Congress in Aricle I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution: ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

Additional authotity derives from Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution: ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.'')

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 4569.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 (''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States''), 3 (''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes''), and 18 (''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof'').

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 4570.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 (''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States''), 3 (''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes''), and 18 (''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof'').

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 4571.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, as this legislation regulates commerce between the states.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, providing Congress with the authority to enact legislation necessary to execute one of its enumerated powers, such as Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 4572.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 4573.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, as sex offenders are traveling in foreign commerce.

By Mr. BARBER:

H.R. 4574.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 4575.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4576.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 4577.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. LOWEY:
H.R. 4578.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I.
By Mr. SALMON:
H.R. 4579.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
Mr. SCHIFF:
H.R. 4580.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. STOCKMAN:
H.R. 4581.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
[The Congress shall have Power] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations''
By Mr. TIERNEY:
H.R. 4582.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.
By Ms. TSONGAS:
H.R. 4583.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 Clause 1
Mr. WELCH:
H.R. 4584.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof..
Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:
H.R. 4585.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 and Amendment I, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Ms. CHU and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 24: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GIBBS, and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 148: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 184: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 352: Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 401: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 410: Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 437: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 508: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 521: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 543: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 556: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 644: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 713: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 798: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 808: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 842: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 855: Ms. TITUS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 863: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 875: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 897: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 920: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.
H.R. 946: Mr. CASSIDY.
H.R. 963: Mr. POCAN and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 997: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 1020: Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 1024: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 1106: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 1175: Ms. Clark of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1179: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 1199: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 1213: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 1226: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 1240: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 1249: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1250: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 1257: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1354: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 1428: Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 1429: Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1449: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TERRY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 1507: Mr. GARCIA, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 1563: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H.R. 1599: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1663: Mr. COHEN and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 1750: Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 1771: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 1796: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1812: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 1827: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 1852: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 1875: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1953: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 2003: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2078: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2154: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 2384: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 2510: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2553: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 2591: Ms. SPEIER and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 2632: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 2647: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 2663: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 2673: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2676: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 2692: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2734: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 2746: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 2807: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 2825: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2835: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 2870: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 2955: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. KILDEE, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2959: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 2981: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. BARBER.
H.R. 2996: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. WOLF, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2997: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 3137: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 3168: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 3199: Mr. COTTON and Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 3279: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3318: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 3344: Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 3361: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3374: Mr. POLLIS.
H.R. 3407: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3413: Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 3485: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 3530: Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3610: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 3658: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 3698: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 3707: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. OWENS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3708: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan and Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 3717: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 3722: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 3747: Mr. CICILLINE and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3774: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3836: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3863: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 3877: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3905: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 3929: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 3930: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3982: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 4017: Mr. NUGENT and Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.
H.R. 4028: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 4031: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. JOLLY, Mrs. BLACK, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 4035: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 4036: Mr. AMASH.
H.R. 4040: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4042: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4077: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 4079: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4103: Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 4111: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 4122: Mr. DELANEY and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4129: Mr. LATHAM and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4143: Mr. POSEY, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 4155: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 4169: Mr. RUIZ, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 4188: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 4190: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 4200: Mr. HIMES and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4217: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. ENYART, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4225: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4227: Mr. COHEN and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4237: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 4250: Mr. ROSS and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 4252: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 4286: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 4303: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 4310: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4317: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 4318: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 4325: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 4342: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 4351: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. COLE and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 4363: Ms. CHU, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 4365: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. POLIS, Ms. KUSTER, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4368: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 4382: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 4386: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 4391: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4396: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4398: Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 4411: Mr. COTTON, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. RUSH, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. LANCE, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4415: Mr. COHEN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4419: Mr. COOK.
H.R. 4423: Mr. MCKINLEY and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 4426: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4450: Mr. COHEN and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 4498: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 4511: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4521: Mr. COTTON, Mr. ROSS, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 4524: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4531: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4542: Mr. HIMES.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. JOLLY.
H.J. Res. 20: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.J. Res. 21: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.J. Res. 25: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.J. Res. 104: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H. Con. Res. 95: Ms. DELBENE.
H. Res. 36: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. HANNA.
H. Res. 72: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H. Res. 106: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina and Mr. GOWDY.
H. Res. 109: Mr. FARR, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MARINO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Res. 221: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H. Res. 235: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H. Res. 418: Mr. POCAN.
H. Res. 456: Mr. WELCH, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 494: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H. Res. 525: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H. Res. 526: Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 532: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H. Res. 540: Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. SABLAN.
H. Res. 561: Mr. POMPEO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. LONG.
H. Res. 562: Mr. MARINO.
H. Res. 563: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H. Res. 565: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FORBES, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. DESANTIS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TICHIUNA LASHA' FUNCHESS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student, Tichiuna Lasha' Funchess, from Crystal Springs High School.

Tichiuna Lasha' Funchess is the daughter of Mr. Rico and Mrs. Kimberly Funchess. She has one sibling, Danielle Floyd.

Tichiuna is an honor student at Crystal Springs High School (CSHS) with 3.88 Grade Point Average. As a natural born leader, Tichiuna demonstrates her leadership abilities in her school, community, and church. At CSHS, she is a member of Student Council, SADD Club, Mu Alpha Theta (National Society Math Organization), FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), NSHSS (National Society of High School Scholars), Ambassador of NSHSS, and Ronald Reagan Scholars Program.

Tichiuna serves in her community as a representative of the Crystal Springs Mayor's Youth Council. She is also a faithful choir member and praise dancer at Terry Missionary Baptist Church.

Tichiuna is inspired by her physics teacher Dr. Cecilia Newsome-McGowan. She says that she truly admires Dr. McGowan because with her credentials. She could work anywhere making much more money but, instead, she devotes her time to the students at Crystal Springs High School.

Tichiuna has recently received acceptance letters from University of Mississippi and Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in Political Science. She plans to become a divorce or corporate attorney.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tichiuna Lasha' Funchess as a student who is making a difference in her community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RODNEY A. LINDSAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Mr. Rodney A. Lindsay, who served the United States of America honorably during the Vietnam War. Rodney's commitment and service to our country deserves to be commended.

Rodney was born in Merced, California, in July 1948. He attended local schools and graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1966.

Rodney entered the U.S. Army in April 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War. He reported to Fort Lewis, Washington, for basic training and upon completion he was sent across the country to Fort Dix, New Jersey, for advanced infantry training.

After completing infantry training, Rodney was selected to join an exclusive group of ten soldiers for specialized shoulder-fired, surface-to-air "Red Eye" missile training at Fort Bliss, Texas. Rodney then reported to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he received further specialized training in the operation of convoys in combat. Following all of his specialized training, the Army assigned Rodney to a military police unit.

In April 1969, Rodney was stationed in Vietnam. During his time in Vietnam, Rodney was promoted to Specialist 4 and performed a number of duties including patrolling and securing the perimeter of the Cam Ranh Bay.

After his twelve month tour in Vietnam, Rodney returned to the United States. For his service as a Specialist 4, Rodney was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation with Frame, the Sharpshooter Badge (M16), the Expert Badge (M14), and two Overseas Bars.

Upon returning to civilian life, Rodney worked as a laborer and carpenter, building bridges throughout the western United States. He was later promoted to foreman and superintendent of bridge projects and highways where he served for more than thirty years until his retirement.

Rodney lives in Chowchilla, California. He is a member of the National Rifle Association, the Carpenters Union, and the Bridge Builder's Association. He is also a Life Member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla BFW Post 9896. He and his wife, Joy, have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Rodney A. Lindsay for his honorable service to our nation. He truly is a shining example of a proud American. He is a source of pride for our Central Valley and entire nation.

CONGRATULATING HARRIS CORPORATION ON THE GRAND OPENING OF ITS NEW HERNDON OFFICES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, this is a particularly exciting time in Northern Virginia's Dulles Corridor as major employers, such as Harris Corporation, look to capitalize on Metro's Silver Line extension to Dulles International Airport. As some of my colleagues are painfully aware, Washington, DC, is the only OECD capital not linked to its premier international gateway by mass transit. The Dulles Corridor is the second most important employment and investment center in the National Capital Region, generating 25 percent of all economic activity, and that's before the arrival of Metro.

Phase 1 of the Dulles Rail project will open later this year with stops in Tysons and Reston, and Phase 2 is already under construction. I was pleased to attend the opening for Harris Corporation's new office campus, which will consolidate operations from several regional locations into a site near the future Herndon Metro Station. As my colleagues know, Harris is an international communications and information technology provider that partners with Federal, State, and local governments to support our nation's military, community first responders, and many other essential public services.

Harris employs more than 1,600 people in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and this new facility will house nearly 500 high-tech workers supporting the company's satellite, defense, intelligence, public safety, and health care operations. I was pleased to join Harris CEO Bill Brown, Virginia Senator MARK WARNER, and other regional leaders in welcoming the Harris team to its new location in the heart of the Dulles Corridor in Virginia's 11th Congressional District.

Fairfax County alone is home to 10 Fortune 500 companies. Harris and its corporate neighbors recognize Northern Virginia as one of the best places in the Nation in which to do business and raise a family. We benefit not only from the jobs they create, but also from the tremendous support they and their employees give back to our local schools and community organizations.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome Harris Corporation to its new location, and I look forward to its continued collaboration with the federal government and our local community.

HONORING THE 2014 FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA, AREA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR MILITARY ENLISTEES

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 177 Fredericksburg, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Armed Forces after graduation. These students have excelled in their

academic and extracurricular activities, and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selfless and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the Armed Forces:

Adjare, Lester; Agnew, Chase; Ahmed-Alameldin, Mahmoud; Allen, Thomas; Allen, Tierra; Alley, William; Ampy, Jasmine; Anderson, James; Antinori, Liam; Arndt, Clarissa; Ashton, Brandon; Bagnerise, Joseph; Ball, Jacob; Banks, Nicholas; Barger, Zachary; Barnes, SaQuan; Barr, Kevin; Bell, Cody; Bernard, John; Berry, Nicolas.

Best, Tyshawn; Blankenship, Stephen; Boardman, Catherine; Bolden, Jacob; Bonzie, Amos; Borden, Ashley; Bosford, Bryan; Brinson, Devlin; Brownlee, Cody; Buck, Jonathan; Burch, Christopher; Byrd, Valentino; Calloway, George; Campbell, Brandon; Campbell, Joshua; Cantrell, Justin; Carr, Brenden; Carter, Aaron; Cempron, Crystal; Choquette, Mark.

Clark, Regan; Cole, Christopher; Coleman, Danielle; Conner, Keyon; Cooper, Hassiem; Croce, Remy; Cyrier, Thomas; Dabney, Lynshae; Dantonio, Mark; Deluca, Erik; Demetriades, Peter; Dieckhoff, Garrett; Dodson, Bethany; Dorsey, Thomas; Driskell, Daniel; Driskill, Joseph; Dubberly, Thurman; Ehrbar, Matthew; Escobar, Jadavian; Flint, Tyler.

Fortune, D'Marcus; Fourhman, Joel; Ganoe, Jacob; Garnett-Anderson, Nathaniel; Geukgeuzian, Michael; Gholson, Khavari; Gibbs, Trevor; Gomez, Ernesto; Goode, Aaron; Graves, Crystal; Grenke, Konnor; Grier Maurice; Grizzard, Georganna; Ha, Nina; Hamilton, Corey; Hardin, Tiera; Harold, Chasitie; Harper, Ashley; Harper, Jasmine; Harper.

Kristoffer-Rommell; Helm, Cronje; Henderson, Kameron; Hoffman, Christopher; Hoo, Christian; Horbacz, Stanley; Hughes, Chelsea; Humphries, Anthony; Huston, Sierra; Hyde, Seth; Ingerman, Kedrie; Jackson, Quincee; Jameson, Aeneaus; Jenkins, David; Johnson, Samed Farrad; Jones, Angela; Jumper Martrano, Christopher; Karistromer, Stephen; Kasper, Marla; King, Simone; Kissane, Sean.

Knicely, Jacob; Kohler, Michael; Kondratenko, Joshua; Kosmoski, Justis; Lambert, James; Larkin, Olivia; Lescano Mourao, Tamara; Lockard, Aaron; Lopez, Eric; Maltais, Gavin; Manthey, Hunter; Marbaker, Candice; Marsh, Michael; Marshall, David; Matlack, Erik; Matters, Jason; Maxwell, Jasjnn; Mccoy, Ryan; McDaniel, Ian; Mcmahan, Justin.

Miyamasu, Daniel; Molina, Kenny; Money, Richard; Morris, Mason; Naylor, Ryan; Nunez, Danny; Parada, Kevin; Parker, Dwandre; Parrish, Nelson; Patterson, Riley; Payne, Jonathan; Phillips, Christopher; Phillips, Timothy; Purce, Kiera; Quetsch, Brien; Ramirez, Sean; Rappa, Matthew; Reece, Kevin; Rheinstein, Nathaniel; Riggins, Christopher.

Roach, Austin; Robinson, Sashauna; Roeding, Nicholas; Rowe, William; Sanchez, Nancy; Sayer, Michael; Schmiegel, Karl; Schulte, Lance; Seabron, D'Angelo; Shafovaloff, John; Shelton, Samuel; Sims, Adam; Sisemore, Shane; Smail, Tyler; Smoot, Kiane; Snyder, Logan; Stanley, Zachary; Stewart, Joshua; Terrado, Jayson; Tuccitto, Anthony.

Tuggle, Dominique; Turner, Kevin; Underwood, Devonte; Walker, Christian; Walton, Benjamin; Walton, Thomas; Weimer, Desirae; Welter, Morgan; White, Terence; Whitt, Augustus; Williams, Thomas; Williamson, Travis; Wooldridge, Stephen; Wygant, Raymond; Wynn, Christian; Yeboah-Afari, Boahene; Young, Derek.

These students will be honored by the Greater Fredericksburg Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their 3rd Annual Military Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served and will serve a debt of gratitude.

IN HONOR OF PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR WHO FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor eight Pennsylvania veterans of the Second World War who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

These brave and heroic gentlemen are members of the Delaware County #288 and General Smedley D. Butler #741 Marine Corps League Detachments. Although many of their brothers in arms died in the midst of battle or in the years since, these Marines and Sailors continue to carry the legacy of their brothers' sacrifices for the security of our nation and defense of freedom for all of us in this world.

Let us forever remember and be grateful for the sacrifice of these heroes of the Second World War. Please join me in recognizing the following gentlemen for their service to our country: Louis Camilli, Jack Depew, Cliff Doud, George Edelmann, Joseph Hinderhofer, Alan McCauley, Walter Tallamage and Donald Walz.

IN HONOR OF LESLIE R. WHITE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Leslie R. White for his lifetime of service to the public transportation industry, including the last 17 years as General Manager of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, called ''METRO.''

Les took the helm at METRO, which provides bus service to the very transit-dependent communities of Santa Cruz County, CA, at a time of turmoil and molded the agency into a national model. He transformed virtually every aspect of METRO's operations, from replacing an aging diesel fleet with clean fuels buses to adding routes and making existing routes more efficient to improving paratransit service delivery.

Under his leadership, METRO has grown to provide a level of service that makes public transportation in Santa Cruz County a viable alternative to automobile travel. Students from the University of California at Santa Cruz and Cabrillo College are loyal METRO riders, as are the scores of Santa Cruz residents commuting to and from jobs in Silicon Valley on the popular Highway 17 Express.

My first interactions with Les involved working together on the development of MetroBase, the agency's centralized operations and maintenance facility. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake destroyed much of METRO's infrastructure and left the system without any adequate facilities. After dealing with the delicate task of finding a suitable site for the new facilities in Santa Cruz, Les worked tirelessly to corral federal, state, and local resources for the MetroBase project that has resulted in long-term savings for the agency.

In addition, I was pleased to have worked closely with Les on the creation of the Small Transit Intensive Cities (STIC) program in the 2005 surface transportation reauthorization law known as SAFETEA–LU. Years earlier, Les came to me with an idea to rectify an imbalance in the way that federal transit funding was allocated to smaller urbanized areas such as Santa Cruz. Now, the STIC program provides additional formula funding to communities with a strong local commitment to public transit, and over 160 communities in 45 states have benefitted from the program since its inception.

Les has dedicated his life to public transportation, and had a long history of achievement prior to his arrival in Santa Cruz. He started his career as a bus driver in his home state of Michigan and rose to lead transit agencies in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Vancouver, Washington. Joining him every step of the way was his wife and best friend Phyllis, who passed away in December 2012.

In 1996, he reached a pinnacle of his profession when he was elected by his peers as Chairman of the American Public Transportation Association, where he also helped develop the popular Leadership APTA program, which helps groom transit professionals for leadership positions in the industry.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Les for his service to Santa Cruz and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROBERT DANIELI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Robert Danieli, who passed away in 1996 at the age of 76. Bob served the United States of America honorably in northern Africa and Italy during World War II and was a leader in the Central Valley.

Bob was born in Hollister, California. His family later moved to a farm near Chowchilla, where Bob attended local schools and worked alongside his father and brothers on the family farm and dairy. When his father was hospitalized, Bob ran the farm alongside his mother and two younger brothers.

In July 1942, Bob set aside his farming duties and reported for service with the United States Army. He completed basic training at Camp Roberts and joined the Western Task Force for Operation Torch, the allied invasion of northern Africa in November 1942 commanded by General George Patton.

Bob was assigned as rifleman to the scout platoon of the headquarters unit where he helped conduct reconnaissance patrols and targeted enemy troops and armor and gun emplacements in Tunisia and Libya.

When General Patton assumed command of the U.S. II Corps, he had key elements of his former command transferred to his new command, including Bob and most of the scout platoon. Under the command of General Patton, the U.S. II Corps took on Rommel's famed Afrika Korps and defeated the Germans in two key battles.

In November 1943, Bob was injured in the line of duty. He was sent for recuperation to an Army hospital in Palm Springs, California. Following his recuperation, Bob returned to serve on limited duty and was transferred to the 9025th Technical Service Unit at Fort MacArthur, where he served until his discharge in October 1945.

During his time in the Army, Bob rose to the rank of staff sergeant and served in campaigns in Tunisia, Sicily, and Italy. He was awarded the Combat Infantry's Badge, the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal, the European-Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Bob spent the rest of his life serving his community with the same tenacity and devotion with which he served in the Army. He was elected to the Chowchilla Union High School (CUHS) Board of Education and the Chowchilla Water District. He also served as a Director for the Federal Land Bank and was a member of the Chowchilla Spring Festival and the CUHS Ag Advisory. He was a Past Commander and Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896 and American Legion Post 148 in Chowchilla. He and his wife Lillian had four children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Mr. Robert Danieli, who was a shining example of the tenacity, courage, and dedication embodied by a serviceman.

HONORING MS. KATHERINE S. JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Katherine S. Johnson is the daughter of Ms. Veda Johnson and granddaughter of Mrs. Katherine Johnson. She is a native of Clarksdale, Mississippi and is currently a student at Clarksdale High School.

Katherine comes from a community called the "brick yard" which has a strong gang presence. Her phenomenal relationship with her grandmother who loved and nurtured her assisted in her upbringing.

As she entered her teenage years, she put aside the valuable lessons taught by her grandmother, and it was very easy for her to assimilate herself to what was going on in her neighborhood.

As Katherine matriculated to Clarksdale High School as a freshman, she found herself becoming better acquainted with the principal than her teachers due to fighting, truancy, and a lack of respect for authority.

However, Mrs. Katherine, her grandmother and namesake, was there at the school to check on her and steer her back on the right path.

Although behaviorally, Katherine strayed, academically she maintained very respectable grades and became a member of the Marching Wildcats. These activities helped make a difference in her maturation.

Desiring a greater academic challenge in her sophomore year she enrolled in all Advanced Placement classes which the Clarksdale Municipal School District offered. She was promoted to section leader in the school band and will graduate with the title of Honors with Distinction during commencement exercises on May 22, 2014.

The unfortunate situation is that her beloved grandmother and namesake will not be there to witness the fruits of her labor due to recently passing. It will be difficult for Katherine to bask in the glow of her well-deserved accomplishments without the major cornerstone of her support system not being there; but in her honor, she will continue to strive to be the awesome young lady that Mrs. Johnson loved, nurtured, and encouraged her to become.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Katherine S. Johnson, an amazing student for her dedication to succeed.

CONGRATULATING CARLOS HARRISON ON HIS BOOK CHRONICLING THE STORY OF HERO STREET IN SILVIS, ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carlos Harrison on his excellent work telling the story of Hero Street in Silvis, Illinois.

Carlos is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, editor and author whose most recent book brought him to a small street in my district. The twenty-two Mexican-American families living on Second Street in Silvis, Illinois sent fifty-seven of their children to fight in World War II and Korea. In total, over 100 men and women from those one and a half blocks have served in the US Armed Forces. No other area of comparable size in the country has had so many men and women in uniform, and in honor of them, the street was renamed Hero Street USA in 1967.

Carlos's book, The Ghosts of Hero Street: How One Small Mexican-American Community Gave So Much in World War II and Korea, will be released on May 6th with an event in Silvis at Hero Street Park, which is dedicated to the eight sons of Hero Street who lost their lives in those two conflicts. It is fitting that he will celebrate with the community, because the story of Hero Street is not just about those who fought and gave their lives, but also about the perseverance and values of the families and community they left behind in Silvis.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Carlos Harrison for telling the important and inspirational story of the families of Hero Street and the fifty-seven brave young men who put their lives on the line to serve their country and fight to protect the American Dream.

COMMEMORATING REPRESENTATIVE JIM OBERSTAR

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today we gather to honor Congressman Jim Oberstar, a true gentleman of the House who ably represented Minnesota's 8th District for 36 years. He was a fixture of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee starting as staff in the 1960s and 1970s, and then as a member and finally Chairman from 2007 to 2011. I was blessed to work, and sometimes ride, alongside Jim for many years.

As a tireless advocate on transportation issues, Jim earned well-deserved admiration in many circles, including in my home state of Oregon. He accompanied me on tours as an advocate for increased infrastructure investment. Jim truly understood the importance of the investment as a way to create American jobs, improve safety, and build roads and bridges to accommodate a 21st Century economy. His passion and leadership are evident in projects across the country.

Jim was also an avid cyclist, and I am grateful I had the opportunity to show him my state in 2007 during the Cycle Oregon event. He was one tough athlete, easily outpacing cyclists half his age.

Like many people in Washington, DC, Minnesota and beyond, I feel fortunate to consider Jim not only a colleague, but a friend and a mentor. I only wish he had lived long enough to share all of his knowledge with the rest of us.

My sympathy goes out to his loved ones, including his wife, Jean.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF STEWART ROLLER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Stewart Roller for serving the United States of America honorably during the Vietnam War. Stewart's commitment to the American people and 30 years of service to the U.S. Navy deserves to be commended.

Stewart was born in 1939 in Parsons, Kansas. He received a bachelor's degree from Baker University in 1961 and enrolled in the School of Dentistry at the University of Missouri, where he received his Doctor of Dentistry Science degree in 1965.

Instead of joining a lucrative dentistry firm, Stewart entered active duty just as the war in Vietnam was beginning to escalate. He completed Field Medical Training at Camp Pendleton and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

As part of the U.S. Navy, Stewart was assigned to provide medical support for the Third Marine Division in Vietnam. Stewart served as an assistant division dental officer and provided emergency medical aid to wounded Marines, while also performing regular services.

Stewart provided support for the 3rd and 4th Marine Regiments during Operation Hastings, their first major operation against the North Vietnamese Army, in July 1966. Operation Prairie followed in October 1966, where casualties mounted for the medical staff. Stewart's service was vital during this operation where more than 1,400 Marines were killed and more than 9,000 were wounded.

After serving in Vietnam for thirteen months, Stewart returned to the States and served as an Assistant Dental Officer. In July 1968, he transferred to the Naval Reserve, where he continued to serve as an Assistant Dental Officer and was promoted to Training Officer, Executive Officer, and Staff Dental Officer.

In 1981, Stewart assumed duties as the Department Head for the Naval Reserve at Naval Air Station Lemoore. In the following years, Stewart was promoted to Commanding Officer for the Naval Reserve Hospital at Naval Air Station Lemoore and served as Staff Dental Officer for the Reserve Readiness Command of Region Twenty.

From July 1988 to September 1991, Stewart served as Commanding Officer for the Naval Reserve Dental Clinic in San Francisco. During his tenure, productivity per provider rose dramatically.

After 30 years of service in the U.S. Navy, Stewart retired with the rank of Captain. For his service, he was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the Navy Unit Citation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation with Frame, 30-Year Naval Reserve Award, and Expert Rifle and Expert Pistol Awards.

In 2003, the Governor appointed Stewart to the rank of Colonel in the California State Military Reserve. Stewart received additional awards, including the California State Military Reserve Meritorious Achievement Medal and Military Reserve Service Ribbon.

Stewart is a Life Member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896 and a Life Member of the San Francisco Dental Society, Dental Association, and American Dental Association.

While serving in the reserve, Stewart also engaged in a private dental practice in San Francisco. He subsequently served for more than seven years as a staff dentist at the Valley State Prison for Women.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of Mr. Stewart Roller for his dedication to our country. He is a source of pride for our Central Valley and the entire nation.

RECOGNIZING DEBORAH HERSMAN FOR HER SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished tenure of Deborah Hersman, who is leaving as Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board after serving 10 years on the Board and five years as chairman.

Ms. Hersman, 43, is a resident of Lorton, Virginia, in my district. She is the daughter of a retired Air Force Brigadier General and spent much of her childhood abroad before her family settled in Northern Virginia, where she attended Chantilly High School. While in college at Virginia Tech, Ms. Hersman interned in the office of Congressman Bob Wise of West Virginia. After graduation, she returned to Congressman Wise's office, ultimately serving as a senior legislative aide. After several years working on the House side, she joined the staff of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, where she rose to the position of Staff Director.

In 2004, President George W. Bush appointed Ms. Hersman to a 5-year term on the NTSB. President Obama reappointed her in 2009 and also nominated her as Chairman, making her the youngest person to serve in that role at age 39. Ms. Hersman has presided over the NTSB during a very active period for the organization. She has presided over a number of high-profile accident investigations, including the collision of two Metro Red Line trains, the airplane crash involving Senator Ted Stevens in 2010, and the collision between two freight trains in Oklahoma in 2012. In the face of all those tragedies, and dozens more, Ms. Hersman displayed remarkable poise and provided a reassuring presence with her calm, confident leadership.

In addition to her investigatory duties, Ms. Hersman helped to broaden the mission of the NTSB. She focused not just on what happened after a tragedy, but also what the government could do to prevent such tragedies from occurring in the first place. By focusing on behaviors that cause transportation accidents, like fatigue and intoxication, Ms. Hersman helped shape the NTSB into a more proactive organization. She recently announced she is leaving public service to become president and chief executive officer of the National Safety Council.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Deborah Hersman for her tremendous service to our nation. I commend her for all the work she has done to keep our roadways, railways, and airspace safe for all Americans. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Hersman on her accomplishments, and I wish her and her family all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE BURLESON FAMILY

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brooke, Adam, and Holland Burleson of Spruce Pine, North Carolina. The Burleson family has inspired a community and proven that we all can make a difference.

On April 26, 2014, the Burleson family organized the first-annual Run for Holland 5k and 1 Mile Fun Run. They organized the race to raise funds and awareness for families with children who have been diagnosed with Down Syndrome and other special needs. There was overwhelming support in the small community of Spruce Pine, with over 290 participants and more than 8,000 dollars raised.

Inspired by the birth of their daughter, Holland, on August 2, 2013, Brooke and Adam Burleson have gone above and beyond in shining light on this issue. Just months before Holland was born, Adam and Brooke found out their daughter had a very high chance of having Down Syndrome. In the months after, they found strength from other parents in their community. The Burleson family is now reciprocating those efforts.

This family is a true inspiration for us all. They have not only faced adversity, but conquered it by helping other families going through similar situations. They have taught us that no matter what situation God gives you, He can give us the strength to overcome it.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the Burleson family and the Spruce Pine community for their commitment to helping others. It is truly an honor to represent them in Congress.

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FLORIDA'S PALM BEACHES AND TREASURE COAST FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS DECISION TO JOIN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 23 high school seniors from the

Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches of Florida for their commendable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces following their graduation this year. Of these 23 enlistees, 11 are Army enlistees, 4 are Navy enlistees, 4 are National Guard enlistees, 2 are Air Force enlistees, one is a Coast Guard enlistee, and one is a Marine Corps enlistee. These young men and women have displayed an unmatched sense of bravery and courage in their commitment to defend and protect our nation. Thus, it is important they know that they have the full support of the United States House of Representatives, their communities, and the American people. It is the dedication of these individuals which reminds us who we are as a people, and that though diverse problems may lie ahead, the United States remains a shining example of freedom, strength, and perseverance on the world stage.

The service of these young men and women must not go unrecognized, and so I want to personally thank these twenty-three local graduating seniors for their selflessness and commitment to our nation by naming them here today: Oneil Daley, Antonio Allen Jr., Juan Machuca, Mario Esquilin, Henry Thomas, Dion Yu, David Colton, Corbett Pervenecki, Matthew Connelly, Laquann Pitts, Corey Boyce, Jose Ruiz, Kristi McMillion, Selena Harrison, Ty Torres, David Tarrant-Schneiderman, Angela Fernandez, Tristan Sperling, Andrew Williams, Tyler Stewart, Brandon Hall, Dylan Reinhardt and Alicia Williams.

All will be recognized on May 8th at the Our Community Salutes event in Boca Raton.

Mr Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of them and to all who defend our freedom by serving in the United States Armed Forces. That spirit of service and sacrifice is something we all can be proud of. For this very reason, it is my honor to recognize these young leaders here today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROBERT BUFORD ACREE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Robert Buford Acree, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 85. Bob was a World War II veteran who served the United States of America honorably in Korea and began a family legacy within the United States Air Force.

Bob was born in Arkansas in 1924. He moved to Chowchilla with his family in 1937 and began to work in farming with his father when he was only 12 years old. He attended local schools and graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1943.

In 1945, thinking he was safe from the draft, Bob married Betty and continued working in farming. A year later, he was inducted into the Army. After completing basic training, Bob was assigned to the Army Air Corps and was sent to Aviation Engineering School in Spokane, Washington, for advanced training.

Upon completion of his training, Bob and roughly one hundred Army Air Corps replacement troops flew to Pusan, Korea. Bob then joined the 40th Aviation Engineer Squadron at Kempo Air Field, north of Seoul. Bob subsequently served in the squadron motor pool.

Bob returned to the United States in March 1947 and was discharged at Camp Beale. However, Bob decided to continue serving his country and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 1948. He served for four years and was honorably discharged as an Airman Second Class in 1952. For his service, Bob was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal.

After his separation from the service, Bob returned to Chowchilla and to farming alongside his father. In 1949, Bob bought his own farm in the Dairyland area and farmed until 1961. Bob worked for the City of Chowchilla before beginning a long career with the Chowchilla Union High School District where he served with distinction as Director of Transportation from 1969 until his retirement in 1987.

Bob and Betty had two children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Bob passed along his dedication to service to his son who retired from the Air Force as a master sergeant and to two of his grandchildren who are currently on active duty in the United States Air Force.

In addition to being a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and servicemember, Bob was also an active member of his community in Chowchilla. He was a member of the Chowchilla Mason Lodge, Chowchilla Odd Fellow Lodge, Mariposa Odd Fellow Lodge, and Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a longtime member of the First Baptist Church and Life Member of Chowchilla VFW Post 9896 and American Legion Post 148.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Robert Buford Acree for his service and devotion to his family, community, and nation.

HONORING MS. BRITTANY JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Brittany Johnson is the daughter of Kennedy V. & Jean S. Johnson. She is a native of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She is currently a student at the Mississippi School for Mathematics & Science where she maintains an ''A'' average. Prior to attending Mississippi School for Math and Science, she attended John F. Kennedy Memorial High School and Isaiah T. Montgomery Elementary School in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

At Isaiah T. Montgomery Elementary School, Brittany was honored for having the highest grade point average from the first through sixth grades. While in elementary school she served as a Junior Beta Club Member and a Girl Scout.

In Junior High School, Brittany was recognized for holding the highest state testing scores for Language Arts, Reading, and Mathematics. She continued to maintain a 4.0 GPA. When she became a high school student, she was active in Future Business Leaders of America where she competed and placed first in district and second in state competitions.

She went on to compete in the national competition in Anaheim, California for Word Processing I and Senior Beta, she also competed at other competitions and the Drama Club. She was recognized by President Obama and Congressman THOMPSON on scoring advance on the subject area tests of Algebra I and Biology I. Brittany has maintained an ''A'' average and the highest GPA average during her tenure at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School.

Desiring a greater academic challenge, Brittany in her sophomore year at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School applied and was accepted to the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in Columbus, Mississippi where she is schedule to graduate in the spring of 2015.

At the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science she is a member of the National Honors Society for High School Students, National Beta Club, Future Physicians of America, and Blu Diamonds Step Group.

She continues to maintain an ''A'' average in her courses of study.

Brittany is a dedicated citizen in her community. She volunteers in annual citywide cleanups and is a former member of the Mayor's Youth Council and participated in it by working on numerous political campaigns.

She is an active member of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, which is located in the city of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where she is a member of the Junior Usher Board, the Youth Choir, the Youth Praise Dance Team and serves as Secretary of the Sunday School.

After completing high school she plans on attending college where she will major in Biology, to pursue her dreams of becoming a Cardiovascular Surgeon. She lives by the quote: ''Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.''—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing student for her dedication to education.

HONORING NORA RUPERT

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Broward County District 7 School Board Member Nora Rupert, a devoted teacher and mother and a dedicated community advocate. Her hard work improving our county's schools and bettering the futures of our children is an inspiration to education leaders in South Florida and across the country.

After Nora graduated from Florida Southern College and the Star Program at FAU for alternative education certification, she served as a substitute teacher with the School Board of

Broward County and taught Language Arts and Reading at Piper High School for four years. She was elected in 2010 to serve as School Board Member for District 7 and has been a champion of education reform ever since. After adopting three children, she has gained invaluable experience advocating on their behalf through Exceptional Student Education and gifted issues in public schools. Finally, among many other organizations, Nora is a Broward School Board representative on the Council of Great City Schools, National School Board Association, and Council of Urban Boards of Education and serves on the boards of the Coconut Creek Elementary School Advisory Form and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Education is fundamental to the long-term success of Florida and our nation. As a parent and a congressman, I understand the need to make an unwavering commitment to the education of our children. Nora Rupert has demonstrated this commitment through decades of compassion for the children of South Florida, and she inspires all of us to live by her example.

RECOGNIZING JO HODGIN FOR 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Jo Hodgin, on the occasion of her retirement after 21 years of service to the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. Through her leadership of Wolf Trap's government relations program, and her coordination of a wide range of special initiatives for the Foundation, Ms. Hodgin, a resident of Annandale, has expanded upon Wolf Trap's success as America's National Park for the Performing Arts.

Ms. Hodgin began her career by serving as deputy director for the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, now known as Culture Capital. In that role, she fostered cooperation among hundreds of regional arts organizations. She also launched the Business Volunteers for the Arts program, which forged connections between the arts and business communities in the Washington, D.C., region. The BVA program, featured in Washingtonian magazine, facilitated the completion of hundreds of arts projects, and it expanded the role of private business in the arts.

When Ms. Hodgin became director of Foundation Grants at Wolf Trap, she increased annual grants income from $600,000 to $1.2 million. Based on her tremendous success, she was promoted into her current role as Director of Planning and Initiatives. A central achievement of Ms. Hodgin's tenure was the successful management of the organization's government relations program. She has engaged policy leaders and decision-makers at all levels of government, educating them about the broad benefits of Wolf Trap's initiatives across the country. Her outreach efforts not only have secured greater support for Wolf Trap, but also helped mobilize the larger arts community to advance their interests.

In addition, Ms. Hodgin spearheaded a range of special initiatives for the Foundation. For example, she collaborated with former Wolf Trap Foundation President and CEO Terre Jones on the acclaimed Face of America series, which celebrated America's national parks through a variety of artistic mediums, including music, spoken word, and dance. The series reached a national audience on PBS, and one of its films, On the Wings of a Dream, won an Emmy in 2004.

Ms. Hodgin's three-decades of service to the arts have helped to enrich the Wolf Trap Foundation, the Northern Virginia community, and our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Jo Hodgin for her service to our National Park for the Performing Arts, and in wishing her and her family all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 187 I was unable to attend.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

COMMEMORATING THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 66th Anniversary of Israel's Independence. On this day, called Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel celebrates its founding by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion in 1948. Since then, Israel has stood as a dynamic democracy in the Middle East region with its rich culture, vibrant economy, and commitment to peace.

Yet, independence has come at a great price. This is why, the day before celebrating its independence, Israel observes Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day. On Yom Hazikaron, Israel remembers all those who gave their lives defending their families, their communities, and their country. This year, Israel honored the more than 23,000 soldiers killed in the line of duty and another 1,800 civilian victims of terrorism. I have always been deeply moved by the duality of Israel's independence celebration, at once both sorrowful and triumphant, and know of no other country that combines such profound sorrow with such a festive event.

I am proud of the close relationship that has developed between the United States and Israel over the past 66 years. These ties, based on the common bond of democracy, economic vitality, and cultural affinity, remain as strong now under President Barack Obama as when President Harry Truman first recognized the Jewish State. From religious kinships to shared interests, and from military strengths to commercial relations, the friendship between the United States is unbreakable.

However, Israel continues to face serious regional threats, and these concerns are also shared by the United States. One of the largest threats to regional stability and Israel's security today is Iran. Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and support for terrorism pose a grave threat to both Israel and the global community at large. The statements of aggression made by Iran's leaders must be taken seriously, and the international community has a responsibility to act to prevent a nuclear Iran. I have supported numerous sanctions efforts in Congress to cripple Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons, and will continue to do so as long as Iran insists on pursuing its nuclear program.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have visited Israel 15 times as a Member of Congress, and to have called every Israeli Prime Minister from Yitzhak Rabin to Benjamin Netanyahu my friend. The United States must continue to support Israel's right to self-defense, increase its engagement in the region, and work towards finding a fair solution that enables both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace, security, and prosperity. As Co-Chair of the Democratic Israel Working Group, I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to further strengthen our special relationship with Israel.

HONORING SHANTASIA DENAYE THOMAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student, Shantasia Denaye Thomas, from Crystal Springs High School.

Shantasia Denaye Thomas is the daughter of Mr. Richard and Mrs. Felicia Thomas. She has two siblings: Sha'Reika Johnson and Shamaya Thomas.

Shantasia is an honor student at Crystal Springs High School with 4.0 Grade Point Average. As a standout student at Crystal Springs High School, Shantasia is a member of the SADD Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Student Council and serves as President of Jobs for Mississippi Graduates Program.

Shantasia's leadership is well-known in her community as she serves as President of the Crystal Springs Mayor's Youth Council, a member of H.Y.M (Holiness Youth Ministries), Daughters of Esther, and Sunday school at her church, Greater Damascus Church of Christ Holiness USA.

Shantasia is also a member of the National Honor's Society for High School Scholars.

Shantasia is blessed with the gift of musicianship and she plays the piano for two churches. In her spare time she loves making music and writing poetry.

Shantasia accredits her determination and spirit of excellence to her great-grand mother, Mrs. Marie Johnson. She says Mrs. Johnson is a strong woman of God who has encouraged her to follow her heart and excel above and beyond, because with God all things are possible.

Shantasia plans on attending Tougaloo College, where she will major in Biology to become a Pediatric Oncologist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Shantasia Denaye Thomas as a student who is making a difference in her community.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNUAL BEST OF RESTON AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 23rd Annual Best of Reston Awards for Community Service. The Best of Reston Awards are the result of collaboration between Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith) and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and are presented to individuals, organizations, and businesses whose extraordinary efforts make our community a better place. I am pleased to enter the names of the following recipients of the 2014 Best of Reston Awards into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Individual Community Leader: Carol Ann Bradley. Ms. Bradley has dedicated herself to service both locally and globally. She has worked with Global Camps Africa, the Friends of the Reston Regional Library, the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, the Southgate Community Center, the Reston Community Center, the American Association of University Women, The Links, Inc., and Educators, Then, Now and Forever.

Individual Community Leader: Jerry Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson uses his broadcasting skills to highlight local nonprofits. He is the director of Development and Outreach for Fairfax Public Access, which provides television and radio cablecasting services to the region. As a volunteer he has filmed and produced videos for numerous nonprofits and civic groups.

Individual Community Leader: Cate Fulkerson. Ms. Fulkerson began serving Reston as an entry-level clerk at the Reston Association and climbed the ladder to her present role there, Chief Executive Officer. She also serves as the chair for the Reston Character Counts! Coalition, chairs the annual Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce's Ethics Day for South Lakes High School, and remains active in Leadership Fairfax.

Individual Community Leader: Bonnie Haukness. Mrs. Haukness has given 40 years of service in many aspects of the Reston community. She is a board member of the Reston Historic Trust and Reston Museum, and she chairs its annual fundraiser, the Reston Homes Tour. She also co-chairs fundraisers for Cornerstones, helps organize the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, and also has led the Friends of Reston's fundraising event to send children to summer day camp.

Individual Community Leader: Davida Luehrs. Ms. Luehrs is a champion for the visually impaired. She works with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the American Council for the Blind, and Visually Impaired People of Reston. She has assisted 14 Lions Clubs with hearing and vision screening programs for pre-school children, founded VisionWalk, and chaired Dining in the Dark fundraisers. She is also active in the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school band boards, Reston Swim Team Association, parent teacher associations, blood drives, and meals on wheels.

Civic/Community Leader: HomeAid Northern Virginia. Members of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association started HomeAid in 2001 to help the homeless gain stability by putting a roof over their head. It currently contributes resources to build and renovate homeless shelters as well as transitional and affordable housing. HomeAid has completed more than 70 projects and served more than 10,000 individuals, work valued at more than $10.5 million.

Small Business Leader: Brennan & Waite, P.L.C. Founding members (and husband and wife) Matthew Brennan and Carol Waite have led their firm to support many local causes, including the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, Habitat For Humanity, Let's Help Kids, the Mosaic Harmony Choir, FACETS, Cornerstones, and Leadership Fairfax. Mr. Brennan also developed a training program to help those interested in serving on county and nonprofit boards.

Corporate Business Leader: Cooley, LLP. This law firm encourages employees to give back to the community by offering paid leave time to volunteer and providing matching funds for money raised by employees to support local causes. Last year the firm contributed more than $1 million to nonprofits around the United States. The company's pro bono efforts have led to contributions of more than 33,000 hours by 466 attorneys on more than 687 different pro bono projects per year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2014 Best of Reston honorees for their continued commitment to our community. I express my sincere gratitude to these individuals, businesses, and organizations for contributing their time and energy to the betterment of our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JIM LOONEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Jim Looney, who passed away in 2012. Jim was a World War II veteran who served the United States of America honorably in the Philippines and Japan. He was truly a leader in the Chowchilla community.

Jim grew up in Puyallup, Washington, a small community near Tacoma. In 1943, after he graduated from Puyallup High School, Jim moved to Chowchilla, California, where he worked on his uncle's dairy farm.

In 1944, Jim joined the U.S. Army and underwent basic training at Camp Roberts in California. During the winter of 1945, Jim boarded a ship headed to the Pacific. He was assigned as a rifleman to the 163rd Regiment of the 41st Division in the Philippines. By the time Jim joined, the 163rd was a battle-hardened regiment that had fought several battles since their landing in October 1944.

Jim and his fellow soldiers conducted patrols and mopping up actions in the southern Philippines. He and the 163rd landed at Arara in May 1945 and consolidated the areas of Arara and Toem. They then moved onto Wakde Island and invaded Biak Island two weeks later.

After securing the islands, the Army began preparations for Operation Olympic, the invasion of the Japanese mainland. The 41st Division and its infantry regiments, including Jim and the rest of the 163rd began to prepare for the invasion. The men were issued cold weather gear for their planned landing in northern Japan, code-named HIRO, for Hiroshima. Jim, along with the men of the 163rd were waiting to board troopships for the invasion, when the atomic bombs hit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the war.

Jim was promoted to staff sergeant and was shipped to Japan as part of the occupation forces. Jim and the 163rd went ashore near Hiroshima a few weeks after the end of the war and saw the overwhelming effects of the bombing first-hand.

Jim returned to the United States in 1946 and was discharged at Fort Lewis, Washington. For his service, Jim was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Campaign and Liberation Medals, the Army of Occupation Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Upon leaving the service, Jim returned to Chowchilla where he became well known for his involvement in ranching. He was a founding member of the Chowchilla Stampede Committee and also served with distinction as a member of the Chowchilla-Madera County Fair Board for more than thirty years.

Jim was a Life Member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896. He and his wife, Annie, had four daughters, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Mr. Jim Looney for his love and dedication to his family, community, and nation.

IN MEMORY OF TIM CARPENTER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tim Carpenter, the National Director of the Progressive Democrats of America, who passed away this week. Mr. Carpenter will be remembered as a passionate and highly effective advocate for jobs, justice, and peace.

Driven by compassion and a limitless commitment to strengthening our democracy, Mr. Carpenter built and sustained a national grassroots network that has been at the forefront of efforts to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, enact single-payer healthcare, end mass criminalization, strengthen voting rights, pass meaningful campaign finance reform, stop global warming, and realize the vision of a full employment society. Mr. Carpenter was a deep believer in participatory democracy, and—in building an organization that empowers citizens to both locally and global to affect positive change—he embodied the principles he cherished.

An inquisitive mind and an extraordinary advocate, Mr. Carpenter travelled from coast to coast, meeting with Americans to learn about their struggles with unemployment, lost healthcare, polluted air and water, denied access to the polls, and injuries suffered on the battlefield. The coalition he assembled to address these injustices is diverse and extraordinarily engaged. Their work—facilitated by Mr. Carpenter—has been indispensable to generating progress for struggling people and our planet. I am extraordinarily grateful for his contributions to our nation and world.

RECOGNIZING MS. AISHA KARIMAH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Ms. Aisha Karimah, who today is observing 45 years in the District of Columbia at NBC4 Washington, where she has provided exemplary service to Washington, D.C. and the national capital region.

For more than four decades, Aisha has brilliantly used her talents to help NBC4 grow and has championed our city and region and its many community campaigns—Beautiful Babies Right from the Start, Drug Free Zones, It Takes a Whole Village, Make the Right Call, Camp 4 Kids, Get Healthy 4 Life, Backpacks 4 Kids, Food 4 Families, and the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo—we can hardly name even a representative group of community causes that Aisha has not touched. Ms. Karimah is a particularly positive and dedicated role model for African Americans and for women entering journalism and serves as a mentor and confidant to hundreds of young people. She has been a wonderful friend and guidepost to me since I was elected to Congress in 1990.

As a veteran television producer, Aisha currently produces two weekly news programs: Reporters Notebook and Viewpoint. She has shared her talents by also producing programs for Howard University Television, including the Urban Health Report, Washington's Leaders and the Randall Robinson Program.

Aisha is a graduate of Howard University and Wesley Theological Seminary. She is a proud and devoted mother of two sons: Donnell, a graduate of American and George Washington Universities, and Jay, a Howard University graduate who is married to Whitney, also a Howard graduate, and a cancer survivor.

Aisha says her life's work has been a labor of love and a blessing, ''because only God could have taken a girl from the Lincoln Heights projects, having grown up on welfare and working at the age of 10 years old to a position where she has been able through her work to help make a positive difference in the same community in which she grew up.'' Notwithstanding serious illness, Aisha Karimah kept going at NBC4. Today, we bring Aisha Karimah from behind the scenes to let her take a bow for 45 years of beneficial contributions to the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Aisha Karimah for an extraordinary job well beyond the call of duty for NBC4 Washington and the national capital region for 45 extraordinary years.

TRIBUTE TO THE PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA LaSALLE ACADEMY CLASS OF 2015

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the future leaders of LaSalle Academy, Class of 2015, on their Leadership visit to the Nation's Capital on May 6th, 2014. This trip, through the sites they will see, the leaders they will meet, and about whom they will learn, will expose them to the attributes effective leaders must possess in guiding individuals toward a value-based, common goal. I trust this trip will afford these young men and women not only an opportunity to learn effective leadership skills, but also the worth of selfless leadership to themselves, their school, community, and nation.

LaSalle Academy of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has inculcated a robust value set in its curriculum and has readied these young men and women for this leadership role. Knowing they are our leaders of tomorrow, I and the teachers and staff at LaSalle Academy are happy to have provided them the opportunity to see leadership in action in our nation's capitol.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate these students on their interest in our government and in becoming inspirational leaders. Please join me in wishing them every success in their future endeavors.

HONORING NEKIAYA JACKSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Nekiaya Jackson, who is an extraordinary student, athlete, and member of society.

Nekiaya Jackson was born in Greenwood, MS, on August 19, 1996. She is the proud daughter of Amy Perkins and Michael Jackson. Starting from a young age, she was always excited about learning. She read, wrote, and often inquired about subjects that were far beyond her level. She was named ''gifted'' and was placed in an accelerated learning program in the second grade. Her thirst for knowledge and adventurous spirit led to excellence in all subjects throughout elementary school, middle school, and high school.

Nekiaya is currently a senior honor student at Greenwood High School where she is involved in numerous clubs and organizations. Some of these include: Beta Club, National Honor Society, and the math society—Mu Alpha Theta.

Nekiaya is the President of the Skills USA organization and a member of its Opening and Closing Team, which has placed 1st place two years and will go on to the National Skills USA Competition in Kansas City and represent Skills USA as a 1st place winner for the State of Mississippi. As a member of the Youth Advisory Council, she volunteers monthly at Golden Age Nursing Home to engage its residents in various activities. She is also a four year Letterman of Greenwood High school's track, basketball, and softball teams.

Nekiaya is employed by Greenwood Public Schools as a Student Office Clerk at Greenwood High School. She serves in the Principal's office under Mr. Percy Powell.

Nekiaya is an active member in her community through various volunteer organizations. She is a member of Greenwood Leflore Public Library's Teen Advisory Group, where they organize many holiday events for children. She has participated in the Walk for Alzheimer's and 300 Oaks Race and served at the Greenwood Community Kitchen and the Food Pantry.

After graduating from Greenwood High School, Nekiaya plans to attend Mississippi State University and major in Aerospace Engineering. Her ''Super Plan'' as she calls it, is to work for NASA.

Her favorite quote comes from one of her heroes: ''What we find is that if you have a goal that is very, very far out, and you approach it in little steps, you get there faster. Your mind opens up to the possibilities.''—Mae C. Jemison. She says that this is one of the things that keeps her motivated and on the track traveling toward her dreams and aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a student extraordinaire, Ms. Nekiaya Jackson for her dedication to excellence in and out of the classroom.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVID SCHOOLEN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Schoolen for his honorable service to the United States of America.

In 1940, David was born in Des Moines, Iowa. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1963 and graduated from Navy boot camp at the U.S. Navy Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois.

Because of his high score on the aptitude test, David was selected to undergo highly specialized training at the Submarine School in New London, Connecticut. He successfully completed the basic course and continued on to receive specialized training in electronics followed by additional training at the Naval Nuclear Power School.

After his training, David reported aboard the USS *Tecumseh*, a ballistic missile submarine. The submarine had two crews, a Blue Crew and a Gold Crew, that alternated onboard the ship's deterrent patrols during the Cold War. David was part of the Gold Crew, which was made up of 133 enlisted men and 14 officers. The *Tecumseh* completed 21 patrols in the Pacific including patrols in the Gulf of Tonkin, the North China Sea, and the South China Sea during the Vietnam war.

David reenlisted in the Navy and completed further training in gas, wielding, burning, and brazing. He also completed training in electronic test equipment operation, hydrogen detection, damage control, and noise and vibration measurement. David became an Electrician's Mate 1 and served in the capacity of a Nuclear Power Propulsion Plant Operator.

After four tours with the Gold Crew onboard the USS *Tecumseh*, David served as an instructor at the Nuclear Power Prototype (Operational) School for three years.

In January 1971, David was honorably discharged after more than seven years of service. Mr. David was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Dolphins Badge of the Submarine Service.

David is a Life Member of Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896. He is also active in the community of Chowchilla as a deacon in El Nido Missionary Church. He and his wife, Dorothy, have three children and one grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the honorable service of Mr. David Schoolen. We must thank him for his unwavering commitment to protecting the citizens of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOUISE ARCHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna, Virginia. The history of this school from its first days as a one-room schoolhouse for African-American children to the present time with a diverse student body and advanced academic programs in many ways mirrors the history of the entire northern Virginia region.

The school is named after Louise A. Reeves Archer who was born on October 23, 1883. She grew up in North Carolina, attended Livingstone College, taught school in Southampton County, and moved to Washington, D.C. in 1922. Her life's work was the education of African American children.

In 1922, Mrs. Archer became teacher and principal for a one-room, segregated school in Vienna known as the Vienna Colored School. Devoted to her students, she often transported children to school herself. She organized a Parent-Teacher Association to raise funds for supplies and a new building, which opened on its current site in 1939 with three rooms. In 1941 students, parents, and faculty raised $300 to pay for a music teacher, bus expenses, kitchen supplies, and electric lights.

In addition to the academic curriculum, Mrs. Archer taught sewing, cooking, music, gardening and poetry to her students in fifth through seventh grade, which was then the highest level of public education available to African Americans in the county at that time. She was a highly respected educator who taught the value of discipline, respect, and other important life skills that would serve her students throughout their lives.

Mrs. Archer was also active in the community at large. She served on the board of the Washington Conservancy of Music, participated in the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, and established one of Fairfax County's earliest 4–H Clubs for African Americans, among other activities.

After Mrs. Archer's death on April 1, 1948, the community felt the importance of having a memorial in her honor. In response to a petition, the school board changed the school's name to Louise Archer Elementary in 1950.

Today, inspired by the school's namesake, the faculty and staff of Louise Archer Elementary School create an educationally stimulating, and supportive learning environment so students can grow academically, socially, and emotionally in preparation for becoming motivated, confident, and respectful members of the community. As part of the 75th anniversary events, the school will become home to a temporary historical museum containing artifacts from the school's founding as well as contemporary displays made by current students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the commemoration of this significant anniversary and the contributions of Mrs. Louise Archer to the educational development of African-American children in Fairfax County.

RECOGNIZING THE FINALISTS SELECTED IN THE 24TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS ART COMPETITION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the following high school students from the 24th Congressional District of Texas who were selected as finalists in the Congressional Art Competition. Of the 179 pieces entered in 24th District, only 32 students were selected as finalists.

Student, Title of the Artwork:

Emily Buckland, The Birds Are Singing.
Purujit Chatterjee, Portrait of Mother Teresa.
Eunice Choe, Blue Bird.
Lovell Cox, Jungle.
Erin Crumpler, Poison Dart Frogs.
Nicole Crumpler, The Power of Perception.
Amie Deng, Magnolia Warbler in Orchids.
Laura Gao, Little Italy.
Greg Garza, Viper.
Sophia Glasser-Kerr, Winter Landscape.
Kelsie Harshaw, On the Edge.
Rebecca Hopkins, Intaglio Monoprint Beach Scene.
Madeline Huang, Purple Twilight.
Diane Huynh, Afterlife.
Heather Jang, Abstract Study.
Esther Jeon, Self Portrait with a Fan.
Rebecca Kim, Happy Beginnings.
Yvonne Kim, Intrusion.
Min Sun Lee, First Step Towards Independence.
Sooin Lim, Garlic.
Ahona Mukherjee, Main Cabin Under an Aurora Streak.
Olivia Najera, Tiger at Water.
Lauren Oney, Red.
Jeongho Park, The Hug.
JC Patino, Arabian Allure.
Fabiana Perez, Self Portrait.
Yu Jin Rim, The Lamp.
Nicole Schifferdecker, Beginning To End.
Caitlyn Shannon, Gradient.
Duc Tran Nguyen, Ice.
Kailey Visoski, 'Merica.
Katy Yut, Prayer.

The art competition was represented by many different high schools in the 24th District. I am honored at this time to acknowledge the participating schools and the art teachers who helped facilitate the process by assisting their students.

High School, Art Teacher:

Carroll Senior High School, Eric Horn & Summer Neimann.
Carrollton Christian Academy, Holly Hendrix.
Coppell High School, Tamera Westervelt.
Creekview High School, Bob Thomas.
Grapevine High School, Jeff Nisbet.
The Hockaday School Jack E., Janet Yoshii-Buenger.
Newman Smith High School, Keith Mueller.
Parish Episcopal School, Beka Johnson.
Prestonwood Christian Academy, Brenda Robson.
Ranchview High School, Erin West.
Jack E. Singley Academy, Amy Moore.
St. Mark's School of Texas, Max Wood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these exceptional high school artists on becoming finalists in the 24th Congressional District of Texas Art Competition.

TO RECOGNIZE NONIE DARWISH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of and appreciation for Nonie Darwish.

In 1949, Nonie Darwish was born in Egypt—the Muslim daughter of a lieutenant general in the Egyptian Army. Today, she is a champion for equality and respect of women within the Islamic culture in which she grew up.

After coming to America in the late 1970s she became an outspoken advocate for

human rights around the world—including in the Middle East-region—and has voiced her support for a strong and sovereign Israeli-state. Her unique life story has led her to become one of the most fascinating and passionate women in our society, and has helped her pen three nationally recognized books.

It is a great honor that Ms. Darwish is speaking in my district—bringing her exceptional message of equal rights and a world free of hate to an audience in Bucks County.

It is of note that her address comes in Washington's Crossing—just miles from the location of one of the most crucial points in American history. When General Washington crossed the frozen Delaware more than two centuries ago, he was battling for a government that respected the inalienable rights of the individual—regardless of race, creed, gender or religion. Ms. Darwish's message rings true with the values fought for on that ground.

I wish to thank Nonie Darwish for her life of leadership and for her coming visit to my district.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ERIC CROWNOVER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eric Crownover, who served honorably as a Marine during the Iraq War. Eric's commitment and dedication to ensuring the safety of the American people deserves to be commended.

Eric was born in Chowchilla and attended Chowchilla High School. In 1997, he graduated and soon after enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.

After completing boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Eric completed the School of Infantry Training course and was designated as an infantryman. He qualified as Expert on the M–16 rifle and reported to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton.

Eric quickly advanced in rank and military proficiency. He completed the Machine Gunners Course and became involved in the USMC Mixed Martial Arts. Eric decided to reenlist and remained in the 1st Marines.

In January 2003, the 1st Marines were deployed to Iraq as part of Regimental Combat Team 1, a combined task force of 5,000 men. Eric and his fellow Marines fought their way from Kuwait to Baghdad, with actions at An Nasariyah, Al Kut, and Baghdad.

After the fall of Baghdad, Eric and the regiment conducted security and stability operations in Baghdad and Al Hillah. He returned to Camp Pendleton in the summer of 2003, where he completed Martial Arts Grey Training. Later in 2003, Eric returned to Iraq for a second tour and was in combat in Fallujah and Ramadi.

In addition to his service in Iraq, Eric also spent several months in Afghanistan fighting the Taliban and insurgent forces. He eventually returned to Camp Pendleton where he joined Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. He continued with the USMC Mixed Martial Arts and earned a brown belt.

Eric became a CST instructor and was selected for the Sergeant's Course. After completing the course, he was promoted to sergeant. During his off-duty hours, Eric took courses in criminal justice at Saddleback College, Mission Viejo.

In February 2006, Sergeant Eric L. Crownover received an honorable discharge from the United States Marines Corps. For his service, he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon with one star, Presidential Unit Citation, the Good Conduct Medal with one star, the Iraq Campaign Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Letter of Commendation, and Letter of Appreciation. He was also awarded the Expert Rifleman's Badge and a Brown Belt in Mixed Martial Arts.

Eric has three children and lives in Merced, California. He is a Life Member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Eric Crownover for his honorable service to our great nation and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.

HONORING WILLIAM (BILL) DESHUN ROBINSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William D. Robinson, who is a motivated Greenwood High School student, athlete, and citizen of Leflore County.

William (Bill) D. Robinson was born in Greenwood, Mississippi on October 11, 1994. At the age of four, his mother and he moved to Michigan where he attended public and charter schools. Even at a young age, his peers noticed that he had leadership potential and the academic motivation to excel. He was voted ''Most Likely to Succeed''.

After living in Michigan for five years, his mother moved his family back to Greenwood. His brother, two sisters and he were excited to be back home with their family and friends. Bill continued to love learning and enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

In school his academic success was recognized by being named to the Greenwood High School Honor Roll, being honor Mr. William D. Robinson, who is a elected treasurer of the GHS Beta Club, and motivated Greenwood High School student, being chosen Student of the Month by his teachers.

Sports have been a passion for him throughout his middle school and high school years. Through the Greenwood High School football team, he has been named 2nd Team All-Commonwealth Defensive End and has twice been a member of the 4A District Championship team. He also participates in the GHS Track and Field Team.

As an employee of Greenwood Market Place, he has been promoted as Student Produce Manager. In his job, Bill manages department inventory and maintains product quality.

Bill participates in many school and community organizations. He is a member of the GHS Youth Advisory Council, the SkillsUSA organization, and the Distinguished Gentlemen of Maroon and White. He serves on the Teen Advisory Group of the Greenwood Leflore Library, was recognized as the Rotary Club Student of the Month for January. He often volunteers at the Golden Age Nursing Home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an exemplary young man, Mr. William D. (Bill) Robinson, someone who balances academic success, life skills, and good citizenship.

RECOGNIZING THE CAMELOT COMMUNITY PATROL (NWP)

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Camelot Community Patrol Neighborhood Watch Program, CNWP, of Fairfax County, Virginia, and join the community in celebrating the Watch's 35th anniversary.

Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and best-known crime prevention efforts in North America. In the late 1960s, an increase in crime heightened the need for a prevention initiative focused on residential areas and involving local citizens. The National Sheriffs' Association, NSA, responded, creating the National Neighborhood Watch Program in 1972 to assist citizens and law enforcement.

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, strengthening and securing communities became more critical than ever. Neighborhood Watch programs have responded to the challenge, expanding beyond their traditional crime prevention role to help neighborhoods focus on disaster preparedness, emergency response, and terrorism awareness.

While every Neighborhood Watch program in the country deserves our recognition and appreciation, the Camelot Neighborhood Watch Program stands out as one of the best in the Nation. The CNWP is the oldest, continuously active Neighborhood Watch in the United States. In the 35 years since its inception, the CNWP has achieved great success, helping lower the general crime rate in its community. Boasting the largest number of volunteers in Northern Virginia, the CNWP is the ''eyes and ears'' of local law enforcement, informing the authorities of suspicious activities and giving their neighbors peace of mind.

Those who take the time to cast a watchful eye on their surroundings ensure a safer, friendlier place to live. Through committed neighborhood watch, CNWP participants have proven that community involvement can and does make a difference. In 2013, the CNWP volunteers conducted 599 patrols totaling 763 hours. There are 50 active patrollers, each of whom volunteered an average of 64 hours per month.

One of the greatest assets of the CNWP is its ability to bring neighbors together. In that

spirit I am proud to recognize Mr. Paul Cevey, CNWP founder and coordinator for the first 12 years; Mr. Dave Shonerd, who for the next 11 years continued to mold the program into the great success it is today; and Mr. Frank Vajda who continues the great CNWP tradition.

Years of CNWP success have merited several notable accolades. The Fairfax County Mason District Police Department has recognized the CNWP as one of the most effective crime reduction units in the county. In fact, Camelot is one of the most crime-free communities in Fairfax County and the CNWP deserves much of the credit. The Virginia Crime Prevention Association has also recognized the CNWP as the Best Neighborhood Watch in Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Camelot Neighborhood Watch Program for 35 years of dedicated service to its community. Programs like the CNWP are vital in our efforts to combat crime. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the CNWP's past accomplishments and in wishing the program continued success in the many years to come.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Calvary Baptist Church of San Diego on its 125th anniversary and to recognize its long service to the African American community. Calvary Baptist Church of San Diego was one of the first African American Baptist churches in San Diego to address the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the African American community.

Throughout the years, Calvary Baptist Church has honored its history through faith, forgiveness, fellowship, friendship, and family and community union. As it did 125 years ago, Calvary Baptist Church continues to support the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the African American communities throughout San Diego.

Calvary Baptist Church of San Diego has prospered, reaching new heights physically, financially, and spiritually. I would like to commend Calvary Baptist Church of San Diego on their 125th anniversary and thank them for their enormous contributions to our community.

ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this year, we celebrate 66 years of Israeli independence as well as over six decades of steadfast friendship between Israel and the United States.

When President Truman recognized the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, only eleven minutes after David Ben-Gurion declared independence, the United States became an unwavering supporter of the Jewish state.

Israel is now our strongest ally in the Middle East as well as the longest-standing democracy in the region. It's a partnership based on shared values and common goals.

That is why the United States will continue to be the greatest force against efforts to delegitimize Israel in the international community as well as the greatest advocate for a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians and recognition of Israel by all of her neighbors.

Together, we will continue our efforts to turn these goals into a reality.

I join all Israelis in celebrating this year's Yom Ha'atzmaut.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,468,093,940,076.33. We've added $6,841,216,891,163.25 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JACKY PARKS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jacky Parks for being honored as the 2014 Labor Leader of the Year by the Fresno, Madera, Tulare, and Kings Central Labor Council. The outstanding contributions he has made to the law enforcement community in Fresno and the entire San Joaquin Valley must be commended.

Jacky was born and raised in Oakdale, California. Upon graduating from Oakdale High School in 1983, Jacky went on to attend Merced Community College where he majored in criminal justice.

In 1985, Jacky was hired by the State of California and began his career as a peace officer. Throughout his law enforcement career of nearly three decades, Jacky has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, narcotic detective, and street violence detective. For the past 19 years, Jacky has been with the City of Fresno Police Department.

In October 2004, Jacky's peers elected him to be president of the Fresno Police Officer's Association (FPOA), a position he has held for a record five consecutive terms. As president, Jacky serves as the lead negotiator for the FPOA Basic and Management Units. He coordinated and participated in a successful campaign to defeat California Propositions 74, 75, 76, and 77, and joined forces with local labor leaders to successfully defeat the City of Fresno's Measure "G."

In addition to serving as President of FPOA, Jacky serves in other leadership positions. Jacky is a member of the City of Fresno Health and Welfare Trust, and he sits on the executive committee and board of directors of the Peace Officer Research Association of California (PORAC). Jacky is a terrific representative for the Fresno Police Department and regularly participates in community events and town hall meetings. In addition, he is active in educating law enforcement labor groups around the state and nation.

Throughout his career, Jacky has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to service. In 1989, Jacky left the World Series baseball game to work with the California State Police in assisting citizens affected by the 1989 San Francisco earthquake. He also served as a street violence detective investigating the Marcus Wesson homicide case which resulted in a successful prosecution and conviction.

Because of Jacky's efforts, he has been the recipient of several awards presented by the Fresno Police Department including: a Life Saving Medal, the Fresno Police Department Nominee Rookie of the Year award, and the Southeast District Police Officer of the Year award. Jacky also received a special recognition award at the 2008 PORAC Conference for his dedication and efforts to promoting the goals of the organization.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jacky Parks for his service and commitment to our community. His hard work and dedication to ensuring public safety is greatly appreciated.

HONORING CALEB ROBINSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, Caleb Robinson, a goal oriented student at Madison S. Palmer High School. Caleb Robinson is the son of Allen and Josephine Sanders of Falcon, MS and a member of the 2014 senior class.

Caleb Robinson is an office aide, English II peer tutor, and an honor student. He participated in the Breast Cancer Awareness and the Say No To Drugs walks, volunteers at helping the Mid-South Food Bank hand out food to the needy in Quitman County and is a trainer for the athletic director.

Caleb has scored a 20 on his ACT, completed the admission process and has been accepted to MS Valley State University and to University of Mississippi. He is continually applying for scholarships to assist him financially.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Caleb Robinson, as a student who is goal oriented and is making a difference in his community.

RECOGNIZING LEO SCHEFER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WASHINGTON AIRPORTS TASK FORCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Representatives WOLF and MORAN, to recognize Leo J. Schefer on the occasion of his retirement after serving more than 25 years as President of the Washington Airports Task Force. Mr. Schefer was a founding member of the Task Force, and during his distinguished career, both he and the Task Force have been instrumental in collaborating with the residents, employers, and elected leaders throughout the National Capital Region to promote growth at the two major airports and to foster economic development benefitting the entire region.

A native of the United Kingdom, Mr. Schefer was trained as an aeronautical engineer with the well-known airplane manufacturer Vicker's Armstrong Aircraft. He also worked for the aviation company BAE, formerly British aerospace, and played a role in its growth here in the U.S. during the 1980s. Mr. Schefer also helped introduce the first jet service to some of our nation's smaller airports, to secure U.S. landing rights for the *Concorde* supersonic transport, and to facilitate Europe's participation in the NASA Space Shuttle program.

Through his work with the Task Force, Mr. Schefer has worked tirelessly to promote the interests of Washington National Airport and Dulles International Airport. Those efforts have supported increased competition among the airlines and a 50 percent increase in passenger trips at National Airport. The growth at Dulles, which had been underutilized, has been more dramatic during that time. When the Task Force began, total passenger trips totaled 2.6 million with just 362,000 international passengers annually. Thirty years later, international trips totaled nearly 7 million with total passengers topping 22 million. Without question the Task Force, and Mr. Schefer's dogged yet gentlemanly efforts, have played a key role in that success.

During Mr. Schefer's tenure, the Task Force was actively engaged in fostering the bilateral Open Skies agreements with Canada and the European Union, which have increased international passenger travel and economic development opportunities. The Task Force also collaborated with the regional Congressional delegation and local leaders following the terrorist attacks of 9/11 to re-open National Airport. It also worked with the Smithsonian Institution, the aviation industry, and regional leaders to lure the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, the National Air and Space Museum's spectacular second facility, to Dulles International Airport.

In addition, the Task Force and Mr. Schefer have been key partners in the efforts to build public support for and advance the Dulles Rail project. Washington, D.C., is the only OECD capital to not have a mass transit connection to its premier international gateway. We are pleased to report the first phase that project will open later this year, nearly 50 years after it was first envisioned, and we look forward to joining Mr. Schefer for its inaugural voyage.

Mr. Schefer's many contributions to our region and the aviation industry have been recognized by the National Aeronautical Association, the Smithsonian Institution, the Top-Side Aviation Club, Aviation Week, and leading organizations from across the National Capital Region.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in thanking Mr. Schefer for his invaluable contributions to the aviation industry and the National Capital Region and in wishing him well in his retirement. We have every confidence that through his leadership, the Task Force is well positioned to continue as a strong partner for the region's airports and our economy for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING 2014 ST. CLOUD CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year, the Family Owned Business of the Year, and the Business Central Mark of Excellence-Emerging Entrepreneurs. These individuals stand out to the Chamber as ''those who have the courage to aspire to a higher level'' as business owners and community members.

Jim Kruze and Melissa Kelley of J. F. Kruze Jewelers were awarded the 2014 St. Cloud Area Chamber Small Business of the Year. Though he never intended to own a jewelry store, Jim learned early on that he had a knack for sales and found himself eager to learn more about the jewelry industry. Fourteen years after returning to the business, Jim and his daughter, gemologist and co-owner Melissa Kelley, have doubled the size of their original store and specialize in custom jewelry.

The St. Cloud Area Chamber Family Owned Business of the Year is awarded to Pat and Paul Duininck of Royal Tire. Founded in 1948, Roger Duininck acquired the store in 1987 and raised his sons, Pat and Paul, with the family business, which provides retail and commercial tire sales, service, and repair and operates two retreading plants in Minnesota. Since Pat and Paul joined the family business, (1979 and 1984 respectively) it has tripled in size from 100 employees and 12 stores in Central Minnesota to 300 employees and 26 stores, covering an area from Rochester, MN to Williston, ND to Virginia, MN. With the 2013 purchase of their 3rd manufacturing plant in Rochester, MN, Royal Tire is ready to provide quality service to another community far into the future.

The Business Central Mark of Excellence-Emerging Entrepreneurs's inaugural recipients are the six second-generation co-owners of Midwest Machinery, Co.: Ben and Andrew Swenson; Brian, Corey and Adam Weber; and Paul Seipel. Originally a merger of eight separate John Deere locations into one company, Midwest Machinery's focus on strong and skillful management has paid off. With four new stores last year, the business now boasts an impressive 13 locations. Not bad for a team of owners all under the age of 40!

The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce made a great decision in highlighting the owners and managers of J. F. Kruze Jewelers, Royal Tire and Midwest Machinery, Co. as this year's winners. They not only provide a quality service to their customers and boost the local economy, they also serve as a notable example to their communities of the importance of family-owned and small businesses—they are lifeblood to our beloved state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring J. F. Kruze Jewelers, Royal Tire and Midwest Machinery, Co. for their accomplishments and their invaluable contributions to the state of Minnesota.

HONORING KIRSTEN FENTZ

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kirsten Fentz, who was one of four National Finalists for the John Cauble Award for Outstanding Short Play. This award recognizes one or more outstanding scripts each year for presentation at the Kennedy Center American College Festival in Washington, D.C.

Kirsten's play, The Last Sunrise, was selected out of plays submitted from across the country. Being a finalist for this competitive award demonstrates Kirsten's extraordinary talent and hard work and commitment to excellence. As the youngest finalist and only undergraduate to receive this honor, her accomplishment is all the more impressive. In Washington, D.C., Kirsten served as an excellent representative of Ball State University and the state of Indiana.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in recognizing Kirsten's achievement and I look forward to seeing what this talented young woman accomplishes in the future.

RECOGNIZING PHIL LARSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil Larson as he is honored with the Ag One Community Salute. Phil is truly a ''champion for agriculture'' as he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his community and devoted his time, energy, and service to California's agriculture industry.

Phil is a longtime resident of the San Joaquin Valley. Upon graduating from Kerman High School in 1951, Phil attended California State University, Fresno and Pasadena College. He joined the United States Marine Corps, and proudly served his country in the Korean War from 1953–1956 and the Reserve

until 1961. Phil earned the rank of Sergeant E–4.

In 1962, Phil began a long and distinguished career as a pest control adviser (PCA) for Wilbur-Ellis Company, an international marketer and distributor of agricultural products. He won multiple awards from the industry, including being named to the Ag Chemical Professionals Hall of Fame. In addition, Phil was a founding member of the Fresno County Chapter of California Association of Pest Control Advisors (CAPCA), where he was honored as PCA of the Year in 1990.

In 2002, Phil was elected to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to represent District One, and was re-elected in 2006 and 2010. As County Supervisor, Phil serves on various Boards and Commissions, including: the Biological Diversity Task Force, Historic Parks Committee, Mid Valley Water Authority, and San Joaquin Water Coalition. Phil is an authority on agriculture and water supply issues. He was instrumental in developing the west side of Fresno County after the installation of the California Aqueduct.

In addition to his service as County Supervisor, Phil has been a leader in the community in many other capacities. He has served on several boards including: Kerman Unified School Board, Kerman Covenant Church, and the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. Phil has also served as president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau and as a State Director for the California Farm Bureau.

The Central Valley has benefitted in so many ways from the efforts made by Phil. His support for Ag One and Fresno State will reach new heights through the Ag One—John P. ''Phil'' Larson Endowment, which will support deserving students and programs in the Department of Plant and Science in the Jordan College at California State University, Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Phil Larson for his commitment to ensuring that the San Joaquin Valley continues to prosper and thrive as one of the nation's leaders in agriculture.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE ''JERRY'' GOODMAN

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to George ''Jerry'' Goodman who died on January 3, and who will be remembered and whose loss will be mourned in New York today. I regret I cannot be there in person to praise my friend. As a leader in the economics and business community, Mr. Goodman was best recognized for his pseudonym, Adam Smith of Adam Smith's Money World, an alias he used for his thirteen year public television program. He understood the complexity of investing and economics, and became an educator to the everyday American investor through his books such as ''The Money Game,'' ''Supermoney,'' and ''The Roaring '80s.''

Like many Americans, I have learned from and valued Jerry's timeless work. He was endlessly curious and interested in many ideas and issues. He has also been acknowledged for his particular style for presenting economic data, and his witty sense of humor brought joy to many. His talent for including humor, even jocularity, remains an Adam Smith's trademark. It is Adam Smith that we have to thank for the well-recognized story known to many economists. The story presents a physicist, a chemist, and an economist stranded on a desert island with no implements and a can of food as their only source of sustenance. The physicist and the chemist each devised ingenious mechanisms for opening the can; the economist merely said, ''It's easy. First, assume there is a can opener!'' His humor only enhanced his explanatory prose. Prior to his Adam Smith days, Mr. Goodman helped start Institutional Investor magazine, served as executive editor of Esquire, and published a popular children's book, ''Bascombe, the Fastest Hound Alive,'' which he claimed was his most widely read work. Jerry used his experience as an intelligence analyst in the Army to write about countless topics for Barron's Time, Fortune, and various other magazines.

Jerry, his charming, remarkable late wife, Sally, and I had many fascinating discussions on a huge variety of matters, always enjoyable and illuminating. I also have been pleased to work with his daughter Susannah, who leads Common Cause's national campaign for election reform, on a number of issues to improve the function of our democracy. We continue to benefit from Mr. Goodman's ability to explain complex economic data in a way that we can all understand.

CELEBRATING MORRISON R. WAITE HIGH SCHOOL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Morrison R. Waite High School in my District. The school will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary on May 10th, 2014. High upon the east banks of the Maumee River, on a bluff overlooking the very heart of Toledo's downtown, stands historic Waite High School. Established in 1914, Waite High School is an important anchor in the community and has been a proud tradition on Toledo's East Side since its doors first opened a century ago.

Named after Supreme Court Justice Morrison R. Waite who had practiced law in Toledo, Waite High School has lived up to the reputation and success of its namesake. Students achieve academic success, with many going on to post-secondary education or vocational options.

Waite High School has nurtured many of our community leaders including current Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, Toledo's ''Mr. Music'' Samuel Szor, Toledo Public School teacher Lucy Weaver, former Mayor Michael J. Damas who was the first Arab-American mayor elected in the U.S., Judge Joseph Flores, and Judge Robert C. Pollex to name but a few. In 1982, Waite High School began recognizing its Distinguished Alumni and has since honored 122 individuals for their accomplishments. Of these, forty have been educators. From its beginning, Waite High School taught its students to achieve and to lead. Indeed, our community has been the richer for their efforts.

The high school got its nickname, the Indians, from Toledo fire department members on the East Side of Toledo. The fire department used to break up into two teams, East and West, for an annual running and fire truck pulling competition. The East Side fire department members used the nickname ''Indians'' in the annual competition. As the only Toledo Public School on the East Side, Waite High School decided to adopt the name. The school experienced success early on in athletics earning national titles for football in 1924 and 1932. The football team played games from Maine to California. Waite has won more than thirty City League sport titles, with dozens of athletes named to All-City teams. The rich athletic tradition continues today.

Waite High School's dedication goes beyond academic achievements and athletic prowess. The school boasts over thirty clubs and organizations. It is host to three of the largest blood drives in Northwest Ohio. The importance of giving back to the community has always been a tradition at Waite. Its students are in the 80th year of providing holiday baskets for East and South Toledo families. At the end of May, the school will hold its 97th annual Memorial Day program honoring our community's veterans.

For a century, Waite High School has sat nobly on the banks of the East Side of Toledo's Maumee River. Its proud heritage and sterling traditions have held true since its opening day one hundred years ago. As it looks forward to the next century contributing toward our successful future through the education of new generations, we take a moment to reflect on its past glories. I am pleased to join our entire community in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Morrison R. Waite High School, a beacon of learning on Toledo's East Side. Onward!

HONORING THE LATE BENJAMIN ''BUD'' SPIRES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a music pioneer, the late Benjamin ''Bud'' Spires.

Benjamin ''Bud'' Spires is a lifelong resident of Yazoo County, Mississippi. He was born on May 20, 1931 to Maggie Burnside Jones and Arthur Spires in Yazoo County, Mississippi.

In 1978, Benjamin ''Bud'' Spires (Blues Legend) began his musical career with Mr. Jack Owens, who preceded him in death. Bud was famous for his harmonica and his well known song, ''Easy Riding Buggy''. Bud's legacy, jokes, and the thought of him speaking whatever came to mind will forever live on in his family and making them laugh.

Bud was married to Ammie Lee Owens and to that union, seven children were born. He accepted Christ at an early age at Pleasant Grove M.B. Church where he was a faithful member until his health failed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Mr. Benjamin ''Bud'' Spires for his dedication and desire to share his harmonic talent with so many.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S CENTER AND THE 28TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of The Women's Center of Vienna, Virginia, and to congratulate the recipients of the 28th Annual Leadership Conference Awards.

Founded in 1974, The Women Center initially focused on career counseling and seminars. Since then, the Center has expanded its services and become a counseling and resource center for financial, career, legal and psychological needs of women, men, and families, regardless of their ability to pay. The Center's staff includes more than 65 therapists and career counselors who provide a full range of services. In the past year, the Center served more than 4,200 clients and provided over 31,000 hours of counseling and services.

For 28 years, The Women's Center has hosted an annual conference. This year's Leadership Conference celebrates ''The Power to Influence'' and will focus on women's ability to make a positive difference in their communities and their own lives. Six women who have made extraordinary contributions will also be honored, and I am pleased to enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Maureen Bunyan is an award-winning, veteran television news broadcaster and anchor for ABC7/WJLATV. She is a founder and board member of the International Women's Media Foundation, a founder of the National Association of Black Journalists, a member of the National Advisory Board of the Casey Journalism Center on Children & Families, the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital Women's Advisory Board, the Advisory Committee of Women in Film & Video and Women of Washington.

Susan B. Chodakewitz is a highly recognized and accomplished Senior Executive with a track record of turning around, building and growing businesses. Ms. Chodakewitz currently serves as President of Tetra Tech AMT (AMT), which specializes in aviation management and information technology. Under her leadership AMT was named the 2010 Large Business of the Year by the FAA. She received the SmartCEO's Brava Award in 2012 and was named one of the ''2011 Women Who Mean Business'' by the Washington Business Journal.

Holly Petraeus is the Assistant Director, Office of Servicemember Affairs for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). An active-duty military spouse for over 37 years and a former Department of the Army civilian employee, Mrs. Petraeus has extensive experience as a volunteer leader in military family programs. In recognition of her expertise and contributions, Mrs. Petraeus has been awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the Department of the Army Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service, and the Oklahoma Medal of Freedom.

Linda Singh is commercial director of Accenture Federal Service's public safety business. Her project management and implementation experience spans civilian, public safety, and Department of Defense organizations. Ms. Singh manages a second career as a brigadier general in the Maryland Army National Guard in which she has served for more than 32 years. Ms. Singh recently returned from a military deployment in Afghanistan, where she served as Afghan Security Forces operations chief with the 29th Infantry Division and now serves as the Director of the Maryland National Guard joint staff.

Anne-Marie Slaughter is the president and CEO of the New America Foundation and the Bert G. Kerstetter '66 University Professor Emerita of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. From 2009–2011, she served as the director of Policy Planning for the United States Department of State, the first woman to hold that position. Prior to her government service, Dr. Slaughter was Dean of Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs from 2002–2009 and Professor of International, Foreign, and Comparative Law at Harvard Law School from 1994–2002.

Susannah Wellford is the founder of two organizations designed to raise the political voice of young women in America. Ms. Wellford founded Running Start to inspire young women and girls to political leadership and the Women Under Forty Political Action Committee (WUFPAC), which is the only political action committee in the United States devoted to helping young women of all parties run for elected office.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending The Women's Center for improving the psychological, career, financial, and legal well-being of women and their families, and in congratulating this year's honorees for their tremendous contributions to our community and the nation.

RECOGNIZING RAY POOL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ray Pool for the outstanding contributions he has made to the farming community in Madera and the entire San Joaquin Valley. Ray is more than deserving to be honored as Senior Farmer of the Year by the Madera Chamber of Commerce.

Ray has strong roots in Madera County. Upon graduating from Madera High School, Ray joined the United States Air Force where he developed a love for flying planes. When World War II ended, he moved to Nevada where his father owned a cattle ranch. He herded wild horses with an airplane, but unfortunately, it ended after a short time due to an accident he endured losing his leg and an eye. In 1950, he moved back to Madera where he began a lifelong journey of farming.

Ray's many accomplishments can be attributed to his determination and willingness to never give up. The first time he grew cotton, corn, and alfalfa, he nearly lost all of his money. However, instead of giving up, he worked for Cal-Air Dusters to earn extra cash. He saved enough to start his own crop dusting company, Ray Pool Dusting. As a crop duster, Ray met several farmers, and he formed partnerships that ultimately resulted in the expansion of his farm. By 1971, in addition to crop dusting, Ray was also farming 225 acres of almonds and 150 acres of grapevines.

Flying and farming will always have a special place in Ray's heart, but his achievements would never have been possible if not for the support of his devoted wife, Audrey. Ray and Audrey haven given back to their community in so many ways, and they must be commended for all of their great efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Ray Pool as the Senior Farmer of the Year presented by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Ray's success is exemplary of the American Dream, and he serves an inspiration for all of us.

IN TRIBUTE: JOAQUIN CAMACHO ARRIOLA

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the contributions of Joaquin Camacho Arriola, who, with more than 60 years of practice as a highly respected lawyer in the courts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and as one of Guam's first Chamorro lawyers, has received the Hustisia Award. The award is given to recognize a person or organization that has contributed significantly to the administration of justice and the improvement of government in Guam. The Hustisia Award was presented to Mr. Arriola on May 2, 2014 in Guam by the Guam Judiciary.

Joaquin Arriola was born on December 29, 1925 to the late Vicente Fernandez Arriola and the late Maria Soledad Camacho Arriola. Mr. Arriola lived an idyllic, rural life up until World War II, when, along with the rest of Guam, he had to endure years of harsh Japanese occupation. But when the U.S. returned to Guam, the teenaged Joaquin Arriola took action and was wounded by a Japanese hand grenade while leading a squad of the 77th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army.

Following the war, Mr. Arriola graduated from Guam's George Washington High School and then in 1950 cum laude from the College of St. Thomas in Minnesota. Three years later

Mr. Arriola earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Minnesota. He helped finance his college education by working part-time during the school year and in the summer laboring fourteen-hour days for a construction and painting company at the minimum wage of seventy-five cents an hour.

As an attorney, Mr. Arriola was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the State of Minnesota, the U.S. District Court of Guam, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court of the Northern Marianas, and the Supreme Courts and Superior Courts of Guam and the Northern Marianas.

He was also elected to the Third, Fourth, Ninth, and Tenth Guam Legislatures, where he was speaker during his last two terms of office. One of the many milestones in his legislative career took place in 1968. The U.S. Congress was debating the Elective Governor Act of Guam, which contained a provision establishing a U.S. Government Comptroller with audit authority over all funds coming into Guam. Speaker Arriola spearheaded a movement against the Federal Comptroller position, arguing that the people of Guam were entitled to greater self-government and that the establishment of a Federal Comptroller outside the framework of the government of Guam represented a step back from this goal and implied that the people of Guam could not be trusted with the expenditure of public funds. The Federal Comptroller provision was ultimately removed from the federal legislation.

In addition to his years in elected office Mr. Arriola was also Legislative Counsel and Parliamentarian for the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Guam Legislatures and legal counsel to many Government of Guam entities, including the Guam Power Authority and Guam Economic Development Authority. He served as Selective Service Government Appeal Agent in 1959, Small Business Administration Disaster Fee Counsel in 1962, Chairman for the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority from 1963 to 1964, Chairman of the Territorial Planning Commission from 1963 to 1966, and Chairman of the Board of Regents of the College of Guam from 1963 to 1966. And Mr. Arriola was a part-time Associate Justice of the Guam Supreme Court from 1996 to 1999.

In private practice Mr. Arriola is founding partner of Arriola, Cowan & Arriola—Guam's oldest established law office. His focus has been litigation; and Mr. Arriola still engages in civil trials to this day. He served as general counsel to the Bank of Guam, which he helped to incorporate, and as a member of the Bank's Board of Directors. He has also been secretary for BankPacific.

In recognition of all these accomplishments upon his 50th anniversary in practice in 2003, Mr. Arriola received a legislative resolution from the 27th Guam Legislature (Resolution No. 66). He was also honored for his service to the community with the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) from the University of Guam in 2007.

Mr. Arriola was married to former Senator Elizabeth P. Arriola, deceased. Although frequently occupied with legal matters, Mr. Arriola finds time to spend with his children, Jacqueline A. Marati, Vincent P. Arriola, Attorney Anita P. Arriola, Lisa P. Arriola, Franklin P. Arriola, Michael P. Arriola, Attorney Joaquin C. Arriola, Jr., and Anthony P. Arriola, his fifteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren, often while tending to his farm in Merizo.

We recognize, commend, and congratulate Mr. Arriola for his extensive professional accomplishments and his deep personal commitment to serving the people of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MAZZETTI FAMILY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Mazzetti family of Pacifica, California who for four decades and three generations has given endless compassion, countless cakes and plenty of sweetness to the community. You will not find a charitable event in town where Mazzetti's Bakery isn't providing lunch or dessert. Julie and Rudy Mazzetti personify generosity and community service.

Rudy and his mother opened the bakery 40 years ago. When Julie and Rudy married 30 year ago, the bakery expanded and then Angela, their daughter, joined the family business. The family has delighted locals and customers for far and wide with their delicious family recipes. From their pastries to their breads and rolls to their cookies and pies to their world-class Focaccia bread—just the thought of those tastes is mouthwatering. And then, of course, there are the famous wedding cakes. Last year, Mazzetti's Bakery made more than 700 of them.

When you walk through the doors of the Pacifica bakery at the corner of Manor Drive and Oceana Boulevard, you will commonly see Julie sitting with brides and grooms selecting their wedding cakes. She is wedding planner, designer and mom all in one. She is a baker with heart and modestly admits that the brides and grooms always come back to visit her.

Mazzetti's is not simply a bakery where people pick up their baked goods, it's a place where people stay, visit and discuss the latest news in town. It's a second home for many. It's also a second office for many elected officials who will meet with constituents and other members from the city council, board of supervisors and the legislature. The welcoming atmosphere sparks conversation and community spirit.

That community spirit reaches beyond the doors of the bakery. Julie and Rudy spread it wherever they go. After one of the most devastating events in our area, the Mazzettis stepped up to help their neighbors. On September 9, 2010 a natural gas pipeline in San Bruno exploded killing eight people and destroying a neighborhood. San Bruno is located in my Congressional District and the devastation of families will forever be seared into my memory. Just one week after the horrendous explosion while the Crestmoor neighborhood laid in ruins and family members were still searching for their loved ones, Julie and Rudy put on a spaghetti dinner and auction to support their neighbors. Julie went from business to business not asking 'will you contribute' but asking 'what will you contribute?' Everybody did contribute and the Mazzettis raised $28,000 in one afternoon. I attended that dinner and can't remember another occasion where I was so touched by the generosity of one family offering love and support to others.

The gratitude for this dinner from the San Bruno community is best expressed by one of the families who lost their houses in the explosion, the Pellegrinis. Tina Pellegrini, to whom Julie is like a sister, says she was still shell shocked and overwhelmed by the generosity. ''Julie constantly is giving back to the community. She rolls up her sleeves wherever there is a need. She is generous of heart and soul. I love her and her family and hope they will go on forever.''

Pacificans know and appreciate how invaluable the Mazzetti family is to the community. A readers' poll in the Pacifica Tribune this year voted Mazzetti's Bakery ''Best of Pacifica.'' The Pacifica Sports Club honored Julie and Rudy for their community contributions in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor a family in Pacifica that stands for what we value in this country. The Mazzettis are giving, loving and don't ask for any credit for their contributions, but their contributions touch the lives of residents of Pacifica and beyond every day. I hope for many more generations of Mazzettis to continue this beautiful legacy.

REMEMBERING M.J. ''MAC'' DUBE

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of M.J. ''Mac'' Dube, who passed away Tuesday, April 29, 2014. Mac, a family man, United States Marine, and public servant will always be remembered in Twentynine Palms for his hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm.

As a combat Marine, Colonel, and Chief of Staff at the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Mac served his country honorably and left a legacy for all those who will come after him. Mac and I were both promoted to Colonel at the same time, an honor I will always remember and cherish. You know, the Marine Corps has an old saying, ''No greater friend, no worse enemy.'' This could not have been truer for Mac, he was a great Marine and his thirty years, four Purple Hearts, and Silver Star are all compliments of his extraordinary service.

Mac began his involvement with the city of Twentynine Palms in 1994 following his retirement from the Marine Corps. He held various roles including a seat on the city council and as a field representative to County Supervisor Bill Postmus.

It is with a heavy heart that I come to the House floor today to remember Mac. I join with the Marine Corps and city of Twentynine

Palms in remembering and praying for Mac's family, especially his wife Patty.

Semper FI.

HONORING TONECA PICKENS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student at Madison S. Palmer High School.

Toneca Pickens is the daughter of Fekisha Pickens of Darling, MS. She serves as 2014 Senior Class President. She has been an honor student throughout High School. She plays softball and is an office aide and peer tutor.

Toneca is active in the community as a volunteer helping the Mid-South Food Bank hand out food to the needy in Quitman County. She participates in campus beautification, the MS Drop Out Prevention Campaign walk, sings in her church choir, and serves as a mentor for the youth of her church.

Toneca has scored a very high on her ACT and she plans to attend MS Valley State University and major in math. Her college admission is complete and she has been applying for scholarships to aid in her furthering her education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Toneca Pickens as a student who is goal oriented and making a difference in her community.

HONORING MARGIE WRIGHT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margie Wright as California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) changes the name of Bulldog Diamond to Margie Wright Diamond. For nearly three decades, Margie dedicated her life as the head coach to the softball program at Fresno State. Her passion for the sport is truly exemplary, and she is more than deserving of this special recognition.

Margie was raised in Warrensburg, Illinois, and her extraordinary athleticism was evident at a young age. In 1974, she graduated from Illinois State University where she played on both the softball and basketball teams for four years as well as the field hockey team for three years. Upon graduation, Margie played three years in the Women's Professional Softball League.

Margie's career as a softball coach quickly took off. She began coaching at Metamora Illinois high school, and then continued on to become the assistant softball coach and the head volleyball coach at Eastern Illinois University. Prior to her arrival at Fresno State, Margie coached six years at Illinois State University.

The expertise and knowledge that Margie brings to the game of softball goes unmatched. Margie changed the dynamic of the game during her career at Fresno State. Her leadership and dedication to ensuring the success of her teams has led to increased attendance and revenue for the university. Margie has the most wins of any softball coach on the Division I level, and she has the second most wins among National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I coaches, regardless of sport.

In 1998, the Fresno State Bulldogs won the NCAA Women's College World Series under Margie's leadership, which was the first national team title won by the university. Margie also directed the program to three NCAA runner-up finishes while leading the program to 10 NCAA Women's College World Series appearances and 26 straight NCAA postseason appearances. Earning National Coach of the Year honors, she also led the program to 27 straight years ranked in the national polls and captured 17 outright or shared conference titles. Margie has coached 16 Academic All-Americans, 53 NCAA All-Americans, 4 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Award winners, two NCAA Top VIII Awardees, 15 Olympians, 8 professionals, and two No. 1 professional draft picks while averaging 48 wins a season. In addition, in 1996, Margie served as the assistant coach to the United States Olympic Softball National Team which won the gold medal in the inaugural year of the Olympic sport. Margie is undoubtedly a legend as she has been inducted into 14 halls of fame.

Most important are the lives Margie has positively affected through her dedication and work. Margie is a pioneer who fought for the rights of women. It is because of Margie's advocacy for equality that college campuses have grand stadiums, better salaries, and workable budgets for women's sports. The renaming of Bulldog Diamond to Margie Wright Diamond is a deserved tribute to her exceptional service at Fresno State.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Margie Wright. Margie impacted the lives of many through her love of softball and has worked tirelessly for the advancement of women's athletics in California and the entire nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESTON, VIRGINIA AND THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RESTON'S FOUNDER, ROBERT E. SIMON, JR.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of America's first planned community, Reston, Virginia, and the 100th Birthday of Reston's Founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr.

In 1961, Mr. Simon, a New York-based developer, sold his family's interest in Carnegie Hall to finance the purchase of 6,750 acres of farmland 20 miles west of Washington, D.C., and five miles east of Dulles International Airport, which was under construction at the time. Mr. Simon envisioned building a ''New Town'' based on the following seven principles:

1. That the New Town should provide a wide range of cultural and recreational facilities as well as an environment for privacy.

2. That by providing the fullest range of housing styles and prices, housing needs can be met at a variety of income levels and at different stages of family life.

3. That the importance and dignity of each individual be the focal point for all planning, and take precedence for large-scale concepts.

4. That the people be able to live and work in the same community.

5. That commercial, cultural and recreational facilities be made available to the residents from the outset of the development—not years later.

6. That beauty—structural and natural—is a necessity of the good life and should be fostered.

7. That Reston be a financial success.

Mr. Simon and his team produced a plan considered quite radical at the time because it consolidated residences, industry, commerce, schools, places of worship, cultural institutions, natural resources, social, and recreational facilities in an integrated and independent community. Many of its features were inspired by great European cities and the Garden City movement of early 20th century America and serve as models for mixed-use development today. Indeed, the key innovation and lasting success of Reston lies in the way its buildings, infrastructure, and the natural environment have been arranged in ways that encourage a sense of community.

Reston also became a pioneer for civil rights. Although racial deed restrictions were very common in Virginia in 1964, to Bob they were ''inconceivable.'' Many lenders refused to finance the first integrated community in the south, but he persevered despite tremendous personal financial risk. As a result, numerous African Americans and others seeking diverse neighborhoods chose to live in Reston in its early years.

Today, Reston is home to nearly 60,000 people in approximately 27,000 households as well as 3,000 businesses, several non-profits, and numerous federal, state, and local government agencies employing approximately 60,000 people. People visit from around the world to tour Reston's public art, world-class architecture, festivals, and innovations in environmental stewardship.

The socioeconomic diversity, vibrant aesthetics, economic success, and natural beauty we see in Reston today are direct results of the wisdom and courage Bob Simon brought to Northern Virginia 50 years ago. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for Reston and in wishing Robert E. Simon, Jr. a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Smith-

Lever Act, which established the Cooperative Extension Service. The Cooperative Extension Service is a state-by-state network of educators who research and provide educational outreach to farmers and local communities. Today, it continues to address a wide range of agricultural issues in both urban and rural areas.

North Carolina's agricultural industry is very diverse and poses a unique set of challenges to our farmers. The Cooperative Extension Service's educational programs have been essential to addressing these challenges by providing the necessary research to assist farmers across the state. Their research has increased the productivity of farmers, and has allowed rural and family-owned farms to keep up with changing technologies across the industry.

The Cooperative Extension Service has also been active in land-grant colleges and universities throughout the nation. Its work promoting agricultural knowledge in young adults will help the entire industry continue to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, as the centennial date is celebrated on May 8, 2014, we should all be thankful for the resources that the Cooperative Extension Service has provided our farmers and our communities. I am proud to congratulate the Cooperative Extension Service, and wish them many more years of success.

CONGRATULATING JUDY SHERMAN

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Judy Sherman, a diligent and steadfast defender of oral health, on the occasion of her retirement from the American Dental Association, ADA, after more than 29 years.

Judy's singlehanded contributions to improving oral health in this country are far-reaching. Those who don't know her would be astounded after hearing her accomplishments, but those of us who do know her, and have seen her effectiveness first hand, understand how she has made such an impact.

She has made a career of fighting for dental priorities, like boosting dental residencies, and was instrumental in the ''Collins-Feingold'' law which funded special state dental projects and dental residencies. She played a central role in efforts to boost dental divisions and research across the spectrum, including at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and the Indian Health Service. She has been involved in nearly every issue impacting the oral health of our children at the federal level for the last several decades.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Judy taught junior high school in Michigan for 12 years before coming to Washington, DC to work as a Legislative Aide to Senator Carl D. Pursell. She made her way to the ADA in 1985, and eventually rose to become ADA's Director of Congressional Affairs in 2007. She was also President of the Coalition for Health Funding, which works to strengthen public health investments.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today and recognize the achievements and career of my good friend, Judy Sherman. I will miss her constant presence, and her unwavering and loyal support. The entire oral health community will miss her dedication and commitment. We all have a lot of work to do to fill her shoes. Though she is now going to be spending more time with her husband Brad, and her two Golden Retrievers, I hope and expect that we will still see her from time to time, walking the halls of Congress, and continuing to advocate for dentists and oral health.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF TOM RICHARDS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Richards for his years of service as Board Chair of the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board, FRWIB. Tom's commitment and dedication to ensuring the success of FRWIB must be commended.

Over the past four years, Tom has worked tirelessly to carry out FRWIB's mission to be a catalyst for mobilizing and integrating public and private partners to effectively educate and train individuals with the necessary skills to fulfill employer needs. As Board Chair, Tom strives to increase the number of job opportunities available to unemployed and underemployed residents in the region. He plays an integral role in advancing vocational education opportunities directly related to job placement. Businesses and individuals throughout the community have benefited immensely from Tom's business insight and civic interests.

Tom's leadership expands beyond FRWIB. He is a leader for our entire community, and he strives every day to ensure the success of our city, state, and nation. He is the past chair of the Planning Council that developed the 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in the City of Fresno. Tom was also instrumental in the planning and funding of Terry's House, a hospitality home for families who have loved ones who are in the hospital. Tom has overseen dozens of successful projects, and he has proven to be an effective leader. He is an individual of outstanding character, and I am proud to have him as a friend for more than 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tom Richards for his service as Board Chair of the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board. Tom's vision, passion, and persistence have led to improvements in the region's economy. As Tom steps down as Board Chair, we can still expect him to be an advocate for businesses and residents throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

HONORING KHADIJAH GRIFFIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student at Madison S. Palmer High School.

Khadijah Griffin is the daughter of Derrick and Cynthia Griffin of Lambert, MS. She was chosen Miss Madison S. Palmer High 2013–14 Queen and Student Council President by her peers. She is active in school in that she plays softball and was the Drum Major for the band. She communicates well with everyone. She plans to attend MS State University and has completed the paperwork for admission, been accepted, has taken the ACT and received a scholarship to aid her financially. She plans to major in Mass Communication and is a member of the High School Journalism Class and Newspaper Staff.

In the community, Khadijah has participated in campus and community cleanup-beautification campaigns, breast cancer awareness walks, worked as a volunteer helping the Mid-South Food Bank hand out food to the needy in Quitman County, has participated in the MS Drop Out Prevention Campaign Walk, and is Vice-President of her church youth department as well as a choir member.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Khadijah Griffin as a student who is goal oriented and making a difference in her community.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2013 MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST SENIOR DIVISION WINNER RICHARD ALEC MERSKI

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Richard Alec Merski, a resident of Virginia's 11th District and the senior division winner of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society's 2013 Making Democracy Work student essay contest.

The Historical Society is a congressionally chartered educational organization founded in 1962. Its mission is to inform the public about the rich heritage of the Capitol and the Congress. This nationwide contest is open to all students in two categories: a junior division contest for students in grades 6–8 and a senior division contest for students in grades 9–12.

The 2013 contest asked students to consider the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the corresponding duties that citizens owe to implement and protect those rights. Essays addressed questions such as how these rights and responsibilities affect students, their families, and the importance of being aware of one's own rights and responsibilities. Students were required to cite sources such as the U.S.

Constitution, books, and articles from magazines and newspapers. Entries were judged on the depth of their content, the mastery of the topic, and the skill with which they are written.

Mr. Merski is a senior at James Madison High School in Vienna, Virginia, where he will graduate in June. An Honor Roll student, Alec previously attended the Nysmith School in Herndon and Landon School in Bethesda. An avid language student, Alec was one of two students at Landon taking two languages in addition to his courses. Alec spent two summers living with host families in Spain and China in an intensive language program to hone his language skills. He was also the recipient of the Excellence in Foreign Language Award. He served as the President of the China Roundtable of Washington, an annual forum held at the Chinese Embassy allowing experts on China to address current economic, cultural, and educational changes in China.

Alec was an active member and officer of Model UN and served as the President of the Environmental Club. Last summer, Alec interned with the United States-Asia Foundation and the International Trade Commission. He plans to major in International Relations and Economics when he enters college this fall.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alec Merski on this outstanding achievement and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors. I am confident that this accomplished young man will be successful in whatever path he chooses to follow.

HONORING ADMIRAL ROBERT J. PAPP, JR. FOR HIS SERVICE AS THE 24TH COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representatives HOWARD COBLE, FRANK LOBIONDO, and RICK LARSEN on behalf of the Congressional Coast Guard Caucus to recognize the dedication and unwavering leadership of Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr, who will complete his tour as the 24th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard on May 30, 2014. Serving our nation faithfully and selflessly for over 40 years, Admiral Papp has led the nearly 90,000 active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary members of the Coast Guard through an extraordinary period in the Coast Guard's history. Both as Commandant and Commander of the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area, Admiral Papp remained focused and resolute in directing the massive response and recovery operations for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. He served as the Operational Commander responsible for the Coast Guard response in the wake of the Haiti earthquake disaster, where Coast Guard cutters were the first U.S. assets on scene to provide humanitarian assistance to the devastated country.

Admiral Papp was instrumental in raising the national awareness of the continuously evolving challenges in the Arctic, including developing the Coast Guard's first Arctic Strategy and expanding Coast Guard operations and capabilities in the Region. He has also been integral to U.S. efforts to engage with other Arctic Nations to establish international governance protocols essential to protecting U.S. sovereignty, security and economic interests as access and activity in the Arctic continues to expand.

Through his leadership and staunch support of the Coast Guard men and women who place their lives on the line every day to serve the American people, he has remained steadfast in his commitment to recapitalize the Coast Guard's rapidly aging fleet of cutters, aircraft and small boats. Often overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles in an incredibly challenging fiscal environment, he has achieved extraordinary success in building out the fleet of National Security Cutters, Fast Response Cutters, Response Boats and Maritime Patrol Aircraft. Furthermore, he has laid the foundation for the acquisition of the Offshore Patrol Cutter, which will ensure the Coast Guard continues to remain ''Semper Paratus'' or Always Ready, to complete its maritime safety, security and stewardship missions in our ports and waterways as well as the over 4 millions square miles of U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone around the world.

Finally, for those of us who have had the privilege to know Admiral Papp personally, it does not take long to see and understand how passionate he is about the health and welfare of every member of the Coast Guard family—his ''shipmates.'' His focus on professionalism and proficiency and his efforts to improve access to critical family support services such as childcare and family housing have been instrumental in improving the lives of all ''Coasties.'' His decision to protect the civilian workforce and not implement furloughs despite the devastating impacts of sequestration reflects his commitment to the concept that every member of the Coast Guard—active duty, reserve, civilian or auxiliary—is an indispensable partner in the success of the Service.

As the Co-Chairs of the Coast Guard Caucus, we are honored to join with our distinguished colleagues in recognizing the incredible service, dedication and leadership of Admiral Papp as the 24th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. As we honor Admiral Papp, we also honor the service of the thousands of shipmates he has led as they rescue those in distress, protect our environment, secure our borders and keep dangerous drugs off our streets. To paraphrase Admiral Papp himself. ''They are Coastguardsmen. This is their chosen profession. This is their way.'' We thank Admiral Papp, his wife Linda and his entire family for their service and sacrifice, and wish them all fair winds and following seas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, I was at home in Wisconsin taking care of my wife and our new baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways:

1) H.R. 3584—The Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act of 2013—Yea

2) H.R. 2672—CFPB Rural Designation Petition and Correction—Yea

3) H.R. 4386—Money Remittance Improvement Act of 2013—Yea

4) H.R. 3329—To enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes—Yea

5) H.R. 3468—The Credit Union Share Fund Insurance Parity Act—Yea

6) H.R. 2919—The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act—Yea

7) H.R. 4292—The Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act—Yea

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GEORGE NISHIO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Dr. George Nishio, who passed away in November 2013 at the age of 97. George served the United States of America honorably during World War II and was a pillar in the community.

George was born in Fresno, California, to Japanese immigrant parents. He graduated from Fresno State College and went on to complete a Doctor of Optometry degree at the University of California, Berkeley. With his optometry degree in hand, George returned to Fresno and began a private practice.

Following the attacks on Pearl Harbor, George was sent to a concentration camp in Jerome, Arkansas. Despite being driven from his home to a concentration camp, George volunteered for duty in the U.S. Army. Following basic training, George was selected for medical training. After being designated as an optometrist, George was assigned to a medical company and boarded a ship for the campaign in the European Theater.

The U.S. Army recognized George's expertise and leadership abilities and promoted him to Technical Sergeant. George would go on to serve in Europe as the allied forces fought their way into Germany. His unit received a meritorious unit citation and was designated a Distinguished U.S. Army Medical Regiment.

For his service, George received the World War II Medal, African-Middle Eastern Medal, European Campaign, Meritorious Unit Award, Army of Occupation Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

George married Michiko Saiki and returned to Fresno where he resumed his optometry practice. He and Michiko had six children in whom they instilled a strong sense of appreciation for nature and education. Eventually, George and his family moved to Chowchilla where he established a practice that still serves the community.

Believing that everyone should serve and be an active member in their community, George served as a member of the City Planning Commission, Chowchilla School Board, and was President of the Madera County Board of Education. He was also a longtime member and past president of the Chowchilla Rotary Club, and a Paul Harris Fellow.

In addition, George was a member of the American Optometric Association, serving as president of the Central California Chapter. He was named Optometrist of the Year by the Central California Optometry Association. He was a Life Member of Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 0896 and Nisei VFW Post 8985 in Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Dr. George Nishio who dedicated his life to serving his nation and community. His presence will be greatly missed, but his legacy will surely live on throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF CYPRESS WATERS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the grand opening of the Cypress Waters commercial and residential planned community. Developed by Henry and Lucy Billingsley, Cypress Waters is a 1,000 acre development on the 362 acre North Lake. It is anchored by the City of Dallas, Texas, with parts also in the cities of Coppell and Irving. Cypress Waters is in close proximity to the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and sits in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Once completed, the Neighborhoods of Cypress Waters will feature over 10,000 multi-family units. Currently, the Neighborhoods of Cypress Waters contain 673 multi-family units which are open for lease. The second phase of the multi-family construction will commence in early 2015 and will offer approximately 500 additional units. The Neighborhoods will be within the Coppell Independent School District and a new elementary school, junior high school, and high school will all be built to educate the young residents.

The Shops of Cypress Waters sits at the entrance of the development and will serve as a retail hub in Dallas-Fort Worth by adding 400,000 square feet of retail space, most of which has now been built. In addition, the development will host 4.5 million square feet of Class A office space which will be home to some of Texas' largest corporations. As a result, thousands of new jobs will come to the 24th District, furthering the area's resilient economic growth.

Cypress Waters also features a great outdoors environment consisting of hiking and biking trails, including a five mile loop around North Lake and connections to adjacent cities' trail systems. There are also watercourse environments and preservation areas for native species of plants and animals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating the grand opening of Cypress Waters and welcoming its new residents to the 24th Congressional District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 193, I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING 17 PALM BEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO PLAN TO ENLIST INTO THE MILITARY AFTER GRADUATION

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 17 high school seniors from Palm Beach County who plan to enlist into the military after graduation this spring. Their maturity and courage are a testament to their dedication to our country, and they rightfully deserve our recognition and admiration.

I am proud to represent a district that is home to such a large number of men and women in the military, veterans, and their families. I feel tremendous gratitude to those who fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and to a new generation of heroes from the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. My father, Bernard Deutch, volunteered to fight in World War II as a teenager where he earned a Purple Heart at the Battle of the Bulge. It was his example of service to our nation that motivated me to serve in Congress.

Congratulations to Christopher Barnikel, Arturo Ipina Jr., Jose Pascual Tomas, Justin Grad, Adam Pendleton, Jason Marlin, Charles Green, Alexander Costello, Marc Velazquez, Sumer Boardman, Mauricio Alvarez, Trystan Anderson, Aprilday Lytal, Samuel Steinhouse, Elyzae Reina, Shereek Powell, and Rebecca Gonzalez for their service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN W. WELLS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John W. Wells, who passed away on March 24, 2014, at the age of 86. John was a community leader in the City of Madera, and his unwavering service will be greatly missed.

John spent much of his life in Madera County. He was born to John and Mary Wells, and grew up in a large family with eight siblings. In 1947, he graduated from Chowchilla Union High School and joined the United States Army.

John served as a member of the infamous Wolfhound Division. He was wounded in action and after receiving treatment in Japan was sent back to Korea, where he remained until the end of the war. He served as an airborne forward artillery observer. John was awarded the Purple Heart medal for his brave and honorable service.

John continued his military service in El Paso, Texas, where he met his wife Bette Collins. In 1952, John and Bette married. After completing his final tour in Germany, John remained in the Army Reserves for many years and retired with the rank of Captain. John attended Fresno State College and earned his teaching credential. As a student, John also served as an officer for Madera's Police Department. He later worked as a teacher and eventually retired from teaching at Sugar Pine High School, a Madera Unified School District continuation high school.

John had a long and distinguished career in city politics. In 1964, he was elected to Madera City Council, and he served for 10 years. For part of that time, he served as mayor. John went on a hiatus from elected office, but returned and was re-elected to the city council in 1990. He served consecutive terms as city councilman until 2006. John was truly committed to serving the people of Madera and doing what was best for the city. He faithfully attended council meetings and members of the community felt they could always count on him.

Because of John's dedication and commitment to ensuring the success of young people, the City of Madera inaugurated the John W. Wells Youth Center to commemorate John's service and accomplishments. The center now stands as a fitting tribute and memorial to John's life. Apart from the youth center, John also promoted and worked tirelessly to build a skate park within Rotary Park. He was driven to serve the youth in Madera and worked tirelessly to create places where the youth could remain busy and out of trouble.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representative's to join me in honoring the life of John W. Wells. John will undoubtedly be missed by his family, friends, and community, but his legacy will surely live on.

HONORING DR. CAROL WINOGRAD

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Carol Winograd for her extraordinary career and to join J Street in recognizing her for the 2014 Tzedek v'Shalom Award for her lifelong dedication to tikkun olam, which means, "repairing the world." Dr. Winograd is an emerita professor of Medicine and Human Biology at Stanford University and currently serves as a member on the J Street Executive Board.

Born in New Jersey, Dr. Winograd received her Bachelor of Arts with honors in French at Wellesley College, and she attended Harvard University for graduate school, studying biomedical studies. She later received her Medical Degree cum laude from Boston University

Medical School and attended the University of California, San Francisco, for her Internal Medicine and Family Medicine residencies.

Throughout Dr. Winograd's esteemed career, she has focused her research on identifying predictors of decline in frail, hospitalized patients, and improving their function, especially mobility. Her professional interests include geriatric assessment, Alzheimer's disease, mobility, health policy, women's issues, and a comprehensive health and social approach to aging.

Dr. Carol Winograd's steadfast commitment to geriatrics research is evident in her many professional roles on the subject. She advises students and teaches courses on women and aging, mobility, and geriatrics. She was also an Assistant Professor at the University of California San Francisco, and then served as Clinical Director of the Geriatric Research and Education Center at Stanford. Dr. Winograd served on the editorial board of numerous scientific journals and other boards. She is also a member of the steering committee of the Women Donors Network's Middle East Peace Circle.

Throughout her career, Dr. Carol Winograd has received numerous accolades for her outstanding achievements, including the 1973 Roche Award for Scholarship and Character, the Malamud Prize for Excellence in Psychiatry and General Medicine, and was a finalist for Alwin C. Rambar Award for Excellence in Patient Care.

In addition to Dr. Winograd's many contributions to her field, she co-authored the book, Treatments for the Alzheimer Patient: The Long Haul, as well as peer-reviewed more than 40 articles on functional impairment in hospitalized elders, mobility and geriatric assessment. She is also active in using art for healing, and has exhibited her paintings in numerous art shows.

In 2012, Dr. Winograd co-led J Street's first Women's Congressional Delegation to Israel. I also co-led this educational trip with Dr. Winograd, and this was truly an amazing trip due to Carol's brilliance and experience. One year later, Dr. Winograd co-founded J Street's Women's Leadership Forum to increase women participation and greater inclusion of Israeli and Palestinian women in peace negotiations.

On a personal note, I always feel a lot of love, joy and optimism when in the presence of Carol. Her energy and her spirit inspires me to continue to fight the good fight. I am honored and humbled by Carol's friendship and proud to call her my friend.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Dr. Carol Winograd, I salute you for your lifetime of service to the community, the nation and to the world. I commend Dr. Carol Winograd's dedication to promoting social justice causes and wellness efforts. I congratulate and thank you, for you have touched many lives in profound ways throughout your career. We wish you and your family continued prosperity and happiness.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE P. MICHAEL MAHONEY ON HIS RECENT RETIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge P. Michael Mahoney, who recently retired as Magistrate Judge of the Western Branch of the Northern District of Illinois. Judge Mahoney received his law degree from the University of Illinois, and has practiced law in our region for over forty years. In 1976, Judge Mahoney became a part-time Federal Magistrate for the Northern District. He became a full-time Magistrate Judge in 1992.

Judge Mahoney has left an indelible mark on our region. While he is often remembered by the public for his work on high-profile decisions like People Who Care v. Rockford Board of Education, and USA v. Rita Crundwell, he is best remembered by his associates as a mediator and an inspiring practitioner of justice, who presided with fairness and professionalism for over 38 years. At the time of his retirement, Judge Mahoney was the longest-serving Judge in the Seventh Circuit.

We will surely miss his wisdom and his steady hand, but we also thank Justice Mahoney for his service to our community, and wish him the best of luck, and a happy retirement.

HONORING JONATHAN BAKER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Jonathan Baker, my constituent from Redondo Beach, who has been selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (Sammies). The Sammies are presented annually by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service to honor outstanding federal employees who have made significant contributions to our nation.

Jonathan is the Delta IV Launch Systems Deputy Chief Engineer at the United States Air Force Base in El Segundo, California. At his young age of 35, Jonathan has been entrusted with overseeing the extremely delicate and expensive process of launching Air Force rockets carrying satellites into orbit. Since 2010, 13 satellites, which are worth more than $7 billion and provide important wireless communication, national reconnaissance, infrared missile warning, and precision timing and navigation capabilities, have been launched under Jonathan's supervision.

Jonathan's position requires not only a high degree of skill and knowledge in the technical aspects of launches, including making sure rockets are correctly built and assembled, but also the ability to lead public and private-sector engineers and foster team cohesion that eliminates any chance of error. Jonathan is well-respected for his leadership. He has set standards for his team by establishing a training and certification program that Air Force engineers must take before performing duties on launch day. In this line of work, there is no room for error and Jonathan has an outstanding record.

One particularly notable accomplishment is Jonathan's success in reducing the cost of a contract for 40 new rockets from $14 billion to under $10 billion. His technical expertise and incredible attention to detail has saved taxpayers over $4 billion.

I would like to congratulate Jonathan Baker on his selection as a finalist for the 2014 Sammies. It is an honor to represent him in Congress. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating his inspiring career and in wishing him all the best for the future.

HONORING HENRY RAMSEY JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Henry Ramsey, Jr., former Alameda County judge, member of the Berkeley City Council and dean of Howard University's law school. Known throughout the Bay Area and the nation for his dedication to civil rights and justice, Mr. Ramsey has left an indelible mark on our national discourse. With his passing on March 14, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of his life's work and the inspiring role he played in the fight for social justice.

Henry Ramsey, Jr., moved to California to pursue an undergraduate degree, becoming one of the first African-Americans to graduate from the University of California, Riverside in 1960. After receiving his law degree a few years later from the University of California, Berkeley, Mr. Ramsey started his career at the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office. Once again, he broke racial barriers being among the first African American prosecutors hired in the office.

Throughout the 1970s, Henry Ramsey, Jr. was a member of the faculty at Boalt Hall. During this time, he also served on the Berkeley City Council, working to ensure the growth and innovation for the City of Berkeley. Later, Mr. Ramsey was appointed to the Alameda County Superior Court bench before serving as dean of Howard University's School of Law from 1990 to 1996.

Throughout Mr. Ramsey's career, he was acutely aware of the role the judicial system played in the fight for equality and justice. He represented those who could not obtain representation, including members of the Black Panthers. Mr. Ramsey was committed to helping others, especially youth and seniors, and to giving back to his community.

Mr. Ramsey was keenly committed to education, ethics reform and the rule of law, serving as chairperson of the Law School Admission Council's bar passage student committee and the American Bar Association (ABA) section of legal education and admissions to the bar. He also served as a member on the ABA

Commission on Evaluation of the Rules of Professional Conduct as well as on Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

Throughout his prolific career, Henry Ramsey, Jr. received various accolades for his outstanding achievements. Mr. Ramsey was honored with Boalt Hall School of Law's Citation Award, the highest honor recognizing a distinguished graduate. In 2000, he was the recipient of the Robert J. Kutak Award for promoting understanding between legal education and the active practice of law.

I met Henry in the early 1970's. I knew immediately that he was a force to be reckoned with and recognized that he understood that "power concedes nothing without demand." Yet even with his brilliance and bold work for racial and economic justice, he had a gentle and kind spirit, counseling my dear beloved friend, the late Beth Meador, and me on Black political empowerment and why we must get and stay involved in politics. Judge Ramsey's spirit and legacy will continue to soar and inspire young people as he inspired me and Beth to fight the good fight.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Henry Ramsey, Jr. As a distinguished Alameda County resident, Mr. Ramsey's efforts and devotion to social equality have truly paved the way for minorities and impacted so many lives throughout the nation. I join all of Henry's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF SISTER MARGARET GANNON, I.H.M., PH.D.

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sister Margaret Gannon, I.H.M., Ph.D., who will retire from Marywood University on May 31, 2014. In her 47 years with Marywood, Sr. Margaret has taught thousands of students, raised the level of discourse in the community, and passionately advocated for peace, education, and social justice.

During her tenure at Marywood, Sr. Margaret contributed to multiple departments and served in a number of leadership positions. She began her distinguished career at Marywood in 1968 as an Assistant Professor of History, and later served as Chair of Social Sciences, both graduate and undergraduate divisions. In 1978, Sr. Margaret founded the Theresa Maxis Center for Justice and Peace and assumed the role of director for several years. From 1988 to 1993, she served as Dean of the Undergraduate School for Women and established the Women's Studies minor. Later, as Coordinator of Diversity Efforts, she traveled to Japan as a visiting professor at the Takasaki Art Centre College in 1995.

In nearly five decades as a scholar, Sr. Margaret has contributed dozens of publications to the canon of academic literature and presented on a variety of important topics. To name but a few, she authored entries in The New Catholic Encyclopedia on Theresa Maxis Duchemin and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Congregation, and she made a presentation for the American Catholic Historical Association entitled "The Struggles of Theresa Maxis Duchemin: Confronting Racism and Sexism in the Nineteenth Century Church." Through her advancements in scholarly discourse and public presentations in the community, Sr. Margaret has consistently pushed her students to excel and enriched the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area.

In addition to her academic achievements, Sr. Margaret has dedicated her life to serving her community. She donated her time, passion, and leadership to many local organizations, such as Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Women's Community Learning Coalition, Housing Coalition for Scranton Families, and St. Joseph's Center. In recognition of her service to her community, Sr. Margaret has received numerous awards and honors, including Marywood University's first Faculty Service Award.

It is my great honor to congratulate and celebrate Sr. Margaret Gannon on her lifetime of service to her students and community. Her efforts set a shining example for her students, her neighbors, and all of Northeast Pennsylvania.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and not present for rollcall votes 178 and 179. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both.

FOSTER YOUTH MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Foster Youth Month.

Every child deserves a healthy, safe, and stable home. Yet too many continue to go without these basic needs that so many of us take for granted. This May, we recognize more than 400,000 American children in foster care who are waiting for their forever family.

The theme of this year's Foster Month is "Building Blocks Toward Permanent Families"—an issue that is near to my heart. My parents took in several foster children when I was growing up. I was able to see firsthand the difference that this made, and some of them are still in touch with my family today.

Foster children belong to all of us, and we have a moral obligation to treat them with the same love and care that we would our own children.

I encourage all my colleagues to join me in recognizing May as Foster Youth Month.

ACKNOWLEDGING HEATHER PARTON

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise tonight to acknowledge Heather Parton of Santa Monica, California, on the occasion of being awarded a Hillman Prize for "Opinion & Analysis Journalism". Many in this Chamber, and untold others across the internet, better know her by her pseudonym: "Digby".

Digby, a political blogger, is the founder of the blog Hullabaloo, and has been called one of the "leading and most admired commentators" of the progressive blogosphere—by Glenn Greenwald no less, the recent recipient of a Pulitzer Prize himself.

The Sidney Hillman Foundation's announcement this evening sums up my, and many others', sentiments:

> Tonight, the Sidney Hillman Foundation will honor Heather "Digby" Parton with the 2014 Hillman Prize for Opinion & Analysis Journalism. Digby's blog Hullabaloo has been a fixture in the progressive blogosphere for over a decade. Digby has eloquently opposed injustice and incompetence on issues ranging from the invasion of Iraq to the widening chasm between rich and poor in America. Whatever the topic, Digby approaches her work with a level head and a big heart.
>
> I will give the last word to Kathleen Geier of the Washington Monthly, "Since she's the best daily political writer in America, an honor of this sort is the least we can do for her. Congrats to Digby and to the Hillman people for making such an awesome choice. Now and forever: What. Digby. Said!"

"What. Digby. Said!",

HONORING THE OAKLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Oakland Youth Orchestra (OYO). Since its debut in the 1963–64 season, OYO has a history of commissioning, premiering and recording the works of great American composers. The youth orchestra performs a wide range of challenging pieces, showcasing their work and talent during several concerts each season.

Since the establishment of the Oakland Youth Orchestra in 1963, its Artistic Directors and leaders have inspired and motivated generations of students with the highest degree of commitment and professionalism. In the past 50 years, 0Y0 has strived to promote the importance of arts education and to allow access to the arts for all youth.

Today, the Oakland Youth Orchestra consists of 88 talented young musicians, representing 46 different schools from more than 30 cities in the Bay Area. Ranging from ages 12 to 22 years old, these artists have the opportunity to learn from, and be coached by,

professional orchestral musicians. The youth orchestra students have the opportunity to travel to different regions of the world, performing in Europe, the Middle East, Central and South America, Asia, the Caribbean Islands and Australia.

Moreover, the Oakland Youth Orchestra has received numerous accolades for its talented performances. For its service to contemporary music, the orchestra has received the Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music award from the American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP) five times in the course of the last four decades.

As the educational arm of the Oakland Symphony, OYO is committed to serving the community and supporting arts throughout the Bay Area. OYO is a member of Arts First Oakland, ASCAP, Association of California Symphony Orchestras, Bay Area Black United Fund and the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. In addition, OYO has participated in the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival of Hope Concert, raising over $100,000 to benefit homeless and underserved youth.

I commend the Oakland Youth Orchestra for providing our youth with a pathway towards growth and achievement. Music is essential to student development and to our sense of identity, community and pride.

On behalf of residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I extend my congratulations on this important milestone and thank all of the many people who have contributed to the success of the Oakland Youth Orchestra. I wish OYO continued success in the years to come.

SENATE—*Wednesday, May 7, 2014*

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, from whom all holy desires come and all good counsels do proceed, let Your presence be felt in our midst today. Crown the deliberations of our Senators with Your wisdom as You provide them with insights that will make a better world. Lord, help them to take charge of this day, meeting its joys with gratitude, its challenges with fortitude, and its doubts with faith. Guard them from error; deliver them from evil. Make them faithful servants of Your providential purposes, giving them consciences void of offense as they seek to glorify You.

We pray in Your faithful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 7, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, postcloture.

Postcloture time will expire at about a quarter to 6 this evening.

Senators will be notified whether and if any votes are scheduled today.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is not often I agree with what the Koch brothers say or do. Their radical agenda is normally so far out of the mainstream that it makes opposition to their agenda very easy.

So imagine my surprise when last week I read a quote from a Koch spokesperson in a Kansas newspaper. That is where they are based. Here is what the Koch brothers said:

We are not experts on climate change. We do believe there should be free and open debate on the climate issue and it should be based on sound science and intellectual honesty.

They go on to say:

The debate should take place among the scientific community, examining all points of view and void of politics, personal attacks and partisan agendas.

Listen to what they said: sound science and intellectual honesty from the Koch brothers on this issue.

Their statement sounds pretty good. I agree that the Koch brothers, Koch Industries, and their myriad political organizations are not experts on climate change—and that is an understatement.

I also agree that the debate on climate change should be based on sound science. In fact, the sound science has long been debated. The Presiding Officer has spent 38 years in Congress and has been one of the leading proponents of recognizing over the decades how our climate is changing. Everyone sees it is changing but not the Koch brothers, and I will explain a little more.

The sound science has long been debated and has reached a clear, unambiguous conclusion that climate change is here and it is real.

Of course Charles and David Koch know the debate on climate change is already taking place within the science community. They know that. The debate has been open and it has been free.

The overwhelming evidence proves that pollution is causing climate change.

No one has to take my word for it, including the multi-zillionaire Koch brothers—the two richest people in the world.

Just yesterday, the White House—not the White House; they announced it—released a report and an assessment that was authored by more than 300 scientists. Newspapers all over the world are talking about this.

One of the Hill newspapers we all read has a picture on the front that is stunning. It shows a picture of a man walking near a portion of a scenic highway that collapsed near Pensacola, FL. A new report—I am talking about the one released yesterday—finds climate change is rapidly—rapidly—turning the United States into a stormy and dangerous place and notes rising sea levels and natural disasters. The headline: ''New Climate Report: People's Lives Are at Risk.'' Subhead: ''Despite warnings, no signs of changed minds on Hill.''

The former head of the environment committee in the Senate said it is a hoax.

The Washington Post: ''Study: Climate Risks Growing.'' It has graphs here about the land surface air temperature rising, sea surface temperature rising, sea level rising, Arctic Sea melting, glacier mass decreasing.

Headline, Washington Post: ''Study: Climate Risks Growing.'' Subhead: ''Every Part of U.S. Being Affected.'' And, of course, the sub-subheadline: ''Conservatives criticize federal assessment.''

New York Times, front page, shows a picture of the United States: Rising temperatures. Now, plus two degrees, that is so significant. The temperature rising just less than a degree can change weather patterns in the world, and we are talking about two degrees. Now, they are changing.

Most of the State of Nevada is a desert. We have the most mountainous State in the Union, but most of Nevada is a desert. We have 314 separate mountain ranges. We have 32 mountains over 11,000 feet high. We have a mountain that is 14,000 feet high. But even in Nevada we are at the top of the rung in one part of Nevada. It is red, as it is in many places, from east to the west, to the Midwest. How can people deny what is going on? Look at the storms.

MARK PRYOR described to our caucus yesterday what happened in Arkansas. The winds blew in Arkansas at 190 miles an hour. Think about that. I was in Reno, NV, once when the wind was blowing 80 miles an hour. I couldn't believe the wind could blow any harder. It is so frightening. I was staying in a hotel. They had picture windows. I put my bed in the bathroom so it wouldn't be near windows. But the wind blowing 100 miles an hour faster than that, that is what happened in Arkansas. As he described, these weren't mobile homes;

these were brick structures that were just disintegrated. All that was left when that storm hit was the foundation—most of the time.

So the Koch brothers want some open debate. It is here. We have done it.

The report I am referring to concluded there are disastrous—disastrous—climate changes taking place on our Earth due to human activity.

While the Koch brothers admit to not being experts on the matter, these billionaire oil tycoons are certainly experts at contributing to climate change. That is what they do very well. They are one of the main causes of this—not a cause, but one of the main causes.

An analysis by the University of Massachusetts-Amherst—the Presiding Officer knows this well as he is from the State of Massachusetts—ranked Koch Industries as one of the Nation's biggest air and water polluters, period. In one year, Koch Industries released 31 million pounds of toxic air. How much is that? It is more than Dow Chemical, ExxonMobil, and General Electric, combined, emit. They are the champions.

The Koch brothers' actions against the environment aren't limited, though, to toxic emissions. Charles and David Koch are waging a war against anything that protects the environment.

I know that sounds absurd, but it is true. These two billionaire oil barons are actively campaigning now and spending tons of money against anything that seeks to curb pollution, limit our dependence on fossil fuels or lower energy costs for working families. Even the Keystone debate—they are one of the main owners of all of that stuff up there, that ugly tar stuff in Canada. They are, if not the largest, the second largest owner of that stuff up there.

The Kochs are pumping millions of dollars into political organizations, fighting legislation that is good for the environment. They are not doing it only in Washington; they are doing it in State governments. They have intimidated State legislators.

This is ironic, having come from them, I guess—there should be a different way of describing it—given their statement urging the ''void of politics . . . and partisan agendas'' on issues pertaining to the environment.

For instance, we in the Senate are now considering an energy efficiency bill. Who is working against that more than anyone else? The Koch brothers. This bipartisan legislation will spur the use of energy efficiency technologies in private homes and in commercial buildings at no cost to the taxpayers. This bill will make our country more energy independent, protect our environment, and save consumers on their energy bills. If that is not enough, it would also create 200,000 jobs—American jobs that can't be exported. Even the Chamber of Commerce—by the way, huge amounts of money come from the Koch brothers to the Chamber of Commerce to run ads against Democratic Senators. But, in this instance, the Chamber of Commerce even supports Shaheen-Portman.

Unsurprisingly, Americans for Prosperity, the main arm of the Koch brothers—not the only one; they have lots of them—has been vocal in its opposition to even this bill I just talked about—energy efficiency. Remember, these are the same Koch brothers whose president Tim Phillips recently bragged that his organization targets Republicans who work on environmental issues. Again, you can't make up stuff like this. Here is a direct quote:

> What it means for candidates on the Republican side is, if you . . . buy into green energy or you play footsie on this issue, you do so at your political peril. The vast majority of people who are involved in the [Republican] nominating process—the conventions and the primaries—are suspect of the science. And that's our influence. Groups like Americans for Prosperity have done it.

They say, if you do anything that is good for the environment, they are against you. That is what they said.

So try to do something to affect climate change? The Koch brothers and their billions of dollars are coming after you not only here in Washington but in State legislatures around the country.

So that statement says it all. The Koch brothers admit they and their radical followers don't accept the science of climate change. The President of the Koch brothers' organization is actually bragging about Republicans' denial of evidence-based climate change. The Kochs know that scientists across the globe aren't working to mislead the world about the climate. They know that. These 300 scientists who are the nexus of the report issued yesterday are people working at universities—as indicated, at the University of Massachusetts, the one quote I cited today.All over the country, these people are trying to figure out what is going on. They know what is going on, and that is what the report is about.

Charles and David Koch choose to ignore climate change. They—the Kochs—choose to put our environment at risk. Why? Because it makes them richer, more affluent. They are making billions of dollars and in so doing are significantly damaging our environment.

A New York Times article recently highlighted the Kochs' attempt to fight renewable energy, even in State legislatures. It became so pronounced that the New York Times wrote an editorial criticizing these two wealthy men. As States promote solar and wind energy by offering incentives to renewable energy companies, the Koch brothers see how it will affect their bottom line.

They do not like that. They want to continue their coal operations, their diesel fuel operations, their spewing of chemicals all over America because they can make more money.

As renewable energy grows and becomes more efficient—and it is—oil and coal become a smaller piece of the pie. That is a fact, and that just won't cut it for Charles and David because it affects their bottom line. How unfortunate for the world that the Koch brothers trash this beautiful planet and jeopardize my children's and my children's children's health and future just to add more zeros to their huge bank account. Bloomberg publications now estimate that the Kochs' combined wealth exceeds $100 billion. How much money is enough for these two men?

I urge my Republican colleagues in the Senate to stand up to them. Well, they won't. You know, after I have given this speech, a few of them will come down here and say: It is freedom of speech. What is wrong?

We have an obligation to stand when these lies are perpetrated to the American people. So no Republican is going to come and defend this energy efficiency bill.

Energy efficiency and independence is good for our country, it is good for American families, and it is good for the Earth we live in. So do not be fooled—do not be fooled—by the greed of these billionaires named Koch.

Mr. President, during today people will be watching and they will see a quorum call, nothing on the screen. Why? Because we are in the midst again of one of these never-ending Republican filibusters—hundreds of them. Hundreds of them. Let me remind everyone that Lyndon Johnson was majority leader for 6 years. During that period of time he had to overcome one filibuster. Mr. President, I have lost track; it is hundreds and hundreds of filibusters that we have had to overcome, and we have the Republicans coming here today saying: Well, all we want is a few amendments.

They do everything they can to stop us from progressing on legislation that is good for this country. Anything that is good for Barack Obama they think is bad for the country, and for 5½ years they have opposed everything this good man has tried to do. It is a shame.

So to anyone out there wondering what is going on, it is another of the hundreds of filibusters they have conducted.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion to proceed.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my staff just told me we are now at more than 500 filibusters—500.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the majority leader has brought to the attention of the Senate today the headline news across America. This report by our government about what we are facing with environmental changes in America is a call to action.

I came to the floor yesterday and I made a challenge, which I have made before. I will make it again. I am asking any Republican Senator to come to the floor today and dispute the following claim: The Republican Party of the United States of America is the only major party in the world—the only major political party in the world—that is in denial of what is happening to our environment when it comes to climate change and global warming.

I have said it repeatedly. No one has disputed it. One political party is in denial about a change on this Earth that could literally affect generations to come. As a result, we are, I guess, stopped in our tracks. There is nothing we can do.

This bill before us today—the energy efficiency bill, which is on the calendar—if there were ever anything we should agree on, it is this. If your motive in energy efficiency is to save money for a business or a family, it is in this bill. If your motive in energy efficiency is to create jobs in America, it is in this bill—190,000 maybe 200,000 American jobs. If your motive is to do something for the environment, energy efficiency is the right bill. But here we are stuck in another Republican filibuster. Why? Because they insist on a series of amendments.

The sponsors of this legislation—Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire; Senator PORTMAN, a Republican from Ohio—basically came to an agreement on a bill that is bipartisan in nature, and there are 10 or more bipartisan amendments included in this bill.

Has the minority had an opportunity to be part of this process? Absolutely. Yet it is never enough. They want more and more, and they are prepared to slow down or stop the passage of a bill which in ordinary times would have passed by a voice vote. That is not going to happen. Unfortunately, we are going to be mired down in more procedural votes until some of these Senators get the amendments they want.

We wasted a week last week, a week in the Senate when nothing happened, when this bill could have passed. Why? One Republican Senator wanted to offer an amendment on the Affordable Care Act. They have flogged the Affordable Care Act in every imaginable direction, and now this Senator wants to deny health insurance coverage or at least make it more expensive for the staff of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as Members themselves. That is his idea of a good idea to debate on the floor of the Senate at the expense of this bill.

Well, shame on the Senate. Shame on those who are obstructing us. We have had enough, have we not, of these filibusters and this obstruction? It is time that we roll up our sleeves and get down to the work of the people of this country.

HEALTH RESEARCH

While I am on the subject, I am leaving to go to a committee meeting of the Appropriations Committee to talk about Federal funding for health research. This is another issue which troubles me, because of the lack of commitment by this Congress to one of the most fundamental responsibilities we have as a government.

We are blessed with the best biomedical research agency in the world today—the National Institutes of Health—one of the most extraordinarily public health agencies—the Centers for Disease Control—and we continue year after year to underfund these agencies at the expense of America's health and at the expense of creating good-paying jobs in our country.

For the last 10 years or more we have failed to give the National Institutes of Health protection from inflation, and as a result their spending power to award research grants has declined by 22 percent over the last 10 years. As to the researchers at the National Institutes of Health, there are fewer and fewer younger researchers. They have lost hope that there is a commitment by this government, by this Nation, to medical research. What is the net result? The net result is that we, at our peril, fail to do the research, to find the cures for diseases that make a difference in the lives of Americans and American families.

The Republicans argue that it is just too darn much money, that we cannot afford medical research. Well, let me give you one statistic to think about. Last year Medicare and Medicaid spent $203 billion of taxpayers' money—$203 billion—on the victims of Alzheimer's—$203 billion. If research at the National Institutes of Health could get to the heart of this disease and find a way to cure it—that would be a miracle—or delay its onset—it seems within the realm of possibility maybe—we could save dramatic amounts of money. Medical research pays for itself.

Listen to what is happening in the House of Representatives. We have a proposal for an extension of a Tax Code provision that will give a break to businesses to invest in research projects. There is nothing wrong with that. I have supported it. Throughout my time in the House and Senate, I have supported it. But listen—listen—to the logic. The Republicans in the House argue that if it is an R&D tax credit that goes to the private sector for research so they can develop new products and services and be more profitable and create more employment, it does not have to be paid for. Over 10 years, it would cost us $140 billion for the extension of this credit, on a 10-year basis, to the private sector, and the Republicans have argued, yes, this may nominally add to the deficit. But, in fact, it does not. The research and development leads to more businesses, more jobs, more tax revenue to the government, and so they argue we do not have to pay for it.

Now let me step over here. What about the research and development done, the medical research done by government agencies? Is that worth some money to taxpayers? Absolutely. Finding cures for diseases at NIH—Alzheimer's, diabetes, cancer; I could go on—each and every one of them would be a savings to the taxpayers. Yet they argue: No, that is government spending; that adds to the deficit.

That is such upside-down thinking. It is such a denial of reality. Basic fundamental medical research and biomedical research by these agencies relieves suffering, finds cures for diseases, and reduces the expenditures of our government on health care. I would argue it is just as justifiable, if not more so, for us to be making the same investment in increasing biomedical research over a 10-year period of time—incidentally, at the same cost.

A 5-percent increase—real increase—in spending in biomedical research each year for the next 10 years at the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Defense medical research, the Veterans' Administration medical research—those four agencies—5 percent real growth comes out to almost identically the same cost as extending the R&D tax credit for private companies.

Do them both. Do them both and I guarantee you America will get more than a $140 billion return for each one of them. Thinking ahead in an innovative way, with some vision toward the future, investing in research is really buying for the next generation a better life in America and a stronger economy for our country.

I want to make that appeal to my colleagues. If we bring the R&D tax

credit to the floor and the argument is made: Well, we do not have to pay for that because it is going to private companies, the same argument should be made when it comes to increasing our investment in biomedical research at the most fundamental agencies that promote health in America and the world.

Back to this bill for a moment, I hope that by the end of the day the Republicans will end this filibuster, that we can start moving toward passing this bill. It should have been done last year. It should be done now. These excuses that we need a litany of amendments before we can even consider the bill are just delaying something that is very important for this country.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ENERGY AMENDMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, earlier this morning it was suggested that Republicans are creating a problem on the Portman-Shaheen bill because we are insisting on amendments. I am stunned that anybody would think that insisting on amendments would be unusual or out of order. That is what we used to do in the Senate. We had amendments offered and we had votes on them by both sides.

One Senator, it was suggested, insisted on an ObamaCare amendment. That was dropped 5 days ago. Nobody is insisting on an ObamaCare amendment on the Portman-Shaheen bill. Senator VITTER had suggested that earlier but decided that was not a good idea on this particular bill because it was the opportunity, we hoped, to get four or five votes on important energy-related amendments. Senator DURBIN actually objected.

So I think it is important to set the record straight this morning. What Senate Republicans are asking for is four or five amendments related to the subject of energy. I would remind our colleagues that the minority in the Senate has had eight rollcall votes on amendments it was interested in since last July—since last July.

During that same period the House of Representatives, where it is often thought the minority has no influence at all, has had 125 rollcall amendment votes. So what is going on is the Senate is being run in a way that only the majority leader gets to decide who gets to offer amendments. He says: Maybe I will pick one for you.

That is not the way the Senate used to operate, not the way the Senate should operate, and I hope not the way the Senate will operate starting next year.

The majority leader, as I indicated, is basically shutting down the voice of the people here in the Senate; that is, the people who are represented by 45 of us. For 7 long years he has refused to allow truly comprehensive debate on energy in this Chamber. We have not had a comprehensive debate since 2007. He had a chance to change that yesterday. Dozens of Senators asked him to do that. We know the American people want us to do it. But he refused. Apparently he does not think the American people deserve a vote on a single energy amendment. Apparently he does not think the American middle class, which is being squeezed by rising energy costs and over-the-top government regulations, needs the kind of relief Republicans are proposing. He clearly must not think the people of eastern Kentucky deserve our help either. Kentuckians in the eastern part of my State are experiencing a depression—that is a depression with a ''D''—that the President's energy policies actually created and are making worse.

The administration has proposed new rules that would make life even harder for those folks, rules that would make it effectively impossible to build another coal plant anywhere in the country. Coal is a vital industry to the livelihood of literally thousands of people in my State. We should be allowed to help them, but the majority leader said no.

Let's be honest. He does not seem to think the people we represent deserve a say on much of anything anymore. Democrats over in the Republican-controlled House, as I indicated earlier, have had 125 amendment votes since last July, but here in the Senate the Democratic majority has allowed us nine. I said eight earlier. It is actually nine amendments since last July, that is, rollcall votes. It is shameful. But it says a lot about which party is serious these days and which one is literally playing games. It says a lot about the complete lack of confidence Washington Democrats have in an open debate. What is wrong with having an open debate? They are completely out of ideas, and apparently they do not want anybody to know that Republicans have suggestions to be made. So they are attempting to muzzle us at a time when middle-class Americans are in need of some relief. Do they really think that Americans who have had to cope with rising electricity prices, stagnant wages, and growing hopelessness in the Obama economy—do they really believe the Senate should not even be debating ideas that might help them?

It is hard to think otherwise. So I think middle-class Americans, looking at the Senate these days, are left to draw an obvious conclusion: That their concerns matter far less to today's Senate Democrats than the political imperatives of the far left. We know the President's political team must be pleased. One White House aide said they plan to lean on Senate Democrats to ''get the right outcome'' this week; in other words, to stop the American people from having a real debate on energy policies.

For the President and his political pals, it must feel like ''mission accomplished.'' This means he can avoid having to sign or veto legislation that might be good for the middle class but offensive to the furthest orbit of the left. It also means he can continue to impose energy regulations such as the one I mentioned earlier, through the back door, to govern by executive fiat, without having to worry about niceties such as Democratic accountability.

After all, far-left activists presumably demand that the President impose those regulations because they do not want the American people getting in the way again. They know what happened the last time they let that happen, when a fully Democratic-controlled Congress could not even pass a national energy tax.

As long as it has a Senate Democratic majority on its side, the far left knows it will not have to worry about the American people messing up its plans again. The majority leader proved that again this very week. The far left will not have to worry about the representatives of the American people voting through the Keystone XL Pipeline either.

Here you have a project the American people support overwhelmingly that would create thousands of jobs when we have rarely, rarely needed them more, and that would pass Congress easily if the majority leader would allow a vote, but he will not because the far left will not let him. If we do get a vote, the Democratic leadership will be sure to filibuster against the jobs the Keystone XL Pipeline will create.

Activists on the left positively hate this energy jobs initiative. They rail against it constantly, even though they cannot seem to explain in a serious way why it is a bad idea. But it is a symbol in their minds, so they demand Senate Democrats block its approval and Senate Democrats dutifully do just that.

Again and again we see the needs of the middle class subsumed to the whims of the left. That has become the legacy of today's Democratic majority. They have diminished the vital role the Senate plays in our democracy. We do not seem to debate or address the most serious issues anymore, even with significant events at home and abroad

that deserve our attention, because for the Senate Democrats who run this place, the priority is not on policy, it is on show votes and political posturing 24/7. This reflects a party that has simply run out of ideas, that has failed to fix the economy after 5½ years of trying, and now sees its political salvation not in making good policy for the middle class but in exciting the left enough to save the day come November.

I guess we will see if this strategy pays off. But that is not what truly matters around here. What matters is that millions in our country are hurting and that Senate Democrats do not seem to want to act. Look, they should be joining with us to help our constituents because the American people did not send us here to play games or to serve the far left. Our constituents sent us here to have serious debates on issues that matter to them, such as energy security, national security, economic security. All three can be addressed if the majority leader would simply allow Republican amendments to be considered.

Our constituents want Congress to make good policy. The fact that we do not seem to do that under the current majority is quite tragic. The American people deserve better. They deserve a debate and they deserve to be heard.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST RUSSELL E. MADDEN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a brave and honorable young man from Kentucky who was tragically lost in the performance of his military service. SPC Russell E. Madden, of Bellevue, KY, was killed on June 23, 2010, in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Specialist Madden volunteered for his final mission and was in the lead vehicle in a convoy that was attacked by the enemy. His vehicle was struck by a rocket shell. He was 29 years old.

For his service in uniform, he received the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

Russell Madden joined the Army just under 2 years before his death. His father Martin Madden reflects on his son's time in service by saying:

> Nineteen months is not a long military career. But 19 months was long enough to graduate basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, with honors.

His dad continues:

> Nineteen months is long enough to be running and gunning as a lead convoy gunner on convoys that sometimes took 16 hours to move 40 miles to replenish forward operating bases, completing over 85 missions outside the wire in nine months . . .
>
> Nineteen months may not represent a prolonged period of time in the minds of most Americans; however, it is just long enough to create a patriot, to define heroism, and accept a place of honor among those who stand in silent testimonial to the strength of this great nation.

The bond between father and son that moves Martin to speak these words was forged, of course, not just over 19 months but over Russell's entire lifetime. Like so many of the extraordinary heroes who hail from Kentucky, Russell's childhood is full of examples of a young man devoted to a cause greater than himself.

He was the oldest of three children, along with his younger sister Lindsey and younger brother Martin. Like most young siblings, at times the kids would fight. Russell's parents had a unique way to defuse family tussles. Martin said:

> In order to settle [disagreements], we placed both [Russell and Lindsey] in the middle of the living room and told them to stand there hugging each other. After about 20 minutes of standing there hugging, we would begin to hear them laughing and having a good time, and we would go in and tell them if they could get along they could stop.

Little sister Lindsey remembers childhood stories like these, just as she remembers her brother's dedication to service. She said:

> All he ever told me, every time I talked to him, was that he wanted to make me proud. And he has. He always made me proud.

Russell attended Bellevue High School, where he displayed his dedication to serving on a team as a star athlete in football, baseball, and track. During his senior year, the track team was 1 week away from the State meet when the top hurdler was injured. The whole team was in danger of not qualifying unless someone stepped in. Russell volunteered to run the hurdles, even though he had never run a hurdle event in his life.

Martin Madden recalls:

> Russell took off running at full sprint, stopped when he got to the hurdle and jumped over it, then took off running at full speed until he reached the next hurdle and stopped and jumped over that one, throughout the track. It was the most unorthodox style the coach had ever observed, but with the state qualifier taking place next week, the coach allowed Russell to represent the team.

As a result, Russell's first-ever hurdle event was the State-qualifying match. Even using what his father calls his ''God-awful ugly style,'' Russell qualified and ran in the final State competition, where he placed sixth.

Russell was a winner on the football field just as he was in track and field. Every Friday night, during the 1999 season, fans packed Gilligan Stadium to watch Bellevue High play out what would be an undefeated season. Russell played running back and was such a talented athlete that he could also kick field goals and extra points, return kickoffs, punt, quarterback, and play wide receiver—and that is only on the offensive side of the ball. He also played linebacker on defense.

As a result of his all-around athletic success, volunteer work, and coaching of youth football teams, Russell was inducted into both the Bellevue High School Sports Hall of Fame and the Northern Kentucky Youth League Football Hall of Fame. He was also recognized by the Northern Kentucky High School Football Coaches Association for his sportsmanship. Russell graduated from Bellevue High School in 2000.

In 2008 Russell and his wife Michelle learned that their son Parker had a preliminary diagnosis indicating a high potential for cystic fibrosis. Martin said:

> Russell joined the Army to fight for his country and provide the medical treatment necessary for his young son.

Russell enlisted in 2008, and during his deployment to Afghanistan was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team based out of the Conn Barracks in Germany.

Russell's father Martin recalls how Russell's fellow soldiers felt about Russell's dedication to them and their team—a dedication that echoed the drive of the young man who volunteered for the hurdles and excelled on the gridiron.

''This . . . is what the soldiers in his platoon told me,'' Martin said.

Russell said to them:

> Guys, I will not let you down. We will get there. . . .

If ever there was going to be a problem, they wanted to be with Russell because they knew he would never let them down.

Respect and admiration for Russell's dedication to a cause greater than himself even reached the halls of the Kentucky General Assembly, which passed a joint resolution to designate Kentucky Route 1120, within the city limits of his hometown of Bellevue, as the ''SPC Russell Madden Memorial Parkway.'' Russell's family was present as the new street sign was unveiled for the first time.

Russell's wife Michelle said:

> It is an awesome tribute to my husband. He deserves it. I want this sign for my son to say, ''Hey, that's my dad's sign. That's what my dad's done for us.'' This is what is going to carry on his legacy.

We are thinking of SPC Russell E. Madden's family today, including his wife Michelle, his son Parker, his stepson Jared, his parents Martin Madden and Peggy Davitt, his sister Lindsey, his brother Martin, and many other beloved family members and friends.

It is important that Russell's family knows that no matter how long or how short his time in uniform may have been, Martin Madden is absolutely right that his son will and must be forever remembered and revered for the sacrifice he has made on behalf of our country.

I know SPC Russell E. Madden certainly will be remembered by this Senate. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in expressing the utmost respect for his life and his service.

We extend our greatest condolences to his family for a loss on behalf of our Nation that can never truly be erased.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I was on the floor, as was the Presiding Officer, listening to the distinguished Republican leader's glowing tribute to this fallen warrior. We were moved, certainly, by it.

He preceded his comments by talking about what is happening to the Senate and the fact that even though we are debating, supposedly, the first energy legislation to come to the Senate floor since 2007, the majority leader's—Majority Leader REID, who has the power under the Senate rules to basically be the traffic cop, to decide which amendments get heard and voted on and which ones do not—comment was to the effect that the majority leader has essentially shut the Senate down and denied the minority an opportunity to offer their amendments and to get votes on amendments.

I know people listening must say: Well, here they go again talking about the prerogatives and rights of Senators. But that is not what I am talking about. I am talking about the rights and prerogatives of the people I represent, 26 million Texans who are being shut out of a debate on—of all topics—energy.

We take great pride in the fact that Texas is an energy-producing State, and it is one of the reasons why our economy has been doing better than much of the rest of the country, because we have responsibly, and with the right kind of environmental stewardship, taken advantage of this gift of the natural resources that we have in our State.

Thanks to the innovation, and thanks to the investment and the hard work of a lot of people, we are doing better—thank you—than the rest of the country when it comes to job creation.

It really offended me when the majority leader this morning said:

> Mr. President, during today people will be watching [presumably in the gallery, on C–SPAN, maybe on the evening news] and they will see a quorum call, nothing on the screen. Why? Because we are in the midst again of one of these never-ending filibusters of the Republicans—hundreds of them, hundreds of them. Let me remind everyone, Lyndon Johnson was majority leader for 6 years.

Well, I would just interject Lyndon Johnson didn't run the Senate the way Senator REID does, when he was majority leader. Senator REID continues:

> During that period of time he had to overcome one filibuster.
>
> Mr. President, I have lost track. It is hundreds and hundreds of filibusters that we have had to overcome, and we have the Republicans coming here saying today: Well, all we want are a few amendments. They do everything they can to stop us from progressing on legislation and things that are good for this country.

He is talking about the 45 Senators on this side of the aisle—that we will do everything we can to stop from progressing on legislation and on things that are good for the country. How insulting can you be?

We are going to have differences of opinion, sure. That is why are here. That is why they used to call the Senate the world's greatest deliberative body, because on the floor, not even Majority Leader REID can shut me down or any other Senator who stands and is recognized by the Chair to speak on a matter of importance to their State or to the country.

But to have the majority leader come to the floor and say that what we are trying to do is stop progress on legislation and things that are good for the country—he goes on. Senator REID accuses us of trying to stop:

> Anything that is good for Barack Obama they think is bad for the country, and they, for 5½ years, have opposed everything that this good man has tried to do. It is a shame.
>
> So anyone out there wondering what is going on, it is another of the hundreds of filibusters they have conducted.

Majority Leader REID has been a Member of the Senate for a long, long time. He knows this is not true.

So why he would come to the floor of the Senate and say it is puzzling to me.

We had 2 years when President Obama and Senator REID's party could do anything they wanted. How is that? Well, because they had 60 votes in the Senate, which is sort of the magic number, when you can basically do anything you want in the Senate because the minority doesn't have enough numbers to stop the majority or to check their power.

So Democrats had the House of Representatives, with NANCY PELOSI as Speaker. They had the Senate, with 60 votes, HARRY REID as the majority leader, and they had Barack Obama in the White House.

What did we get in those 2 years? Well, one of the things we got was ObamaCare. We know it was sold on the basis of: If you like what you have you can keep it, your premiums would go down $2,500 and, yes, you could keep your doctor too. But none of that proved to be true—none of it.

We got Dodd-Frank. Do you remember Dodd-Frank? That was the legislation following the financial crisis of 2008 and the meltdown on Wall Street that was very damaging to the economy of this country; there is no doubt about it. What we got with unrestrained and unchecked single-party efforts during the time when they controlled both branches of government—the executive and the legislative branches—was legislation that targeted Wall Street, but Main Street was actually the collateral damage. I hear that from my credit unions and community bankers in Texas all the time, that the regulations are strangling them and keeping them on the sidelines, hurting the economy and hurting job creation.

My point is the Framers of our Constitution understood it is important to have vigorous debate on the differences of opinion each of us bring in representing our various States. The Constitution makes the point, in Article I, Section 1, that ''all legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.''

I ask the majority leader, if the Constitution vests all legislative authority in the Senate and the House, what happens when half of the Senate is shut down and denied an opportunity to participate in the legislative process?

The Constitution goes on to state what kind of legislative power is vested in the Senate and the House. Section 8, Article I of the Constitution lays out a laundry list of powers the Congress has—the sorts of things Congress is intended to legislate on. It contains everything from the ''Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . . To borrow Money on the credit of the United States; To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization . . . To coin Money . . . To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States; To establish Post Offices and post Roads; To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts . . . To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court.''

The list goes on and on. Of course, finally, the last phrase in Article I, Section 8 is laying out the power of the Congress to legislate, where it says, ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

So I ask the majority leader: If the Constitution grants the Congress the power to legislate and specifies all of the things we are supposed to legislate on and do as the elected representatives of our various States, what happens when we are shut out of the process, when we are denied an opportunity to represent the people who elected us to office, who have entrusted us with a sacred responsibility and a stewardship?

It is beyond outrageous. It is beyond outrageous for the majority leader to make the remarks he made this morning that I previously quoted because he knows they are not true. He knows they are not factual. The Constitution itself guarantees my constituents, all

26 million of them, the rights laid out in the Constitution in Article I. When they vote for a U.S. Senator, they are entitled to have their Senator participate in the legislative process. We are not guaranteed the right to win these votes, but we are given the responsibility and the privilege of representing them in this place, and we cannot do it when the majority leader runs this place like a dictator.

We are debating—supposedly—an energy efficiency bill. As I said, it is the first time we have had an energy debate on the floor since 2007. There are a lot of very good ideas that have been offered to improve the underlying piece of legislation. I have no doubt the underlying legislation would pass. It will pass, if the majority leader allows us an opportunity to offer and debate our proposals for improving the underlying bill, but if he is going to shut us out of the process and deny the people I represent a voice and an opportunity to improve this piece of legislation, we are not going to cooperate.

The majority leader keeps saying no to amendments, and he denigrates our right on behalf of our constituents to offer amendments and to get votes on those amendments. I know I have come to the floor before, as other Members have come to the floor, and tried to speak on this topic. I know sometimes this sounds as though it is all just about process. It is about process. How boring could that be. It is important because in essence the majority leader has imposed a gag rule on the minority in the Senate, a gag rule in the world's greatest deliberative body—no more.

I don't know what the majority leader is afraid of. Is he afraid of a vote on the Keystone XL Pipeline? I think I saw a poll the other day that said roughly 61 percent of the respondents to that poll thought this was a good idea, that we get more of our energy from a friendly source, such as the nation of Canada, and rather than having to transport all of it in tank cars on trains that occasionally crash and cause a lot of damage, it might be better to build this pipeline so we could safely transport that oil from Canada down to refineries in my State, where it could be converted into gasoline, aviation fuel, and the like, and in the process create an awful lot of jobs.

Sixty-one percent, according to that poll I read, said they thought that was a pretty good idea. Yet the majority leader will not even allow a vote on that amendment. He will not allow a vote on minority amendments. He will not allow a vote on Democratic amendments. I bet my colleagues on the other side of the aisle must be frustrated, indeed, because they have been denied an opportunity to participate in this process, too, thanks to the autocratic powers being exercised by the majority leader.

Here is another idea this side of the aisle had for an amendment we would like to get some debate and a vote on. We are not asking to win. We can do the math. We know we are in the minority. But these are important topics. Vladimir Putin invades Crimea, the Russian Army is building up in the Ukraine and causing havoc in that country, and it looks like he is not going to stop. The President said we are going to make sure there is a cost imposed as a result of Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, so we are going to impose a number of sanctions. The fact is, as my colleague from Arizona, the senior Senator from Arizona, has said, Russia is a gas station posing as a country. I think that is a pretty humorous way of saying the energy Russia produces and transmits to Ukraine and Europe is its main source of economic power and revenue. If we could undermine that by exporting more energy from the United States to Europe, that would dissuade Vladimir Putin, perhaps, in addition to other things we might do, but the majority leader will not even allow us an opportunity to vote on that issue. By the way, it will also continue to create more jobs in America.

Here is what the majority leader has done. Since he has been majority leader, he has basically blocked any opportunity for Republicans to offer amendments on legislation 84 times—84 times—including 14 times just this year. He has shut us out. He has imposed the Reid gag rule and said: I don't care what the Constitution says. I don't care that you were elected by the people in your State to come here and be their voice and to offer their ideas on legislation. I don't care. We are not going to allow it, is what Majority Leader REID has said 84 times.

Then he has the audacity to impugn our motives this morning, to insult the job we are trying to do to represent our constituents. He calls that a filibuster. George Orwell wrote a book called ''Nineteen Eighty-Four,'' where he talked about how people can twist the ordinary understanding of the English language in a way that is very dangerous. But I would suggest that no definition of filibuster could be derived from the fact the majority leader has imposed his gag rule, has shut us out of the legislative process, and denied us the opportunity to do what the Constitution guarantees. He calls that a filibuster? Give me a break.

So the majority leader comes to the floor this morning and says: If you are watching C–SPAN or if you happen to be visiting the Capitol and are in the gallery, all you are going to see are quorum calls. You are going to hear nothing but crickets on the Senate floor because there is not going to be anything happening there.

The reason that is true, in large part, is because he has shut down the process. He has denied us a voice. He has denied us an opportunity to participate in the legislative process the Constitution talks about in the provisions I just read.

I am probably not going to persuade Majority Leader REID about the error of his ways because I don't think he cares. I don't think he cares. It is not going to affect whether he is reelected in Nevada, perhaps, and there is nothing the minority can do, given the fact the majority leader has extraordinary power under the Senate rules and under the precedent of the Senate. He can get away with it, if the Senate allows it, if the public allows it. But that is why it is important to come to the Senate floor and expose this fraud for what it is. It is a fraud.

The majority leader is trying to deceive the American people into thinking that by speaking out against this gag rule we somehow are an obstacle to passing legislation. We have certain responsibilities to the people who sent us, and that responsibility does not include sitting down and shutting up when we are being run over by a freight train by the name of Senator HARRY REID. It is outrageous. It is outrageous.

Thanks to the majority leader we likely will not have any amendments on this piece of legislation. I think at last count there were roughly 30 ideas we had that we would like to offer amendments on. We have even proposed to Majority Leader REID that we would take those 30 or 40 amendments and talk among ourselves and maybe we can reduce those to 5 or so relevant amendments—items that have to do with energy, with jobs, with national security. His answer is, no, forget it.

Instead of accepting responsibility for his decision, he blames us for filibustering. What does he expect us to do? To be quiet? To sit in our offices while he runs this railroad that used to be known as the world's greatest deliberative body, runs over our rights and the rights of the people we represent? Well, we are not going to sit down and shut up. We are not.

Back in my younger days I used to be a practicing lawyer. I would be hired by a client to come into court and make an argument on their behalf, to give them the representation they were entitled to under our system of justice. I had my argument and the opposing party had their argument and their lawyers and their witnesses, and they came in and presented it before a jury of either 6 people or 12 people, depending on the court you were in, and we would ultimately settle that dispute between the parties, kind of like the difference of opinion we have here on how the Senate ought to operate and what business we ought to be conducting.

In court, when you have a dispute between opposing parties, the judge and the jury who are impartial will listen to the facts, and the judge will decide what the law is that applies in that

kind of case, and then you will have a verdict. And that law, with the judgment the judge signs incorporating those findings of fact by the jury, is how the case is decided.

How does that work here in the Senate? What is the analogy? The best analogy I can think of is that we will indeed have a verdict, but it is going to be by the voters in the midterm elections come November.

My only conclusion is that the majority leader must be afraid of having this sort of robust debate because he knows it will expose some of his members to votes they may have a hard time explaining back home. There actually may be some accountability, Heaven forbid. So his answer is to shut down the Senate. It is very sad.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, with each passing week we are finding out more and more about institutional failures within the Department of Veterans Affairs. We recently learned that the Phoenix VA system had a secret waiting list designed to conceal a massive backlog of delayed appointments, and that some of the veterans who were put on this secret waiting list actually died while waiting to get the treatment they deserved.

Now we are learning that staffers at a VA outpatient clinic in Fort Collins, CO, were deliberately showing their clerks how to create fraudulent appointment records. In the meantime, there are still more than 589,000 VA pension and compensation claims pending nationwide, and a majority of them are backlogged according to the VA's own criteria, which is more than 4 months.

Every day it seems as though we learn of a new part of this scandal because whistleblowers stepped forward and said: Yes, that was happening where I worked too.

Yesterday, the Austin American-Statesman published a story entitled ''VA employee: Wait list data was manipulated in Austin, San Antonio.'' The story says:

A Department of Veterans Affairs scheduling clerk has accused VA officials in Austin and San Antonio of manipulating medical appointment data in an attempt to hide long wait times to see doctors and psychiatrists, the American-Statesman has learned.

. . . the 40-year-old VA employee said he and others were ''verbally directed by lead clerks, supervisors, and during training'' to ensure that wait times at the Austin VA Outpatient Clinic and the North Central Federal Clinic in San Antonio were ''as close to zero days as possible.''

The medical support assistant . . . said he and other clerks achieved that by falsely logging patients' desired appointment dates to synch with appointment openings. That made it appear there was little to no wait time, and ideally less than the department's goal of three months.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Austin American-Statesman, May 6, 2014]

VA EMPLOYEE: WAIT LIST DATA WAS MANIPULATED IN AUSTIN, SAN ANTONIO

(By Jeremy Schwartz)

A Department of Veterans Affairs scheduling clerk has accused VA officials in Austin and San Antonio of manipulating medical appointment data in an attempt to hide long wait times to see doctors and psychiatrists, the American-Statesman has learned.

In communications with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, a federal investigative body that protects government whistleblowers, the 40-year-old VA employee said he and others were ''verbally directed by lead clerks, supervisors, and during training'' to ensure that wait times at the Austin VA Outpatient Clinic and the North Central Federal Clinic in San Antonio were ''as close to zero days as possible.''

The medical support assistant, who is seeking whistleblower protection and has been advised to remain anonymous by federal investigators, said he and other clerks achieved that by falsely logging patients' desired appointment dates to sync with appointment openings. That made it appear there was little to no wait time, and ideally less than the department's goal of 14 days. In reality, the clerk said, wait times for appointments could be as long as three months.

The claims echo recent allegations that VA officials in Arizona and Colorado similarly manipulated wait time data or maintained secret lists to obscure lengthy wait times for medical care. Three top administrators at the VA medical center in Phoenix have since been put on leave and the VA's inspector general is conducting an investigation into an alleged secret wait list at the facility. A retired doctor at the Phoenix facility told CNN that more than 40 veterans there died while waiting for an appointment.

This week, the American Legion, the nation's largest veterans service organization, called for the resignation of VA Secretary Eric Shinseki, citing several issues, including wait times for medical care.

When asked to respond to the allegations, local VA officials said in a statement they would review their scheduling practices, but didn't directly address the claims.

''In light of the charges recently made against the Phoenix VA, (director of the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System Sallie) Houser-Hanfelder has made it clear she does not endorse hidden lists of any kind,'' the statement reads. ''To ensure the integrity of the health care system, she has directed each service chief to certify they have reviewed each of their sections and scheduling practices to ensure VA scheduling policies are being followed. All staff who schedule appointments have also been instructed to have refresher training to make sure policies are clear and being followed accurately.''

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, called for emergency hearings after learning of the Texas allegations.

''This is yet another deeply troubling account, and I'm afraid we have not heard the last of gross mismanagement within the VA and deception by VA bureaucrats,'' Cornyn said in a statement. ''It is time for urgent steps to be taken that match the gravity of this situation.''

He also called for Shinseki to step down.

''It is absolutely disgusting to think that another VA facility would be cooking the books like this, especially in our own community. The House of Representatives is digging into these allegations against the VA from every direction possible and we will get to the bottom of this,'' said U.S. Rep. John Carter, R-Round Rock.

The Texas clerk said he saw the scheduling manipulation when he worked at the Austin VA Outpatient Clinic from December 2012 to December 2013 and when he transferred to the San Antonio clinic, where he still works. He said he also saw similar maneuvers at the Waco medical center earlier in 2012.

''If you had any appointments showing over a 14-day waiting period you were given a report the next day to fix it immediately,'' said the clerk, a disabled veteran who served in the Army from 2002 to 2011. Fixing it meant recording the requested appointment date closer to the available opening, he added.

The clerk said that scheduling clerks in Austin were also instructed specifically not to use a VA tool called the Electronic Waiting List, which is designed to help veterans waiting for appointments get slots created when other veterans cancel their appointments.

''The failure to use (the electronic waiting list) may also pose a substantial and specific danger to public health, because patients who should be included on the EWL are not receiving more timely appointments when they become available,'' according to the clerk's communications with the Office of Special Counsel.

While the VA's massive backlogs of disability benefits claims have garnered much attention in recent years, investigators have also increasingly discovered problems with access to VA medical care.

In 2012, the VA inspector general found that the department had vastly overcounted how many veterans were waiting 14 days or less for a mental health evaluation. While the VA claimed a 95 percent rate in meeting the two-week target, investigators found that the real number was 49 percent, with the remaining 51 percent of patients waiting about 50 days for an evaluation.

That same year, a scheduling clerk at a VA medical center in New Hampshire told a Senate committee that staffers there were instructed to obscure wait times for mental health help by using a method similar to that described by the Texas clerk.

''The overriding objective at our facility from top management on down was to meet our numbers,'' Nick Tolentino told the committee. ''Performance measures are well intended, but are linked to executive pay and bonuses and as a result create incentive to find loopholes that allow facilities to meet its numbers without actually providing servics.''

Last week, the House voted to ban bonuses for VA executives, a move opposed by VA leadership. Shinseki has defended the bonus system, saying it is necessary to ''attract and retain the best leaders.''

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which is also investigating delays in VA medical care, blasted the VA on Tuesday for not taking better advantage of its authority to send patients who are waiting months for appointments to private medical providers.

''Whether we're talking about allegations of secret lists, data manipulation or actual lists of interminable waits, the question VA leaders must answer is 'Why isn't the department using the tools it has been given—fee-based care being one of them—to ensure veterans receive timely medical care?' '' he said.

Mr. CORNYN. Scandals such as these confirm the VA lacks safeguards against official abuses, and it also lacks accountability—the kind of accountability that would ensure American veterans get the care and support they need in a timely fashion.

In the wake of the Phoenix revelations—and now, more urgently after what happened at Fort Collins and now reports of abuses at San Antonio and Austin, perhaps—I have called on the majority leader to hold hearings on these scandals, and I reiterate that call today.

I also reiterate my call for VA Secretary Eric Shinseki to resign his position and to let someone else take on the reforms necessary to get the VA back on track.

As I said yesterday, and as the American Legion noted, Secretary Shinseki is an American patriot who did multiple combat tours in Vietnam and has devoted his life to serving his Nation. He deserves nothing but our respect for that service. But, unfortunately, the VA scandals on his watch have been so numerous and so outrageous that they demand immediate accountability, and it has become clear to me that Secretary Shinseki is not the right person for the job.

He has been in charge of the Department more than 5 years. Under his watch, many of the VA's problems have gotten worse, not better. These problems call for new leadership and a new direction.

As Dan Dellinger of the American Legion said on Monday:

> There needs to be a change, and that change needs to occur at the top.

I emphasize again the urgency of the situation.

I know the President yesterday was talking about the urgency of dealing with climate change. I hope the President and Congress would act with at least the same kind of urgency the President was arguing for when it comes to climate change, when it comes to our veterans—some of whom are dying, waiting to get the treatment they are entitled to.

What the VA needs is full-scale institutional reforms which introduce much stronger safeguards against administrative abuses and much greater accountability for senior officials. Because, let's face it, the VA's problems go well beyond a few rogue health care personnel and administrators in Phoenix and Fort Collins, CO.

At a time when American veterans are facing enormous physical and psychological and financial challenges, the Federal Government is letting them down. Don't take my word for it. According to a recent survey of war vets from Afghanistan and Iraq:

> Nearly 1.5 million of those who served in the wars believe the needs of their fellow vets are not being met by the government.

One Iraq veteran—a former Army staff sergeant named Christopher Steavens—told the survey group he had been trying to get health care and financial relief for more than a half year, and had yet to hear back from the VA. They hadn't even gotten back to him and responded. He said:

> When I raised my right hand and said, ''I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America,'' when I gave them everything I could, I expect the same in return. . . . It's ridiculous that I've been waiting seven months just to be examined by a doctor—absolutely ridiculous.

Sergeant Steavens is right. It is ridiculous. But it is more than that. It is disgraceful, and it dishonors the brave service our men and women in uniform have given on our behalf. It is past time for us to get serious about fixing the problem.

Again, to underscore the urgency of these issues, the survey I mentioned a moment ago found that one out of every two Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans says they know a fellow servicemember who has attempted or committed suicide. One out of two knows somebody who has tried or has successfully committed suicide, and our message to the veterans is: Just wait. Be quiet. Sit down. Shut up.

It is unacceptable. As I said earlier, Secretary Shinseki is an American patriot. But after 5 years as head of the Veterans' Administration, it is time for him to step down and make way for new leadership.

More important, it is past time for the Veterans' Administration to start honoring its promise to America's heroes. The status quo is unacceptable and no one disputes that. The only question is: Are we going to do something about it? Appointing a new Secretary would be a good start.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

TALWANI NOMINATION

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Indira Talwani to the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Ms. Talwani is a brilliant and accomplished attorney who will make an outstanding addition to our district court.

She is an American success story. Her parents were immigrants from India and Germany. If confirmed, she will be the first Asian-American district court judge in Massachusetts.

She has received honors throughout her career, and her background and experience unquestionably qualify her for the bench. She will be someone the people of Massachusetts, of New England, and our whole country can be proud of.

I believe she will be an objective, unbiased decisionmaker, and that is exactly what we need for our district court judges. I recommend her wholeheartedly to the Members of this body.

The Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill is going to be considered here today, and I recommend it to all of the Members of this body because it is a bill that has been developed across parties in a bipartisan way—across industries, across labor, across consumer groups.

This is a bill which on a bipartisan basis is going to lead to improvement in the building codes of the United States to reduce energy consumption, increases in the efficiency of industrial equipment to reduce energy consumption, to increase the energy efficiency of Federal buildings in our country to reduce energy consumption. None of it is being done on a mandatory basis. It is all done on a voluntary basis. That is why we have a consensus here today.

The consensus includes an understanding that this is going to create 190,000 new jobs in our country—from the Shaheen-Portman bill. It will save consumers $16 billion per year. And it will cut carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere, polluting our country and our world by the equivalent of 22 million automobiles per year by the year 2030.

These are benefits that are going to be maximized because we are going to start working smarter, not harder, just reducing the amount of energy we consume, reducing the amount of CO_2 we send into the atmosphere, and doing it on a voluntary basis—voluntary.

So let's have a vote here on the Senate floor. Let's just get it done. Let's agree on what it is that we know is going to help our country. We know it is going to create more jobs. But the Republicans say: No, we need a vote on the Keystone Pipeline. We need a vote on something that is highly controversial, and we demand that vote.

Majority Leader REID agrees to have a vote on the Keystone Pipeline—agrees to have a vote on the Keystone Pipeline. How controversial is that? Well, you are going to take the dirtiest oil in the world, coming down from Canada, build a pipeline through the United States, bring it down to Port Arthur, TX, which is a tax-free export zone, and then that oil is going to be exported out of the United States. Where are the benefits for the United States in this scenario? We take the environmental risk, the Canadians get the benefit of having the dirtiest oil in the world come through that pipeline, and then it is going to be exported out of the United States.

How do I know it is going to be exported out of the United States? Because I, as a member of the House of Representatives, had this amendment over and over brought to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, and every time the American Petroleum Institute opposed it. Even though they say it is all about North American energy independence—ha-ha—when you have a vote, every Republican votes to keep that provision out of the bill so the oil can go out of the United States.

So just stop this about ''energy independence for North America'' if you don't, as a part of the Keystone Pipeline, accept a provision where the oil has to stay here. Otherwise, what is the point? I will tell you what the point is. It is maximizing profit for the oil industry because they make more money when they sell the oil outside the United States. American consumers don't get the benefit of it, no. The world is going to get the benefit of it; the oil industry is; the Canadians are.

Majority Leader REID said: We will have a vote on that. We will have a vote on it.

And then what happens? We come back this week, and the Republicans say that is not enough. This nice energy efficiency bill is going to be the vehicle for even more highly controversial issues, which at the end of the day is all meant to do what? To kill the energy efficiency bill because it reduces the amount of CO_2 that goes into the atmosphere on a voluntary basis.

How do we know that? Well, we know it because their amendments go right to the heart of what it is that we should all now finally accept. They want to have a vote and a big debate here that would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States of America from regulating greenhouse gases, from regulating global warming. That is the debate they want to have. They are saying: No energy efficiency bill—which everyone agrees on—unless we have a debate on whether our Environmental Protection Agency can regulate greenhouse gases.

It is 2014. It is 100 degrees in Kansas today. There are hurricanes, cyclones, the tides are rising, the water is warmer, and the storms are more intense. It is not just here, it is all across the planet. The scientists agree that there is global warming. Their amendment would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating global warming pollution. That is what they call something that is reasonable.

We have a bill everyone agrees should pass, but after getting an agreement that the Keystone Pipeline would be debated, they just continue on down the pathway.

Yesterday the Obama administration released a third U.S. National Climate Assessment. From droughts in the West to deluges in the East, this new report shows that we are becoming the United States of climate change and that we must act in order to keep our Nation safe and strong.

Second, they want to attach a provision to massively expand our exports of natural gas. They want to take the natural gas that is being drilled for here in the United States and put it on ships and send it out of our country. The more natural gas we export out of our country, the higher the prices are going to be for natural gas in our country. It will be more expensive to generate electricity. It will be more expensive for manufacturers to make their products in our country. It will be more expensive for those who want to build natural gas buses and natural gas trucks to be able to do so.

That is something they want to do—export the natural gas of the United States to other countries. Does that make any sense? Is that the kind of noncontroversial discussion we should have at the time we have an energy efficiency bill that should go through? No, not at all. This is meant to dynamite the energy efficiency bill. That is what that amendment is all about.

Then they want to add a rider to the bill as well that will prohibit the EPA from even considering at any time in the future a price on carbon—or, for that matter, prohibiting anyone.

These are loaded, highly controversial amendments, all at their heart denying the reality of how much harm they will do to the United States. Meanwhile, the Koch brothers smile. They smile because they know it is all going to accomplish their principal goal: making sure no energy efficiency bill passes in the Senate this year, no reduction in the amount of greenhouse gasses we are sending up. That is the agenda. It is going to be the agenda into the future for the Republican Party. It has been the agenda.

I look out and I see Republicans who have worked hard to put together this energy efficiency bill. I praise them for their willingness to come together on commonsense, reasonable provisions that reduce the amount of carbon going into the atmosphere on a voluntary basis by encouraging the creation of 190,000 new jobs in our country that Democrats and Republicans agree on. And I see this whole process getting hijacked by the Koch brothers, by the oil industry, by the natural gas industry that wants us to devolve into a big debate over science that is now completely and totally consensus not only here but around the planet.

The planet is running a fever. There are no emergency rooms for planets. We have to engage in preventive care to avoid the worst, most catastrophic impact of climate change on this watch we have here in the Senate. But, no, the process is being hijacked. You can see it here. They want to torpedo this process so that more oil, more coal, and more profits for the coal and oil companies become the agenda.

So all I can say, ladies and gentlemen, is that we are at a historic turning point. The headlines in the newspapers across this country and across this planet tell the story today: Climate risk growing. That is the consensus. That is the reality. That is what this energy efficiency bill is meant to deal with. And what will happen—and we are going to see it over and over—is we are going to have Member after Member on the Republican side get up and demand that we have a debate on something unrelated to this energy efficiency bill where there is a consensus. They want to take climate science that is a consensus around the planet and have another huge debate here on it. That is the tragedy of this.

The green generation, the young people in our country, they know this is the challenge of this generation. We as a nation have to stand up. A high percentage of that CO_2 in the atmosphere is red, white, and blue. We cannot preach temperance from a barstool. We cannot tell the rest of the world ''you must do something'' if we are not doing something. That is what the bill we should be debating here today would do on a bipartisan basis: reduce greenhouse gases, create 190,000 jobs, and do it all on a voluntary basis—too simple, too good, too clearly consistent with these two objectives of job creation and greenhouse gas reduction.

So I think what we are seeing is that the conserve in conservative no longer exists—not with the Koch brothers around. So this is now just going to be something that short-circuits the legislative process. It ensures that the energy efficiency bill is collateral damage because of their insistence on these amendments, when instead we have a chance this week to say that we are going to move forward on a smart energy policy; that we will work smarter, not harder; that we should come together to pass this bill without these giveaways to the oil industry and to the coal industry so that we can create jobs and save energy. And I would recommend to my colleagues that is the correct historical position this Chamber should be in right now.

At this point, Madam President, I yield the back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

(The remarks of Mr. HATCH pertaining to the introduction of [S. 2301] are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. HATCH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it is my understanding that the Senator from Missouri Mr. BLUNT will be recognized next for 10 minutes or so.

I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks by Senator BLUNT, I be recognized for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I thank my good friend from Oklahoma for ensuring that I have the time to talk for a few minutes about an issue he and I feel very strongly about; that is, the best use of American energy and what American energy means to American families.

It seems to me the request our side of the aisle is making is not at all unreasonable. It has been 7 years since the Senate had a real debate on energy. The Shaheen-Portman bill creates that opportunity, but suddenly we were told: This bill is so good already. Why do you want to continue to talk about ways to make it even better? There are very few things beyond energy and health care which I can talk about for a substantial period of time—and I hope to talk about health care sometime between now and the end of the week. Energy has the same kind of impact on families that health care has.

The majority leader wants to control every debate every week in the Senate, which means nothing happens. That is not the way the Senate works. Traditionally, any Member of the Senate can introduce any amendment they want on any bill at any time. However, that is not the way the House works. I served in the House. The majority runs the House, and the Rules Committee in the House is nine in the majority and four in the minority. It is pretty hard to lose a vote in a 9-to-4 committee. I think that is why the committee was established that way.

The Senate has never been run that way. Now we have a one-man rules committee that wants to decide on every bill and every rule which comes up. This gag rule where Senators can't talk about the topics they want to discuss is something that didn't used to happen in the Senate, but it is now a daily and weekly part of the Senate.

We are now at the point where we go to the majority leader and ask: On the energy bill, could we have five amendments that deal with energy? That is so far from how the Senate and the Constitution was designed to be or the Senate practice has been. It is pretty hard to believe that Senators on the minority are reduced to the point that we have to go to the majority leader and ask: Mr. Leader, could we have five amendments that deal with energy?

When the Energy bill was on the floor of the Senate 7 years ago—the last time the Senate dealt with energy—every Senator could have every amendment they wanted on anything they wanted to talk about because that was the Senate. One of the prices we paid for that 6-year term was we might have to vote on some things we would rather not vote on. Now we have the 6-year term, but the majority leader doesn't want us to vote on things that the majority may not want to vote on, and there are probably people in the minority who don't want to vote either. Not voting is a pretty safe route apparently politically, but it is not the best route for the country.

I would like to see a real debate on energy, and one of the issues I would like to see debated is the amendment I offered to this bill to have a point of order to be sure that at least 60 Senators would have to approve a carbon tax.

I offered a similar amendment to the budget last year, in 2013, and 52 of my colleagues agreed with me, and we had a majority vote of 53 who said we don't want to have a carbon tax, but if we do have a carbon tax, it needs to be extraordinary because it affects everybody's utility bill. It affects everybody's ability to pay that bill. It affects whether a person has a job with a paycheck that allows them to pay that bill. Fifty-three of my colleagues, including myself, said we don't want to do that.

Several people who voted against that amendment in 2013 have had a hard time explaining why they were against it, so I thought maybe we would vote on it again. I think we would have more than 53 votes this time. If we don't vote this time, we are more likely to have a lot more than 53 votes next time because the American people get it.

For the vast majority of the country, half of the utilities come from coal. Rules that create a carbon tax—the simple focus of that is coal, and the focus is fossil fuels generally. The Germans are buying resources from us because they are abandoning their nuclear facilities and converting to coal-fired powerplants.

We have a lot of coal and, more importantly, we have a lot of coal-powered plants. If we could say, let's not use coal, but our utility facilities work just like they work without having to take millions of dollars for new investments, that would have a different kind of impact on families than saying, let's not only not use coal, let's build a new powerplant everywhere they have a coal powerplant because otherwise the utility bills will double when we build a new powerplant. When we build a new powerplant, the utility bill is going to double.

Also, why would we want to have even the access to a policy that would allow people's utility bills to double? Middle-income families, low-income families are the hardest impacted by that, especially in States such as my State, where 80 percent of the utilities come from coal; but, again, a majority of the utilities come from coal in a majority of the landmass of the country. Our rates would rise 19 percent in the first year with a carbon tax or the kinds of rules the regulators are trying to put in place that would have a carbon tax-like impact, and in the decade after that first year they would double.

One doesn't have to be very smart to multiply a utility bill by two. If the boss showed someone the utility bill at work, they wouldn't have to be a genius to multiply that by two, and they wouldn't have to be a genius to figure out that if the utility bill doubles, the job that helps them pay their utility bill at home might go away as well.

It would cause significant job loss. It would cause households to pay more for all of the energy they have. They already pay a lot for energy. For the 40 million American households that earn less than $30,000 a year, they already spend more than 20 percent of their income on energy. Do we want those families to continue to see that bill go up and every month wonder what they could have less of so they can pay more for the same utilities, and not because it had to be that way but because the government decided it wanted it to be that way? The households that will be the last households to get the new energy-efficient appliances, the last families to get the new windows and the better doors and more insulation in the ceiling, those are the families impacted in a dramatic way. Those are the families who live in houses where they have to think: Which room can we no longer afford to heat or no longer afford to cool in the heating and cooling months of the year, when we will have to close that door and roll up the throw rug and put it at the base of the door so the heat and cooling no longer impacts that room? Do we want families to do that so we can have a carbon tax, so we can have bad energy policies?

We can do a better job by making American energy more affordable and more accessible, not making it less so.

What is wrong with having that? I heard my friend from Massachusetts say earlier that we are insisting on a controversial amendment on the Keystone Pipeline. So what. What is controversial about it? A majority of us say we are for it. Controversy would mean people must feel strongly the other way, so they can vote against it.

Let's let the American people know where we stand on these issues. Are we going to do smart things about more American energy or not? The energy future of the country is so good that in spite of everything the government has done to slow it down, it still has been a major economic driver.

I would like to see us vote on the Keystone Pipeline. I would like to see us vote on the carbon tax, whether that is a good idea or not. I would like to

see us vote on what kinds of facilities we need to secure our energy position in the world economy.

There shouldn't be anything wrong with these amendments. Senators shouldn't be stopped with a gag rule from the majority leader's office of what we can and cannot talk about. The idea that we can't have energy amendments on an energy bill should embarrass every single Senator here and concern everybody we work for. Hopefully, we will be able to move forward with debate on an energy bill that is actually about energy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, let me first say to my good friend from Missouri, I plan to talk about energy, the very thing he is talking about. If we go back and look logically, if we are dependent upon fossil fuels for 75 percent of our ability to run this machine called America, and we extract that, what is going to happen? I think we all know what is going to happen and I think people need to be forewarned.

I am going to tee this up by talking a little bit about President Obama's climate assessment meeting he had yesterday. All of these people were talking about the world coming to an end, the report he came out with—let me, first of all, ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks, the Senator from Delaware be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. The whole idea in this report by design is to spark fear in the American people so they will go along with the administration in implementing their policies that will kill fossil fuels and leave us with nothing but a broken economy. When I say broken economy, if, in fact—and no one would refute this—we are dependent upon fossil fuels—coal, oil, and gas—for 75 percent of the energy to run America, then what is going to happen to our economy if we extract 75 percent? I think we all know logically what is going to happen.

In the words of White House counselor John Podesta this morning: ''The American public doesn't feel that sense of urgency about the impacts of climate change and I think this report will help influence that.'' That is nothing but an admission. The whole reason for this report is to try to resurrect the issue of global warming. We heard my good friend from Massachusetts talking about that. He is very knowledgeable, and I will refer to some of his activities in a minute.

But keep in mind, this is John Podesta. It is the same John Podesta who is representing some of the terrorist regime from Sri Lanka that is no longer in effect. He is the same one who ran the White House during the Clinton years. So he comes from a very partisan perspective. But nonetheless, I appreciate the fact that he is admitting this is the reason for the climate assessment President Obama did yesterday, because he wants to try to bring this up again.

I can remember back when the polling showed that global warming was either the No. 1 or No. 2 of the environmental issues in America. Do we know where it is now? It is No. 10, according to the last Gallup poll. So people have forgotten about it. People have caught on. They have seen the scientists come in and refute all this IPCC stuff that the United Nations has been putting forth for a long period of time. I think it is a recognition that people have caught on to this and it is no longer the issue they want it to be.

Whether it is a drought or a flood, high temperatures, low temperatures, you can't find a job, you are finding more allergic reactions, then the White House blames it on global warming. Fear has always been a tactic the administration and other global warming alarmists have used to spur people into action. Time and time again, when the American people learn the details and the costs of the solutions to global warming that they contend exist, they don't want anything to do with it—and the costs are enormous.

Congress last debated global warming when my good friend, now Senator MARKEY, was in the House of Representatives. It was the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill. This bill would have cost, according to Charles River Associates—and I think people recognize them as authentic—between $300 billion and $400 billion a year. That is the cost. I would contend this would be the largest tax increase in the history of this country. That is consistent with other analyses. One was the Wharton Group and many of the scientists there who were making evaluations came out with the same thing: between $300 billion and $400 billion a year. MIT came out with about the same amount of between $300 billion to $400 billion a year. The cost estimate has been the same over the last 15 years since we first started debating this issue. I don't think anyone is challenging that.

But what is important—and this is kind of in the weeds, but we have to talk about this: I applaud Senator MARKEY for at least the levels of pollution—of emissions, I should say—that come from different sources that he was wanting to regulate, and that was those with 25,000 tons of CO_2 emissions or more. That would be, quite frankly, the major emitters, the refineries and all of that. Here is the problem we have today. It is far worse than the Waxman-Markey bill would have been, because it wouldn't call for the regulation of just those entities that emit 25,000 tons or more, but the same as the Clean Air Act.

The Clean Air Act has a threshold of 250 tons of greenhouse gases a year. Stop and think about that: If it costs between $300 billion to $400 billion to regulate the emitters who emit 25,000 tons of CO_2 a year, how much more if we regulate everyone with 250 tons? It has never been calculated. It would be very difficult. But we are talking about billions and billions of dollars more. So the regulations are far worse.

The first of these regulations now being developed is the New Source Performance Standards for newly constructed powerplants. The rule would essentially make it illegal to build new coal-fired powerplants. That is what it was designed to do.

The next step would be to take the existing powerplants—those that are employing hundreds of thousands of people in America today—and they would be out of a job. So that would go to the refining industry, and so forth, and establish new regulations for each and every industry. These greenhouse gas regulations mark the latest attempt by the EPA to destroy affordable and reliable electricity and energy supplies that have been the hallmark of our economy for a long period of time. They are already doing it in other areas too. It is not just regulating the greenhouse gas emissions or CO_2 emissions; it is other regulations that are unbearable.

This one right here—they are talking about changing the ocean regulation. This chart is an interesting one because this shows that virtually every county in America would be out of attainment with their new goals. In my State of Oklahoma, we have 77 counties. All 77 counties would be out of attainment if they are able to do that.

In 2011, the EPA finalized its utility MACT. By the way, that stands for maximum achievable control technology. That is what we are talking about. So they passed this. Now it is passed. It is history now. They finalized utility MACT with a rule that costs over $100 million and would result in 1.65 million lost jobs.

The EPA put this rule out without even considering the cost of it, saying it wasn't required to do so. In other words, the law does not say they are required to say what it costs. I take issue with that. They estimated the rule would result in the retirement of less than 10,000 megawatts of electricity generation, but today we know the power companies around the country have announced the retirements totaling more than 50,000. So they are off by 500 percent. Fifty thousand megawatts in direct response to the EPA regulation.

By the way, when we had the utility MACT, I filed a CRA, and this is something I want to make sure people are aware of, and certainly my colleagues and friends on the other side of the aisle. On all of these regulations, when

they reach the point where the regulation is final—and we know for a fact it is going to cost dollars and it is going to cost jobs—I am going to file a CRA. A CRA is a Congressional Review Act. A CRA provides that if there is a regulation—and I hear so often my colleagues in the Senate will say to their constituents, Don't blame me for these regulations because that is the regulatory—that is the EPA and other regulators doing it. But a CRA forces them to take an issue. So all one has to do is find 30 people in the Senate, have them sign a CRA, file the CRA, and then it is simply a simple majority—51. In the case of this utility MACT, I only lacked three votes for stopping that rule. So we anticipate that we are going to be able to stop a lot of these rules.

In about 10 days, the EPA is poised to propose another new rule, the 316(b) cooling water intake rule. This rule is designed to protect fish from being caught and killed in nets designed to prevent them from entering powerplant systems. While the rule doesn't have any human health benefits, it is expected to cost industry over $100 billion in compliance costs, which, of course, will be passed on to everyone in America who ends up paying these bills.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation, which is called NERC, has warned that this rule will have a far worse impact on electricity affordability and reliability than the utility MACT did. We know it will.

In fact, the FERC Commissioner recently said that because of EPA's rules, the United States is likely to see rolling electricity blackouts over the summer months in the next few years as demand for electricity outstrips the supply remaining after all of the powerplant shutdowns that are slated to occur in response to EPA's rules.

The EPA has been systematically distorting the true cost of its regulations for years, and I have been raising this as an issue for some time now, but it has been very difficult to air them out before the entire Senate simply because at this point the sole goal of the Democrats seems to be to protect their majority.

If we look at this chart, this was prior to the 2012 election. What we found they were doing, prior to the 2012 election, was postponing many of these very onerous regulations because they knew we would be doing a CRA and the public would know who is responsible for these. They had postponed this. This is a report I put out in October 2012, and that was to try to force the administration to not wait until after the election to come out with their rules. That is what they did.

They are doing it again. Last week I released documents revealing that the EPA intentionally delayed the release of its greenhouse gas new source performance standards—that is the NSPS—by 66 days in order to avoid it being finalized before the midterm elections—the same thing as 2012.

I also sent a letter to Gina McCarthy, who is the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, asking why the rule was delayed, especially when she had previously told me it was the result of a blacklog in the Federal Register. In other words, she was saying: The Federal Register did not post this rule until 66 days after we gave it to them. We checked with the Federal Register, and they said that is absolutely false. They have an immediate turnaround for these rules.

So now I am waiting for a response to that letter. I do not want to use the ''L'' word. I know there is a lot of pressure put on the employees and certainly the Director of the EPA to try to minimize what the public feels is going to be the cost of these regulations.

Had the EPA stuck with its original timeline of finalizing this rule by September 20 of this year, then I would have been able to work with my colleagues to force a Congressional Review Act vote to overturn the rule just weeks before the election. Then people would know the cost of these things.

But what we could do right now is vote on a few of the amendments. Our Senator from Missouri was talking about these amendments. We have a bill that is coming up. We have amendments that should be considered—all having to do with energy, so they are all appropriate amendments to offer, as he articulated for about 10 minutes a few minutes ago.

I have some amendments that would do this. He mentioned one of them that he and I are together on. But one of my amendments is amendment No. 2977, entitled the ''Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2014.'' It simply prohibits the EPA from promulgating any greenhouse gas emissions regulations to combat climate change because they are denying this is the reason they are doing it. Of course we know what has happened to the science they are relying on through the United Nations that has now been refuted.

The second amendment I have is amendment No. 2979. It would prevent the EPA from issuing any new Clean Air Act regulations—such as those on climate change—until it complies with section 321(a) of the Clean Air Act. Let's keep in mind, this is the Clean Air Act, as shown on this chart. We are talking about decades ago. This is what the Environmental Protection Agency is supposed to do:

> The Administrator shall conduct continuing evaluations of potential loss or shifts of employment which may result from the administration or enforcement of the provision of this chapter. . . .

It is saying they are supposed to already tell the public what the cost is in terms of jobs and money. That is the law, but they are not obeying the law. So I have an amendment that puts teeth in it and says you cannot have any new rules until you comply with section 321(a) of the Clean Air Act. Very reasonable, and it is the law today.

Unfortunately, the EPA is not interested in doing this. With the Utility MACT rule, it completely dismissed the rule's cost and did not consider it when putting out the rule.

The EPA acted in contradiction to Supreme Court precedents that decisionmakers are required to ''weigh advantages against disadvantages, and disadvantages can be seen in terms of costs.'' That is the U.S. Supreme Court.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has consumed 15 minutes.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be given 5 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. I have to get to the last part. Rather than to face these issues head-on, I am going to share something that happened last year and then again this year. There is a very wealthy person named Tom Steyer. Tom Steyer has a mansion that overlooks the Golden Gate Bridge. He had a fundraiser for Barack Obama last year, raising a lot of money, but the one I am more concerned about is the fundraiser he had when he announced—this is just within the last month—Tom Steyer, a very wealthy person, said he was going to personally donate $50 million and raise an additional $50 million to try to do two things. One is to resurrect this whole idea on global warming since the people do not care about it anymore. As a result of that, we had an all-night vigil. Remember that? That was right after Tom Steyer made his announcement.

The second thing he is mandating is to kill the Keystone Pipeline. There is a lot of money out there. The regulatory burdens already being placed on this country are enormous, and the cost of regulations are, perhaps arguably, the worst problem facing this country.

Last week the Competitive Enterprise Institute published a major report calculating the cost of the President's regulations at $1.86 trillion. To put that in perspective, Canada's entire GDP is $1.82 trillion. India's is the same amount. So that is what the cost would be, according to the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

People know what has happened to the military with this administration, they know what has happened to energy, but the cost of these regulations is something that is going to have to be addressed.

Lastly, I would say this. I know there are people out there who legitimately

believe greenhouse gas is causing global warming and the world is going to come to an end, but I would suggest this: Lisa Jackson was the Administrator—chosen by Barack Obama—the first Administrator we had for the EPA. I asked her this question, on the record, live on TV. I said: Madam Administrator, if we were to pass bills like the Markey-Waxman bill or regulate by regulation the CO_2 in the United States of America, would this have the effect of lowering the CO_2 emissions worldwide? She said: No, because that is not where the problem is. It is in China. It is in India. It is in Mexico.

In other words, if you believe—as I do not believe—but if you believe CO_2 is going to bring about the end of the world, then even if we do something in this country, it is not going to solve the problem. Arguably, it would make the problem worse because as we lose our manufacturing base, they are out seeking electricity and energy from countries where they do not have any of these regulations, and that would have the effect of increasing, not decreasing, emissions of CO_2.

With that, I yield the floor and thank my friend for not objecting to my additional time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP

Mr. COONS. Madam President, our Nation's police officers work fearlessly and tirelessly every day to protect our families and to keep our communities safe. As we get ready to honor their service during National Police Week, the least we can do is stand by them and ensure, as they are doing their job, they are able to do it as safely as possible.

Every day more than 1 million law enforcement officers across this country accept risks to their personal safety. As they leave their families at dawn and head off to their jobs, they know and their families know they accept, as a part of their mission of public safety service, the risk that they may not come home that night.

We owe it to them to do what we can to make that service just a little bit safer, to ensure that more of them come home safely, week in and week out, year in and year out. Providing officers with bulletproof vests is one of the most effective ways we can contribute to that desired outcome.

I have come to the floor because I share the deep frustration of my good friend Chairman PATRICK LEAHY over the continued inability of this body to overcome the objection of one Senator and move forward to renew, on a bipartisan basis, the Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership.

Yesterday, Chairman LEAHY gave the Senate another opportunity to take up and reauthorize this partnership through a unanimous consent request. He is trying to move forward a bill we have already voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan basis. Yet it was blocked again by objections raised by a colleague, the Senator from Oklahoma.

For 14 years the Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership has been an important way for our Nation to equip local police departments with one of the most effective ways to keep our officers safe, but this needs to be a lasting commitment. This needs to be an enduring partnership. As new officers join, they need to be fitted for new vests. Because vests wear out and do not last forever, we need to ensure they can be replaced.

We know bulletproof vests work. Since 1987 bulletproof vests have saved the lives of more than 3,000 police officers across this country. I am proud to continue in the tradition of my predecessor, now-Vice President JOE BIDEN, in supporting local law enforcement and in supporting this initiative.

In my home State of Delaware, this partnership has provided our officers with thousands of vests over the last 14 years, including more than 3,800 over just the last 5 years.

The Delaware community has, unfortunately, seen up close why these vests are so important. It was 13 years ago that Dover Police Sergeant David Spicer was trying to make an arrest—an arrest he successfully completed—when the suspect with whom he was wrestling pulled out a gun from a hidden pocket and shot him at close range four times.

As Sergeant Spicer bled out—he lost nearly half the blood in his body before effecting the arrest—because he was wearing a vest provided to him through the Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership his life was saved.

I was honored to welcome Dover Police Sergeant David Spicer here 2 years ago on a previous effort at reauthorizing this long bipartisan bill.

More recently—just last February of 2013—at the New Castle County Courthouse, in my hometown of Wilmington, a gunman unleashed a stream of bullets into the courthouse lobby, tragically killing two. On what was a devastating morning in the courthouse lobby, two lives were also saved—those of Sergeant Michael Manley and Corporal Steve Rinehart—Capitol Police officers who were wearing bulletproof vests funded in part through this Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership.

The very real results of this Federal-State partnership, of this investment in keeping the men and women of law enforcement safe in the line of duty, are hard to ignore.

With many police departments at the local level facing shrinking budgets, this bulletproof vest partnership makes vests, which cost more than $500 apiece, more affordable, ensuring officers are outfitted with the most current and effective and appropriate protection possible.

In fact, the program specifically prioritizes smaller departments that often struggle to afford vests and do not provide vests or require vests for their officers. It is exactly in these smaller and more rural agencies and departments where line-of-duty deaths due to gunfire had historically been high.

This is critical. As a county executive in my previous role in local government in Delaware, I saw firsthand how officers in smaller agencies often struggle to have current, up-to-date, and effective bulletproof vests.

In addition, this is a program that is a 50–50 match with Federal and local money. How could anyone oppose this program that saves thousands of police officers' lives, that extends the reach of the Federal-State partnership in keeping our communities safer, and that is such a wise investment in saving lives that matters so much to our communities?

A colleague objected yesterday, has objected before, and will object again. I am reminded of so many times when a bipartisan bill comes to this floor and dies due to objection after objection after objection, and at times I struggle to understand the rationale. In his objection yesterday, my colleague raised an argument that somehow this program, which promotes public safety, does not fit within the authority granted to Congress under the Constitution, that it is not part of the enumerated powers of Congress.

I disagree. Whether you ascribe to the narrow Madisonian view of the general welfare clause in the Constitution or follow an expansive or Hamiltonian view—as our Supreme Court has done since 1937, when they affirmed the constitutionality of the Social Security Act in Helvering v. Davis—this is not a close call.

If providing Federal-State partnership money for bulletproof vests goes beyond the enumerated powers of this Congress, what does that mean for public health, for investments in partnerships with State public health agencies to prevent pandemics and flus? What does this mean for the Interstate Highway System? What does this mean for hundreds of different partnerships where, in a cost-effective way, we work together with communities and States all over this country to extend and improve the general welfare of the people of the United States?

To my colleague's argument today on this floor that this is solely a State or local responsibility, the reality is that the Bulletproof Vest Partnership does not replace local action with Federal action. It ensures a Federal partnership, an investment, to help police departments struggling to meet the safety needs, the equipment needs of their officers, to act when they otherwise cannot.

In my view, the partnership is even more important because it is about more than just handing out dollars and vests. It ensures all vests are compliant with National Institute of Justice safety standards. Only the Federal Government has the resources to do that level of analytical work. It is no more reasonable for us to expect every State to have their own National Institutes of Health to do cancer research or for every State to have a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Having one coordinated national program to ensure that these bulletproof vests are as effective as possible at saving the lives of the men and women of law enforcement just makes sense. In my view, the denial of the Federal role where it is necessary and efficient would take us back to the Articles of Confederation, a very cramped and narrow view of the appropriate role of our national government, one which our forefathers found unworkable two centuries ago.

The truth is plain. Without this program, we leave police officers without lifesaving vests in the line of fire, in the line of duty. For us to fail to stand up for them, when they stand up for us each and every day, I find outrageous. This is the way the world looked before Chairman LEAHY and Republican Senator Campbell created this program jointly back in 1999.

In that world, before there was a Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership, there would today be two more Delaware families without a hero at their dinner table tonight. Not on my watch. That will not happen as long as I am here to stand for the men and women of law enforcement and to promote the Federal role, an appropriate Federal role, in standing side by side with State and local governments to provide the equipment the men and women of law enforcement need.

This partnership expired back in 2012. Fortunately, we have been able to fund it through short-term appropriations. This is a tiny program in the scope of this Federal Government: $22 million a year. The entire Federal investment in local law enforcement is less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the entire Federal Government. Yet it enables standards and leveraging of the type I described that extends the reach of law enforcement and improves the safety of the men and women who put their lives on the line for us. Without authorization, this program becomes unsustainable short term and does not allow us to improve the program year in and year out. The reauthorization bill that was passed by the Judiciary Committee this Congress extends the program another 5 years, ensures its consistency, but makes important reforms to save money, as well.

It prevents localities from using other Federal grants as their matching funds. It takes action to eliminate the Justice Department's backlogs. The bill would require agencies using the program to have mandatory wear policies, and would, for the first time, ensure these lifesaving vests are fitted appropriately for women, at a time when there are more and more women in law enforcement and more often at the very front line of protecting our communities.

This bill is fiscally responsible. Enacting this bill is a moral responsibility. Police officers work to keep us safe every day. Congress can and should do the same for them. Congress should be standing with our law enforcement officers, not standing in their way. I applaud the persistent leadership of Chairman LEAHY and will stand with him as long as it takes to get this program back on track and ensure its long-term survival.

While this program had a long history of bipartisan support and passed out of the Judiciary Committee with a number of Republicans voting for it, a few of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle now do not seem to think this investment in officer safety is an appropriate one for this body and this government to make.

Last year our Nation lost 33 police officers in the line of duty killed by gunshots. According to the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial Fund, there is some reason to be cheered because this is the smallest number lost in a year since the 1800s. Those 33 deaths—line-of-duty deaths of men and women shot to death while protecting their communities—is 33 too many. We have an opportunity to continue to provide to State and local law enforcement vests that can save these and other lives.

We should continue working tirelessly until those numbers come down to zero. In recent months, I have been proud as this body has come together across the partisan divide, has passed a budget bill, an appropriations bill, a farm bill, has begun to deal with some of our Nation's most urgent needs. But I am distressed by this particular action, to block even consideration of so small a program with such important consequences, and it is to me profoundly disheartening. I call on my colleagues to stop blocking this bill and to allow this body to debate and to pass this reauthorization that will save lives in law enforcement this year and every year going forward. We owe them no less.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent to be able to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor to talk once more about the negative side effects of the President's health care law.

President Obama has been spiking the football over the number of people who he says have actually signed up for insurance through his exchanges. He also said that Democrats should forcefully defend and be proud of the health care law.

He has had nothing to say to the Americans who are seeing their premiums increase.

This Washington mandate insurance is loaded up with so many specific mandates that unless you get a massive taxpayer subsidy, it is just not affordable for many families across this country.

For some people the insurance gets even more expensive, even less affordable, depending specifically on where you live.

Insurance companies used to base your premiums on a lot of different factors, like how likely you were to use insurance, and different things specific to how you would use medical services.

The Obama health care law took away some of that and replaced it with what they call a community rating. Now there are only a few factors that can be used to set people's premiums, and where you actually live is one of those. Your premiums used to be based on you, but now they are based on your neighbors and how likely your neighbors are to use their own health insurance. What we are seeing is all across the country people are paying more specifically because of where they live.

The Associated Press ran a story on this last month. The headline was ''Rural residents confront higher health care costs.''

The Associated Press quoted a rancher in Colorado whose premiums had jumped 50 percent—to about $1,800 a month. The rancher said:

> We've gone from letting the insurance companies use a pre-existing medical condition to jack up rates, to having a pre-existing ZIP code being the reason health insurance is unaffordable.

As this rancher said, ''It's just wrong.''

I agree, so I looked into this, and here is what I found. Some of the lines are drawn so that people just down the road or even people on different sides of the street can pay wildly different premiums. These are people of exactly the same age, and these are people who are buying the lowest-cost silver plan.

The President likes to talk about income inequality, but the President has created a new kind of insurance inequality. It is not only rural areas like where that rancher lives in Colorado.

In Louisiana in one community the premium for the lowest-cost silver plan in the ObamaCare exchange for a 40-year-old person who doesn't get a subsidy would be $255 a month. But if you live right across the street—right across the street—the premium for that same person, same age, same lowest-cost silver plan, would be $311 a month—22 percent higher, $56 more a month, just because you live on one side of the street instead of the other side of the street, under the President's health care law. That is $672 a year. That was Louisiana.

Now let's take a look at North Carolina, with the same situation. If you live on that side of the line, if your ranch house or farm house is over there, it is $263 a month. Just down the road, the other side of the line, it is $319 a month. Again, it is $56 more a month or $672 more a year for the same individual. All they would have to do is move from that side to this side and they would either save or pay that much more. It is 21 percent more expensive on one side than the other.

Is this fair? The Democrats talk about fairness all the time. Democratic Senators have come to the floor to talk about giving everybody a fair shot. Do those Democrats who passed this health care law, who voted for the law, think that in that county in North Carolina they are getting a fair shot depending on which side of the line they live? Does the Senator from Louisiana believe that they get this fair shot on either side of the line? Does President Obama believe that these people in North Carolina or Louisiana are getting a fair shot?

Why did the Democrats in Washington create a law that penalizes people based on on which side of the street they live?

Here is another example—Arkansas. Here we have an area, one side of the line or the other. On this side of the line it is $263 per month and on this side $294 a month—same age, same situation, no matter which of side of the line you live on—$31 a month more expensive.

Are those people in Arkansas getting a fair shot from the President's health care law? For too many people in places such as Colorado, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Arkansas, the costs of the President's health care law are unfair and are too high. Sure, there are some people who are being helped, but there are a lot of people who are being hurt by the President's health care law, people who are feeling the negative side effects of the law.

Why don't Democrats admit this? Why don't they admit that the health care law is not giving people a fair shot?

The President says: Forcefully defend and be proud. Why aren't the Democrats in this Senate who passed this law coming to the floor to defend the fact that for millions of people in Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Colorado, and all across America, the premiums are too high. The health care law is too expensive for families, and it is also too expensive for a lot of employers.

There was an article in the Denver Post last week entitled: ''Health law presents options, challenges for Colorado's small businesses.'' The article tells the story of a small business in Denver that sells cardboard boxes.

According to the article, the owner of this business has offered insurance to his workers for three decades. To get a policy that meets the new mandates of the President's health care law was going to cost 50 percent more than they had been paying in the past.

The article says, ''About half of small businesses in Colorado are seeing double-digit premium increases'' because of the law.

Double-digit premium increases are not what Democrats promised from their health care law, and it is not what the American people wanted. People wanted something very simple from health care reform. They wanted better access to quality, affordable care.

Instead, Democrats gave Americans higher costs and unequal treatment. It is not a fair shot. It is not what American people wanted, what they needed, and it isn't working.

Americans don't need a law that Democrats voted for without ever reading it, and it is a law that raises their premiums, a law that NANCY PELOSI said: Hey, first you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it.

Republicans have offered a patient-centered approach that would solve the biggest problems facing families: the cost of care, access to care, and ownership of their policies. That means allowing small businesses to pool resources in order to buy health insurance for their employees. It means letting people shop for health insurance in other States and buy what is actually best for them and their families. It means reforming our medical liability system to give patients fair compensation for tragic mistakes, while ending junk lawsuits that drive up health care costs for everyone. It means adequately funding State high-risk pools that help sick people get insurance without raising costs for healthier individuals.

These are just a few solutions Republicans have offered, just a few of the things that we will do to give Americans real health care reform and a real fair shot—health care reform that gives people the care they need from a doctor they choose at a lower cost without all the negative side effects.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. VITTER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3521

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I come to the floor to speak about an issue we should all be concerned about, the State of veterans health care in our VA hospitals, our VA clinics, our VA system, and around the country.

I have been concerned about this for some time, working very hard on getting outpatient clinics built in Louisiana—new ones, expanded ones, in particular, in Lafayette and Lake Charles.

I am a member of a bipartisan working group on VA backlog issues, and we have made substantial progress through that bipartisan group. We have also introduced legislation to deal specifically with that VA backlog crisis.

As we work on those things, unfortunately, the news out of the VA gets worse and worse, and the need for real progress on these fronts—including the community-based clinics I am going to talk about in Louisiana and elsewhere—that need gets more and more dire.

Think about the recent reports. CNN and others have reported that in Arizona at least 40 U.S. veterans died—died—waiting for appointments at the Phoenix VA health care system. Many of these were placed on a secret waiting list. The secret list was part of an elaborate scheme designed by the VA managers in Phoenix who were trying to hide the fact that 1,400 to 1,600 sick veterans were forced to wait months to see a doctor.

There is an official list that is shared with officials in Washington. That official list shows that the VA has been providing timely appointments. The problem is, you don't get on that official list, in some cases, until you have waited months and months and months on the secret list that is hidden from Washington, that was hidden from the world, and that was hidden from outsiders until the news media broke the story. So 40 of those veterans died waiting for appointments through this abuse.

In Colorado, USA Today and others reported that clerks at the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Fort Collins were instructed last year about how to falsify appointment records so it appeared the small staff of doctors was seeing patients within the agency's goal of 14 days—the exact same abuse, the exact same type of scheme, but different details. Many of the 6,300 veterans treated at the outpatient clinic waited months to be seen, but that was hidden through this scheme.

If the clerical staff had allowed records to reflect that veterans waited longer than 14 days, they were punished by being placed on the bad boy list, the report shows. So, again, it is exactly the same fraud and abuse, the same scheme, designed to hide the real

waits that veterans in these places and in many other places around the country are subjected to.

We see these horrible abuses. We see these examples with increasing frequency. It has gotten so bad that the head of the American Legion and the head of the Concerned Veterans for America on Monday called for Secretary Shinseki to resign and called for members of his top leadership to resign with him.

The calls for his resignation came after months of reporting that I have been talking about—U.S. veterans who have actually died waiting for care at VA facilities across the country. It came after these reports about Phoenix. It came after these reports about Colorado.

The heads of these organizations did not rush into a public call for his resignation. They did not take that lightly. That is virtually and perhaps completely unprecedented, but they did that on Monday. They called for the Secretary's resignation. They called for it publicly, and they called for several of his leadership team to resign with him. That is how bad it has gotten.

Yet in the midst of this, rather than responding to this crisis in any way we can, as quickly as we can, we have important matters hung up on pure politics on the Senate floor. Specifically, I am talking about my proposal to move forward with 27 community-based clinics around the country, including the two vital new and expanded community-based clinics that we need to move on, approve, and build in Louisiana, in Lafayette and Lake Charles.

These clinics around the country—and particularly the two in Louisiana, in Lafayette and Lake Charles—have been hung up through one bureaucratic screw up after another. These should have been built by now.

First, in terms of our two Louisiana clinics, the VA messed up how they let out the contract, and that caused them to pull back. It was their mistake, pure and simple. They have admitted that freely, and it cost us 1 year in terms of moving forward with those clinics.

After that mistake was corrected—after the loss of 1 year of waiting—then the CBO decided that they were going to score these clinics in a completely new way, something they had never done before, and that caused a ''scoring'' or ''fiscal issue'' with regard to all 27 of the community-based VA clinics around the country that I am talking about. That further delayed progress.

Finally, after these two major delays, leaders in the House got together on a bipartisan basis—and I want to commend my Louisiana colleagues in the House, in particular led by Congressman BOUSTANY and others—to fix this scoring issue. They put together a reform bill and they got it approved by the House overwhelmingly, with one dissenting vote. In today's environment, resolutions to honor Mother Teresa don't pass the House of Representatives with only one dissenting vote, but they did that.

So it came over here, and I worked to address some small issues and objections that existed on the Senate side through a perfecting amendment which I have at the desk. I worked very hard for weeks to clear up those objections so we could move forward with this noncontroversial measure. Because of that, we have the unanimous support of the Senate—not one single objection to moving forward with these 27 community-based VA clinics around the country. There is not one single objection related to the substance of that proposal—not one.

The only objection now has been from the distinguished Senator from Vermont who objects to moving forward with this focused proposal because the Senate does not agree unanimously or near unanimously with his much larger bill that encompasses dozens of VA issues. Again, I have pledged to and I will work with the Senator on those broader issues. I have been working hard on those issues, including these clinics, including being an active member of the bipartisan working group on the VA backlog issue. I will continue to work on that. But the fact remains his larger bill has substantial opposition. There are around 46 Senators—excuse me, around 44 Senators who oppose that larger bill.

In the meantime, I think we should agree on what we can agree on. We should make progress on what we can make progress on, starting with these 27 clinics. Veterans have been dying around the country because of these ridiculous waits and the fraud and abuse involved in hiding these waits. These 27 community-based clinics will directly help address veterans who are waiting for months and months in some cases, waiting for medical treatment. It will directly alleviate that issue in the communities in 18 States where these clinics will be located. There is a significant number of communities in a significant number of States. So let's agree on what we can agree on. Let's make that significant progress. Let's keep talking and working on the rest.

Last November Senator SANDERS seemed to agree with that principle and that way of moving forward. In talking about another Veterans' Affairs piece of legislation, he said, on November 19 of last year, ''I'm happy to tell you that I think that was a concern of his.''—talking about another of our colleagues—''We got that UC'ed last night.''—unanimous consent—''So we moved that pretty quickly, and I want to try to do those things. Where we have agreement, let's move it.''

To repeat from that quote: '' . . . I want to try to do those things. Where we have agreement, let's move it.''

That is all I am asking for. We are not going to agree on everything immediately, but we can agree on important things right today, right this hour, right this minute. We do agree on 27 important community-based clinics in 18 States around the country, including 2 in Louisiana—Lafayette and Lake Charles, LA—that Senator LANDRIEU and I represent.

I want to try to do those things where we have agreement. Let's move it. And that can start right this minute in a productive, positive way with these 27 community-based clinics around the country. So let's agree on what we can agree on. Let's move on this important clinic issue.

Leaders of national groups—American Legion, American Vets, DAV, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and others—think the same. That is why they wrote a letter on June 10 of last year—June 10 of 2013—saying these community-based clinics are important. Let's come together, work together, and move specifically on these community-based clinics. They are important.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter of June 10 to which I just referred.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JUNE 10, 2013.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Senate Majority Leader, Washington, DC.
Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader, Washington, DC
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
House Minority Leader, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADERS OF CONGRESS: We write you, as leaders of Congress, to urge you to work together to prevent a looming problem that over the next several years may harm the health of more than 340,000 wounded, injured and ill veterans in 22 states who will be in need of care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Without your intervention, these veterans are in jeopardy of losing that important health resource.

Since the 1990s, Congress has helped improve VA health care access and patient satisfaction by authorizing and funding nearly 900 VA community-based outpatient clinics. These are important facilities for local, convenient, and cost-effective primary care for millions of veterans. Unfortunately, a policy shift by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO); in 2012 has effectively halted Congressional authorization of leases for such new clinics. Also, as old leases expire and need reauthorization in future years, this CBO decision jeopardizes existing VA-leased health, research and other facilities.

Last year, CBO announced it would redefine 15 VA-proposed leases as ''capital'' leases and would treat them as current-year mandatory obligations, costing more than $1 billion altogether over a 20-year period. In order to advance these leases to approval, House budget rules would have forced an offset to equal the cost of these leases with an unrealistic Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 reduction in mandatory veterans' programs. Since no such accommodation could be made in a single year, and VA had not addressed such an offset in its FY 2013 budget, the proposed

lease authorizations were dropped from the authorizing bill. These 15 proposed community facilities are now in limbo, and veterans are not being served.

This unexpected challenge will not resolve itself absent action by House and Senate leadership to ensure Congress continues to authorize leases of local VA community-based outpatient clinics and other VA facilities when such approvals are needed. Also the VA warns that over time numerous existing leases will be expiring. Lack of reauthorization could result in closures of current clinics. Newly proposed clinics without lease authorization cannot be activated. Costs of veterans' VA care will be rising while they face longer travel and more waiting for needed treatment, or they may be forced to go without treatment.

Committee leaders with jurisdiction over the VA have pledged to solve this problem, but no resolution has emerged since CBO's determination, made nine months ago. Without leadership intervention, these promised clinics and more in the future cannot be activated or will be shut down, and wounded, injured and ill veterans in need will be denied VA health care.

The CBO's policy must be reversed or otherwise addressed in consultation with VA and the Office of Management and Budget. We ask that you take action that results in Congressional authorization of the 15 clinics still in limbo since 2012, the additional ones proposed earlier this year in VA's budget for FY 2014, and in general to find the means to allow VA's leased facilities to continue to provide flexible, low-cost VA care to wounded, injured and ill veterans. The current situation is unacceptable and must be remedied.

We appreciate your support for America's veterans and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

PETER S. GAYTAN,
Executive Director, The American Legion.
BARRY A. JESINOSKI,
Executive Director, Washington Headquarters Disabled American Veterans.
ROBERT E. WALLACE,
Executive Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
STEWART M. HICKEY,
National Executive Director, AMVETS.
HOMER S. TOWNSEND, Jr.,
Executive Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Mr. VITTER. These groups agree with what Senator SANDERS said last year and they agree with what I am saying today: Let us come together and move on those things we can agree on, and they specifically wrote the Senate leadership about these community-based clinics.

That leads to my unanimous consent request, which is to adopt this spirit of agreeing where we agree, getting things accomplished whenever and wherever we can, and continuing to work on the rest.

I ask unanimous consent the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3521 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that my amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, let me touch on a few of the points of my distinguished colleague from Louisiana.

First of all, regarding the allegations against the VA in Phoenix, as we know, these are very serious allegations, and it is absolutely appropriate the inspector general do a thorough and independent investigation of those allegations. As I am sure my colleague from Louisiana knows, the leadership at Phoenix has rejected those allegations, saying those are not true. The Secretary of VA has done what I believe, and I would hope my friend from Louisiana believes, is the right thing to do, which is to do an independent investigation.

I am not a lawyer, but I did learn enough in school to know you don't find somebody guilty without assessing the evidence. And frankly, just because CNN says something doesn't always make it the case. So what we need is a serious independent investigation into the very serious allegations about Phoenix and any other facility within the VA. I have said I will hold hearings immediately—more than one hearing, if necessary—to get to the truth of the matter regarding the VA situation in Phoenix.

I would also tell my friend that when we talk about the VA, when we talk about health care in general—and I am sure he would agree with me—as a nation we have a whole lot of serious problems, don't we? We have about 30 million people today who have no health insurance at all. Harvard University estimates about 45,000 people die each year because they do not get to a doctor when they should, because we are the only country in the industrialized world that doesn't guarantee health care to all people.

There was a study that came out recently that indicates that some 200,000 to 400,000 patients a year die in hospitals in America because of medical errors, in ways that could have been prevented—200,000 to 400,000 people a year. So, yes, as chairman of the Senate Veterans Committee, I am going to do everything we can do, along with my colleagues, in a bipartisan way to make sure the veterans of this country get all of the health care they need, and get the best quality they can.

This is a very serious issue, and with an independent investigation taking place in Phoenix now, we are going to get to the truth of that.

When we talk about the VA, as I am sure my colleague from Louisiana knows, in fiscal year 2013, the VA provided 89.7 million outpatient visits, and the VA has 236,000 health care appointments every single day. Today, over 200,000 veterans in 151 medical centers in 900 community-based outreach clinics all over this country are walking into the VA to get health care. I assure my colleague from Louisiana that every single day there are problems within the VA. When there are over 200,000 people walking in, there are going to be problems. But I also assure my friend there are problems in every other medical facility in America today as well.

I just mentioned the very frightening situation that, according to a very significant study, we are experiencing between 200,000 and 400,000 patients dying from what are preventable deaths because of hospital errors all over America. My point about saying that is to say, let's put the VA within a broader context. If you want to criticize the VA, fine, I am there with you. You got problems, I will work with you. But let's not paint a broad brush.

The VA has 151 medical centers, they have 300,000-plus employees—many of them veterans themselves—and in my view, and in the view of the veterans community—the veterans associations—the Veterans' Administration is providing high quality care to the veterans across this country.

It is not just me. My colleague from Louisiana may have recently read that an independent customer service survey, done by the American Customer Satisfaction Index—these are people who assess how people feel about medical facilities around the country—found that in 2013 an overall satisfaction rating for the VA was 84 percent for inpatient care and 82 percent for outpatient care, which in some respects was higher than for the hospital industry in general.

For the past 10 years, the American Consumer Satisfaction Index has found a high degree of loyalty to VA among veterans of over 90 percent. I would suspect my colleague from Louisiana finds—as I have found when I talk to veterans in Vermont—and he asks them, as I am sure he does, what do you think about VA health care, veterans will say: You know what. It is pretty good health care. Is it perfect? No. Are there problems? Yes. In general, they think it is pretty good health care.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will state his inquiry.

Mr. VITTER. I have a pending unanimous consent request and I would like to inquire how I proceed to have a ruling on that and, hopefully, have it passed through the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Louisiana?

Mr. SANDERS. What I am going to do, Madam President, is I am going to object, and I am going to ask for a unanimous consent request on legislation that I have offered, and I want to say a word about that.

I want to ask a question of my friend from Louisiana. My colleague from Louisiana has indicated he wants to work with us. I think I heard that in his statement today, and I applaud that. I am not quite sure he has done that yet, but I look forward to working with him and his staff. I would invite my colleague from Louisiana to come to my office at a mutually convenient time to see how in fact we can work together.

Will my colleague from Louisiana take me up on that offer, I ask through the Chair?

Mr. VITTER. Reclaiming my time, or reclaiming the floor, since my unanimous consent request——

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I just asked a brief question of my friend from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, a point of parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I had a unanimous consent request. It has been objected to. May I reclaim the floor and reclaim my time? In doing so, I will be happy to respond to the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The request has not yet formally been objected to.

Mr. VITTER. I would again ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3521 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that my amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. I do object. And I am going to——

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. VITTER. If I may reclaim the floor and reclaim my time, I would like to respond.

I think it is really unfortunate. As we all agreed to today and in previous appearances on the floor, there is absolutely no objection on the merits of this proposal. The only objection from the distinguished Senator from Vermont is that a far larger bill, which does have significant opposition—around 44 Members, almost half of the Senate—people have concerns about that. So if he can't play the game exactly his way, he is going to take his ball and go home, and he is going to block 27 community-based clinics on which there is no substantive objection, on which the leaders of national veterans organizations have pleaded with leaders of the Senate and House to act in a bipartisan way.

I am particularly concerned that today what I hear is an even higher bar that we are going to have to meet to act on these clinics that are not objected to on their merits.

Previously the Senator from Vermont talked about his far broader bill. Today he talked about all of health care. Apparently I am going to have to agree with Senator SANDERS about all of health care reform before we can move forward on these 27 community-based clinics on which there is no substantive objection.

The Senator from Vermont said he will do everything he can to deal with these issues. Well, we can do something right here, right now, to deal with these issues. It is not solving every problem in the world. It is not solving every problem in health care. It is not solving every problem in the VA. But it is doing something real and meaningful and substantial in 27 communities and 18 States. We can move forward with these community-based clinics. We can try to do those things on which we have agreement. Let's move it. We can do that. That is all I am asking. And I think it is really counterproductive to take the view that until we agree about all of the VA or about all of health care or whatever, we are not going to do any of that. I think that is really sad and counterproductive.

I will keep coming to the floor. I will keep working on this vital issue. I will keep working on other vital issues. I will keep talking to the Senator from Vermont about his broader bill. But I have to say that these scandals in Phoenix and elsewhere don't alleviate my concerns; they only heighten my concerns about a broader bill that is going to push many more patients, overnight, into a system that is obviously broken.

So I will continue working and talking about it all. I will continue working in the bipartisan working group on the VA backlog. But let's do what we can do now. Let's start with one step and then two and then five, and then maybe we can start to jog and then we can start to run. I think that is the productive path forward.

I urge my colleague to reconsider and let us move forward with these important clinics.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, unfortunately, I didn't quite hear that the Senator from Louisiana wanted to work with us. So I will have my office call his office and see if we can sit down with our staffs and find out what the Senator's concerns are about the legislation.

It is not BERNIE SANDERS' legislation. It is not the Veterans' Committee's legislation. This is legislation supported by the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and virtually every other veterans organization in America.

In preparation for the discussion I look forward to having with my colleague from Louisiana, this is not changing the world. This is not legislation that is going to solve every problem in the world. But it does do a whole lot to improve the lives of millions of veterans and their families who are hurting, and I think it is appropriate that we do that. I want my colleague from Louisiana to be thinking about these issues and to come into the office and tell me: No, Senator SANDERS. I disagree.

Does he disagree with restoration of full COLA for military retirees? As he knows, for current people in the military and new people who are coming in, they are going to get less of a COLA than longstanding members of the military. Maybe he disagrees; maybe he doesn't. Let's talk about it.

Does he believe the veterans community—people who go into the VA—should be entitled to dental care? I don't know about Louisiana, but in Vermont that is a very serious issue. All over this country veterans are dealing with rotting teeth, and they can't get that care in VA facilities right now.

There is widespread support for advanced appropriations for the VA. I think virtually all the veterans organizations understand that the VA could do a better job if they had advanced appropriations. I support it. Many people support it. I don't know if my colleague from Louisiana supports it. Let's work together, and I will find out.

The next time we come down to the floor and go through this exercise, we can tell the people what we agree with and what we don't agree with.

On ending the benefits backlog, the truth is that the current VA Administration—General Shinseki and others—inherited a paper system. Can you believe that? In the year 2009 the VA benefits system was on paper—maybe the last remaining system of its size in the world to still be on paper and not digital. What people at the VA have done—General Shinseki and others—is they transformed that system from paper to electronic records. Guess what. The backlog is going down. But that is not good enough for me. We have language in this bill which will make sure the backlog continues to go down.

There is an issue I am sure my colleague from Louisiana is very familiar

with: instate tuition. There are veterans from Louisiana who may want to go to school in Vermont or veterans from Vermont who may want to go to school in Louisiana, but they can't get instate tuition. It is a serious problem, and we address it. What does my colleague from Louisiana feel about that issue?

Then there is extending health care access for recently separated veterans. As he knows, we have legislation now that extends free health care to all those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan for 5 years. I think it should be extended for 10 years. Does he agree or does he not agree? The veterans community feels very strongly about that issue.

We have high unemployment rates for returning veterans. We want to do something to expand employment opportunities.

We have the issue of sexual assault—a very serious issue, as we all know—and we want to make sure the VA is providing excellent-quality care to those victims of sexual assault.

We have, in my mind, a really tragic problem. The good news is that a few years ago Congress did the right thing and said to the post-9/11 veterans, those men and women who came home seriously injured: We are going to pass a caregivers act to give support to your wives or your sisters or your brothers who are providing often 24/7 care for you—every single day, long hours—at great stress. We are going to help you.

But what we didn't do is reach back to the Vietnam-era veterans, the Korean war veterans, even World War II veterans. There are families today in which a 70-year-old woman is taking care of her husband who lost his legs in Vietnam, and day after day, year after year she is getting virtually no support from the government.

This legislation has the strong support of the Paralyzed Veterans of America and many other organizations that say we can't ignore those people. I don't know what my friend from Louisiana feels about this. Let's talk about it.

Here is the bottom line. The bottom line is, as I have said many times, I do support the provision the Senator from Louisiana speaks about. We do need these facilities. But we need a lot more. We need cooperation and people coming together.

I believe the Senator from Louisiana said there were 44 people who voted in opposition. He is right. He forgot to mention that there were 56 who voted for this bill, with the support of every veterans organization in America. One person was absent who would have voted for it, so 57 voted for it and 44 voted against it. Unfortunately, in the rules of the Senate, when we have a Republican filibuster, we do need 60 votes. I am looking for three more Republican votes. One of those votes I would very much appreciate receiving is from the Senator from Louisiana. That would make me two votes shy. And we think we are making some progress with some other Republicans who understand that we must address the serious needs facing the veterans community.

I again extend my request to the Senator from Louisiana to work with me. But pending that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 297, S. 1950, with the Sanders amendment, which is at the desk and is the text of S. 1982, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I object on behalf of myself and 43 other Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. VITTER. If not for any other reason but because of the substantive concerns with the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I hear what my colleague from Louisiana says. I hear that he objects to passing legislation which has the support of virtually every veterans organization in the country that represents many millions of veterans. I hear him objecting to legislation which has the support of 57 Members of the U.S. Senate. I hear him objecting to what I believe is legislation which has the support of the vast majority of the American people, who do believe we should do right by our veterans. It is very easy to send people off to war; it is a lot harder to take care of them when they come home.

I would simply say that I look forward to sitting down with my colleague from Louisiana and other Republican colleagues—and we are doing that right now but specifically with my colleague from Louisiana, Senator VITTER—and seeing where we can agree and how we can create some significant legislation to address the very serious problems facing the veterans community.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, just to briefly repeat, I did object on behalf of myself and 43 other Senators about major provisions in this bill. I am happy to talk about it. I am happy to work on it. I am happy to work with Senator BURR, who is the ranking member on the committee, who has been communicating all these concerns to Senator SANDERS and his staff. But I think that is very different from objecting to a focused community-based clinic bill that has no objection on the merits.

I just think it is a shame not to try to do those things where we have agreement—let's move forward—not to move forward. That would be moving forward in a substantial way. That would quickly improve the lives of veterans in 27 communities and in 18 States, including Lafayette and Lake Charles—communities that certainly Senator LANDRIEU and I very much care about and very much want to have their VA issues addressed in this way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I simply reiterate my hope that Senator VITTER would sit down with me, his staff would sit down with my staff, and we can work out our differences. I have always been willing to compromise and make changes in the legislation.

But for the veterans of this country who have suffered so much and who have been hurt so much, we owe them so much, and we have to do right by them.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

HONORING HEIDI KING, CHUCK BOLEN, AND BRIAN STOUT

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, this week we celebrate Public Service Recognition Week to honor public servants at all levels of government for their admirable patriotism and contributions to our country.

We often forget that these public servants at all levels of government go to work every day with the sole mission to make this country a better and safer place to live. Day by day, they go about their work, often receiving little recognition for the great work they do.

Since 2010, I have come to the Senate floor on occasions to honor exemplary Federal employees—a tradition that was begun by my friend Senator Ted Kaufman.

Amongst the list of Federal employees we have honored across the country are some who serve here on this Senate floor.

Today I want to celebrate Public Service Recognition Week by taking this opportunity to recognize three federally employed Virginians who are doing exemplary work behind the scenes to make our government more effective and keep our fellow citizens safe.

Normally, we would have their photos here in the Chamber, but since we have three, we are going to recognize them all with this single poster. Again, these are exemplary Federal employees.

The first is Heidi King, who served as the Director of the Patient Safety Program Office at the Department of Defense and currently leads the DOD's Partnership for Patients.

While at DOD, she helped develop a patient safety program which helps medical professionals eliminate preventable medical errors.

Breakdowns in communication between doctors, nurses, and special care providers are historically the cause of many tragic medical events such as surgical errors, prescription mistakes, and hospital-acquired infections.

To combat this, Heidi coordinated with the Department of Health and Human Services to bring together more than 100 independent experts in the medical field. These experts developed a comprehensive training program for medical professionals to learn about the factors within their control that commonly contribute to errors.

In 2008, DOD implemented Heidi's program in combat support units in Iraq. As a result, communication errors decreased 65 percent, medication and transfusion errors decreased 85 percent, and the rate of bloodstream infections from catheters also dropped dramatically. Heidi should be proud of her work, which is directly responsible for the health of many brave soldiers.

In an effort to spread these best practices, the safety program has established 11 training centers across the country, where more than 6,200 medical professionals have participated to become master trainers and instructors. They then return to their health care systems to lead implementation of the program.

This is the kind of commonsense, cost-effective, yet also lifesaving program that does not get much recognition but is an example of a Federal employee going above and beyond the call of duty to help her fellow Americans and actually help the bottom line.

I would also like to recognize two TSA employees for their heroic actions that helped save a passenger's life.

While posted at Washington National Airport last month, TSA employee Chuck Bolen was told that a passenger was in need of immediate assistance.

As soon as Bolen saw the passenger slumped in the chair, he knew he did not have a lot of time and was prepared to do whatever was necessary to keep the passenger alive.

As the man's condition declined rapidly, Bolen sprinted to grab the nearest AED machine. With help from his colleague Brian Stout, a marine infantry sergeant who did three combat tours in Iraq and now works for TSA, they worked together to apply the AED machine. After a single attempt, the machine advised to begin CPR. Bolen initiated chest compressions and continued administering the lifesaving action, even after first responders arrived on the scene.

Thankfully, their quick collaborative actions paid off. While in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, the man's heart started and stopped several times, but today he is alive and recovering from triple bypass surgery.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Heidi King, Chuck Bolen, and Brian Stout—truly great Virginians but also great civil servants—and all those who serve at the Department of Defense and the TSA for their hard work and dedication to our Nation.

While today we have highlighted three, as I mentioned at the outset, over the last 5 years I have come many times and have highlighted folks from across Virginia and across the country. As I mentioned, as well, there are people serving right now on this Senate floor who have received this kind of attention for their quiet dedication to duty and making the Senate a more functioning institution.

As we constantly come to the floor and debate the challenges of our budget and other issues, I think it is very important—while we may differ about which programs we support and what functions our government should take on—we never underestimate the enormous value our Federal employees contribute on a regular basis to the safety, security, and, quite honestly, the function of our national government.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in recognizing the efforts of public servants across the country during Public Service Recognition Week and thank them for the very important work they do every day.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT DEBT

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to talk about an issue that impacts tens of millions of people across the country and hangs over our entire economy, and that is student debt.

Borrowers have accumulated over $1.2 trillion in student debt. Think about that for a minute. That is more than people owe on their credit cards. Talk about a drag for not only the individual, for their family, but for the entire economy.

Students in my home State of Michigan are among the most heavily indebted in the country when they graduate. Frankly, we want them to get degrees, not debt, when they graduate.

Nearly two-thirds of students in Michigan who graduated in 2012 had student loan debt, with each student averaging nearly $29,000. So they walk outside the door—congratulations—take off the cap and gown and get a $29,000 bill.

This growing mountain of debt represents a threat to our economy and to the dreams of millions of Americans.

Today too many people are saddled with decades of debt just because they want a fair shot to go to college and to get ahead in life.

Instead of saving for a house, buying a car or just buying gas or groceries, millions of people are simply paying student loan payments month after month, year after year, decade after decade.

I hear from many of my constituents about how they are being crushed by the burden of student debt. I have seen it in my own extended family. They write about having $50,000 or $100,000 of debt. If you are going to medical school, if you are in specialty areas as a grad student, they have $200,000 or more in debt.

Some of the reforms we have already put in place help some borrowers by limiting the payments on their Federal loans relative to their incomes. That is a good thing, but this is not enough, and it doesn't do anything to help people who have private loans—oftentimes on top of the loans through the Federal Government. Some of these private loans carry interest rates like credit cards and are literally driving people into bankruptcy.

I have constituents who use words such as ''crippling'' or ''catastrophic.'' They talk about anxiety attacks.

One person wrote that because of the high interest rates on his private loans, ''it is getting to the point where [he] cannot eat because of [his] student loan payments.''

Another constituent, Thomas, wrote to me that each of his three children has a combination of Federal and private loans totaling $75,000 to $110,000—each.

What Thomas wrote to me really sums up the student debt crisis we are facing and that families across the country are facing:

> Loans are designed to give students a chance to go to college and to obtain high-income jobs. Somehow the interest they pay has become just another wound for college grads that have a tough time finding jobs. . . . It will leave grads with a high risk of default, not being able to pay for their dreams and not being able to fund their retirement accounts for many years.

That is crazy. That is just not right, and that is not how it should work in our country. That is certainly not what we think of when we think of striving for the American dream. Whether it is the Federal Government or the big banks, we should not be making a profit off the backs of students, and that is exactly what is happening.

That is why I am so proud to be fighting alongside Senator WARREN and my other colleagues to address this very urgent and growing problem.

Senator WARREN and I fought last year to stop students from getting

stuck with a raw deal. Now we are back at it again this year, and we are going to keep fighting until we can solve this problem.

Horace Mann once called education ''the great equalizer'' in our society. Everyone who wants to work hard and go to college in order to simply have a fair shot in life should not be denied that opportunity.

It shouldn't be the great equalizer on debt. It has to be the great equalizer on opportunity.

These folks are willing to play by the rules, work hard, and pay back their loans on time. We have to make sure that the system isn't rigged against them.

The legislation we have introduced will not only help millions of Americans, it will also boost our economy by allowing borrowers to spend their money on a home, a car or just the needs of their families instead of interest payments. Nobody should have to put off getting married or starting a family just because of student loans.

We are not just talking only about young people, this bill helps students of all ages: students in their twenties, thirties, and beyond—young professionals and parents who have stepped up to help their children. In fact, the student loan debt has gotten so out of hand that senior citizens in the country owe tens of billions of dollars on student loans.

Our bill will help millions of responsible borrowers of all ages in every State across the country. The Bank On Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act is a reasonable commonsense and fiscally responsible way to address the student loan crisis.

This is simply about giving those who want to go to college a fair shot to get ahead, making sure that those who already borrowed to get an education are not being unfairly weighed down by debt just so the government or the big banks can turn a profit.

I thank Senator WARREN for her leadership on this vital issue. This is about allowing all of those who currently have student loan debt to be able to refinance—to be able to refinance at a rate actually that was voted on, 3.68 percent, by colleagues on both sides 1 year ago. It is not a number that is picked out of the a hat. It will allow people to exchange an 11 percent or 12 percent on a private loan or a 6 percent, 7 percent or 8 percent interest rate on a public loan for something that is affordable, that will allow them to take those extra precious dollars, invest in their future, and the country's future.

That is what this is about. It is very simple, and it is paid for by what has been commonly called the Buffett rule, which basically says those who have benefited by the blessings of this country and those who are the wealthiest among us would contribute a little bit more to make sure that everybody has a fair shot at getting ahead.

We can't afford for America to be a big-shot economy. We have to make sure that everyone has a fair shot to make it. Nobody is asking for a handout; they are asking to work hard. They are asking to know that the system is not rigged against them.

They are asking to know that they are going to be able to go to college, get out of college, pay back their student loans at a reasonable, fair rate, buy a house, get married, have a career, have children, and go on to have the American dream. That is what this is about. This needs to get passed as quickly as possible so people know they are going to have the opportunity to get ahead in America.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, more than a year ago Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN worked on an energy efficiency bill—a good bill. That was more than a year ago. That bill was, as I have indicated, good, but during the past many months, through the energy committee and the work of RON WYDEN and others, that bill was improved greatly. RON WYDEN was chairman of that committee at the time, and they did so many good things with that piece of legislation. We had six cosponsors—three Democrats and three Republicans.

This bill would create 200,000 jobs, and it would help our Nation's energy proficiency significantly.

So I moved to proceed to the bill in September, this past September—and we have been through this a number of times, but I will repeat it very quickly. We were held up from doing that for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the junior Senator from Louisiana wanting to take away the health care for our staffs. That threw a few roadblocks in the way. So without going into detail, we never got that done.

But Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN, as I have indicated, did not give up. They worked hard to incorporate 10 separate bipartisan amendments into this bill. So the bill was good last September, but it is terrific now.

As a result of that, we improved the number of people who were willing to support this legislation. We went from 3 and 3 to 7 and 7—14 cosponsors of this bill. On the Republican side are Senators PORTMAN, AYOTTE, COLLINS, HOEVEN, ISAKSON, MURKOWSKI, and WICKER. On the Democratic side are Senators SHAHEEN, BENNET, COONS, FRANKEN, LANDRIEU, MANCHIN, and WARREN. There is a good mix of Senators on both sides. So we worked very hard to finalize a more bipartisan bill. I worked with them. I didn't give up. We continued to try to move forward. We did that, as we did with childcare recently. It was in March, actually. I have looked for every bipartisan bill we could come to the floor on. We did it with the childcare bill, as I said, and we should do it on this bill. That was my anticipation. And we were able to do it, I thought.

So this Shaheen-Portman bill is a very fine bill. I reached out to Republican Senators. To be honest, I didn't reach out to them; they reached out to me. They wanted to work to get this passed. Originally, the arrangement was, let's just pass this bill as it is.

Right before the Easter recess, I was asked: How about a sense-of-the-Senate resolution on Keystone?

I said: I don't want to do that. We already have an agreement.

Anyway, we relented and said OK. So I came back after the Easter recess, and that agreement we had, well, they said: Let's change it. We no longer want a sense-of-the-Senate resolution; we want a vote on a freestanding piece of legislation.

I said: We have an agreement.

Anyway, I relented and we had that proposal. So we had that all worked out. Then we were told there needs to be five more amendments.

So, as I have said before, this has been very hard to do, this shell game. It can be described in other ways, but it has been very difficult to pin down the Republicans for anything more than a day or two because they keep changing their minds.

So here we are, and my offer is this: If Shaheen-Portman passes, with the seven Republican cosponsors, we will have a freestanding vote forthwith on Keystone, with whatever time is fair. I have put 3 hours in the proposal I will make in just a minute, but it doesn't matter—whatever time they want for a freestanding vote on Keystone, which they have been wanting to have for a long time.

You get the picture, Mr. President. That is what I think should happen. It is a good bill, but it is so much better than it was a year ago. It is a great bill now, not a good bill.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by me after consulting with Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 368, S. 2262; that there be no amendments, points of order, or motions in order to the bill other than budget points of order and applicable motions to waive; that there be up to 3 hours of debate on the bill equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on passage

of the bill; that the bill be subject to a 60 affirmative-vote threshold; that if the bill is passed, the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 371, S. 2280, at a time to be determined by me after consultation with the Republican leader but no later than Thursday, May 22, 2014—and I will just enter the comment here that if they want it earlier, they can have it, but that is the date I have suggested—that there be no amendments, points of order or motions in order to the bill other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; that there be up to, again, 3 hours of debate on the bill equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill; that the bill be subject to a 60 affirmative-vote threshold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, it has been my position since late last week that it would be appropriate for the minority—not having had but eight rollcall votes since July—to have five amendments of our choosing on this bill, and therefore I am going to propose a counter consent request at this time.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 368, S. 2262; that the only amendments in order be five amendments to be offered by myself or my designee related to energy policy, with the first amendment being my amendment No. 2982 on saving coal jobs, and with a 60-vote threshold on adoption of each amendment; that following the disposition of these amendments, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, I incorporate by reference the statement I made earlier today on this bill and reluctantly object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the request of the Republican leader.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, earlier this morning I noted that the majority leader has refused for 7 years to allow a serious debate on energy in this Chamber. I said he has tried to stifle the voice of the American people again this current week as well, at a time when so many middle-class Americans are suffering from high energy costs, lost jobs, and stagnant wages in the Obama economy; at a time when global crises clarify not just the need but the opportunity for America to establish a greater energy presence overseas that would grow more jobs here at home; at a time when eastern Kentuckians are suffering a depression, made so much worse by this administration's elitist war on coal.

Well, Republicans are going to keep fighting. Even if Senate Democrats would rather pander to the far left and shut down debate, Republicans are going to keep fighting for the middle class. That is why we had hoped to offer forward-leaning amendments today which aim not just to increase energy security but also to improve national security and economic security for our middle class.

One amendment I had hoped to be able to offer would approve construction of the Keystone Pipeline, which everyone knows will create thousands of jobs right away.

One amendment would expedite the export of American energy to our global allies, which would create more of the jobs we need right here in the United States.

One amendment would have prevented the administration from moving forward with its plans to impose a national carbon tax through the back door, even though Congress already rejected the idea several years ago and even though we know it would devastate an already suffering middle class.

There is another amendment too, one I had planned to offer personally, along with the junior Senator from Louisiana and the senior Senator from North Dakota. It would halt the administration from moving forward with new regulations on coal-fired powerplants until the technology required to comply with the regulations is commercially viable, which it currently is not.

The Obama administration's extreme regulations would hammer existing coal facilities too, taking the ax to even more American coal jobs in the midst of an awful economy. These coal regulations are especially unfair to the people of my State. We know they would hit Kentuckians who are already suffering—constituents of mine who just want to put food on the table and feed their families. Congress needs to do something to help. That is why I would have offered that amendment today.

I remind my colleagues that the amendment we had hoped to offer is almost identical to legislation offered by the Democratic senior Senator from West Virginia that already passed the House of Representatives on a bipartisan basis. So there is no excuse not to pass it here. We hope the Senator from West Virginia and his Democratic colleagues will stand with us to do just that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will be very brief.

My friend talks about the left-leaning Senators. Three of the Democratic Senators who sponsored this legislation could be called anything but leaning left: LANDRIEU, MANCHIN, and WARNER. That brings a smile to anyone's face.

It is a fiction that we haven't had votes to debate energy policy. We have had trouble having bills because of the obstruction of the Republicans. But we voted on the Keystone matter before we did the budget debate where we had over 100 votes. That was last year. So we debated Keystone last year, we had a vote on it, and we are willing to have another vote on it.

It is my understanding we are now going to enter into debate on whatever people want to talk about for the next hour, and I understand we are going to have a series of votes at 3:45 p.m.

I ask unanimous consent that all remaining time postcloture on the motion to proceed be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2262) to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN, I call up substitute amendment No. 3012.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mrs. SHAHEEN and Mr. PORTMAN, proposes an amendment numbered 3012 to S. 2262.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3023 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a first-degree amendment at the desk I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3023 to amendment No. 3012.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:
This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3024 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3023

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3024 to amendment No. 3023.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''1 day'' and insert ''2 days''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3025

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a first-degree amendment which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3025 to S. 2262.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:
This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3026 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3025

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3026 to amendment No. 3025.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''3 days'' and insert ''4 days''.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3027

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit S. 2262, with instructions, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the bill (S. 2262) to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 3027.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:
This Act shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

AMENDMENT NO. 3028 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3027

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3028 to the instructions of the motion to commit.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''5 days'' and insert ''6 days''.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3029 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3028

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3029 to amendment No. 3028.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''6 days'' and insert ''7 days''.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Jeanne Shaheen, Edward J. Markey, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Baldwin, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Maria Cantwell, Ron Wyden, Robert Menendez, Jon Tester, Debbie Stabenow, Bill Nelson, Thomas R. Carper, Patrick J. Leahy, Mark R. Warner.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPIRE ACT OF 2014—Motion To Proceed

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 366, S. 2260.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 366, S. 2260, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 3:45 p.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that at 3:45 p.m. it be in order for the Republican leader or his designee to offer up to two motions to table either the motion to commit S. 2262 or an amendment pending with respect to that bill; that if more than one motion to table is made, there be 2 minutes equally divided between the votes.

Mr. President, before you rule, I am agreeing to this, but I don't want this to set any precedent of any kind, because I personally believe these are out of order. But for purposes of moving through this afternoon, I ask this consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on the floor is Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire. I have never had a Senator better prepared than she on any issue that we bring up, who is more concerned about her State, and has worked harder on an issue than she has worked on the issue now before this body.

It is a shame that it appears my Republican counterpart has peeled off a couple of the cosponsors of this legislation, Republicans who aren't going to vote to finish this bill. What a shame. It happens every time we get to an issue which we are trying to move forward. It is the obstruction we have faced for going on 6 years. It is too bad. But I commend Senator SHAHEEN for her diligence. And I hope, prior to the final curtain call on Monday, we can work the next few days to try to come up with some way forward.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his very kind words on my efforts, along with Senator PORTMAN's, on this legislation. I certainly share the hope that we can come to some agreement on amendments that will allow us to move forward on the bill.

Can the Presiding Officer tell me the status of the procedure right now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in divided time until 3:45.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. So I will have about 10 minutes for remarks. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority has 24 minutes.

SHAHEEN-PORTMAN

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I came to the floor this afternoon to again talk about the importance of this bipartisan Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, also known as Shaheen-Portman.

This legislation makes sense for all kinds of reasons, but I want to start with the fact that energy efficiency is the cheapest, fastest way to address this country's energy needs. The cheapest energy is energy we never have to create. So if we can reduce our energy consumption, we can save money.

Not only will this legislation create jobs, reduce pollution, and make our country more energy secure, but it will also save taxpayers billions of dollars a year through energy efficiency.

I would point to a study by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy which shows in greater detail what this poster points out: This bill is going to create jobs, reduce pollution, and save taxpayers billions of dollars.

The legislation has been endorsed by over 260 businesses, organizations, environmental groups, and labor unions. It has a broad coalition of support. The legislation before us includes not just this bill as Senator PORTMAN and I originally introduced it, but it includes 10 bipartisan amendments which provide even more jobs, even more savings, and even more reduction in pollution.

According to the study by experts at the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, by 2030 our legislation has the potential to create 192,000 jobs here in America—192,000 domestic jobs—to save consumers and businesses $16 billion a year, and to reduce carbon pollution by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road.

We have a poster which lays this out very directly so people can see the difference this legislation would make: By 2030, 192,000 new jobs, save consumers $16.2 billion a year, and decrease carbon pollution by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road. So those are the benefits just by embracing energy efficiency. The legislation does this without any mandates, without increasing the deficit. In fact, all of the authorizations in this bill are offset and we even see a $12 million deficit reduction, according to the Congressional Budget Office. We are going to be able to do all of this without a major government program, without increased government spending, without any mandates. The reason we are going to be able to do it is because there are opportunities that exist across all sectors of our economy to conserve energy and create good-paying, private sector jobs.

Shaheen-Portman addresses a number of opportunities to do this by reducing barriers to efficiency in the major energy-consuming sectors of the national economy. First is in the building sector. Buildings in this country consume almost 40 percent of all of our energy use. It also addresses the industrial sector that consumes more energy than any other sector in our domestic economy, and then it addresses the Federal Government.

The Federal Government is the biggest user of energy in our country. About 93 percent of that energy is used by the military. This legislation puts in place commonsense policies that deploy more efficient technologies and techniques. It has been endorsed by hundreds and hundreds of business coalitions, by environmental and efficiency groups, by labor unions, and we have seen a number of letters of support just in the last couple of weeks for this legislation. I introduced those into the RECORD yesterday.

One of the reasons we get the number of jobs, the amount of savings and benefits from pollution is because since we first introduced the bill last year we have added 10 bipartisan amendments that make this bill even better. Senator PORTMAN and I have worked closely and continually with Senators from both sides of the aisle as well as stakeholders and industry advocates who want to improve the bill, and we have incorporated their bipartisan, substantive amendments into the text. Those amendments expand sections of the bill that address energy efficiency barriers in buildings, the manufacturing sector, the Federal Government, and also puts in place regulatory relief provisions to maintain the underlying principle of advancing efficiency in the private sector.

The bill enjoys even more support from groups such as the Edison Electric Institute, the Business Roundtable, the American Gas Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Painters and Allied Trades, and the Natural Resources Defense Council. It is unusual to have energy legislation that enjoys such a broad coalition of support from across many sectors.

As we heard just now on the floor, there is a difference of opinion about how to move forward on both sides of the aisle. I am hopeful we can come to an agreement, that we can agree there are amendments both sides would like to see added to the bill, so that even though we have 10 more amendments in this legislation than when we first introduced it, there could still be an opportunity, I hope, for some additional amendments to be added. That is what we are working on. I know everybody is acting in good faith to try to get that done. So I hope we can maintain the bipartisan spirit of this bill as Senator PORTMAN and the Senate leadership and I work to see how we can come to an agreement that moves this legislation forward.

I know there are others who would like to speak, and I hope to have an opportunity throughout the afternoon to add some more reasons why I think we should support this legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the remaining time during the quorum call be divided equally between both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I come to speak in support of the Shaheen-Portman bill, otherwise known as the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act. As I like to put it, it saves money and saves energy. Keep it simple.

It comes at an important time, and it is no surprise that as someone from Alaska, I care about oil and gas issues, energy issues, energy efficiency. This is a bill that is important to talk about but also hopefully to pass and move to the House to take up.

Conservation makes sense. It saves money and makes people more comfortable in their homes and workplaces and also is good for the economy and environment. It is particularly important to Alaska.

Alaska's per capita energy costs are the highest in the Nation. We have long and cold winters, limited infrastructure in rural parts of the State, and we spend more on energy than anywhere else. So we have the most to gain from energy efficiency improvements. In Alaska, energy costs affect every aspect of life. Energy costs are driving people away from the traditional homes in rural Alaska. It is getting too expensive to heat even the smallest of homes. The cost of fuel to run your boat or snow machine for subsistence hunting and fishing is sky-high. In Fairbanks, AK, filling your fuel tank to heat your home could easily cost you $1,900, and that may only last half of the winter. Electric heat isn't much better. Right now in Fairbanks electricity costs 19 cents per kilowatt, which is not a good alternative to heat your home. Bundling all the costs of energy together puts a lot of pressure on the pocketbook.

That is why I fought to get a permit to restart the Healy coal plant and make sure the existing coal plant at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, is exempt from EPA regulations. We need to stabilize energy costs while making investments in energy efficiency; otherwise, communities such as Fairbanks will become unaffordable to live in.

For schools in Alaska, 75 percent of the energy costs goes into space heating. Money that is spent on heating and electricity is money they cannot spend in the classroom, making sure we have the best education for our young people. As an example, the State of Alaska alone spends $62 million a year on energy, one-tenth of the State's operating budget.

Our State provides energy to the rest of the Nation. Yet our residents can't afford to live where they want to live or in many cases where their families have lived for generations. Energy efficiency can have an immediate and profound effect on the lives of people in these communities.

The Shaheen-Portman bill is deficit neutral. It is estimated that by 2030 it will save consumers $60 billion and create nearly 160,000 jobs, a good sign after this month's jobs report of almost 280,000 jobs added to the private sector and to our economy.

I filed an amendment to provide a $5,000 tax credit toward the purchase of energy-efficient home heating and cooling appliances for families living in very high energy consumption States; for example, converting a home from expensive heating fuel to cleaner, more efficient natural gas or clean-burning woodstoves, even replacing appliances with newer and more energy-efficient models to cut back on electric use and lower energy bills. For example, an ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator uses 20 percent less energy than the current standard and 40 percent less energy than the standard in 2001.

As many of my colleagues have expressed, it is disappointing that this Senate takes so long to deal with a fairly modest bill. Let's be honest. While it is all good policy, this is very modest legislation. Congress has not passed major energy legislation since 2007, and the energy landscape has radically changed. The costs of renewable energy have decreased drastically as solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and biomass resources have grown all across this country. A rational energy policy for our Nation includes both renewable and nonrenewable energy resources.

Directional drilling, hydraulic fracturing has changed the traditional energy production landscape too. Production is way up. After Saudi Arabia and Russia, the United States is traditionally the third largest producer of crude. The final numbers are not in yet for 2013, but it looks as though we are about to be No. 1 or very close to it. Yet we still rely too much on foreign oil.

The United States consumes about 19 billion barrels of oil per day. All told, about 13 million barrels per day of our demand is supplied by U.S. products—crude, natural gas liquids, and ethanol. It still leaves another 5 to 6 million barrels per day from other countries, many of whom don't like us very much, and that is where Alaska comes in.

We can play a significant role by providing U.S. production and creating some good jobs too. The potential is huge. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline delivers 550,000 barrels a day, just over 10 percent of the domestic oil production. That is down from a peak of 2 million barrels a day 25 years ago, but there is a lot more oil and gas to go after.

Producers of oil and gas create incredibly high-paying jobs. The average sector wage in Alaska is $117,000, and we can produce more jobs.

After 20 years of stagnant growth, we started development in the Arctic again with the Chukchi and Beaufort exploration wells in 2012. We are making strides to return in the summer of 2015. Alaska can ensure our energy security and economic prosperity through development of our domestic resources, thereby reducing our reliance on foreign oil.

Our picture very clearly shows the volume of capacity in Alaska and where we fit in in the world, and this is just what we know about. If we add Cook Inlet to it—let me give you the sense of the potential in the Arctic. Chukchi has 15.4 billion barrels of oil and 77 trillion cubic feet of gas. Beaufort has 8.2 billion barrels of oil and 28 trillion cubic feet of gas. NPR–A has 1 billion barrels of oil.

The issue of the NPR–A, which is the National Petroleum Reserve—this area has only had slight exploration over the years, and now we are starting to develop in that area. We have now moved forward on the first well.

I was very pleased that one of my first acts, working with the administration, was getting the administration to see the light of day and solving the problem with the first issue of the CD–5. Production at the first well—one well, one development—is at 17,000 barrels a day. The second one is right next door, which is called GMT–1, and will produce another 30,000 or 40,000 barrels of oil a day. And, of course, there is ANWR, which we estimate has around 10-plus billion barrels of oil. Again, Alaska is a storehouse of energy, not only oil and gas, but many others.

The point I want to make is that the oil and gas industry—the study that was done in Alaska—can produce 54,000 jobs and has over 50 years worth of production in the Arctic. If you look at it from local and State and government revenues over the 50 years, it is well over $100 billion, plus another $150 billion in payroll.

Another issue, which is important to Alaska, and also to this country is the liquefied natural gas export. A project can produce many jobs and create huge economic opportunity throughout this country. We estimate a project that will move gas off the North Slope, which will then be distributed around the world, will be worth about $65 billion in development. There will be an 800-mile pipeline, liquefication plant, and marine terminal. It will be the largest and most expensive energy project in North America. It will create up to 15,000 design and construction jobs, and up to 1,000 jobs during operation. LNG will have an export capacity of 2.5 billion cubic feet a day of natural gas sales to overseas buyers which can total more than $12 billion a year.

The steel pipe to construct that 800-mile pipeline, which is 42 inches in diameter—almost an inch thick—is so big that it will take a single pipe mill 2 years to produce that. This will only add to the important role the oil and gas industry plays in the national economy.

Nine percent of all the jobs in 2011 came from the oil and gas sector and 37,000 direct jobs were created nationwide. As I said earlier, they are good-paying jobs.

I have two or three more points to make before I close. As I talk about oil and gas, it is not only important for Alaska's economy, it is also an important part of the whole energy system in this country. We have a huge amount of it. We are happy the Arctic is moving forward. Again, this project was stalled for many years, but it is now moving in the right direction.

The same was true for the NPR–A. It was stalled out for many years, but now it is moving in the right direction.

Alaska is unique in many ways. This bill talks about energy conservation and what we can do to preserve the capacity of our energy use. By 2025, Alaska will be at 50 percent renewable energy internal consumption. We embrace conservation everywhere we can.

I can tell you from my own experience that not only is my home energy-efficient, but the commercial buildings that I operate are also energy-efficient. We have new boiler systems that are 98 percent more efficient. As a result, we are saving the tenants lots of money every year. We installed new energy-efficient windows, and other elements, which have made those buildings more efficient, thereby saving them money and allowing us to put more money back into the complexes.

Even though this is not a comprehensive bill, it is a piece of legislation that gets us to do some energy policy in this country down the road.

The Presiding Officer lives on the east coast, and I live in Alaska, so we are far apart by thousands of miles, but we still have the same issues. Consumers want more efficient facilities and more efficient buildings to lower their costs so they can save money and more energy so they can create new development—new economic development. That is what this bill does in many ways.

By creating conservation and creating more energy-efficient legislation, such as this, we are creating jobs just by this act. I think it is important that we look at this bill from a broad perspective and do what we can to make ourselves more dependent on our own energy sources, be they oil and gas or energy-efficient renewable energy or energy-efficient projects. The more we are dependent on our own resources and less dependent on foreign oil, the better off we will be from a national security perspective and from an economic perspective.

I will leave with one statistic. Because of all the work to become more dependent on our own energy resources and more energy efficient, we are sending $100 billion less overseas to foreign countries for petro oil over this last year.

I appreciate having a moment to talk on the floor. I am not only interested in talking about Alaska's oil and gas, but also how we can improve energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy. There is nothing that pits one against the other. It is all about the projects and working together.

I thank the Presiding Officer and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, we are here today to discuss the energy efficiency bill and what may or may not be the status on any given amendments. I want to take a few minutes this afternoon to speak about the issue of liquefied natural gas exports.

Senator BARRASSO has proposed a bill that would provide for fast-track status for DOE licensing to LNG projects to export to members of WTO countries.

As we focus on our opportunities that we have when it comes to our natural gas, our LNG, and the opportunities for Federal support for energy projects overseas, I think it is important to recognize there is a little inconsistency going on with this administration slow-walking infrastructure and hydrocarbon development in this country. I will give a couple of examples. The Export-Import Bank has supported a slew of LNG-related transactions over the past couple of decades. These are structured and project-financed transactions, these are loan guarantees, and some are even direct loans. With the assistance of the Ex-Im Bank and my committee staff, the Congressional Research Service has compiled a report on this subject which I would like to reference at this time.

I emphasize that this is a list for LNG-related projects only. * * * if not exhaustive of the other kinds of energy-related infrastructure that the Federal Government finances overseas.

So what we have here are projects that are LNG-related transactions that have been moved through the Export-Import Bank.

Over $350 million in loan guarantees for equipment and services went to Trinidad and Tobago in 1996. In 1997, we saw over $775 million in loan guarantees go to Qatar and Oman for engineering and management services, for cryogenic heat exchanges, for compressors, and for gas turbine drives. In 2000 there was a loan guarantee of over $70 million that went to Malaysia. In 2002 there was a $135 million loan guarantee for equipment and services for Nigeria. Then between 2005 and 2006 we had over $800 million in loan guarantees for liquefaction and facilities-related engineering services to Qatar. In 2008 there was a $400 million direct loan for equipment and services to Peru; then in 2010 $3 billion in direct loan and loan guarantees for equipment and services to Papua New Guinea.

In 2012 there was nearly $3 billion in direct loans for engineering services to Australia. There was a large project that included the liquefaction plant, a shipping terminal, and transmission lines. Then just last year there was another $1.8 billion in direct loans to Australia for facilities construction.

There have been over a dozen projects, eight countries, and $10 billion in financing.

I think it is important to recognize that the Export-Import Bank is one of the few agencies in the Federal Government that actually turns a profit, and my objective in listing these projects is not to oppose the financing—that is not what we are talking about—but, rather, to point out the inconsistency that we have in some policies. Simply put, we are financing LNG export projects overseas because they are a good idea. We like that approach. But we are politicizing the project for their review here at home.

If LNG projects can create wealth and can support jobs in Australia and in Qatar, they can and will do the same here in the United States of America.

But this administration is stalling on other infrastructure and development initiatives, not just LNG export facilities. We have the Keystone XL Pipeline. It is a great example. Offshore development is yet another example.

Another Federal agency, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, has supported oil and gas projects in other countries.

I also reference for my colleagues this afternoon another CRS report that was commissioned by my committee staff. So OPIC—this is not OPEC but OPIC—has provided insurance and financing to companies operating in Indonesia, Guatemala, Egypt, and Botswana. The bigger list includes, back in 2002, $25 million of insurance for a liquefied petroleum gas storage facility in Guatemala. In 2005, we had a $2.5 million insurance for a natural gas pipeline in Benin; $2.5 million in insurance for a gas pipeline in Togo; $45 million in insurance for another pipeline in Ghana; $320 million in insurance for an offshore natural gas pipeline in Israel.

Again, I am not saying that financing this is a wrong idea or a bad idea; I am asking the simple question: If this is good enough for helping other countries, why are we not doing it here at home?

There is a third Federal agency I wish to briefly mention that has supported energy-related projects overseas. This is the Trade and Development Agency. It funds feasibility studies, pilot projects, technical assistance, reverse trade missions, and various training activities. I reference for my colleagues a third CRS report, again commissioned by my committee staff, that showcases some of these activities.

Specifically, on LNG, the Trade and Development Agency funded feasibility studies for: LNG import and power generation in Thailand back in 2004, CNG/LNG distribution in Indonesia in 2005, import terminals in Lithuania and Romania in 2008, floating LNG storage and regasification in Ghana in 2011, and reverse trade missions to Turkey in 2005 and South Africa in 2008 on LNG-related issues.

The Trade and Development Agency has also funded energy-related technical related assistance to Brazil, Colombia, Peru, India, Sri Lanka, Jordan, Morocco, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Nigeria. They have funded reverse trade missions with Cambodia, Vietnam, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Georgia, and Hungary.

Again, helping other countries to develop their energy resources while helping American companies find opportunities to generate jobs here in the United States is a worthwhile policy as well. It is a worthwhile policy abroad and a worthwhile policy at home.

I know my colleague from South Dakota wants to say a few words this afternoon.

I yield the floor, and I thank my colleagues for their attention.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in a moment I intend to propound a unanimous consent request that it be in order for me to offer my amendment No. 3002 to S. 2262, but I will speak for just a moment if I might about it.

I think it is unfortunate that we are here in the Senate with Senate Democrats continuing to block Republican amendments that would approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, stop the administration's war on affordable energy, and expand liquid natural gas exports to our allies overseas.

My amendment No. 3002 is on the list of commonsense amendments that should be voted on as part of the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill.

As with almost all of the President's energy policies, the EPA's anticipated ground level ozone regulations would do serious damage to our economy and to working Americans. In fact, this regulation is expected to be the most expensive in the EPA's history.

In 2010 the EPA proposed lowering the permitted ground level ozone levels from 75 parts per billion to 60 to 70 parts per billion. The energy industry

estimate suggests that lowering the ground level ozone concentration to 60 parts per billion would cost businesses more than $1 trillion a year between 2020 and 2030—$1 trillion a year. Job losses as a result of this measure would total a staggering $7.3 million by the year 2020, devastating entire industries, especially U.S. manufacturing industries.

Even by the EPA's own estimates—this is the EPA's own estimate—this regulation could cost up to $90 billion per year—far outpacing the cost of any EPA regulations we have ever seen before. My own State of South Dakota would lose tens of thousands of jobs in manufacturing, natural resources, mining, and construction. In fact, the cost of this regulation is so great that when the EPA first proposed lower levels in 2010, the White House delayed the regulation until after the President's reelection.

My amendment No. 3002 would stop the administration's upcoming proposal on ground level ozone which is anticipated to be proposed and put out by December of this year. It is a very straightforward amendment. First, it would require the EPA to consider the cost and feasibility of new ozone regulations. It might surprise many Americans to know that the EPA isn't even allowed to consider costs when setting these new regulations. My amendment would fix that.

Additionally, my amendment would force the EPA to focus on the worst areas for smog before dramatically expanding this regulation to the rest of the country. There are 221 counties across 27 States in this country that don't meet the current standard of 75 parts per billion. This chart shows the areas of the country and, as we can see, they are heavily populated, more urban areas of the country.

It makes sense to me that we ought to focus on these urban areas before expanding ozone regulations to areas such as western South Dakota where we clearly don't have a smog problem. Under my amendment, 85 percent of these counties would have to achieve full compliance with the existing standard before the EPA could move forward with a lower level that dramatically expands the reach of ozone regulations.

So this is what it looks like today. These are the 200 some counties that are not in compliance, and my amendment would require 85 percent of those to be in compliance before we could expand the map to where it would look like this, referring to my chart. This is what the proposal would do. Now, look at how much of the United States is covered by that expanded map. The provision in the Clean Air Act was enacted in the 1970s to address smog in downtown L.A., not background ozone levels in western South Dakota.

We should continue to focus on the worst areas for ground level ozone before dramatically expanding those regulations to rural areas of the country.

I hope the majority will stop blocking votes on this and other job-creating amendments that are offered by Republican Members. Senator REID has blocked all but nine rollcall votes on Republican amendments since last July. That is one a month. One Republican amendment, on average, a month has been voted on here in the Senate over the last nine months. By contrast, the House Democrats—the minority in the House—have gotten votes on 125 amendments over the same period—12 times the number of amendments that have been allowed Republicans here in the Senate.

A number of my colleagues have been to the floor, and we heard from the Senator from Alaska, Ms. MURKOWSKI. Senator BARRASSO has an LNG export amendment that I think is very relevant to this debate and very important to this country to both our energy security and national security interests. I am going to continue to ask that the majority provide a chance for Republicans to participate in this debate by allowing a vote on my amendment and the many others that are pertinent to the economy of this country, to creating jobs in this country, to providing energy independence for this country, to providing energy security for this country, and to making sure we don't get crazy regulations that subject areas of western South Dakota to smog regulations that were designed for downtown L.A. That is a fairly straightforward, simple, commonsense suggestion, and it is what my amendment would accomplish.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2262

So I see we have a Democratic Senator on the floor who would, I expect, object to this request.

I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer my amendment No. 3002 to S. 2262.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. THUNE. Thank you, Mr. President. I regret that. I think it is unfortunate. I know there are many others of my colleagues on this side who have amendments they would like to have votes on and to have an opportunity to debate. It is the first time we have debated an energy bill since 2007. It is of fundamental importance to this country on so many levels.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, how much time do we have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this week members of both parties have offered a number of energy-related amendments to the pending bill. The minority leader has even said he is willing to limit the number of amendments to five—five energy-related amendments—and the majority leader continues to say no.

I am not sure what the majority leader is afraid of in terms of allowing people to vote. People come to the Senate and they are expected to speak up and tell people their positions on various issues.

One of the amendments I had hoped to offer today expedites liquefied natural gas exports. The magazine The Economist recently published an article with the headline: ''The petro-state of America: The energy boom is good for America and the world. It would be nice if Barack Obama helped a bit.''

The article explains that the process for obtaining permits to export liquefied natural gas from the United States is insanely slow.

This isn't an exaggeration. In over 3½ years, the administration has approved only seven applications to export LNG. The administration is sitting on 24 pending applications. Fourteen have been pending for more than a year, and some have been pending for more than 2 years. These administration delays are unacceptable. The excuses have run out.

We have introduced legislation. LNG exports are a critical component of stopping Russian aggression against our key allies and strategic partners. Nine of our NATO allies import 40 percent or more of their natural gas from Russia. Four of our NATO allies import 100 percent of their natural gas from Russia. These are our allies. Yet they are heavily dependent on Russia for their energy.

LNG exports would help our NATO allies as well as our strategic partners and allow them to free themselves from Russian energy. That is why our NATO allies are calling on us—on Congress—and the United States to expedite these LNG exports. These will give our allies an alternative supplier of natural gas and enable them to resist Russia's aggression.

It is going to be an added benefit for our country in terms of creating thousands of good-paying jobs here in the United States. As the Economist explained, LNG exports ''could generate tankerloads of cash'' for America. The exports will create jobs in gasfields in Wyoming, steel mills in the Midwest, and at our Nation's ports.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds for a unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that a number of Senators have filed amendments related to energy policy, and I think they ought to be allowed to offer those amendments.

I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer amendment No. 3013.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. THUNE. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President. Is it correct that no Senator is permitted to offer an amendment to this bill while the majority leader's amendments and motions are pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct that at present there is no place for another amendment on the Senate's amendment tree.

Mr. THUNE. Then, Mr. President, in order to offer amendment No. 3013, I move to table the Reid amendment No. 3023, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Is a unanimous consent request necessary for action just taken by the Senator from South Dakota?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A unanimous consent was previously granted for two motions to table.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 132 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Alexander	Corker	Heller
Ayotte	Cornyn	Hoeven
Barrasso	Crapo	Inhofe
Blunt	Cruz	Isakson
Burr	Enzi	Johanns
Chambliss	Fischer	Johnson (WI)
Coats	Flake	Kirk
Coburn	Graham	Lee
Cochran	Grassley	Manchin
Collins	Hatch	McCain
McConnell	Risch	Shelby
Moran	Roberts	Thune
Murkowski	Rubio	Toomey
Paul	Scott	Vitter
Portman	Sessions	Wicker

NAYS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Begich	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Landrieu	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	
Harkin	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—3

Bennet	Boozman	Pryor

The motion was rejected.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: Is it correct that no Senator is permitted to offer an amendment to this bill while the majority leader's amendments and motions are pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At present there is no place for another amendment on the Senate's amendment tree. The Senator is correct.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, in order to offer amendment No. 2981, I move to table the Reid amendment No. 3025.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Alexander	Cruz	Kirk
Ayotte	Enzi	Lee
Barrasso	Fischer	Manchin
Blunt	Flake	McCain
Burr	Graham	McConnell
Chambliss	Grassley	Moran
Coats	Hatch	Murkowski
Coburn	Heller	Paul
Cochran	Hoeven	Portman
Collins	Inhofe	Risch
Corker	Isakson	Roberts
Cornyn	Johanns	Rubio
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Sessions	Thune	Vitter
Shelby	Toomey	Wicker

NAYS—51

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Walsh
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Franken	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Bennet	Pryor	
Boozman	Sanders	

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Minnesota.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I want to thank Senators HARKIN, WARREN, and DURBIN for their leadership on the important issue of student debt. In the United States we all appreciate the value of education. We know it leads to higher paying jobs, and we know it leads to better health and even longer lives. Education gives everyone in this country a fair shot.

My grandpa never graduated from high school. He worked 1,500 feet underground in the mines in Ely, MN. He saved money in a coffee can in the basement so he could send my dad to college. My dad went to a community 2-year college and then went on to the University of Minnesota, where he earned his journalism degree. He went from those hard-scrabble mines in Ely, MN, on to a journalism career where he got to interview everyone from Mike Ditka to Ronald Reagan to Ginger Rogers. My mom taught second grade until she was 70 years old. I still run into people who tell me what a great teacher she was. And here I stand, a U.S. Senator, the granddaughter of an iron ore miner, the daughter of a teacher and a newspaperman, and the first woman elected to this job from my State. One thing I know for sure: It would not have been possible without education. It would not have been possible without my parents, my grandparents, and my teachers, who believed in me and believed in the value of education.

I still remember getting into college. I still remember back then—and I graduated from high school in 1978—that it was $10,000 a year to go to the college I went to. I remember my dad thinking: I can't afford this. We went and met with the student loan and financial aid people. He was wearing his brown polyester pants, and he had all these coins in his pockets. Somehow we were able to get this done through loans and through his financing a good part of it. Back then, on a journalist's salary and my mom's teacher salary, we were able to afford a college like that. But now I see my daughter and I know how much it has changed and how expensive it is. Yet it is still so necessary.

Higher education doesn't just benefit individual students, it benefits our entire economy by creating a more flexible, productive, and mobile workforce at a time when more jobs require some form of postsecondary education. In manufacturing now, more jobs require postsecondary education than not. We cannot allow cost to be a barrier to opportunity when we have job openings right now.

I see my friend the Senator from North Dakota, and I know they have job openings in North Dakota. We have job openings in Minnesota. We have job openings that require skill, that require post-high school skills. Yet a lot of our kids can't afford to get those degrees.

Rising costs for education are putting a strain on families and students and making college seem out of reach for too many young people. Many find themselves deeply in debt long before they set foot in the workplace.

This student debt hangs like an anchor around not just these students but around our entire economy, and it is dragging us down. Graduates with high debt may delay making key investments, such as saving for retirement or getting married or buying a home.

We had a hearing today in the Joint Economic Committee with Chairman Yellen of the Federal Reserve, and she talked about the fact that while our economy is improving, housing is still flat. She talked about the fact that housing is flat because so many young people aren't forming households. They are not getting houses.

Student debt may impact a person's career choices by deterring graduates from taking jobs in order to pursue jobs that allow them to pay their debt. So we don't have people going into teaching.

According to the report I released as Senate chair of the Joint Economic Committee, our State has one of the highest rates of student debt in the country, with 71 percent of recent graduates in Minnesota having a loan debt compared to 66 percent nationally. The average debt load of student borrowers who graduated in 2011 in Minnesota is also more than $3,000 higher than the national average. It is over $30,000 in our State compared to $27,000 nationally.

The good news is that there are things we can do. As you know, Mr. President, last summer we acted to prevent the interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans from doubling. Yesterday we introduced the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act in the Senate. This bill would give student loan borrowers a fair shot at managing their debt by offering them the opportunity to refinance their debt at the same low rates offered to new borrowers in the student loan program.

Outstanding student loans now total more than $1.2 trillion. That even means something in Washington. It surpasses total credit card debt and affects 40 million Americans. That is why I am a cosponsor of the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act—because it is time we gave students a chance to refinance their loans and find better financial footing.

Education is the pathway to economic opportunity. Workers with higher levels of education have experienced much faster wage growth and lower unemployment rates than other workers. But the increasing level of student debt in recent years presents challenges for graduates just beginning their careers. These bright young people should be planning for their futures, not struggling financially because they worked hard to earn their degrees.

Our country has come a long way since my grandpa saved that money in a coffee can in his basement so he could send my dad to college. There are parents all over America who want to do the same thing, but the money they have to save right now couldn't fit in a coffee can. That is why we have to make it easier and not harder for our students.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and pass this bill so students can manage their debt and build a better future for themselves and for their families.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, this is the first time since 2007 the Senate has taken up and considered an energy bill. I am pleased we are finally discussing this important issue. I hope we will also take time to talk about our country's recent boom in oil and gas production.

In the years since our last energy debate in the Senate, the United States has transitioned from a position of inordinate dependence on foreign energy sources to become one of the largest energy producers in the world today. Much of this is the result of technological innovation, and we must do everything possible to make it easier for domestic companies to access, refine, and transport the oil and gas that has become available with recent advances in technology.

In my view, energy efficiency and industrial competitiveness should not be addressed without also addressing energy production. The two are necessarily interrelated, and it makes no sense to treat each in isolation. But that isn't happening today. As a result, we are missing a critical opportunity to have an important debate on how best to invest our Nation's resources to support domestic energy production.

The bill we have been discussing establishes new programs promoting energy efficiencies for buildings and manufacturing. It authorizes new spending for career skills and workforce training. But instead of simply devoting additional resources to energy efficiency programs, we should first understand the impact of existing energy sector programs administered by the Federal Government and, most critically, have a serious conversation about broader energy policy.

If the Senate actually functioned the way it was designed and I was given the opportunity, I would have called up amendment No. 3015, which would eliminate some of the duplication and overlap which has become so prevalent as the size and scope of the Federal Government continues to expand.

Our Federal bureaucracy has grown to the point that government agencies are simply unaware many of the programs they administer are duplicated by similar—and sometimes nearly identical—programs administered in other Federal agencies.

The Federal Leviathan has become so large and complex that the left hand literally doesn't know what the right hand is doing, especially when it comes to spending taxpayer moneys. This is simply unacceptable.

Our national government has grown so unwieldy that coordination between its individual parts cannot be assumed and often must instead be mandated. This phenomenon is certainly the case with many of the programs that would receive funding if this bill was enacted as currently written.

Currently, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, and the Department of Energy each administer programs that fund training and education targeted specifically at the energy sector. I am sure the Federal bureaucrats in each of these three agencies are trying to do as best they can. But it can't possibly be necessary or, for that matter, wise for all three agencies to be doing the same thing.

The obvious solution is for the Department of Energy to ensure there are no federally funded programs with the same stated objectives as the programs they are already administering.

My amendment requires the Secretary of Energy to coordinate with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education prior to issuing any career skills and workforce training funding opportunity announcements to ensure that these three departments are not issuing redundant and overlapping grants.

We cannot keep spending more taxpayer dollars in the same inefficient ways. Energy efficiency is important, but far more important is our Nation's overall energy policy. We should be discussing energy efficiency only as part of that critical debate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the debate which has gone on the last 2 days on this floor about two very important issues related to a stronger energy policy for America.

As I said earlier in the week, and I was proven to be correct, it is unlikely we would develop an energy policy in the next 4 days in open debate on the floor of the Senate. Lots of people came down and talked about things they thought should be in it. Many of those things I agree with, but there is a process we go through, and we are working through—not as quickly as some people would like, but we are making a lot of progress.

Right now on the floor of the Senate are two very important pillars or two very important cornerstones or two very important first steps which could be taken in the building of a stronger, more vibrant, more commonsense, more middle-class-friendly, more job-creating energy policy than the one we have right now.

The saddest thing about watching this debate or speeches which sort of parade as if it is a debate, but it is not really—pretend that it is a debate but it is not—the speeches we have heard are not outlining the truth to the American public about what is going on.

We have the opportunity the next time the Senate gathers early next week to have a cloture vote on an energy efficiency bill. That means bring debate to an end and vote on an energy efficiency bill which will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Chemistry Council, and the Environmental Defense Fund. Hundreds of organizations have come together across the political spectrum looking here for common sense and cooperation, and they are not finding much of either.

These coalitions have spent an enormous amount of time lobbying Members of the House and the Senate to pass an efficiency bill led by Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN, two very respected Members of this body—one Republican with strong conservative credentials, one Democrat with strong progressive credentials but both demonstrating in their career the ability to work together and find common ground, exactly what the American public is asking for. We can ask any Republican, any Democrat, any Independent, and they say: Can't you all work together and find a way forward?

So Senator PORTMAN and Senator SHAHEEN did. They brought a bill to committee. I wasn't the chair. I can't take credit for this. RON WYDEN is the chair and LISA MURKOWSKI is the ranking member. They can take credit for this. They came up with a fantastic bill which creates jobs, saves a lot of energy, and is our best source of energy through efficiency. It creates jobs right here in America. It is the cleanest energy we can produce.

So these two terrific Senators come and bring us a bill. It is debated in public, in committee, and amazingly comes out of committee I think on a vote of 19 to 3, a very important piece of building an energy policy.

Even as chair of this committee now—and I hope to remain chair for many years to come. There is an election between that and that aspirational goal, so we shall see. I would like to remain chair. But I can promise it is not going to be one bill which comes out of the energy committee that builds an energy policy.

First of all, part of the bills have to come out of the Finance Committee. They are about tax policy related to the generation of all sorts of different kinds of electricity not even in my jurisdiction. There are some issues that have to come out of the commerce committee, which has jurisdiction and authorization over pipelines. There are other committees that are going to have to contribute to strengthening and building an energy policy where America can be independent and secure, where we can have partnerships with Canada and Mexico, producing the cleanest fuels possible and generating electricity in the cleanest way possible, abundantly and affordably and reliably for our people, that will make manufacturing soar in this Nation, that will give opportunities for more domestic drilling both onshore and offshore.

The people I represent want this so badly, and they know it can happen. I am not sure why more Senators don't understand this can happen, but it is going to take cooperation. It is going to take a little give-and-take. I guess that is too much to ask and that is so sad. I guess it is too much to ask for a little cooperation and a little give-and-take.

So this energy efficiency bill comes to the floor, and it is held up because many Members want other pieces of the energy plan. They most certainly have good ideas. Most certainly there are good ideas out there on both sides of the aisle, but there is one idea that is very powerful. To say how powerful it is, I am not going to read my words about it. I have already spoken about it is time to build the Keystone Pipeline now. It is time to stop studying now.

I respect the President's review of the situation. I disagree with the length of time he has taken and with the decision he made last week to continue to study. I have said respectfully to him: Mr. President, the time for studying is over. The time for building is now. The process has run its course over 5 years, five studies. Every one of them has come down on the side of building it for jobs, for security, and it is better for the environment to transport this product, these oil sands, from one of our best friends, Canada, by pipeline than by either rail or truck.

Everyone in this country knows how dangerous and crowded the highways and railways are. One does not need to serve on the transportation committee of the Senate or House to understand that issue. Every mother, every father, every 17-year-old with a driver's license—in our State it is 16, and maybe in some States it is 20—understands how scary it is to drive on highways with big trucks filled with, unfortunately, sometimes dangerous things.

Why would we want this for our children? Why can't we add to the 2.9 million miles of pipeline we have and build a pipeline with Canada? We are not talking about building a pipeline with Cuba or Venezuela. We are talking about Canada—our best ally, our greatest trading partner, and our partner on the frontlines of wars, in the research labs we partner with them—to build a pipeline to safely move oil they are going to produce one way or another because they need it for their economy and the world needs it. They have the highest environmental standards in the world.

Our highways are crowded. Our trains are crowded. Trains are colliding all over the country. Every morning in some section of the country there is another train that has run off the track with horrible materials being spilled into waters and rivers. I think Democrats are upset about that, Republicans are upset about it.

There is one very big idea, very big amendment to the efficiency bill I think the Republicans would truly like; that is, to have a vote on the Keystone Pipeline. As the chair of the committee, I know that is their strong feeling. I am a supporter of the Keystone Pipeline. So I think to myself: Let's see if we could maybe make this work.

The Republican leadership has been saying for months they want a vote—not a resolution, not a sense of the

Senate, which we have already had, but a straight up-or-down vote on a directive to build the pipeline.

So I think to myself: This seems to be fair, a little give-and-take. Democrats aren't happy—not everybody—with the Keystone Pipeline, not all Republicans are happy with the efficiency, but the business community is broadly supportive of both and so are labor unions. So we have labor unions, the business community, and the environmental community which is strongly in favor of efficiency.

Of course many of the strongest voices are not for Keystone and I understand that. We have a different view. I respectfully disagree with their position, but this is a big country. It is a democracy, and we represent that democracy right here at these desks.

So I think to myself in my Louisiana way: Maybe if every side gives a little bit, we could get two very important things done, when nothing much is getting done in the energy sector, which is what we need to move our economy forward, to get labor unions working, to get people who aren't in labor unions working, to create jobs—hundreds of thousands, millions of jobs. Everybody is talking about that in their campaigns.

It is upsetting to me to know how many people are running for reelection in this Chamber who go home and talk about jobs and then turn around and come here and vote no. They talk about jobs at home and vote no in the U.S. Senate—no for efficiency jobs, no for the Keystone Pipeline.

It is very interesting. I am going to read what some of the Republican leaders have said about Keystone. Maybe they have changed their minds since they have said these, and over the weekend maybe the press could ask them if they have had a change of heart.

Senator WICKER said on January 25, 2013:

> Many Americans understand the economic importance of moving forward with the Keystone pipeline and what that means for job creation and energy security in the United States. It is imperative that we continue to press the Administration to approve this critical project.

So next week on Monday or Tuesday, my friend, the Senator from Mississippi, is going to have an opportunity to vote to press the President on Keystone and to vote for a bill that he is a cosponsor of—the energy efficiency bill. Again, he is going to have a chance to press the President of the United States to build the Keystone Pipeline, using all the power he has as a Senator from the State of Mississippi to do that, and to vote on the energy efficiency bill. I hope he will follow his words and his promise.

Senator CHAMBLISS and Senator ISAKSON, in a letter to President Obama on February 11, 2014, said:

> By any reasonable standard, the Keystone Pipeline is clearly in our national interest. Keystone will greatly advance our energy security interests by establishing a reliable supply of oil from one of the most stable trading partners and closest friends, and will lead to economic growth and help create good jobs, sustainable jobs for U.S. workers.

I would like to add my name to this. They might not want me to, but I would like to add my name so it would say that Senator ISAKSON, Senator CHAMBLISS, and Senator LANDRIEU believe in this. I couldn't have said it better myself.

So I wonder what they will do next week when we have a chance to vote on the efficiency bill and on the pipeline.

Senator CORNYN, the minority whip, on May 7, said:

> It might be better to build this pipeline so we could safely transport oil from Canada down to refineries in my State where it can be converted to gasoline, aviation fuel and the like, and the process will create an awful lot of jobs.

May 7 floor statement from Senator CORNYN.

This pipeline connects to refineries in Texas. So I wonder, the Senators from Texas—Senator CRUZ, Senator CORNYN—are you going to vote for an up-or-down vote on Keystone and vote on the efficiency bill? You can vote no, you can vote yes on the efficiency bill. Energy efficiency may not be important to people in Texas. The chambers of commerce in Texas may not have a position. I think they are very supportive, from what I have looked at, and the national chamber of commerce is on board. Maybe that is not important to them, but I think it is.

I spend a lot of time in Texas. It is a neighboring State. They have a big economy. I do a lot of work for their coastal restoration. People tell me that even though jobs are plentiful in Texas, thank goodness—not in every community but in many communities and in Louisiana—we can always use more. Building and construction jobs are local in nature, putting our architects and engineers to work. The engineers were in my office last week saying: Senator LANDRIEU, some of our engineers are busy, but some of them aren't, and we could put a lot of engineers to work on this energy efficiency bill.

So if Senator CORNYN wants to actually build the pipeline and press the President to build it, he is going to have a chance to vote up or down on whether he wants to do that, and the opportunity is to do it in conjunction with an up-or-down vote on an energy efficiency bill. Democrats get a little bit of what they want, Republicans get a little bit of what they want, and what the country gets is cooperation and a chance for jobs, which is all they want, really—good jobs.

Senator INHOFE:

> President Obama and the administration no longer have a valid reason to stall the final stages of the pipeline. Approving the Keystone Pipeline is one thing the President can do today with his pen that will create thousands of jobs.

The President said he is not going to do it. The question is, Will Senator INHOFE join with enough of us to pass a bill that presses him to do it? I think if we could get the vote on the floor, we might be able to get our 60 votes. I have never said we were guaranteed—there is no guarantee, but we are very close. We have 11 Democratic cosponsors, including myself, on a bill with 45 Republicans. We are just three or four short. I think that would be defined as ''pressing.''

Senator BURR said this in January 2012:

> Today I join 43 other Senators in introducing a bill to continue construction on the Keystone XL Pipeline, a project that will take great steps towards improving our energy security as well as create jobs for thousands of American workers. Despite claims that promoting energy security and creating jobs are top priorities, President Obama has rejected the permit earlier this month.

Senator MCCONNELL said:

> The Keystone Pipeline—a good example of something that would create jobs for the American people.

As Senator MCCONNELL knows, there might be quite a few people from Kentucky who are out of work who could travel not too far. It is better to work at home and be with your family and kids—I understand that—but lots of times people have to travel distances to work. Sometimes people want to travel those distances because the jobs available to them at home are minimum wage, and if they travel and get out, they can make handsome sums—working tough hours and long hours, but people have been doing it for decades. I know there are people in Kentucky who would like jobs. So I am hoping that next week when Senator MCCONNELL has some time to think through this as the minority leader, he can come to the floor and say: You know what, this isn't such a bad deal after all.

Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN have presented a bill that is supported by the Chamber of Commerce and the Environmental Defense Fund and so many business organizations that depend on me and Senator REID to help them create private sector jobs in America.

This isn't a government program. This is creating private sector high-paying jobs, saving energy. We have been working on it for 5 years. This is not a new idea. This is not something Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN are doing in an election year.

I thank Senator SHAHEEN for her great leadership. She started working on this when she was Governor, before she even got to the Senate of the United States. She is an expert on energy efficiency. I can remember when former-President Clinton came to our

caucus several years ago. Senator SHAHEEN was one of the first to stand up and ask him several important and very timely questions and say: Mr. President, you have given us a way forward here on a piece of energy legislation that I think both Republicans and Democrats can support. I am looking forward to leading it.

This was years ago. This isn't an election-year ploy; this is a half a decade of work.

So my question to my Republican friends is, Do you want to build the Keystone Pipeline or do you want an issue to talk about? Because it seems to me that we can get a vote on the efficiency bill and on the Keystone Pipeline, so we actually are doing what you all say you want to do, which is to press the President.

That is all our power is. I know it is hard for people to realize this, but our powers are limited by the Constitution. We are Senators; we are not Presidents. We have equal power to the Presidency, not more and not less. So while some people might want to run around and convince people in their hometowns that they have more power than the President, they do not. They have equal power. So let's exercise it. Let's press, which is what our job is—pressing the administration. Sometimes administrations don't want to do what Congress does, so Congress presses forward. But we don't want to press, I don't think. I think they want to talk or have an issue to talk about.

I would like to have a vote. I would like to separate the wheat from the chaff, clear the fog. This is not complicated at all.

You have heard a lot about amendments, amendments, amendments. There is one thing that is more important than all the amendments—more important than Senator VITTER's amendment, Senator BARRASSO's amendment, more important than any amendments on our side—that is, are we going to vote to build the Keystone Pipeline? Right now, 70 percent of the people of the United States support building the pipeline. Right now, the studies have been completed. Right now, the evidence is in.

I know there are people on this floor who disagree, and I want to be as respectful as I can. There is no one on the floor here debating this now, but if you did come, I would most certainly appreciate you talking about it if you are opposed. I know there are people who still feel as if Keystone is not the right thing to do, but the evidence is in on that, and we should build it. It is important to secure America's domestic production. It is important for America to not rely on outsiders—particularly those who aren't our friends—for the energy we need to keep our economy growing and strong.

It is very disheartening for me to read the headlines every day—and I know from my constituents that it is for them, too—and see what is going on in Ukraine and watch Europe not being able to be as strong as I know Europe wants to be. I know they want to be stronger, but because they depend so much on Russia for their gas and they are not energy independent, they have to be careful about what they do to come to the Ukraine's aid. Anybody can understand that. It doesn't take a diplomat to explain what is going on.

Does America ever want to be too weak to stand up to Russia? I don't think so. Does America ever want to be too weak to stand up to China? No. Do we ever want to be too weak to stand up to India if we have to, or Venezuela? No. So build the pipeline. We have already built 2.9 million miles of pipe. I have 9,000 miles of pipeline in Louisiana. We have been building them a long time. Yes, sometimes they have not been laid correctly. Yes, Federal agencies and State agencies have failed the people in many instances in making sure the environment was as protected as it should be. But we know how to build energy infrastructure. And I will tell you that the people of Louisiana would much rather build infrastructure than put uniforms on our sons and daughters and send them halfway around the world so we can get gasoline in our cars.

Let me put it plainly. I lost 44 men in Iraq and Afghanistan. Gone. I have hundreds of wounded soldiers. When you ask me what the price is—build the Keystone Pipeline or continue to have wars over oil—I don't know, it is pretty easy for me.

I am not going to let people come down to the floor here and get away with talking about these amendments because it is not about amendments. It is not about process. It is about whether this Senate wants to press this legislation. Press. That is all we can do. We can't make the President do anything unless we can override the veto if he vetoes it, and that has happened before—not often, but it has happened—but that is what the Constitution says.

So let's take it one step at a time. Let's press on to build the pipeline, get an up-or-down vote. Let's move forward on an energy efficiency bill that the House has actually, amazingly, passed a good version of. Think about it. Not only has a Democratic-controlled Senate passed an efficiency bill with seven Republican cosponsors and at least a dozen more who I know would vote for the bill if allowed to by their leader, Mr. MCCONNELL, but the Republican-controlled House has already passed an energy efficiency bill. So we would just go to conference with these two bills and work out the details, and all of these organizations that have lobbied and spent money and time to try to explain this to us—''Please, can you all help us create jobs we need right here at home? We would be so happy and encouraged that the Democratic process is working''—showing them that we are hearing them and listening to them would be a really terrific step forward.

Finally, you will hear some Republican leaders say: Well, Senator, that sounds great, but you have to deliver us 60 votes for Keystone.

No, I never said I could deliver 60 votes for Keystone. I said I would try to deliver 60 votes. That is all I can do.

I said I would try, and I have tried my best. We had three Democrats last year. We now have 11 Democrats. I am not doing this by myself. Senator HEITKAMP has been extraordinarily helpful, Senator MCCASKILL has been wonderful, and Senator TESTER has been helping, as has Senator DONNELLY. So many of our colleagues have been working very hard over here. We are so close. It is not about amendments, it is about Keystone. That is the amendment, Keystone.

If we can have a separate vote on Keystone and a separate vote on energy efficiency, we can press the House to act and get those two matters, hopefully, to the President's desk. That is the best we can do. What the President decides to do after that, I don't know. He has a responsibility, and we have a responsibility. He will exercise it as he sees fit, but we need to do our job. We can't worry about doing his job. He needs to do his job.

It is time to build the Keystone Pipeline.

I will submit for the RECORD the dozens of comments made by my Republican friends about how important it is to build the pipeline. They didn't say: Let's build the pipeline and also pass three other important pieces of legislation. They didn't say: Let's build the pipeline, but we don't really want to build the pipeline until we can get votes on X, Y, and Z. They said the most important thing we can do—and 70 percent of the American public supports it, and it is growing every day—is to build this pipeline. Labor and business support it. A broad range of people supports it, with the exception of Nebraska, which has not made its final decision. Our law allows for Nebraska courts to make the final decision about where that pipeline will be laid because the people of Nebraska did not want it laid in one of the largest water aquifers in North America, so they moved the line, which is appropriate, and so that is being worked out. Other than that, we are ready to go.

I particularly hope the people of Kentucky will ask Senator MITCH MCCONNELL if he is ready to build the Keystone Pipeline and if he is ready to vote to press the President to build the Keystone Pipeline, which is within the limits of our power. Our powers are limited, but we could exercise them to the fullest. I hope we will do that, and I hope next week we will get a straight-

up vote on the efficiency bill Senator PORTMAN and Senator SHAHEEN have worked so hard on that is supported by a broad range of coalition members, and I hope that coalition will generate and get its members activated between now and Tuesday.

I hope those in America who want to build this Keystone Pipeline will also activate their phones, their emails, and contact their legislators, particularly our two leaders HARRY REID and MITCH MCCONNELL, who will ultimately be responsible for whether these votes occur.

All we can do is do our best. I think I have demonstrated a real effort to get this done, and I thank my colleagues over here who have been extraordinarily helpful. We hope we can find common sense, common ground, and do what the Senate of the United States can do, press forward to create jobs for the American people.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here now for the 66th consecutive week the Senate has been in session to ask my colleagues to wake up to the threat of climate change. The topic has become taboo for Republicans in Congress, and so the discussion on climate change is somewhat one-sided around here, but the recent comprehensive National Climate Assessment released this week shows Americans are witnessing the effects of climate change in every State of our Nation.

Colleagues, read the assessment. Find out how climate change is affecting every region of the country.

In March I visited Iowa, where I heard over and over that Iowans are awake to the threat of climate change and are actually ready to hold Presidential candidates accountable on climate when they go there for the first-in-the-Nation Presidential caucus.

Over the April recess I spent 5 days traveling down the southeastern coast of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. I went there to talk to people on that coast firsthand. I met with scientists, students, outdoorsmen, faith leaders, and State and local officials—people of diverse backgrounds, but all of them have one thing in common: their concern for the coastal communities they love. These folks know climate change is real because they see it where they live. They are not waiting around for this Chamber to get organized. They are acting.

Last week I spoke here about the business owners, community leaders, and researchers I met in North Carolina. From there I headed into South Carolina. My first stop was the University of South Carolina's Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences.

At the Baruch Institute, I learned how salt marshes—the ocean's nurseries and our first line of defense against storms and hurricanes—have to adapt to rising sea levels. These marshes retain sediment as the tide goes in and out, and they slowly increase their elevation as the sea level rises, if given enough time.

Dr. Jim Morris, director of the Baruch Institute, has been studying these marshes for decades. He is a renowned expert. He explained that sea level rise is starting to happen so fast that the marshes may not keep up. If they can't keep up, then the marsh deteriorates to mudflat, and the mudflat deteriorates to open water, which is already happening in places I visited. That deterioration from marsh to mudflat can devastate coastal property, infrastructure, and wildlife.

Business as usual means sea level rise increases of 3 feet or more by 2100. This chart illustrates what the Baruch Marine Institute and surrounding marshes would look like after this sea level change—before and after. It would be pretty much a goner.

Next I visited the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, which extends for 22 miles and encompasses more than 6,000 acres of barrier islands, salt marshes, intricate coastal waterways, sandy beaches, fresh and brackish water impoundments, and maritime forest. Sea level rise threatens this area as well.

One signal: Last year over 70 percent of endangered loggerhead turtle nests had to be relocated by people in order to prevent them from being flooded. This is a place where these turtles have been nesting for centuries, but now look at how coastal erosion is affecting their nests. These are the turtle eggs, and the coast has eroded. National Park Service officials there told me:

> This is not just about wildlife. This is about the community. It's about your livelihood and well-being.

They are right.

According to a foreword in the report titled ''Climate Change Impacts to Natural Resources in South Carolina'' by Alvin Taylor, director of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources—I mean, tell me how people from South Carolina are denying climate change is real when the State published a report called ''Climate Change Impacts to Natural Resources in South Carolina.''

Here is what the report says:

> Climate-related changes may adversely affect the environment in many ways, potentially disrupting or damaging ecological services, water supply, agriculture, forestry, fish and wildlife species, endangered species, and commercial and recreational fishing . . . Fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing contributes almost $2.2 billion annually to South Carolina's economy and supports nearly 59,000 jobs.

How can they pretend it is not real? Business owners and executives in South Carolina are starting to take action on climate change. There is a South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce, headed by Frank Knapp, who has organized something called the South Carolina Businesses Acting on Rising Seas to raise awareness among businesses and their customers of the threat posed to the Palmetto State. In cities including Charleston and Myrtle Beach, coastal businesses threatened by rising sea levels are displaying strips of blue tape in their window fronts where the water level would be to show their support for taking action.

I continued down the coast and visited Charleston's Fort Johnson, where marine research facilities are located for NOAA, the College of Charleston, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and the Medical University of South Carolina. The tide gauges in Charleston are up over 10 inches since the early 1920s. Deny that all you want. It is a measurement, it is not a theory.

This chart shows what Fort Johnson would look like with 3 feet of sea level rise, which is projected for 2100. Nearly all the research facilities at Fort Johnson would be lost ironically to the very seas their research helps us understand. Three feet could actually be on the low end of sea level rise by 2100. This chart of Fort Johnson demonstrates what 3 feet of sea level rise looks like.

During my visit at Fort Johnson, I heard from students, faculty, elected officials, and Federal and State employees all working at the leading edge of climate change and adaptation research. One scientist, Dr. Peter Moeller, described how climate change is allowing algae species to grow in waters where they were previously not found. As these algae species migrate to new areas, they encounter bacteria, fungi, and other unfamiliar algae. As Dr. Moeller explained to me, under these conditions, previously nontoxic algae can make dangerous toxins that are novel to science and nature. It almost sounds as if science fiction, but these are the consequences of human-caused climate change.

My last stop in South Carolina was at a roundtable discussion at the Coastal Conservation League. There I heard from a diverse group of South Carolinians—researchers, environmental advocates, business owners, and faith leaders—about their efforts to raise awareness to the threats of climate change and to promote clean energy. I learned this: South Carolinians

are not afraid to talk about climate change and how it is affecting their State—at least not until they get to Washington.

When WCBD-TV in Charleston asked Representative MARK SANFORD about my visit to his State, he actually said something quite nice. He said:

> At our family farm in Beaufort, I've watched over the last 50 years as sea levels have risen and affected salt edges of the farm. I applaud Senator WHITEHOUSE for getting people together in the Lowcountry today to discuss this problem, and while we would likely approach solutions differently, building the conversation is a necessary first step.

That is a helpful opening, and I appreciate that.

Jim Gandy, chief meteorologist for WLTX Columbia, has been forecasting South Carolina weather for 28 years. He is affectionately known as South Carolina's weatherman. Jim was at the White House this week to interview President Obama about the National Climate Assessment. Through his blog, ''Weather and Climate Matter,'' and his broadcasts, Jim makes weather and climate understandable for his viewers. I spoke with him while I was in South Carolina, and I learned that his TV station thought it may actually take some heat for Jim's discussing climate change on the air, and they were braced for the flow back. It never came. South Carolinians have their eyes open. It is only taboo here in Washington.

I continued down into Georgia, to the heart of the Savannah Historic District. Audrey Platt, the former vice-chair of the Garden Club of America's Conservation Committee, invited me to her historic home in Savannah for a local meeting of the Garden Club joined by Savannah Mayor Edna Jackson. Also there was Reverend Mary Beene from the Faith Presbyterian Church who talked about the M.K. Pentecost Ecology Fund they run for ecological stewardship of natural resources.

We headed out to Fort Pulaski and Tybee Island. There is a tide gauge at Fort Pulaski. It takes measurements. It is not complicated. It produces clear, irrefutable facts, not theories. At Fort Pulaski, NOAA measures that sea level has risen over eight inches. Projections for 2100 put most of this region under water. This chart shows that sea level rise of 3 feet will devastate the area.

Here is Fort Pulaski, GA, and the coast around it. That is what is left with 3 feet of sea level rise.

On Tybee Island I had lunch with city officials and council members, representatives of the Georgia conservancy, NOAA scientists, Georgia Garden Club members, and local sustainability directors. The message was clear: Sea level is rising. Oceans are warming. Infrastructure and ecosystems that Georgians depend on are being threatened. One example: According to a University of Georgia biologist, sea level rise will affect the State's oyster crop. The oysters in Georgia thrive at the tidal edge, sometimes above water, sometimes below water, as the tide goes up and down. As rising sea levels come up, it will cause the oyster habitat to shift or leave them vulnerable to predation as they spend more time under water. Being out of the water actually protects them from underwater predators.

The people of Tybee Island are preparing. Councilman Paul Wolff showed me the storm-water tide gate, which the City of Tybee put in place to accommodate higher tides and rising seas. He explained to me that the road out to Tybee Island—Tybee Road—which is, by the way, the island's only access road, will be flooded as much as 45 times per year with just one foot of sea level rise, and the city has already put in place a short-term plan for 14 to 20 inches of sea level rise by 2060. What does that do to an island's economy if, 45 days of the year, people can't get there?

Down the coast, I visited the University of Georgia's Marine Institute at Sapelo Island and its director Dr. Merryl Alber. Sapelo is a barrier island off the coast of Georgia managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The Marine Institute is a world renowned field station for research into coastal ecosystems. Here I learned how they measure what they call blue carbon, the amount of carbon stored in the salt marsh. They are doing that as part of the National Science Foundation's long-term ecological research program.

Salt marsh, as it turns out, are huge carbon sinks. They absorb massive amounts of carbon. But the carbon that is stored there may be returned to the atmosphere and add to the climate problem if salt marshes succumb to sea level rise and have nowhere to migrate. We also heard how the intruding salt water is changing local marsh ecosystems and jeopardizing fresh water supply.

Georgia actually runs a Coastal Management Program Coastal Incentive Grant Program to increase knowledge about sea level rise. If Georgia runs a Coastal Management Program Coastal Incentive Grant Program on sea level rise, how can people who represent Georgia in Washington pretend this isn't occurring?

I ended the day in Georgia out on the water with Charlie Phillips, who is a terrific character, a great guy to be with—a local, very successful clammer. We went out on his air boat over the marshes that he built himself. He is also very knowledgeable. He is a member of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council that runs the regional fishery. He has been an outdoorsman his whole life, and he needs fresh, clean water for his Georgia clams. Unfortunately, Charlie says that changes in climate are hurting the ecosystem that supports his livelihood—his and his employees. He worries about the future of his business.

This is South Carolina and Georgia. When you actually go there, what do you find? Business owners, researchers, faith leaders, and elected officials, all responding to changes that they are witnessing. They understand. They see the risks that climate change poses, and they hope their representatives in Congress will wake up to the danger of climate change, the home-State danger that their constituents are already seeing happening right around them.

After seeing the beauty of both South Carolina and Georgia along those lovely coasts, it is painful to see there the early warning symptoms of climate change. It called to mind President Theodore Roosevelt's message from more than 100 years ago to America's schoolchildren. It is sort of old fashioned language, but that was 1907. He said this:

> [I]n your full manhood and womanhood, you will want what nature once so bountifully supplied and man so thoughtlessly destroyed. And because of that want, you will reproach us, not for what we have used, but for what we have wasted. . . . [A]ny nation which in its youth lives only for the day, reaps without sowing, and consumes without husbanding, must expect the penalty of the prodigal. . . .

The people I met in South Carolina and Georgia, along with a huge majority of Americans nationwide, know that climate change is real. They see it happening in their lives, and they want us to take action. It is time for Congress to listen to their voices. It is time for Congress to listen to the fishermen who see the fisheries moving around and the oceans warming. It is time for us to listen to the clammers at the seashore who see the changes in the sea level and know what it means for them. It is time for us to listen to the foresters who see the pine beetle killing forests by the hundreds of square miles, and the firefighters who fight fires in those forests who see the fire season expanding by 60 days. It is time for us to listen to the farmers who see unprecedented drought and flooding. It is time for Congress to listen to the voices of their constituents before we all, in our foolishness and in our folly, must pay the penalty of the prodigal. Indeed, it is time for Congress to wake up.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I spoke yesterday on the Senate floor about my concerns with the nature of the way the Department of Veterans Affairs is being operated. Much of my

concern occurred as a result of conversations I have had with veterans back home in Kansas and their experiences both on the benefit and medical side—some real concerns with individual examples of what has happened in some of our VA facilities in our State, and this growing sense that the Department of Veterans Affairs has become unable, unwilling, to provide the necessary services in a cost-effective, efficient, timely manner that our veterans so deserve.

As I indicated yesterday, there is no group of people I hold in higher regard than those who have served our country and believe that the benefits that were promised our veterans must be provided to them, and I am concerned that is no longer the case.

I also indicated yesterday that I have served on the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee for now 18 years. I was the chairman of the health care subcommittee. I have worked with nine secretaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs. During that time I always had the sense, until the last few years, that things were always getting better for our veterans. Today, the frustration that I bring to share with my colleagues is the belief that many veterans no longer have hope that the Department of Veterans Affairs is there to meet their needs and to care for them.

In preparing for those remarks yesterday—but really in studying this issue over the last several years—there is a real shocking development, which is the number of times we hear stories, incidents, facts about what is going on with our veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs and the services being provided. Just to highlight to my colleagues, based upon inspector general reports that are then, in part, based upon press reports, are some things we have seen and heard about the Department of Veterans Affairs and their efforts to care for America's veterans.

The one that is in the news at the moment—there is an additional IG report that is being anticipated—the Phoenix Veterans Affairs Hospital administration apparently developed a secret waiting list of up to 1,600 sick veterans who were forced to wait months to see a doctor. It is believed that at least 40 U.S. veterans died waiting for their appointment as a result of being placed on the secret waiting list. Again, this is being investigated, a report is expected, and we will see what that report says. But, clearly, this is one of huge concern, resulting in potentially the death of veterans.

There is a wait time cover-up. According to the GAO—the Government Accountability Office—last year, quoting them:

> It's unclear how long an appointment has been delayed because no one can really give you accurate information . . . It is so bad that [GAO staff] have found evidence that VA hospitals tried to cover up wait times, fudged numbers, and backdated delayed appointments in an effort to make things appear better than they are. In addition, the GAO states that ''nothing has been implemented that we know of at this point'' despite the fact that the GAO and the VA Inspector General ''reported similar findings for over a decade.''

Reports of falsifying records were stored in the VA clinic at Fort Collins, CO, where the VA's Office of Medical Inspector found that ''clerks were instructed on how to falsify appointment records so it appeared the small staff of doctors was seeing patients within the agency's goal of 14 days.'' In fact, the investigation determined that clerical staff at the Colorado clinic were punished if they allowed records to reflect that a veteran waited longer than 14 days. Let me say that again. In fact, the investigators determined that clinical staff at the Colorado clinic were punished if they allowed records to reflect that a veteran waited longer than 14 days.

No oversight in quality of care. In December, the GAO reported on VA hospitals finding that patients were not being protected from doctors who have historically provided substandard treatment. None of the hospitals examined by the GAO in Dallas, Nashville, Seattle, and Augusta, ME, adhered to all of the requirements to review and adequately identify providers who are able to deliver safe, quality patient care.

In Los Angeles in 2012, more than 40,000 requests for diagnoses were ''administratively closed'' and essentially purged from the books so reported wait times would be dropped. In Dallas in 2012 another 13,000 appointments were canceled. According to the Washington Examiner, the VA canceled more than 1.5 million medical orders with no guarantee that the patients actually received the treatment or that the tests that were required by those orders were given.

By the VA's own admission in an April of 2014 fact sheet, cancer screening delays accounted for the deaths of at least 23 patients in VA facilities nationwide, and another 53 patients suffered from some type of harm due to improper care. Reports have also linked poor patient care, maintenance issues, and unsanitary practices to at least six preventable deaths in Columbia, SC, five in Pittsburgh, four in Atlanta, and three each in Memphis and Augusta, GA.

Other reports:

More than 1,800 veteran patients in the St. Louis VA Medical Center may have been exposed to HIV and hepatitis as a result of unsanitary dental equipment. The facility has remained under fire for patient deaths, persistent patient safety issues, and critical reports. Despite the problems at the medical center, the facilities director from 2000 to 2013 received nearly $25,000 in bonuses during her tenure there.

CNN reported that after they obtained VA internal documents that deal with patients diagnosed with cancer in 2010 and 2011, at least 19 veterans died because of delays in simple medical screenings such as colonoscopies or endoscopies at various VA hospitals or clinics. Let me say that again. In 2010 and 2011, 19 veterans died because of delays in getting simple medical screenings related to cancer. The veterans were part of 82 vets who have died or are dying or have suffered serious injuries as a result of delayed diagnosis or treatment.

Loopholes in VA performance. An Iraq and Afghanistan combat vet, who is also a former mental health administrator at the VA Medical Center in Manchester, NH, said in April 2012 that VA hospital managers across the country regularly sought loopholes to get around meeting performance requirements. He explained that ''meeting a performance target, rather than meeting the needs of the veteran, becomes the overriding priority in providing care.'' He went on to say that ''offering bonuses to managers to make sure they met performance requirements creates a perverse administrative incentive to find and exploit loopholes . . . that will allow the facility to meet its numbers without actually providing the services or meeting the expectation the measure dictates.''

Finally, this one. It is not from the inspector general's report. But in a hearing before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on April 9—about a month ago—the deputy for the VA inspector general for health care inspections stated:

> I believe that the VA has lost its focus on the importance of providing quality medical care as its primary mission. . . . There is no good explanation for these events. They are not consistent with good medical practice, they're not consistent with common sense and they're not consistent with VA policies that exist.

It is amazing to me—it is so troubling to me—we have these reports over a long period of time across the country—not isolated incidents. It is even more troubling to me—despite these reports, these inspections, these criticisms of the VA—it is hard to find any evidence the VA is doing anything to improve its record, its performance, or to better care for the veterans of our country. We should demand more, and we need leadership at the Department of Veterans Affairs that will do so.

As I indicated yesterday, I do not believe this is a matter of money. There has been a 60-percent increase in VA spending since 2009—normal increases of 2, 3, or 4 percent each year over the last several years. As I indicated yesterday, the President himself talked about how successful the administration has been in providing the necessary resources for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Our veterans deserve better care and treatment. These are the folks we

ought to honor and esteem. These are the people who we must live up to with our commitments to provide the benefits and health care they deserve and have earned.

If these were isolated instances, they would be a terrible thing. But because they are so pervasive, because they are so widespread, and because there appears to be no effort to correct the problems, it is important—it is critical—that Congress and the American people demand better service, care, and treatment for our Nation's heroes.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I wish to speak today as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is currently in morning business.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. FRANKEN. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today to talk about the growing problem of student debt and the college affordability crisis that is gripping our Nation. I also rise to talk about one of the things we need to do to address this crisis; that is, to pass the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which I was proud to join Senator ELIZABETH WARREN of Massachusetts in introducing yesterday.

We have to take action on student debt because it is a huge problem in this country. The total amount of student loan debt held by Americans is more than $1.2 trillion today—surpassing the total amount of credit card debt in our Nation. More and more Americans are becoming saddled with large amounts of student debt and that limits their ability to buy homes, save for retirement, and make other purchases that will help keep our economy growing.

My State—Minnesota—has the unfortunate distinction of being the State with the fourth highest average debt for students graduating from a 4-year college, at over $30,000 per student. Over the last several years, I have held college affordability roundtables in Minnesota to hear from students and families about the challenges they face in paying for college and to talk about ways to make the situation better. Let me tell you about one of the stories I heard.

Last month, at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, I met Joelle Stangler, a sophomore who is the incoming student class president. With a 4.12 GPA, Joelle graduated from Rogers High School in Minnesota as their valedictorian. She was also senior class president and the captain of her volleyball team. Joelle does not lack motivation when it comes to school.

Both of Joelle's parents were teachers, and, in fact, she comes from a long line of educators going back six generations. But a couple years ago, Joelle's mom Cassie Stangler made the difficult decision to quit her job as a fifth grade teacher to go to work in the private sector, where she could get more money, so she could help send her four kids to college.

Among the fifth grade classes in her school district, Mrs. Stangler's students showed some of the highest rates of improvement on test scores. We lost a great teacher because of how expensive post-secondary education is.

Not only that, even with her mom's sacrifice, Joelle, who is only in her second year of college, already has $12,000 in student loans. She estimates that her total debt will be around $30,000 by the time she graduates. Again, that is even with her mom leaving the job she loves, the job as a society we would want her to be in and that she is so great at.

At the roundtables I have around the State of Minnesota, I always hear about students working multiple jobs, sometimes even putting in 40 hours a week while going to school full time. Working and school is good. It is not bad necessarily. Some work can help students manage their time, become more productive, and of course help pay for college, but evidence shows that when a student starts to work more than 15 hours a week, it becomes harder for the student to maintain good grades in school and to graduate from school on time. Students are working more because college is becoming less and less affordable and they are still taking out more and more student loans and graduating with more and more debt, despite having worked while they were in school.

I do not think that is right. I do not think it is productive for our country. One student at the last roundtable I did told me: I can work 40 hours a week and have less debt or I can work 20 hours a week and be more involved in school. That is not the kind of choice students should have to face in America. I have talked to students who work full time while going to school and actually sell their blood every once in a while to help pay maybe their rent or their housing.

Recently, some encouraging things have happened in Minnesota. Thanks to the work of Gov. Mark Dayton and the State legislature, our State's public colleges and universities received an increase in funding from the State. Last year, after more than a decade of spending cuts to higher education and tuition increases in Minnesota, the State increased higher education funding for this academic year and next academic year by 10 percent, including a 15-percent increase in need-based State grants.

This much needed funding has allowed the public universities and colleges in Minnesota to hold their tuition steady, instead of passing on higher costs to Minnesota's students. This has been a significant victory for Minnesota students and families, but students are still facing daunting costs in paying for college and they are still graduating with far too much debt.

In the Senate I have been working on a number of solutions to the college affordability problem. I have two bipartisan bills with Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa that would help students and families understand college costs and compare the costs of different colleges as they go through the process of selecting a school. Our Net Price Calculator Improvement Act makes these online tools more user friendly in order to give students and their families a better estimate of college costs before they decide where to apply to college.

Senator GRASSLEY and I have another bill that will require schools to use a universal financial aid letter. Right now these letters are incredibly confusing. They do often clearly indicate what is a grant and what is a loan. A lot of people do not think—they say ''award letters'' on them sometimes and they include loans. A lot of people do not consider a loan an award. They use different terminology. If you get a Stafford subsidized loan in one letter, it might say ''Stafford subsidized loan,'' this amount.

Another, it might have a code number, an X5382. When we put out this bill, I got all kinds of calls from college counselors and from high school counselors, saying thank you. Our bill would make sure students and their families and their counselors get clear and uniform information so they can make apples-to-apples comparisons between what the different schools are offering.

Another part of the college affordability problem which is often overlooked is the price of textbooks. Students in Minnesota are spending an average of $1,400 per year on textbooks, $200 more than the national average. One Minnesotan I have heard from, Kari Cooper at Bemidji State, has to choose between paying for her textbooks and paying her rent. She ends up putting her textbook costs on her credit card.

I introduced a bill with Senator DICK DURBIN of Illinois called the Affordable College Textbook Act that would address this problem. Our bill would expand the use of free, online, open-source college textbooks, which are a great alternative to the traditional expensive kind. This is a great way to reduce the overall cost of going to college.

College students such as Kari, Joelle, and countless others are working incredibly hard when they are still taking on significant amounts of debt. Part of the reason this debt will stay with them for a good portion of their lives is that they are paying such high interest rates.

Many college graduates are locked into loans with interest rates as high as 10 percent, which makes it all the more difficult to pay off your student loan. The last thing our students need is to be saddled with high interest rates on student loans that continue to burden them long after graduation. There is a clear commonsense solution. That solution is contained in the bill I am proud to have joined Senator WARREN in introducing, the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act.

Students and graduates should be able to take advantage of lower interest rates and refinance their loans. When interest rates are low, homeowners, businesses, and even local governments regularly refinance their debt. Yet despite being the biggest student lender by far, the Federal Government offers no refinancing options to student borrowers.

Once a person graduates, if they have a high interest rate on their student loans, they are stuck with that high interest rate forever. That is not right for our students and families and it is damaging to the long-term well-being of our country because it holds people back from making decisions that help drive economic growth: the decision to buy a home, to start a family, start a new business, to purchase big-ticket items such as a car.

Our new bill would allow students and graduates who have existing private and public student loan debt from their undergraduate education to refinance these loans at less than 4 percent. Last summer we came together in Congress to prevent the interest rate on new student loans from doubling. Thanks to that effort, undergraduate students taking out new loans now have a rate of 3.86 percent. The bill we introduced yesterday would enable students and graduates who are saddled with higher interest rates on their undergraduate loans to refinance at the same 3.86 percent rate.

There are nearly 40 million Americans with outstanding student loans. Many of them face interest rates higher than 3.86 percent, some of them much higher. This legislation will give them a chance to cut down their debt and keep more of their hard-earned paychecks. It will help thousands of students in Minnesota who, similar to Joelle and Kari, are doing everything they can to get their college degree.

So many Minnesotans in schools across the State show tremendous perseverance and grit in getting a college education and in cobbling together the resources to pay for it. They should not end up with crushing debt and be unable to take advantage of lower interest rates to reduce that debt, when so many other kinds of debt—almost every other kind of debt you are able to refinance.

We have a lot to do and a long way to go to reduce student debt for our students and make college more affordable. Doing that will help more Americans find jobs to support their families, help more employers find qualified workers for their businesses, and help our economy prosper. Passing this bill will be one important step we can and we should take.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I applaud the efforts of Senator FRANKEN and Senators DURBIN and WARREN and JACK REED, who will speak after me, for their efforts on dealing with the terrible burden of debt that far too many young people in this country face. We know it is bad for them. We know this is a burdensome, onerous debt. We know it is bad for their families. In many cases, mothers and fathers cosign these loans and have to put off other kinds of things they want to and should do in their lives.

We know what it means to those families and to the economy and those communities where these students come out of college with huge debt. They cannot buy a car. They cannot buy a home. They cannot start a business. In many cases they put off getting married and starting a family because of debt. None of this is good.

Think back a generation. I heard Senator KLOBUCHAR speak today on the floor. She went to what we consider in this country an exclusive, very expensive university. She scrounged together, her teacher mother, her father—I was in the Presiding Officer's chair as she was speaking. Her father is a reporter, a journalist, columnist, as my wife is. He did not make a lot of money. It was difficult to come up with tuition, room and board for AMY KLOBUCHAR, a young 18-year-old student then, but they were able to do it. I looked back at my wife who graduated college 30-plus years ago, the daughter of a maintenance worker in a powerplant, a union member, 35 years in the union. She is the oldest of four. Her parents absolutely had a commitment to send her to college but could not afford it. Her mother took a job as a home care worker as Connie was approaching college age. She is the oldest. She went to a State university, Kent State University, one of the fine State universities in our State.

She graduated in 1979 with only about $1,200 in student loan debt. She worked part of that time, she got grants, but college tuition was so much less expensive then, not just at private, more elite schools but at State universities especially and community colleges. Now it is so out of reach for far too many families.

As the students approach that day and have these discussions with their parents, it is important to try to think through how these students who do not necessarily have a lot of sophistication yet in finances, how they look at this. A recent study found that two-thirds of student loan borrowers were not as aware of the difference between Federal student loans and riskier, higher interest private student loans.

So they go into this not necessarily always with eyes wide open. They are idealistic. They are enthusiastic about going off to school. They want to get ahead. They do not want to put too big a burden on their parents or obviously on themselves, but they are not, according to the study, aware of the differences between Federal student loans and these higher interest private student loans.

Many students then take out private student loans, even though they are eligible for the more affordable Federal ones. You can't expect students to have a fair shot at building a successful livelihood if we don't give them the tools to succeed. That is why the Know Before You Owe Private Student Loan Act is so important. The bill would require private student loan lenders to clearly state the difference between the student's ultimate cost of attending college and the student's estimated financial assistance.

They should be taking full advantage of any Federal financial aid packages they may qualify for before taking on any private student loan debt, although they so often don't know that because this is complicated.

Second, our bill would provide loan statements to borrowers and their families at least once every 3 months so they can understand what they are getting into. Also, it would require private student loan lenders to submit an annual report to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau about student loans.

We know private student loans typically have significantly higher interest rates. They offer more limited payment options. They offer no relief for graduates who are underpaid, have been laid off or are unable to find work.

That is why my Refinancing Education Funding to Invest for the Future, or REFIF Act, addresses this problem by authorizing the Treasury Department to make the private student loan market more efficient. It would allow borrowers to refinance their more costly private loans into more affordable loans at no cost to taxpayers.

Now the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act would allow homeowners to refinance and lock in lower Federal interest rates. All of these pieces of legislation will

give students a fair shot at the American dream of going to school—whether they choose to go to Lorain or Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, whether they want to go west to Otterbein, a private school in Ohio or Denison or Oberlin or whether they want to go to a larger State university such as Ohio State or usually Toledo or Youngstown State.

It would allow those with private student loans into the Federal program, saving hundreds and possibly thousands of dollars by switching to the lower Federal interest rates.

We all hear it. The Presiding Officer hears it from his Connecticut residents. Senator REED hears it from Rhode Island, and we will hear from people in our States pleading for help. Let me share a couple of them, and then I will yield the floor for Senator REED.

Kelly McVicker, a father of three in Toledo—I spoke with him on the phone and I talked to him. We went to Perrysburg High School, a suburb of Toledo—an affluent suburb—but still a place where students struggle with student loans and student debt.

When Kelly was 17, he took out a $48,000 student loan to get his degree. Today he is 31, working to pay down that original loan, which has now grown to $73,000, while also trying to support his family.

He took out a $48,000 loan. He has been working, he has been going to school, and he has been doing what people and what society asked of him, and yet he is now saddled with this $73,000 debt.

Andrea, from the same part of the State, the northeast corner of Ohio, wrote to me from Williams County saying:

> I have been repaying my student loan religiously for about 14 years, and I feel as though my payment never goes down.
>
> My interest rate is 7.75 percent. When I contact my lender, they have no offer to lower the rate.
>
> I find it hard to believe when my mortgage is 3.25 percent, and so is my auto loan. I can even get a credit card with zero percent interest.
>
> I would be better off defaulting and let the companies take care of it.
>
> I am married with three children. At this rate, I will still be paying off school loans when my oldest goes to college.
>
> I did not have the luxury of having financial help from my parents, and I am trying not to let that happen to my own children.
>
> Higher education is extremely important to my husband and me, and as a middle class family, there doesn't seem to be much help in this area.
>
> I am a frustrated person who seems to be indebted to student loans, and I don't want the same for my children.

All of these pleas, whether they come from Providence or whether they come from Cleveland, are from people who want to do the right thing. They want to get out from under these loans, but they want to pay them. They want to pay them back. They just want an interest rate that is more competitive when they see what their home mortgage interest rates are.

For Andrea from Williams County, her interest rates for her home mortgage are less than half of what she is paying for student loans. Why should that be? We need to respond to these pleas for help from so many of our constituents of all ages, of both genders, from all across our States in communities, small towns, big cities, and rural areas.

Across the country there are responsible borrowers who have played by the rules and are still finding themselves coming up short. Unless we act, we will have a generation of Americans unable to build a life for themselves because they are in a nonstop cycle of dealing with costly loan repayment.

It is important. We have the opportunity, by passing these bills, to give Americans the fair shot they need at paying off their loans, of going to school, of getting ahead, starting businesses, starting families, buying homes, and getting this economy back on track.

We can do this, and it is important we start today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. I thank my colleagues Senator FRANKEN and Senator BROWN for their leadership and very wise comments on this issue, which is one of the most difficult ones that young Americans face, and that is paying for college and student loans.

As my colleague had indicated, this is just really the tip of the iceberg because these debts that they have accumulated will prevent them from buying homes, from starting families, and ultimately affects our economy in a tremendously disruptive way.

All of this is coming into very sharp focus as we begin the graduation season. We have high school seniors who are choosing a college to attend. We have college graduates who are leaving campus and facing a very difficult job market. Those who are going to college are looking at huge potential debt. Those who are leaving college already have, in most cases, those debts and are now thinking about how they can deal with them as they go forward.

Outstanding student loan debt today is at an estimated $1.2 trillion, and it is growing.

According to the Institute for College Access and Success, between 2008 and 2012, average student loan debt increased by an average of 6 percent per year—much, much faster than the rate of inflation. So we have an issue that is not only critical today, but it is getting worse each and every day.

Seventy percent of the class of 2012 graduated with student loans, and the average student debt was $29,400. That is a lot of money. With that debt and with a job that is paying modest wages, or in many cases not being able to find such a job, it is very difficult to pay those loans.

I just met with the presidents of all my colleges and universities in Rhode Island, and we talked about the urgency of this issue. Rhode Island ranked fifth in the Nation for average debt, with students owing an average of more than $31,000 when they graduate from college. We are fifth in the Nation.

We are also, I would like to point out, regretfully, first in the Nation in unemployment. We have the classic situation of Rhode Island graduates leaving with an average of $31,000 of debt and struggling in one of the toughest job markets in the United States to find work. That is a very difficult combination to bear; that is so for so many young people not only in Rhode Island but in Ohio, Massachusetts, and people across this country.

This debt is a huge drag on our economy. It is a threat to our future.

We have to take action. We just can't sit back and watch this get worse each day as it is.

First, we must commit to lowering costs for low- and middle-income families. The Pell grant is the foundation for making college affordable.

It is the work of my distinguished predecessor, Senator Claiborne Pell, who understood that if you could make college affordable for talented Americans, they could remake this country and the world. For decades we did that. We provided the kinds of resources and grants that allowed talented, but not wealthy, students to go to school, to leave school without huge debts, and to begin immediately to apply their talents to the issues that confronted this country and this world.

In fact, I would argue that his foresight back in the 1960s and 70s set the stage for all of these great sorts of revolutions.

Why did we have a telecommunications revolution? Because we had not only the educated scientists and engineers to develop transistors, to develop all of these new technologies, but we also had the most educated population in the world to use them.

That wasn't an accident. That was building on the GI bill in the 1940s, with the Higher Education Act in the 1960s, adding the Pell grant in the 1970s, to make college affordable and accessible to the widest section of Americans.

That has been the engine that has driven our growth and our economic progress over many decades. That engine is sputtering right now because of the debt that is being put on these students because the cost of college is going up.

We certainly have to reject the proposal in the House by some of our Republican colleagues that would roll

back investment in the Pell grant. We have to do more to make the Pell grant accessible to more citizens, more Americans.

Second, we have to tackle this student loan debt crisis.

The Federal Government should not be generating revenue from student loan interest payments. Instead, we should be offering lower rates. That is why I introduced the Responsible Student Loan Solutions Act to set interest rates to cover our costs and nothing more, and allow for refinancing of loans that are at high fixed rates.

I was pleased to work with Senator WARREN of Massachusetts, who is an extraordinary leader on this issue, to develop a new student loan refinancing bill that would enable student loan borrowers to refinance at the rate that was enacted under the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act last year.

We also have to hold loan servicers accountable for treating borrowers fairly. Students must get accurate and clear information about their repayment options, and that is why Senator DURBIN's Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act is so critically important. I am proud that he has joined us on the floor, and I am very proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation.

Third, States, colleges, and universities have to step up. They have to do more to provide the resources, to provide the efficiencies, so that we can make college more affordable for all of our citizens.

I have introduced the Partnerships for Affordability and Student Success Act to reinvigorate the Federal-State partnership for higher education with an emphasis on need-based grant aid.

One of the problems we have, frankly, is that in the 1970s, if you looked at the Pell grant, it would cover roughly three quarters of tuition at a public four-year university. Now it covers only about one-third of tuition for those who can get the grant.

If we could go back to those times where you could basically get—if you were a low-income deserving student—a grant, we wouldn't have such a crisis in student debt. So we have to make grant aid more accessible, and that requires a State, Federal, university, and college partnership. A recent report presented at the American Educational Research Association found that grant aid increased the likelihood of graduation for low-income students while unsubsidized student loans resulted in a decrease in graduation rates.

If we are worried about graduating young people from college, the one thing we can do is take the worry of debt off their shoulders, take the uncertainty of trying to put together, cobble together, financing for education by giving them the grants that used to be something we thought were part and parcel of the American dream.

We also know that one of the main reasons tuition has skyrocketed is that State appropriations for higher education have declined. According to the State Higher Education Finance report, State spending per full-time equivalent students reached its lowest point in 25 years in 2011.

States do have to put more into their State and university college systems. I say that knowing full well the challenges the States face, some of which are the result of policies and guidance that we have given them. But if the States are not willing to put more resources in, it ultimately is shifted on to the shoulders of students, and ultimately there is only so much weight they can bear.

States have to reinvest in higher education, and we can help give them incentives to do that, rather than disincentives. I hope our legislation will do that.

Finally, colleges and universities must take greater responsibility for affordability and student loan debt. This is not something that is beyond their prerogatives. They are not helpless in this. They have to not only advise students on the best course of action—in fact, in my view, colleges, public, private, for profit, nonprofit, should be fiduciaries, really. They should operate in the best interests of students, not the best interest of the bottom line, not to make up for lost State contributions, not to sign up for esoteric deals with financial companies because they get a huge payment back in return.

Just as in the classroom, they should be trying to give these students the best education. In the financial aid office they should be giving them the best deal possible on paying for college.

To ensure that, to basically make sure that all of these institutions have some, as they say, skin in the game, I introduced the Protect Student Borrowers Act with Senators DURBIN and WARREN. I must say this is also the result of some hard lessons we learned in the financial crisis. If institutions don't have an interest in the loans they are making—in fact, if they are encouraging people to take loans they cannot afford—disaster is just days, months, weeks away. It is coming. We want them to be more responsible. So we would ask them, as the percentage of their students who default rises, that these institutions start sharing some of the risk; that they start being conscious of the arrangements they are giving, the tuition they are charging, the courses they are offering; that they have a vested interest in their students succeeding, and not the institution getting as much money as possible.

I know there are other colleagues on the floor, and I have more to say about this, but we have a great deal of work to do here. This is about a fair shot for all of our students and all of our families. Working with Senator WARREN and Senator DURBIN and my other colleagues, we are going to try to make a difference for students across this land.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Rhode Island, Senator REED. Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, our new colleague from Massachusetts, and Senator REED and I have started this effort, but we are welcoming ideas and supporters from both sides of the aisle to join us.

The conversation tonight on the floor of the Senate may be the most important conversation that millions of American families could hear, because we are talking about student debt. Student debt in this country has reached the breaking point. It has reached the point where the cover of Time magazine would have a question mark. It shows a student headed off to college and the comment of the question mark is, Is It Worth It?

It has reached the point where the cost of higher education is so high, the indebtedness associated with it so high, that many are stepping back now to ask that very basic question: Is it worth it, to go this deeply in debt for college courses—an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, or more? That question would have been unthinkable in my day—unthinkable. If there was one driving idea in my mind from my mother and father, it was stay in school, go to college, do the best you can and don't quit, keep working at it. Thank goodness, for me—thank goodness, for me—the Soviet Union decided to launch Sputnik. That was the biggest break I ever got in my life and I didn't even realize it.

It was October 1957. They launched this basketball-sized satellite that circled the globe. We didn't have any rockets or satellites at the time, and this satellite, as it circled the globe, let off this beep and signaled it was out there. You couldn't hear that beep on Earth with the ordinary powers of individuals—some scientist could pick up that signal—but they heard that beep on the floor of the Senate. What happened is Members of the Senate came in here—Democrats and Republicans—scared to death. We knew Russia had the bomb and now they had satellites.

We did a lot of work. We started preparing our Department of Defense to get ready; something may be coming our way. Then something happened which was nothing short of amazing. Somebody said: If we are going to beat the Russians, if we are going to beat the Soviets, we are going to need an awful lot of educated people, and so they came up with an idea. It was the first time in history the Federal Government had ever conceived of an idea of loaning money to college students to go to school, unless you were a veteran, with the GI bill. You didn't have to be a veteran. They would loan money to students to go to college, and

they called it the National Defense Education Act. Sounds right, doesn't it? If we are going to defend America, we need education. So we will loan money to students all across America to go to college.

What that did was to completely destroy the stereotypes of colleges and universities, which used to be for the very brightest and the sons and daughters of graduates. In the 1960s, after the National Defense Education Act, higher education was democratized and a young high school student from East St. Louis, IL, walked into the admissions office at Georgetown University and went to school with a National Defense Education Act loan from my Federal Government.

I didn't borrow much money because it didn't cost much money, though it seemed like a lot at the time. The deal was you borrowed it, and then, in the 10 years after you graduated—you got 1 year grace period—you paid it off in 10 installments with 3 percent interest, which I did. I borrowed money for college and law school. Did I know whether that was a good idea to go in debt for college? I didn't, other than the fact I had been told over and over and over the best thing you can do with your life is to go to college.

Fast forward 50 years. Fast forward from that experience in my youth to today. Imagine a student with the same motivation for college is sitting in an admissions office and, instead of being told they may have to borrow $500 or $1,000, they are told they may have to borrow $20,000 to go to school 1 year. Imagine a 19-year-old student making a decision about being $20,000 in debt. How in the world can they make that decision? They are still motivated, they want that college education, and so they basically say: I will sign up. The admissions officer has said classes start next week. If you sign these papers you will be in there. If you don't sign the papers, you won't be. So students are signing up.

All across America, the indebtedness these students, and many times their parents, are incurring is building up to record levels. There is more student loan debt in America than credit card debt. There are tragic stories emerging from it—stories of students deeply in debt, dropping out of school with no degree; stories of students deeply in debt finishing school unable to find a job; and stories of students deeply in debt going to semiworthless, for-profit schools with diplomas not worth the paper they are written on.

What happens at the end of the day? The debt of these students is not like any other debt. Luckily, we have as a colleague in the Senate Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, who once taught the bankruptcy course at Harvard Law School, so she can help correct me if I am wrong—at least fill in some blanks for me here. Currently, if someone declares bankruptcy in America today, there are some debts you cannot discharge. I am going to try to remember a few of them; she can help me with the others.

You cannot discharge taxes owed to the government. You still have to pay that. You cannot discharge money you owe for alimony and child support, if I am not mistaken.

I don't know if there is another category, but I am going to add student loans here, and I yield to my colleague, with the permission of the Chair. Did I get an A on that or at least a B?

Ms. WARREN. The Senator got an A.

Mr. DURBIN. All right. So the fourth category is student loans. If you end up in debt with a student loan, it is one of the few loans in your life you can't discharge in bankruptcy. The money you borrowed for your home, yes, that is dischargeable; the money you borrowed for your car, yes, that is dischargeable; the money your borrowed for a boat, yes, that is dischargeable; the credit line you have just for your ordinary expenses, yes, that is dischargeable; but when it comes down to student loans, it is a debt you carry to the grave. You either pay it or they will hound you for as long as you live.

That is why it is different than other debts. That is why we came together and said it is time for us to look at these student loans, the amount of debt which students and families are carrying, and do something about it.

Three bills emerged. The first bill I call the student borrower bill of rights. It says when you sit down at that desk in the admissions office they have to tell you what your rights are. They have to tell you the government loan you could use to pay for your education has a lower interest rate, more reasonable terms, can be consolidated at a later point in your life, a limitation on how much money out-of-pocket you are going to have to pay based on your income, and you might have some forgiveness if you go into some areas such as teaching and nursing. You have to be told this.

Right now, students sitting across from that admissions officer are being steered into the most expensive, worst loans. So the bill I have offered—the student loan borrower bill of rights—says, first, tell them the truth. Tell them the best circumstances for them to borrow money, if they need to borrow it.

Secondly, the bill of JACK REED of Rhode Island basically says that a university has a vested interest in making sure a student doesn't borrow too darned much money; that a student doesn't get so deeply in debt they can never pay it back. That university, if they do not accept that responsibility, could be on the line themselves for some of that debt.

Think they will take it a little more seriously? You bet they will. That is the Reed bill, which I am cosponsoring.

To discuss the third bill, I wish to defer to the Senator from Massachusetts, with the permission of the Chair. It is the one that is a really critical element in this approach to dealing with student loans and student debt. With the permission of the Chair, I ask to enter into a dialogue with the Senator from Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I want to, at this point, yield to the Senator from Massachusetts to describe for the RECORD her refinancing proposal.

Ms. WARREN. I thank the Senator from Illinois.

It starts with the premise right where the Senator was, and that is the Federal Government, once upon a time, lent money to our students. My colleague remembers the NDEA loans that went out at 3 percent. The Federal Government was subsidizing those loans, making it easier for students to be able to borrow.

Where we have ended up today is that instead of there, we have students with outstanding student loan debt at 6 percent, at 7 percent, at 8 percent, at 9 percent, and even higher. So this isn't just to cover the cost of the loans. This is double, in some cases, what it takes, triple, in some cases, what it takes to cover the cost of the loans. That means the administrative costs, the bad debt costs—the costs of borrowing the money.

So last summer, we were looking at new student loans that were coming through—the interest rates were about to double—and Congress, Democrats and Republicans, said if the interest rate doubles up to 7 percent, that is too high. So Congress said that for all new borrowers in 2013, the interest rate would be 3.86 percent on undergraduate loans, 5.41 percent on graduate loans, and 6.41 percent for PLUS loans. Make no mistake, the government still makes money—not a lot but the government still makes money on those loans.

What we propose is to take all of the outstanding student loan debt and refinance it at those interest rates—exactly the same rates that virtually every Republican agreed to last summer, many Democrats agreed to last summer, and to say we are going to finance it down. So kids who are trapped in loans at 8 percent, at 9 percent, and even higher will be able to get these lower interest rates on their loans. It will save some people hundreds of dollars a year, it will save some thousands of dollars a year.

We propose to pay for that by enacting the Buffet rule—closing some tax loopholes on millionaires and billionaires—so we can bring down the interest rate for our students.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Massachusetts, and I see the majority leader is on the floor, so I will close with this:

These three proposals—students being admitted to college should be told the truth about their debt and the best way to minimize their debt; that the colleges will not loan more money than is reasonable or be on the hook themselves, if they do; and that students have an opportunity to refinance their student loans—would have a dynamic impact on student debt in America today and give working families and students a fair shot at a higher education they can afford without a debt that would cripple them for life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, on Thursday, May 8, 2014, at 11:15 a.m., the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Calendar No. 655, the Talwani nomination; Calendar No. 656, Peterson; Calendar No. 657, Rosenstengel, then proceed to consideration and vote on confirmation of Calendar No. 526, Hamamoto; further, that if cloture is invoked on Calendar Nos. 655, 656, or 657, all postcloture time be considered expired and at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow afternoon, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; further, that following disposition of Calendar No. 657, Rosenstengel, the Senate proceed to vote on Calendar No. 690, Rosenbaum, and proceed to consideration and vote on confirmation of Calendar No. 615, Mitchell, and that if cloture is invoked on Calendar No. 690, all postcloture time be considered expired and on Monday, May 12, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of Calendar No. 690, Rosenbaum; further, that upon disposition of Calendar No. 690, the Senate proceed to the consideration and vote on confirmation of Calendar No. 560, Croley; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote, equally divided in the usual form; that any rollcall votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; further, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. President, tomorrow there will be about four rollcall votes in the morning beginning at 11:15 and as many as five rollcall votes beginning at 1:45 tomorrow afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I wish to very briefly join my colleagues here in support of the effort being led by Senator DURBIN, Senator WARREN, Senator REID, and Senator HARKIN. They have done such incredible work on behalf of students all across the country.

One of the most amazing statistics to me is a simple one. Not so long ago the United States was No. 1 in the world when it came to the number of young people who had college degrees. In a very short amount of time, we have precipitously fallen from No. 1 to No. 12 due to the fact that other countries have caught up, which is an issue in and of itself, but it also has something to do with the fact that the cost of college has become calamitous for students all across this country, and it is taking kids a lot longer to complete their degrees—many of whom are starting and never even finishing.

I am an example of the squeeze that American families are in. I don't complain about the income my wife and I make, but we are both paying back our student loans and we are saving for our kids' student loans. So I know the amount of a family's income that can be gobbled up trying to pay back prior college and save for future college, and I know where that money would go if it weren't going to pay for those two costs. For us, that money would go into the local economy.

So this is the middle-class issue of our generation, as my colleague Senator SCHATZ often says, because it is not just about families trying to pay back college and save for college; it is also about all of the places that money could go if it weren't going to the banks and the Federal Government, which are making a pretty profit off of this system as it is.

Finally, I will make a pitch for a piece of legislation that Senator SCHATZ, myself, and Senators MURRAY and SANDERS have introduced because I think we need to have two conversations. One is about making sure we reduce the financial burden for families, but there is also a conversation we need to have about putting pressure on schools to reduce the ticket price, the sticker price of attending college. We, frankly, haven't done a very good job of leveraging the $140 billion we spend on financial aid to pressure colleges to do the right thing.

There is one for-profit college in California that takes in 1.6 billion every year of taxpayer dollars, and the average student there spends only 3 months on campus because they start school and never finish it. Their loan default rates are above 30 percent. That is a terrible investment for those kids but also for the Federal taxpayers' dollars.

Our piece of legislation—which we hope will be considered in the broader reauthorization of higher education statutes in this country—would say it is time we hold colleges to a different standard and force them to get serious about costs and quality. In the end, that will be just as helpful—keeping control of quality and cost at our colleges—as the effort being led by so many of my colleagues on the floor here tonight.

I am very glad to join in this effort. It is a personal cause for me and my family given that we are living this reality today but one that is a much greater imperative for all families who have been struggling with this burden across the State the Presiding Officer and I represent.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am going to be very brief, and I will come back tomorrow to speak at greater length.

One of the things Americans know is that college is becoming more of a necessity and is getting to be priced like more of a luxury. We can't have that. When college is a ticket to success—not just income success but even recent surveys show longevity and happiness—it is a crying shame when any American deserves to go to college but doesn't go or doesn't go to the right college because he or she can't afford it. We aim to change that in a variety of ways, but the one Senator WARREN has talked about and taken the lead on is in terms of refinancing.

It is absolutely outrageous that students who got out of college in the last 5 to 20 years are paying 8 percent, 9 percent, and up to 13 percent in interest. If they took out a loan today, they would pay 3 percent or 4 percent. This puts huge burdens on their shoulders in their prime earning years and their family-forming years. It crimps the housing market because if you have $30,000 in student loans, you are not likely to take out a $100,000 mortgage.

So all we are asking for is a fair shot. If you deserve to go to college, you should have a fair shot at affording college. And if you have gone to college, you should have a fair shot at being able to pay your debts and live a decent life. It is very simple.

We Democrats are focusing our attention on what the average American needs, giving the average American a fair shot. And there is probably no place where that fair shot is less attainable than in college affordability and in acquired student loan debt.

I hope people will listen to us in the next several weeks. I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—unlike on minimum wage or equal pay—will join us in coming up with a bipartisan proposal. I hope we can do something for these students—those

who have already gone to college and are paying disproportionate interest and those who are going to college and need to afford it. Everyone deserves a fair shot in America, and they certainly deserve a fair shot, if they have earned a place in college, to afford that place in college.

I look forward to continuing this discussion and debate in the next several weeks to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I commend the Senator from New York and all of my colleagues who have been here.

Forty million borrowers in this country have student loan debt. Student loan debt is exploding, and it threatens the financial stability of our young people and the financial stability of this country.

I am pleased to see so many of my colleagues here tonight talking about this problem because, make no mistake, this is an emergency. Outstanding student loans now total more than $1.2 trillion, and millions of young people are struggling to keep up with their payments.

It doesn't have to be this way. Congress set artificially high interest rates on old student loans which generate extra money for the government. The GAO recently projected that the government will bring in $66 billion on just the slice of student loans issued between 2007 and 2012. Those are the kinds of profits that would make a Fortune 500 CEO proud.

These young people didn't go to the mall and run up charges on a credit card. They worked hard and they learned new skills that will benefit this country and help us build a stronger America. They deserve a fair shot at an affordable education, and we can give them immediate relief by cutting the interest rate on existing student loans. We should cut those interest rates and cut those government profits.

Yesterday I joined with 27 of my colleagues to introduce the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which will do just that. The idea is simple. With interest rates near historic lows, businesses, homeowners, and even local governments have refinanced their debts. But a graduate who took out an unsubsidized loan before July 1 of last year is locked in to an interest rate of nearly 7 percent. Older loans run 8 percent, 9 percent, and even higher. We need to bring those rates down, and we need to do it now.

Bank on Students would allow student loan borrowers the opportunity to lower their interest rates on old loans to match the rates the government offers to new borrowers—3.86 percent on undergraduate loans, 5.41 percent for graduate loans, and 6.41 percent for PLUS loans.

I wish to be clear. These rates are still higher than what it costs the government to run its student loan program. Our work will not be done until we have eliminated all of the Federal profits on these loans. But this legislation is an important step in that direction, and it is a step both Republicans and Democrats should support.

Last year nearly every Republican in Congress—in the House and the Senate—voted for the exact same loan rates in this legislation. If Republicans believe that 3.86 percent is good enough for new undergraduate borrowers, then it should be good enough for all existing undergraduate borrowers. There is no reason on Earth to say some kids can get a better deal than others when they all worked hard to do exactly what we wanted them to do—get an education.

This legislation won't add a single dime to our deficit. The Bank on Students legislation adopts the Buffett rule, which limits tax loopholes for millionaires and billionaires. Every dollar we bring in as a result of that change will go directly to supporting lower interest rates on existing student loans.

We only introduced this bill yesterday, but we are already getting a great response. Think tanks such as Demos, student groups such as Young Invincibles, teacher groups such as the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association have all come forward and endorsed this proposal. Letters and emails and phone calls are already pouring in. I am also encouraged by the fact that some Republicans have also come forward to say they are open to considering a refinancing proposal.

I want to be clear. This should not be a partisan issue. I am eager to work with any of my colleagues who believe we need to do something about the growing student debt crisis. If the Republicans have issues with this proposal, if they want to suggest different offsets or policy changes, they should bring their ideas forward. What we can't do is continue to ignore this problem and hope it will go away on its own.

Congress made this mess by setting artificially high interest rates that are crushing our kids. It is Congress's responsibility to clean it up.

I don't kid myself. Refinancing will not fix everything broken in the higher education system. But the need for comprehensive reform must not blind us to the urgency of addressing the massive debt that is already crushing our young people.

This is personal for me. I grew up in an America that made it a priority to invest in its young people and the opportunity to go to college. An affordable college and affordable loans opened a million doors for me. I will keep fighting to make sure every kid who works hard and play by the rules gets a fair shot.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The Senator from Connecticut.

HONORING LORI GELLATLY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am tremendously honored to follow my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator WARREN, who has so zealously and thoughtfully developed a program that deals with the breaking, calamitous burden of student debt which affects so many of our young people across this country, including my State of Connecticut, and I thank her for her great work.

I wish to talk about that issue following the very eloquent remarks of my colleagues, Senators DURBIN, REID, BROWN, as well as SCHUMER and Senator WARREN, to be followed by Senator BALDWIN. But first I wish to take a moment or two to express my deepest condolences for the family of Lori Gellatly, who was shot and killed today in Oxford, CT. This tragedy is not only saddening but shocking because Lori is dead and her mother is seriously wounded and in very dire condition. They were shot by her estranged husband who was under an ex parte restraining order from a judge and who is suspected. All we have right now are allegations of his committing this atrocious crime. My heart goes out to their family and to their children. She left two children behind.

There will be time to talk about the lessons we can learn from domestic violence like this shocking infamy. In her application for the restraining order she described a violent altercation with her estranged husband which made her ''afraid for her kids and herself.'' She was granted an ex parte order but it was only temporary. A hearing to consider a permanent restraining order was scheduled to take place literally tomorrow. Connecticut law prohibits anybody who is the subject of a full 1-year restraining order from possessing a firearm. Federal law has applications as well to individuals under a permanent restraining order, but this prohibition does not extend under Connecticut law to an individual who is subject to an ex parte order.

I recently met with Representative Gabby Giffords to discuss the nexus and close connection between the issue of domestic violence and gun violence. Together with my colleagues Senators MURPHY and DURBIN we discussed this problem and potential remedies. In this calendar year alone five other homicides have taken place stemming from intimate partner violence in Connecticut alone. So the issue of temporary restraining orders is an even more acute aspect of this problem. According to the Domestic Violence

Intervention Program, women in abusive relationships are more than 7 times more likely to be killed by an intimate partner after 2 weeks of leaving the relationship than at any other time. We ought to do much more to protect victims of domestic violence during this extremely vulnerable time—indeed a time when they are most vulnerable.

While we will have time in the future to discuss this tragedy, right now my heart, my prayers, and my family's thoughts go out to Mary Jackson, Lori's mom, as well as Lori's two children and all of the family, and my thoughts and prayers are with them.

STUDENT DEBT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I would like to proceed with remarks on the student debt and loan issue, and I will be brief because I know it is late. There have been some very remarkable and eloquent remarks and personal stories about the meaning of college education.

My dad came to this country in 1955 at the age of 17 without even a high school degree. He never had one. He spoke very little or no English and had virtually nothing more than the shirt on his back and knew no one. Throughout his life one of his highest aspirations was for his children, my brother and me, to have a college education. He valued it almost more than anything else that he could hope for us to have. It was part of his dream. For him and countless immigrants and countless working men and women born in this country for decades, a college education has been part of the American dream, part of the fair shot that every American should have, an economic opportunity at self-fulfillment and developing their full potential because that is what education helps us to do. That is the reason why Americans are going into debt at unprecedented levels, because they believe in that American dream and the fair shot that it gives people through opportunity in this greatest Nation in the history of the world. It is part of our DNA as Americans that we aspire to educate and fulfill all of our potential, which benefits not only us but the whole country and all of our society.

The average level of debt in Connecticut is about $27,000—calamitously bad not only for those individuals but also for our Nation. For the individuals it means that financially crippling burden stops them from marrying at the time they wish, having children when they might like, starting businesses, buying homes, and moving forward with their lives. Who can start a small business with tens of thousands of dollars of debt? Risk taking is constrained and straitjacketed. People's personal lives are affected and changed forever.

Student debt today has increased concurrently to approximately $1.2 trillion in this country. What we are doing in this proposal by providing a fair shot to those folks who have debt now and those who will incur it in the future is simply enabling them to do what people are able to do with other kinds of debt, whether it is their homes or their cars—to refinance so that they get the benefit of lower interest rates so they avoid that financially crippling burden saddling their lives so that they are able to buy homes, start families, and begin businesses in ways that benefit them and everyone in our society.

There is another dark side of this conversation which is that the American government profits off the backs of students who have incurred debt and who are beginning their lives in debt right now. In fact, the United States profits from these loans even at 3.86 percent. So the stark crass fact is that even with this relief that we are suggesting and proposing and agitating to give to these students who have debt now, graduates that are out there with debt with 8, 10, some 11 or 12 percent interest rates, the U.S. Government will still make money from those loans—less money but the loans are still profit-making.

We should regard higher education as an investment in the future and not a revenue source or profit source. We should regard students as an investment—a personnel investment, a human resources investment, to put it again in crass business terms—that will pay off for years, not as immediate profit centers. That kind of wise investment looks beyond this quarter or next quarter. It looks to the human revenue in quality of life and contributions and new inventions that will change our lives for the better, in a more productive workplace that will make our companies more successful and profitable.

I hear from people all around the State of Connecticut. I got a stirring and moving email today from Bob in Naugatuck who told me his granddaughter has a student loan that he has cosigned and therefore he is potentially liable for it. Dean told me about his master's degree and that he is $55,000 in debt, struggling to support his family with his wife. Between them they have four jobs.

Alese, a mother of three, went back to school when her children were young because she ''wanted to make sure they had an example to follow when they finished high school.'' She is now $46,000 in debt.

As much as our economy is recovering, these folks are in danger of being left behind.

There are other measures that we should adopt, such as the uniform forms for college costs that will fully inform people about what debt they are incurring, the Pell grant expansion, the bills mentioned for net price calculated, and expanding other types of grants. We should take a step forward to provide a fair shot for all Americans in this measure that enables refinancing of loans that otherwise will crush our human potential and leave us poorer as a Nation.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor for my distinguished colleague from Wisconsin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a growing crisis in our Nation that threatens our economy and the future strength of our country. A college education should be a path to the middle class, not a path to indebtedness. But today America carries the burden of $1.2 trillion in student loan debt.

In my home State of Wisconsin almost 70 percent of the students graduating from 4-year institutions will have student loan debt, and the average debt amount will be $28,000. This is real money. This is real money that isn't going into growing our economy at a time when we desperately need economic growth. This is real money that isn't going towards buying a student's or graduate's first car or first home.

The total amount of student debt in the United States has tripled in the last decade, from $363 billion in the year 2005 to over $1 trillion today. At the same time Federal financial support for students has not kept up with the need. The Pell Grant once covered $7 out of every $10. Today it covers $3 out of every $10 in college costs. In addition many States have scaled back their investments in higher education. The fact is that State investment in higher education has declined significantly over past decades, which has exacerbated the problem, particularly as States struggle to balance their budgets in these tough economic times. Their investments in students have decreased, meaning higher tuition, fewer grants, and fewer scholarships.

I heard from Wisconsin students that the cost of a higher education in my State puts college out of reach for too many. Thirty years ago undergraduate tuition at the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus was about $1,000. Today it is well over $8,000, and it is not just in my home State of Wisconsin. Across the country tuition at public 4-year colleges has tripled. This all means that more students are borrowing through Federal student loan programs to cover the high cost of a higher education. For students in the University of Wisconsin system, unmet need after grants and scholarships is over $9,000, nearly doubling in the last decade. Yet the Federal Government limits on subsidized loans have remained relatively stagnant over those same 30 years. In many cases the limit on what a student can borrow through the Stafford Loan Program means

their loans will not even cover the cost of tuition, let alone other significant college expenses. The promise of a higher education has instead become a burden that has fallen squarely on the shoulders of students and their families.

Today, reflecting the trend of shifting costs onto students, 44 percent of college operating expenses are paid through tuition. Nationwide, 49 States, including my home State of Wisconsin, are spending less on higher education than they did before the great recession. Wisconsin has seen a 20-percent decline in State spending on higher education since 2008 while instate tuition has increased by almost 6 percent over the same time period.

It has not always been this way, and we seem to have lost touch with the American idea of building a path to the middle class by making a strong investment in higher education and giving Americans a fair shot at upward mobility.

In 1944, starting with the compact to returning soldiers from World War II made through the GI bill, our Nation made a commitment to future progress by investing in education. Between 1944 and 1951, 8 million veterans received education benefits, including many former distinguished Members of this body.

In 1958 President Dwight Eisenhower, a Republican, signed the National Defense Education Act, providing loans for college students and funds to encourage young people to enter teaching careers—the precursor to our current program for student loans.

President Lyndon Johnson built upon this legacy. A cornerstone of the Great Society was a path to the middle class through a college education. The Higher Education Act of 1965 gave us the Federal Student Loan Program, known today as the Stafford Loan Program, and the Educational Opportunity Grant Program, known today as the Pell Grant Program. This generation of Americans and lawmakers lived in trying times. Yet they still had the foresight to make the hard choices, the choices necessary to invest in the future—our future.

Throughout our Nation's history, the Federal Government has made major investments in expanding access to higher education for all people willing to work hard to pursue their dreams. Unfortunately, in recent years we have neglected that proud legacy.

Recently, Congress lowered interest rates for new borrowers but not for those borrowers who are stuck paying back old loans with much higher interest rates, be they public or private. Further, for those who are in true financial distress, Congress has made discharging loans in bankruptcy nearly impossible, first by eliminating this option for Federal loans in 1995 and then for private loans as well in 2005.

Tonight we are giving a voice to the debt crisis that faces millions of American families and students. Tonight we are giving voice to a number of solutions that can address this crisis if we work across party lines.

I believe Congress must take action, and that is why I am proud to join my fellow freshman colleague Senator WARREN as a cosponsor in support of the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. This legislation would allow those with outstanding student loan debt to refinance their debt at the lower rates currently offered to new borrowers. It is simple. It is paid for by making millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share in taxes to give our students a fair shot at a bright future, and it will help strengthen the economic security of American families who are struggling with this debt.

I believe making college affordable is one of the most important steps we can take toward rebuilding our middle class and breathing new life into the American dream. I want to live in an America where everyone has a fair shot at getting ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, it is an honor to stand here with a chorus of my colleagues speaking about an issue that goes to the core of the idea of this country; that is, every generation will be better than the one before. It is the idea that in this Nation we should lead globally in enriching the lives of our citizenry.

The Presiding Officer and I talked a few seconds ago. He said he was going home after this to put his kids to bed. I hope the Presiding Officer doesn't mind me sharing that. I know the Presiding Officer is going to teach his kids the same thing my parents taught me: Work hard and play by the rules so you can go to college and try to achieve your dreams.

When I have traveled all over the State of New Jersey—North Jersey and South Jersey, from urban towns to suburban towns and even rural towns—I have heard the same kind of frustration, which is the rising costs of college. Not only that, I see more and more people who try to take on the challenge of paying for those rising costs and find themselves saddled with staggering debt. The facts reflect the sentiments, frustrations, concerns, and anguish that I hear.

Today the average student graduates from college with around $29,000 in loans. That is up from an average of $27,600 in 2011 and $23,792 in 2010. In fact, right now in New Jersey 16 percent of my constituents are carrying student debt. That is over 1 million New Jerseyans who are weighed down by this significant financial obligation.

Let me put this in perspective because it has a ripple effect within our economy. Take, for example, our housing. Housing is such an important driver to economic development, and it is an important driver to jobs. Owning a home is a dream many people in America have as well. Well, the reduced purchasing power due to high student debt levels is holding back people's ability to help drive our economy forward.

The housing industry, which is still recovering from a crisis, is an example. The National Association of Realtors cited student loan debt as a primary reason for the decline in housing purchases among first-time buyers. Of 20 percent of first-time buyers who find it difficult to save for a downpayment, 54 percent of first-time buyers said student loans make it tough to save money. According to a recent survey by the National Association of Realtors, about half of all the people polled in a survey said student debt was a huge obstacle to buying a home. According to the Federal Reserve of New York, from 2009 to 2012 home ownership rates fell twice as much for 30-year-olds who had a history of student loans than it did for those who don't.

This is a problem which is impacting families, and it is stifling people's ability to participate and make our economy robust. It is making job growth a challenge. It has many different layers.

What I want to focus on for the last few moments is my desire to keep America No. 1. When it comes to educating our populous, we should be and have been historically top in the globe, especially at the higher education levels. When we created programs that many of my colleagues have cited—I heard Senator DURBIN speak about programs that literally took him from a lower middle-class environment to achieving his dreams. Accessing affordable college loans allowed him to achieve his dreams. We created these programs because we understood that the workforce in this Nation is essential for economic competitiveness. Indeed, in a global knowledge-based economy, it is the knowledge of the people that drives the economy forward. Without highly skilled workers, America simply won't be able to compete in this new global economy. This wisdom has been understood for decades, for generations. You educate your workforce to the highest levels on the globe, and your economy will lead the globe.

Well, today we are seeing challenges, and we are seeing this reality change. Today the average price of a college degree in the United States has climbed to $13,856. Compare that with some of our critical global competitors. Take the UK, for example. In the UK, the average cost is $5,288 for a higher education. Take Germany, another one of our global competitors. German students pay a mere $933. Those competitive economies understand that they don't want to put up barriers so their young people can learn. They want to remove them.

The cost of college in America puts our young people at a severe disadvantage compared to their peers around the world. It is not a level playing field. We are asking our kids to compete globally, but we are putting up barriers that are unique to this economy.

When the cost of college in the United States is now more than 51 percent of the median income in America—let me say that one more time. The cost of college in America is now 51 percent of the median income in America, while the cost of college in Germany is just 4.3 percent of that country's median income. When the United States has one of the highest percentages of adults—we are one of the top in the globe for adults 55 to 64. That generation of Americans which had the kinds of student loan programs and opportunities Senator DURBIN talked about are at the top, but only 43 percent of Americans ages 25 to 34 have a degree. Instead of that younger group being at the top, America has now—compared to our competitors—fallen to 16th place globally.

In other words, older Americans who benefited from a rational system of affordable college and abundant affordable loans are leading. Madam President, 55- to 64-year-olds are leading the globe in the percentage of population with a college degree. The younger we are getting in our country, the lower we are falling in our competitiveness with our competitors in terms of the kids who have college degrees. We wonder why that is. It is because the ability to afford college has been getting more and more difficult.

I am encouraged by my colleagues. We should be doing everything to encourage forthcoming generations to pursue higher education so we don't slide further in global rankings and compromise our long-term ability to compete. That is why I am standing here right now. That is why I am proud to cosponsor Senator WARREN's newly introduced legislation, the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which would allow those with outstanding student loan debt to refinance at the lower interest rates currently offered to new borrowers. It simply allows them to refinance loans the way you can with a mortgage and other types of loans. This will make us more competitive.

I commend a lot of my colleagues who spoke here. I especially commend Senator HARKIN, Senator REED, and Senator GILLIBRAND, who have been so active in calling attention to this issue.

We cannot afford for the cost of obtaining a higher education to be decades of crushing debt. It is unacceptable. The legislation we are talking about today seeks to lighten the burden on student borrowers and to put money back in their pockets and to help fuel our economy but, more importantly, to help everyone understand that in this Nation we are still doing everything possible to lead the globe in education.

There is a lot of work to do. My team is trying to focus on some issues I saw as mayor. For example, when I was mayor we worked with schools and financial aid counselors to help families simply fill out these forms that are necessary to obtain aid.

The College Board estimates that 2.3 million students do not fill out the free application for financial aid form, better known as the FAFSA form. They don't fill it out because of its complexities. They don't fill it out because of issues that make it difficult to even report what is necessary. As a result, many qualified students are skipping this process because they find it complex and burdensome. They are not even getting into college, not even afforded that pathway to cultivate their genius and apply it to our economy.

So much more can be done. This should be a national call to make college as affordable in this generation as it was for past generations. Past generations in America led the globe and drove the top economy on Earth because of that education, but now we are raising the wall and shutting out more of our young minds from this pathway because of unaffordable colleges.

For individuals, a college education translates to more than just odd job opportunities, more than just higher earnings, it is an ascent up the economic ladder.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I will conclude with this: In a recent study, it was found that the United States could add $500 billion to the gross domestic product over the next 15 years by increasing the number of workers with postsecondary education by 20 million—more workers, a greater economy, a more successful America, and a nation that leads the globe. Let's do and learn from what our parents and grandparents knew and did in this body and around the Nation.

Let's make college affordable for our citizens.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, on the Senate floor we have been focusing on policies that give Americans a fair shot, bills that would help to reverse the growing trend of income inequality and create more opportunities to climb the economic ladder, the idea that if you work hard and play by the rules, you can do well for your family and you can create a better opportunity for your children and their children.

Making college more affordable and reducing student loan debt is central to these goals. In fact, I think it is the middle-class issue of our generation.

It is hard to get ahead nowadays without a college degree, but the cost of college is growing faster than the cost of all other consumer goods—twice as fast as health care costs.

The growing cost of college is preventing some from getting a degree in the first place and leaving others with unmanageable levels of debt. This is the middle-class issue of our time.

Students have taken on more than $1 trillion in debt to cover the cost of college. Student debt is now the fastest growing and highest consumer debt burden behind mortgages.

This debt burden is not sustainable. Saddled with this debt, young adults are delaying starting families, buying homes and cars, and starting new businesses. The rate at which students are failing to repay their loans is alarming. Over one-third of borrowers who are in repayment are delinquent on their loans by 90 days or more. One-third of borrowers are delinquent.

One of my constituents from Wahiawa, HI, took out a loan to help their son go to college. The loan was for $92,000 in 2006. Today they owe $143,000. This local resident says:

> The interest compounds. It's like a loan shark, pretty close. There's no way out. No way to pay it, ever.

We are hearing these stories far too often from many families in Hawaii and across the country, and they need our help. A college education is supposed to be a path to opportunity and the American dream, not a life of debt. It is clear our current system is not working.

The Federal Government is giving $140 billion a year in financial aid to institutions of higher learning in Federal grants and loans. That is good, not bad. Higher education is the straightest line for us to develop the workforce we need and for people to move up the economic ladder, but with that $140 billion we should be making college more affordable for students. Instead, we are getting the opposite result for the $140 billion.

Average Pell grant awards have increased by almost 20 percent in the past 10 years. In that same time period, Pell grants covered 25 percent less of the average public school's tuition and fees. We are paying more and we are getting less. There is a growing gap between the financial aid that is available to students and the cost of college. To fill that gap, students are loading up on debt.

Last summer, Congress passed a bipartisan student loan compromise that lowered the student loan interest rate for new borrowers, but millions of student borrowers were left out of that deal and are paying much higher rates.

I am proud to join Senator WARREN in introducing the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. This

bill will allow students with outstanding student loan debt to refinance at the same low interest rates offered to new borrowers under the bipartisan student loan compromise.

That is fair. Students struggling with student debt deserve to get the same deal Congress is giving to new borrowers. But when we talk about making colleges more affordable, we need to remember that lowering student loan interest rates is only part of the problem. It is not just the interest; it is the principal.

We need a bold long-term plan to bring down the cost of college. That is why I introduced the College Affordability and Innovation Act with Senators CHRIS MURPHY, PATTY MURRAY, and BERNIE SANDERS. The bill is about holding schools accountable to taxpayers and students. We want to reward those schools that are focused on affordability and give incentives for the rest to make affordability part of their mission. If you are a college, you can have whatever mission you want, but you have no special right to Federal funding.

Our bill says, very simply, if you receive Federal dollars, part of your mission must be about affordability and access. There are potentially billions of dollars that are not being used wisely.

As we invest in higher education—and we should, through student loan subsidies and Federal financial aid—we should make sure schools are actually fulfilling our Federal public policy goals of making college more affordable and more accessible for all students.

Let's work together to make sure a college education is a path of opportunity for all students and not a life of debt.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE ARMY ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday Senator GRAHAM and I introduced a bill to establish a National Commission on the Future of the Army, an independent panel that will bear the responsibility of analyzing some major changes to the U.S. Army that were proposed in the President's budget. The Army's budget for Fiscal Year 2015 sets a path toward major, irreversible changes to Army capacity and capability, particularly in the Army National Guard and Army Reserves, that cannot be ignored by the Congress.

Senator GRAHAM, my fellow co-chair of the Senate National Guard Caucus, has said repeatedly that these changes fundamentally alter what it means for the National Guard to be a combat reserve of the Army. The changes would also render the Nation's operational reserve insufficient in its ability to retain gains in experience and readiness that the reserve has achieved over a decade of continuous deployment. Most dramatically, these changes would transfer all of the National Guard's AH–64 Apaches to the active component, leaving the Nation without any combat reserves for one of the aircraft most essential to ground operations.

But the changes that the President's budget proposal would begin to make next year go much deeper. They would eventually reduce the Nation's Army National Guard to 315,000 soldiers, the fewest in decades. The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Odierno, testified before the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense that this number is too low.

General Odierno said that, at that level, if any of our assumptions about future conflict were wrong—that is unless operations were short, decisive, and did not require significant sustainability—then we would not be prepared. Our Nation's defense would be ill-prepared for future conflicts in the mold of past conflicts like Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam, or Korea.

No one needs to be reminded of the tight fiscal constraints our government currently faces, and that sequestration, unfortunately, remains the law of the land. Simply barring any changes from taking place in America's Army is not an option. The legislation that Senator GRAHAM and I propose will allow several of the Army's proposed cost-avoidance measures to move forward, while permitting time for a commission to study the major and truly controversial changes that have been proposed.

In addition to tasking the commission with considering overall size and force mix of the Army, this legislation calls for an evaluation of force generation assumptions. That is because the policies put into place during 13 years of war are not the same as those that will be needed post-drawdown, and determining the right modifications is essential to planning for the use and structure of the Army of the next decade.

Congress, under the authorities granted by the Constitution, has a responsibility to both raise and equip armies, and to regulate that portion of the militia which is called into Federal Service. When a budget proposal makes changes in those areas that are as considerable as these, it is entirely appropriate for Congress to hit the pause button and to ask for a second look.

We look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to ensure that we properly balance and size the Army, and that we do not repeat past mistakes by needlessly discarding the depth of our forces.

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS D. CARTER JR.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an accomplished educator from my home State, the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Lewis D. Carter Jr. will retire from his position of superintendent of the Monroe Country Schools on July 1—nearly 40 years after beginning his career in education.

An intense passion for education runs throughout the Carter family. Lewis's grandfather was the first in the family to hold the post of superintendent of the Monroe County Schools in the early 1900s. His father also held the position for 28 years until his retirement in 1980, and his great-aunt and his great-uncle held the same position near the time of his grandfather. For Carter, teaching the next generation of children might as well be ingrained in his DNA.

Carter got his start in 1975 teaching health and PE. Since then, he has held positions across the education field. In 1991, he was made principal of Tompkinsville Elementary School. In 1994, he began 10 years as the director of adult education, in addition to coordinating the School to Work program. More recently he served as the deputy executive director of the Kentucky Education Cabinet—an assignment that immediately preceded his current position.

Carter will have plenty to keep him busy in retirement. In addition to his large family he and his wife of 42 years, Sheila, have two children and six grandchildren—Lewis will let you know that he has a ''hunting, fishing and golfing list'' that requires his attention.

While Lewis can look forward to some much deserved fun in his retirement, he will be sorely missed in the Monroe County School System. Lewis's big heart and passion for education serve as an example for us all. I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this exemplary citizen.

Mr. President, The Daily Times recently published an article chronicling Lewis D. Carter Jr.'s career. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[From the Daily Times, April 11, 2014]

CARTER WILL RETIRE

(By Gina Kinslow)

After five years as superintendent of Monroe County schools, Lewis Carter is stepping down.

Carter announced his retirement Thursday night during the Monroe County Board of Education meeting. It becomes effective July 1.

After making his announcement, staff members and others present for the meeting, applauded and gave him a standing ovation.

Carter cited his age as one reason for retiring. He is 62. ''I think it's time [to retire],'' he said. ''I feel like it's time.''

Another reason for retiring is the success the school system has achieved in the last five years.

''I want to make sure when I retire that everything is good,'' he said.

Carter read a lengthy list of accomplishments for the school district before announcing his retirement.

''When I first came here, we set goals as the whole administrative staff,'' he said. ''We met every single goal without exception. When our team met the last goal, I said to myself, 'That's good.' That was in December.''

That last goal was seeing Monroe County High School become a high-achieving school and being listed in the 94.6 percentile.

''When I came here, we were like in the 28 percentile,'' he said.

Carter pointed out successes achieved by other schools in the district, including Monroe County Middle School becoming a national school to watch and being named one of the top-10 achieving middle schools in the state.

He noted Tompkinsville Elementary has been named a Blue Ribbon School nominee and Gamaliel Elementary won the Winners' Circle Choice Award in the Kentucky Tell Survey. GES was also recognized by the Kentucky Department of Education as an honor school two years in a row.

Joe Harrison Carter Elementary was named the overall winner of the Governor's Cup academic competition and has been recognized as K-PREP [Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress] progressing school.

Toby Chapman, school board chairman, learned of Carter's retirement plans on Tuesday and said the news came as a shock.

''He had another year on his contract. I thought he was going to stay, but evidently he's ready to go,'' Chapman said.

Carter had a two-year contract with the school board to serve as superintendent.

Chapman praised Carter for the good job he has done as superintendent.

''I won't say we've always seen eye-to-eye on everything, but we've always worked out what was best for the kids,'' Chapman said.

Carter succeeded Rachel Ford and Liz Willett, who served as interim superintendents, following the resignation of George Wilson as superintendent.

Prior to becoming superintendent of Monroe County schools, Carter served as deputy executive director of the Kentucky Workforce and Education Cabinet. He also served in many roles for the Monroe County school system during his career, including as assistant principal and then principal of Tompkinsville Elementary.

He began his career in education in 1975 teaching health and physical education, as well as coaching school athletic teams.

As for his retirement plans, Carter said, ''I have a hunting, fishing and golfing list. I plan to have fun.''

Dr. Michael Carter, school board member, said he will miss Carter.

''Lewis has always been a great spokesman for our school and I know he truly cares about our schools and our children,'' he said. ''I don't think we will find anybody who cares more than Mr. Carter does.''

Eddie Proffitt, also a school board member, said Carter has done a lot for the school system.

''He was a good superintendent. He will be hard to replace,'' Proffitt said.

The search for a replacement will begin as soon as possible.

''We're going to meet with Lewis tomorrow. We are going to call a lawyer and get the ball rolling, so probably in the next couple of weeks we'll be advertising for applications,'' Chapman said.

He hopes to have a new superintendent hired by the first of June, so they can spend a month working with Carter, since his last day will be June 30.

CONDEMNING ABDUCTION OF FEMALE STUDENTS IN NIGERIA

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, the recent kidnappings of over 200 schoolgirls in Nigeria by Boko Haram, a terrorist organization whose name translates to ''Western education is sinful,'' has captured the world's attention and stirred global outrage.

These girls were abducted from their classrooms at gunpoint and their captors are now reportedly threatening to sell them into child marriages and slavery.

The Senate unanimously approved a resolution condemning Boko Haram for kidnapping these young girls and terrorizing the people of Nigeria, and Secretary of State John Kerry has publicly condemned the kidnappings, calling them an ''unconscionable crime'' and pledging our assistance.

Such inhumanity simply cannot be tolerated. As a nation, we must do all that we can to assist the people of Nigera and help them find these missing children.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them, and I am hopeful they will be reunited with their families soon.

HONORING ISRAELI PRESIDENT SHIMON PERES

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I was honored to take part in a ceremony honoring Israeli President Shimon Peres. I ask unanimous consent that the remarks I made at the ceremony be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[May 7, 2014]

LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF SHIMON PERES

REMARKS BY SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN

It is my pleasure to join all of you today as we honor President Shimon Peres, one of the bravest and most principled political leaders of our time. I was honored to join with my colleagues in the Senate to pass legislation bestowing the congressional gold medal on this great man. I was not surprised when that legislation passed unanimously, and it my hope that our colleagues in the House will move forward with their own legislation soon.

President Peres deserves this honor. The story of his life is entwined with the story of the birth and development of the State of Israel, and in him we see the essence of Israel itself—an invincible spirit that cannot be denied. Through his determination, his strength and perseverance, and his profound compassion, President Peres enabled a seemingly impossible dream to become a reality and changed forever the destiny of the Jewish people.

Even as a young man, Shimon Peres showed a dedication to public service and a commitment to the pursuit of justice and peace. He was an active leader in the ''Working Youth'' group, he founded a kibbutz in the Jordan Valley, and became a member of the Haganah [hah-gah-nah]—all before he reached 21.

Over the course of his seventy years of public service, President Peres has served as a member of the Knesset for 48 years and held virtually every position in dozens of cabinets, serving in nearly two dozen ministerial posts including twice as Prime Minister, and as Defense Minister, Treasury Minister, and Foreign Minister. He was then elected as the ninth President of the State of Israel, the position he holds today.

I have met many brave and inspiring people in my life, but there are few who have done more to preserve freedom for future generations than Shimon Peres. He recognized that the highest duty of leaders is to protect and preserve the freedom and security of their people, even in the face of hostility and in the face of doubt and disappointment. And this is just what President Peres has done, not only for the Jewish people but for all people.

He has been a leader for strength, building Israel's military and defense capabilities. He has been a leader for prosperity, helping make Israel one of the strongest economies in the world today. And he has been a leader for peace, making difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions in persuading the Palestinians to pursue negotiations and find peace for all, standing by his belief that all children, both Israeli and Arab alike, deserve the chance to grow up and grow old free from the threat of violence and tyranny.

In the time that I have known Shimon Peres, I have been inspired by his statesmanship, leadership, courage and civility. And among his many virtues, I have been most inspired by his idealism. Shimon Peres has always been a dreamer. He once said that ''dreaming is only being pragmatic''—words that drew criticism from some and laughter from others.

But he is right, of course. It is difficult to understand how someone who has witnessed such unspeakable horrors in his life can still place such faith in dreams. But it is due in part to his optimism and idealism, and his willingness to serve on behalf of those dreams, that Israel exists today. By never giving up on his dreams, Shimon Peres reminds us that we do not need to give in to complacency or cynicism—and why we can't afford to.

So I join all of you in recognizing the great achievements of Shimon Peres. And I thank you for devoting your time to honor this great man. With your help, it is my hope that our friends in the House will complete the necessary legislation, and all of us in Congress will be able to join together to express the abiding affection and admiration that we and the American people have for one of Israel's most distinguished sons—a man whose inspiration and impact will endure far beyond the generations who have witnessed them.

RECOGNIZING MARRINER S. ECCLES

Mr. HATCH. Over time, many Utahns have been honored for their contributions to our country, and perhaps no one contributed more to our Nation's economic success at such a critical time than Marriner S. Eccles. I am honored to stand with the Eccles family this week as the Federal Reserve unveils a statue of Marriner Eccles in the atrium of the Marriner S. Eccles Building of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, DC.

Marriner Stoddard Eccles was born in Logan, UT, on September 9, 1890, the

oldest of nine children. Following the death of his father, who had become a leading industrialist with numerous enterprises, Marriner, at the young age of 22, took over the leadership of his father's businesses that were left to his mother, Ellen Eccles, and Marriner and his siblings. Previously, Marriner had worked in several of his father's businesses, had served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, LDS, in Scotland and had attended Brigham Young College in Logan.

A superb business analyst and bold administrator, he reorganized and consolidated his father's industrial conglomerate and banking network. Eccles, along with his brother George, joined with the Browning family in Ogden, UT, to form the Eccles-Browning Affiliated Banks, believed to be the first multibank holding company in the United States.

With the onset of the Great Depression of the 1930s, banks around the country faced customers rushing to withdraw their deposits. The Eccles-Browning Affiliated Banks withstood several bank runs, and in the process, Eccles began to understand the need for a compensatory fiscal and monetary policy. In July of 1933, Eccles was one of the experts summoned by the Senate Finance Committee to travel to Washington to counsel Congress on the profound economic turmoil that was occurring across the country.

Eccles delivered 38 pages of testimony, including a distinct 5-point plan for fixing the economy. ''We must correct the causes of the depression rather than deal with the effects of it!'' became one of the most quoted lines from Eccles' dramatic testimony. His five-point plan included unemployment relief through direct aid to the States, a bank deposit guarantee program, canceling the World War I Allies' war debt, implementing a national minimum wage, and establishing a national economic planning board.

Eccles made his points clearly enough that the Roosevelt administration invited Eccles to join as an Assistant Treasury Secretary. Even when asked by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to become a Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, Eccles stood strong and replied he would ''not unless fundamental changes [were] made in the (Federal Reserve).''

Eccles' involvement with policymaking did not stop there. He became involved with the Emergency Banking Act of 1933, the Federal Housing Act of 1934, and the 1933 law creating the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. With FDR's blessing, Eccles rewrote the 1935 Federal Reserve Act and became the first Chairman of the reorganized Federal Reserve Board, serving from 1936 to 1948. In February 1944, Roosevelt appointed Eccles to another 14-year term and Eccles stayed on the Board until 1951, when he resigned, marking a total of 17 years of service.

Eccles' talents combined with the policies he supported helped counter the recession crisis of 1937–1938, which in turn helped build America's economic strength prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor and World War II.

Many at the time considered Marriner Eccles' policies to be radical, but there is little doubt that his influence at the Federal Reserve continues to benefit our country today.

It is my honor to stand with the Eccles family this week and unveil yet another tribute to this remarkable Utahn we are so proud of.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am here to support the introduction of a bill I am cosponsoring, the Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Act.

Charter schools are about freedom for teachers, choices for parents, and more and better opportunities for students.

I gave the weekly address for the Republican Party on Easter weekend, and I said that, instead of mandating tasks for you to do, government should enable you to create a happier, safer, more prosperous life.

This bill is just the kind of proposal that enables people. It enables parents to help their children get a real opportunity by choosing better schools for them to attend. It enables students to learn and succeed. It enables teachers to succeed by giving them the freedom to use their firsthand knowledge.

And it enables administrators to succeed by freeing them from bureaucratic mandates and giving them the chance to use their good judgment.

The bill would continue the Federal charter schools program, which since 1994 has given grants to states to start new charter schools. It would make improvements to that program to ensure that those funds are used as effectively as possible to increase the number of high-quality charter schools.

Specifically, this bill would invest more Federal funds in the replication and expansion of high-quality charter schools with a proven record of success, while still giving States the flexibility to invest in innovative new models.

The bill would continue Federal support for non-profit organizations which help charter schools find suitable facilities, while also encouraging States to assist charter schools in this task.

It would provide those hard-working and creative educators seeking to open charter schools with greater flexibility in how they use Federal startup grants, for example, by allowing them to use the funds for transportation or for facilities improvements if that is what they decide is the best use of funds.

Finally, this legislation would encourage States to provide charter schools with the support they need to be successful and to hold them accountable when they fail to demonstrate positive results.

Last summer, Senator RAND PAUL and I sat in a room with the parents who had been able to get their child into a charter school in Nashville, where 600 students were left on the waiting list.

It was an emotional experience to hear these parents talk about their child getting this opportunity, to hear the students talk about how well they are doing, and to hear from the teachers who spend their lives helping these students.

Charter schools are public schools stripped of many Federal, State and union rules and constraints placed on traditional public schools. The money the State government would ordinarily spend on their district school follows each child to the charter school instead.

Charter schools cannot charge tuition, and any student who wants to attend a charter school may do so if space is available.

If more students want to attend than can be accommodated, the charter school must use a lottery to decide which students receive a seat.

Several years ago I visited the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering, a charter school in Memphis. While most Memphis students were on spring break at the time, the sophomores I visited were in the classroom studying Advanced Placement biology.

Because the school's teachers have the flexibility to do what is best for their students, the school was open 12 hours a day and on Saturday mornings because many of these children did not have as much at home as others. And these children, who the year before had been at schools deemed ''low-performing,'' were succeeding.

These students were fortunate because their parents had the opportunity to choose this charter school, and their children were lucky enough to win a seat.

Across Tennessee, more than 15,000 students now have that same opportunity to attend one of 68 charter schools—and they are thriving as a result.

A recent study by Stanford University found that, on average, Tennessee students attending charter schools gain the equivalent of 86 additional days of instruction in reading and 72 additional days of instruction in math each year than do students attending district schools.

In other words, they make almost a year-and-a-half's worth of progress in a single school year.

About 60 percent of students attending charter schools in Tennessee are low-income, more than 90 percent are African American or Hispanic.

In other words, charter schools in Tennessee are making a difference for those students who have traditionally been least well served by our Nation's public schools.

We have come a long way since 1992, when, in my last act as U.S. Education Secretary under George H.W. Bush, I sent a letter to every school superintendent across the country, urging them to consider replicating the early successes of charter schools in Minnesota—which were then called ''start-from-scratch schools.''

At the time, there were only a dozen charter schools in existence. Today, there are well over 6,000, serving over 2.5 million students. Nearly 5 percent of all public schools students in the United States now attend charters.

Most important—the fact that should give great urgency to our effort here today—there are an estimated 580,000 students on waiting lists for charter schools throughout the Nation.

That is because parents and students see that charter schools are working.

RECOGNIZING THE FRANKLIN REGIONAL COMMUNITY

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the heroic acts of students and teachers during the crisis at Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville, PA. The entire community displayed astounding courage in the face of tragedy.

On the morning of April 9, 2014, a knife-wielding student assaulted students and teachers at Franklin Regional High School. During the attack, 24 people were injured, some gravely. However, thanks to the selfless actions of students, faculty, and support staff, the attacker was subdued and additional harm was prevented.

Students shielded friends from danger and administered emergency first aid, an attentive student had the composure to sound the fire alarm to warn people to exit the building, and several brave individuals put their safety on the line to incapacitate the attacker. At a time of crisis, the Franklin Regional family proved their commitment to one another.

I also want to acknowledge the brave actions of law enforcement and emergency personnel whose quick arrival ensured the safety of our students. Their prompt arrival provided life-saving medical attention to injured students and the community remains indebted to their vigilance.

I believe that the Senate should recognize the Franklin Regional community for their bravery and resiliency. It is imperative that the community knows that our country shares their grief and stands with them as they overcome this tragedy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ADAM BOYD

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Adam Boyd for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Adam is a native of Cheyenne, WY, and a graduate of Cheyenne East High School. He is also a recent graduate of the University of Wyoming, where he earned a degree in French. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts during his time in my office.

I thank Adam for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

RECOGNIZING MARTHA CROSBY

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Martha Crosby for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Martha is from Richmond, VA. She is a recent graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, where she earned a degree in political science, concentration in politics and government. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last few months.

I thank Martha for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING PATTERSON OAKS

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Patterson Oaks for her hard work as an intern in my Casper, WY, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Patterson is a native of Casper, WY where she graduated from Natrona County High School. She attends Casper College where she is pursuing a degree in paralegal studies. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Patterson for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING MICKALA SCHMIDT

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Mickala Schmidt for her hard work as an intern in my Casper, WY, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Mickala is a native of Casper, WY where she graduated from Natrona County High School. She attends Casper College where she is pursuing a degree in international studies and education. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Mickala for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING EMILY SMITHSON

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Emily Smithson for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Emily is from San Marcos, CA. She is a recent graduate of Brigham Young University-Hawaii, where she earned a degree in political science and history. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts during her time in my office.

I thank Emily for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW SPENNY

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Matthew Spenny for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Matthew is from Laramie, WY, and is and a graduate of the University of Wyoming, where he earned a degree in communication and journalism. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Matthew for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

HARDIN COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful Farm Bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Hardin County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Hardin County worth over $2.3 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $10 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be our shared commitment to school construction, renovation, and fire safety through the Harkin grant program. Working together with state and local communities, this funding has ensured Iowa students are learning in schools that are safe, and modern. I look forward to learning about the renovations made possible in Hardin County.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northern Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Hardin County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Hardin County, I have fought for funding for the Iowa National Guard Readiness Center in Iowa Falls worth $2 million, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That's why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Hardin County has received $396,191 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Hardin County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $73,350.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Hardin County has received more than $6.6 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as—for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Hardin County's fire departments have received over $1.3 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Hardin County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Hardin County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Hardin County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

HAMILTON COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take

pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful Farm Bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Hamilton County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Hamilton County worth over $548,000 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $7.6 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memories of working together have to include Webster City's commitment to rebuilding crumbling schools with Harkin school construction grants, and Jewell's tremendous success in downtown restoration through Main Street Iowa grants.

Among the highlights:

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans.

Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Jewell to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Hamilton County has earned $240,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That's why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Hamilton County has received $308,341 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Hamilton County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $65,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Hamilton County has received more than $5.9 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as—for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Hamilton County's fire departments have received over $324,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Hamilton County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Hamilton County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Hamilton County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

MONONA COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. It has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across 4 decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Monona County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Monona County worth over $1.7 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $4.8 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be our shared commitment to school construction, renovation, and fire safety through the Harkin grant program. Working together with State and local communities, this funding has ensured Iowa students are learning in schools that are safe, and modern. I look forward to learning about the renovations made possible in Monona County.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development: In Western Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Monona County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding

that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, I have consistently fought for job training dollars which have meant more than $800,000 in Monona County, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin Grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Monona County has received $985,638 in Harkin Grants. Similarly, schools in Monona County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $57,500.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as—for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Monona County's fire departments have received over $498,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Monona County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Monona County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Monona County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

RECOGNIZING OWL'S MOTHER'S DAY CAMPAIGN

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize OWL and the important work that it does for older women in our country. For more than 30 years, OWL has served as the only national nonprofit to focus solely on the issues of aging American women and be the voice for the 74 million mid-life and older women in our country.

Every Mother's Day, OWL focuses on a key issue that affects our Nation's aging women—our mothers, grandmothers, wives, sisters, aunts, and friends. Past issues of OWL's Mother's Day Campaign have ranged from examining our Nation's health care system, addressing the growing epidemic of elder abuse, and educating women on end-of-life choices. This year, OWL has chosen to focus on the need for quality, accessible long-term care. Women often serve as the primary caregivers for a loved one, and women also may need long-term services and supports as they outlive men. Today, OWL is hosting a briefing to unveil a report on key findings and discuss how this year's Mother's Day Campaign can create a dialogue around this topic.

I particularly look forward to seeing their findings this year. As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging and particularly this May in observance of Older Americans Month, I am well aware of the need to examine the long-term care system in America. As the population ages and more Americans need long-term care services and supports, it is important that they receive high-quality care without placing a burden on their families. The Aging Committee has and will continue to examine this topic and raise awareness of the issues surrounding our Nation's long-term care.

OWL's continued work across the Nation is more critical now than ever before, and we must ensure that our existing long-term care system is able to meet the needs of America's women.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT LEON DUNLAP

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to note the passing of Robert Leon Dunlap, of North Charleston, SC. He died Thursday, April 17 at the age of 83.

Dunlap attended Midland Park Elementary School and graduated from North Charleston High School. He served in the Army during the Korean war, and was a 52-year veteran of the Charleston County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad. Robert was also married to Gloria Massalon Dunlap for 52 years.

Assistant Chief Dunlap helped found, and served in, the North Charleston Volunteer Rescue Association, which in 1973 was expanded to include all of Charleston County. This volunteer organization responds for accidents, fires, and land and water rescues. Dunlap was the association's treasurer more than 50 years. He earned the Order of the Palmetto for his services, and the current North Charleston headquarters is named in his honor.

While fulfilling his rescue duties, Dunlap also worked at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. During his 39-year career he earned many awards and commendations, including the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Dunlap was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5091, and served as post commander from 1959–1960. He also volunteered with the Boy Scouts, worked with Civil Defense, and donated over five gallons of blood to the American Red Cross.

Dunlap was buried with military honors at Carolina Memorial Park. I join the hundreds of people who attended his funeral and the people of North Charleston in expressing the deepest admiration for his life and work.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO WITHDRAW THE DESIGNATION OF RUSSIA AS A BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRY UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) PROGRAM—PM 40

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying

report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (the ''1974 Act'') (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)), I am providing notice of my intent to withdraw the designation of Russia as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program.

Sections 501(1) and (4) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461(1) and (4)), provide that, in affording duty-free treatment under the GSP, the President shall have due regard for, among other factors, the effect such action will have on furthering the economic development of a beneficiary developing country through the expansion of its exports and the extent of the beneficiary developing country's competitiveness with respect to eligible articles.

Section 502(c) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(c)) provides that, in determining whether to designate any country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP, the President shall take into account various factors, including the country's level of economic development, the country's per capita gross national product, the living standards of its inhabitants, and any other economic factors he deems appropriate.

Having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to withdraw Russia's designation as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program because Russia is sufficiently advanced in economic development and improved in trade competitiveness that continued preferential treatment under the GSP is not warranted. I intend to issue a proclamation withdrawing Russia's designation consistent with section 502(f)(2) of the 1974 Act.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 7, 2014.*

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13338 OF MAY 11, 2004, WITH RESPECT TO THE BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS AND PROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION AND RE-EXPORTATION OF CERTAIN GOODS TO SYRIA—PM 41

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012—is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2014.

The regime's brutal war on the Syrian people, who have been calling for freedom and a representative government, endangers not only the Syrian people themselves, but could yield greater instability throughout the region. The Syrian regime's actions and policies, including supporting terrorist organizations and impeding the Lebanese government's ability to function effectively, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared with respect to this threat and to maintain in force the sanctions to address this national emergency.

In addition, the United States condemns the Asad regime's use of brutal violence and human rights abuses and calls on the Asad regime to stop its violent war and allow a political transition in Syria that will forge a credible path to a future of greater freedom, democracy, opportunity, and justice.

The United States will consider changes in the composition, policies, and actions of the Government of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 7, 2014.*

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA

On May 11, 2004, pursuant to his authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701–1706, and the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act Of 2003, Public Law 108–175, the President issued Executive Order 13338, in which he declared a national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria. To deal with this national emergency, Executive Order 13338 authorized the blocking of property of certain persons and prohibited the exportation or re-exportation of certain goods to Syria. The national emergency was modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012.

The President took these actions to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions of the Government of Syria in supporting terrorism, maintaining its then-existing occupation of Lebanon, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and missile programs, and undermining U.S. and international efforts with respect to the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq.

The regime's brutal war on the Syrian people, who have been calling for freedom and a representative government, endangers not only the Syrian people themselves but also is generating instability throughout the region. The Syrian regime's actions and policies, including the use of chemical weapons, supporting terrorist organizations, and impeding the Lebanese government's ability to function effectively, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. As a result, the national emergency declared on May 11, 2004, and the measures to deal with that emergency adopted on that date in Executive Order 13338; on April 25, 2006, in Executive Order 13399; on February 13, 2008, in Executive Order 13460; on April 29, 2011, in Executive Order 13572; on May 18, 2011, in Executive Order 13573; on August 17, 2011, in Executive Order 13582; on April 22, 2012, in Executive Order 13606; and on May 1, 2012, in Executive Order 13608; must continue in effect beyond May 11, 2014. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria.

In addition, the United States condemns the Asad regime's use of brutal violence and human rights abuses and calls on the Asad regime to stop its violent war and allow a political transition in Syria that will forge a credible path to a future of greater freedom, democracy, opportunity, and justice.

The United States will consider changes in the composition, policies,

and actions of the Government of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 7, 2014.*

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 9:38 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4120. An act to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 11:55 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2672. An act to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2919. An act to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require annual reports to Congress on, and the maintenance of databases on, awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3329. An act to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3468. An act to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to extend insurance coverage to amounts held in a member account on behalf of another person, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3584. An act to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4292. An act to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title.

H.R. 4386. An act to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 743(b)(3) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113–76), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Minority Leader appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Commission on Hunger: Dr. Deborah Alice Frank, MD of Brookline, Massachusetts, and William Howard Shore of Boston, Massachusetts.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:41 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4192. An act to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2919. An act to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require annual reports to Congress on, and the maintenance of databases on, awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3329. An act to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3468. An act to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to extend insurance coverage to amounts held in a member account on behalf of another person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3584. An act to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4292. An act to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4386. An act to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 2824. An act to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to stop the ongoing waste by the Department of the Interior of taxpayer resources and implement the final rule on excess spoil, mining waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3826. An act to provide direction to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the establishment of standards for emissions of any greenhouse gas from fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5606. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medical Devices; Ophthalmic Devices; Classification of the Eyelid Weight'' (Docket No. FDA–2013–N–0069) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5607. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Food Labeling: Nutrient Content Claims; Alpha-Linolenic Acid, Eicosapentaenoic Acid, and Docasahexaenoic Acid Omega-3 Fatty Acids'' ((Docket Nos. FDA–2007–0601, FDA–2004–N–0382, FDA–2005–P–0371, and FDA–2006–P–0224 (formerly Docket Nos. 2004N–0217, 2005P–0189, and 2006P–0137, respectively))(RIN0910–ZA28)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5608. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5609. A communication from the Acting Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Vertical Tandem Lifts'' (RIN1218–AC72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5610. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease: 2014 Update''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5611. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5612. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Change in Submission Requirements for State Mitigation Plans'' ((44 CFR Part 201) (Docket No. FEMA–2012–0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5613. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule

entitled ''Political Activity—State or Local Officers or Employees; Federal Employees Residing in Designated Localities; Federal Employees'' (RIN3206–AM87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5614. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prevailing Rate Systems; Special Wage Schedules for Nonappropriated Fund Automotive Mechanics'' (RIN3206–AM63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5615. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office's audit of the United States government's fiscal years 2013 and 2012 consolidated financial statements; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5616. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5617. A communication from the Chair, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines that were proposed by the Commission during the 2013–2014 amendment cycle; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5618. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on crime victims' rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5619. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone: Giants Enterprises Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0174)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5620. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Ohio River, Mile 803.5 to 804.5'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0186)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5621. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone for Fireworks Display, Patapsco River, Northwest Harbor (East Channel); Baltimore, MD'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0236)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5622. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Security Zones; Naval Base Point Loma; Naval Mine Anti Submarine Warfare Command; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA87) (Docket No. USCG–2013–0580)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5623. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Lucas Oil Drag Boat Racing Series; Thompson Bay, Lake Havasu City, AZ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0153)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5624. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; BWRC West Coast Nationals; Parker, AZ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0140)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5625. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway (NJICW), Barnegat Bay, Seaside Heights, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2013–0926)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5626. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Lucas Oil Drag Boat Racing Series; Lake Havasu City, AZ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0058)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5627. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety zone; Sea World San Diego Fireworks, Mission Bay; San Diego, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0015)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5628. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; The Boat Show Marathon; Lake Havasu, AZ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0102)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5629. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation, Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale New River Raft Race, New River; Fort Lauderdale, FL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0001)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5630. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation; Charleston Race Week, Charleston Harbor; Charleston, SC'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0096)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5631. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone, Texas City Channel; Texas City, TX'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0034)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5632. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone: Akadama Fireworks Display, Richmond Inner Harbor, Richmond, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0133)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5633. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Lake Havasu Gran Prix; Lake Havasu, AZ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0177)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5634. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Pago Pago Harbor, American Samoa'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0014)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5635. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulated Navigation Area; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, New Orleans, LA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2009–0139)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5636. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulations; Eighth Coast Guard District Annual and Recurring Marine Events Update'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2013–1061)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5637. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

''Safety Zone; Xterra Swim, Myrtle Beach, SC'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0161)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5638. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zones; Eighth Coast Guard District Annual and Recurring Safety Zones Update'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2013–1060)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5639. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Helicopter Lift Operations, Main Branch Chicago River, Chicago, IL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0128)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5640. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Great Egg Harbor Bay, (Ship Channel and (Beach Thorofare NJICW)), Somers Point and Ocean City, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0121)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5641. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Military Munitions Recovery, Raritan River, Raritan, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0153)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5642. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulated Navigation Area; Arthur Kill, NY and NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2011–0727)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5643. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Bat Mitzvah Celebration Fireworks Display; Joshua Cove; Guilford, CT'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0158)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5644. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulated Navigation Areas; Bars along the Coasts of Oregon and Washington'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2013–0216)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5645. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation; Low Country Splash, Wando River, Cooper River, and Charleston Harbor; Charleston, SC'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0110)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5646. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zones, Delaware River, Pea Patch Island Anchorage No. 5 and Reedy Point South Anchorage No. 3'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0051)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5647. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zones; Revolution 3 Triathlon, Lake Erie, Sandusky Bay, Sandusky, OH'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2012–0730)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5648. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone, Barnegat Inlet; Barnegat Light, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0145)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5649. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Broad Creek, Laurel, DE'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2013–0778)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5650. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulated Navigation Area; Piscataqua River Channel Obstruction near Memorial Bridge, Piscataqua River, Portsmouth, NH'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0159)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5651. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Events in Northern New England'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2013–0904)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5652. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Tred Avon River; Between Bellevue, MD and Oxford, MD'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2013–1059)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5653. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Final Rule To Allow Northeast Multispecies Sector Vessels Access to Year-Round Closed Areas'' (RIN0648–BD09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5654. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; American Lobster Fishery'' (RIN0648–AT31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5655. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Specifications and Management Measures'' (RIN0648–BD65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5656. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions in the Eastern Pacific Ocean'' (RIN0648–BD52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5657. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2014 and 2015 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish; Correction'' (RIN0648–XC895) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5658. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Temporary Rule To Establish Separate Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic Region'' (RIN0648–BD87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5659. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Framework Adjustment 8'' (RIN0648–BD65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5660. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trimester Closure and Trip Limit Adjustments for the Common Pool Fishery'' (RIN0648–XD212) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5661. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Mexico'' (RIN0648–XD225) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5662. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Phase 1 Reopening for the Directed Butterfish Fishery'' (RIN0648–XD205) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5663. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648–BE10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5664. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD182) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2296. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to employ at least three decision review officers at each regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2297. A bill to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of reducing the student-to-school nurse ratio in public elementary schools and secondary schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2298. A bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. KING):

S. 2299. A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2300. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to conduct periodic mental health assessments for members of the Armed Forces and to submit reports with respect to mental health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2301. A bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2302. A bill to provide for a 1-year extension of the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2303. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2304. A bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 40

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 40, a bill to restore Americans' individual liberty by striking the Federal mandate to purchase insurance.

S. 162

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004.

S. 257

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 257, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require courses of education provided by public institutions of higher education that are approved for purposes of the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to charge veterans tuition and fees at the in-State tuition rate, and for other purposes.

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 399

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 399, a bill to protect American job creation by striking the Federal mandate on employers to offer health insurance.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1839

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1839, a bill to make certain luggage and travel articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 2012

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2012, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to more effectively regulate anabolic steroids.

S. 2117

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2117, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2193

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2193, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to provide increased protection for horses participating in shows, exhibitions, or sales, and for other purposes.

S. 2194

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2194, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 2209

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2209, a bill to require a report on accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

S. 2226

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2226, a bill to establish a WaterSense program within the Environmental Protection Agency.

S. 2265

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2265, a bill to prohibit certain assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

S. 2270

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2270, a bill to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 2282

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2282, a bill to prohibit the provision of performance awards to employees of the Internal Revenue Service who owe back taxes.

S. 2292

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2292, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2295, a bill to establish the National Commission on the Future of the Army, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 433

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 433, a resolution condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

AMENDMENT NO. 2990

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2990 intended to be proposed to S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. KING):

S. 2299. A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today Senator MURKOWSKI and I introduce the Native American Languages Reauthorization Act of 2014. We are also joined by our fellow colleagues and cosponsors of this bill: Senators BEGICH, FRANKEN, HEINRICH, HIRONO, KING, SCHATZ, TESTER, and TOM UDALL.

Since the Native American Languages Act of 1992 became law, we have made considerable progress in keeping native languages alive. The Native American Languages Act of 1992 established a grant program within the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to ensure the survival of native languages. Through the Health and Human Services Department Administration for Native Americans, the native languages grant program has made documented impacts on the revival of Native languages across Indian Country.

The bill we introduce today will reauthorize the native languages grant program until fiscal year 2019. The Native language grant program has made several reports to Congress on the significant impacts that its grants have for native communities. In the 2012 report on the Impact and Effectiveness of Administration for Native American Projects, out of the 63 total language grantees, Administration for Native Americans evaluated 22 language projects from across Indian Country. The 2012 impact data showed that from these 22 projects a total of 178 language teachers were trained; 2,340 youth had increased their ability to speak a Native language or achieved fluency; and 2,586 adults had increased their ability to speak a Native language or achieved fluency.

Promoting Native language programs will strengthen our Native cultures and, according to the National Indian Education Association, will also promote higher academic success in other areas of learning. The continuity of Native languages is a link to previous generations and should be preserved for future generations.

The Native Americans Languages Act has helped to save native languages and encourages both young children and adults to develop a fluency in their Native language. Across South Dakota and Indian Country, this

vital grant funding gives the opportunity for our cherished Native elders to sit down with the younger generation to pass on native languages. We must continue our efforts to promote Native language revitalization programs to ensure the preservation of Native American cultures, histories, and traditions.

I urge my colleagues to join us and reauthorize this important legislation to save and preserve native languages before it is too late.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2301. A bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I will introduce legislation that will help victims of one of the most vicious crimes and one of the most evil crimes in our society: child pornography.

When Congress enacted the Violence Against Women Act more than 20 years ago—and I had a lot to do with that, and then-Senator Biden deserves an awful lot of the credit for that—the law required that the defendant in a child sexual exploitation case must pay restitution ''for the full amount of the victim's losses.'' Those losses can include lost income as well as expenses for medical services, therapy, rehabilitation, transportation, and childcare.

The restitution statute works in a straightforward way for crimes that involve individual defendants who cause specific harm to particular victims. But child pornography is different. Victims not only suffer from the initial abuse, but they continue to suffer as images of that abuse are created, distributed, and possessed. As the Supreme Court recently put it, ''Every viewing of child pornography is a repetition of the victim's abuse.''

In the Internet age, a child pornography victim's abuse never ends, but identifying everyone who contributes to that ongoing abuse can be difficult, if not impossible. A predator who commits and records the abuse might be readily identified. Those who distribute those images, however, are harder to find, and many who obtain and possess them might never be identified at all. They may get lost in the crowd. They may seek safety in shadows. But the harm they cause to victims is no less devastating.

Our challenge is to craft a restitution statute suited for this unique kind of crime. We are meeting that challenge today by introducing the Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Improvement Act. Amy and Vicky are victims in two of the most widely distributed child pornography series in the world. They know how difficult it is to seek restitution for ongoing harm caused by unknown people.

The Supreme Court reviewed Amy's case and issued a decision on April 23, titled ''Paroline v. United States.'' The Court said the existing restitution statute is not suited for her kind of case because it requires proving how one defendant's possession of particular images concretely harmed an individual victim. That is simply impossible to prove and puts the burden on victims forever to chase defendants only to recover next to nothing.

Several of my colleagues, both Republican and Democratic, joined me on a legal brief in that case. We hoped that the Supreme Court would construe the existing statute in a way that was workable to protect child pornography victims. The Court chose not to do that, and it is up to Congress to craft a statute that works. I believe we are up to the task, and the bill I am introducing today is the way to do it.

The Amy and Vicky act creates an effective, balanced restitution process for victims of child pornography that responds to the Supreme Court's decision in Paroline v. United States. It does three things. First, it considers a victim's total losses, including from individuals who may not have yet been identified. This step reflects the unique nature of child pornography and its ongoing impact on its victims. Secondly, the bill requires real and timely restitution and gives judges options for making that happen. Third, it allows defendants who have contributed to the same victim's losses to spread the cost of restitution among themselves. If a victim was harmed by a single defendant, the defendant must pay full restitution for all of the victim's losses, but if a victim was harmed by multiple individuals, a judge has options for imposing restitution on a defendant, depending on the circumstances of the case. The defendant can be required to pay the full amount of the victim's losses or the defendant can pay less than the full amount but at least a statutory minimum for crimes, such as possession, distribution or production of the child pornography.

In its decision in the Paroline case, the Supreme Court discussed whether a defendant should pay full restitution for harms that he did not cause entirely by himself. At the same time, the Court recognized that the harm from child pornography flows from the trade or the continuing traffic in the images. It would be perverse to say that as more individuals contribute to a victim's harm and loss by obtaining images of her abuse, the less responsible each of them is so that the victim ends up with nothing. The Amy and Vicky act addresses these issues.

A defendant may sue others who have harmed the same victim in order to spread the costs of restitution but must do so in a timely fashion and only after the victim has received real and timely payment. As my colleagues may know, Federal law already provides for criminal defendants who must pay restitution to do so on a payment schedule suitable for their individual circumstances.

I wish to thank three groups of people who have been critical in bringing us to this point only 2 weeks after the Supreme Court's decision. First and foremost, I wish to recognize and thank both Amy and Vicky, the brave women for whom this bill is named who represent so many child pornography victims. Amy and Vicky both endorse this legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that a letter from each of them be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMY'S LETTER SUPPORTING THE AMY AND VICKY CHILD PORNOGRAPHY VICTIM RESTITUTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

I am writing today to give my support to the Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Improvement Act of 2014. It is very important that this law get passed as soon as possible.

The past eight years of my life have been filled with hope and horror. Life was pretty horrible when I realized that the pictures of my childhood sex abuse were on the Internet for anyone and everyone to see. Imagine the worst most humiliating moments of your life captured for everyone to see forever. Then imagine that as a child you didn't even really know what was happening to you and you didn't want it to happen but you couldn't stop it. You were abused, raped, and hurt and this is something that other people want. They enjoy it. They can't stop collecting it and asking for it and trading it with other people. And it's you. It's your life and your pain that they are enjoying. And it never stops and you are helpless to do anything ever to stop it. That's horror.

There was also hope. Hope in finding someone who could help me like my parents and my lawyer. And hope in meeting Joy, my psychologist, who was the first person who really understood what I was going through. Then I met Cindy, my therapist, who also really helped me with all the twists and turns with what I was feeling when I tried to make sense of my life and what had happened to me as a child and what is happening to me on the Internet. I felt lots of hope when my lawyer started collecting restitution to help me pay my bills and my therapist and for a car to drive to therapy and to just try to create some kind of 'normal' life. Things were getting better and better.

Then we started having problems with the restitution law. Judges sometimes gave me just $100 and sometimes nothing at all. A few judges really got it, like when I was at the Fifth Circuit oral argument two years ago and the judges agreed that the child sex abuse images of me really do cause ongoing and long-term harm. The article by Emily Bazelon in the New York Times also really helped to tell my story so that people can understand what it's like to live with child pornography every day of your life. I was really happy to discover recently that her article received honorable mention in a contest recognizing excellence in journalism.

After a long time and a lot of court hearings all over the country, my case was finally at the Supreme Court. I couldn't believe how long and how far my case and my story had gone until I was sitting there in the Supreme Court surrounded by so many of the people who have supported me and helped me during these years. To hear the justices discussing my case and my life was really overwhelming and gave me lots of hope not just for myself but for other victims like Vicky who I met for the first time right before the oral argument. I know there were other victims there too who are too afraid to speak out and too afraid to even think about what happened to them and what is happening to them online, on the Internet, because of their childhood sexual abuse and child pornography. I hoped that at last the very important people on the Supreme Court would decide that not just me, but all the victims like me—who were so young when all these horrible things happened to us—could get the restitution we need to try and live a life like everyone else.

All the justices were respectful and it was obvious that they had thought a lot about the issues. When the oral argument finished I was really hopeful that we would win the case. It felt good doing something this significant to make a difference in the world. It was a great feeling after so many years of just trying to get it right.

My hope turned to horror when the Court decided two weeks ago that restitution was ''impossible'' for victims like me and Vicky and so many others. I couldn't believe that something which is called mandatory restitution (twice) was so hard to figure out. It just seemed like something somewhere was missing. Why, if so many people are committing this serious crime, why are the victims of that crime, who are and were children after all, left out? The Court's decision was even worse than getting no restitution at all. It was sort of like getting negative restitution. It was a horrible day.

This is why I am so happy, and hopeful, that Congress can fix this problem once and for all. Maybe if they put mandatory in the law for a third time judges will get it that restitution really really really must be given to victims! After all this time and all the hearings and appeals and the Supreme Court, I definitely agree that restitution needs improvement and hopefully this bill, the Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Restitution Improvement Act of 2014, can finally make restitution happen for all victims of this horrible crime.

Thank you for supporting this law and working so hard to give victims the hope and help they need to overcome the nightmares and memories that most others will never know. Thank you Senator Hatch and Senator Schumer for making my hope real!

AMY (no longer) Unknown.

''VICKY,'' C/O CAROL L. HEPBURN,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Seattle, WA, May 3, 2014.

Re Support for Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Restitution Improvement Act

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Senator, U.S. Congress,
Washington DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH: I am the subject of the ''Vicky'' series of child pornography images, which I have been told by law enforcement agents is one of the most widely traded in the world. I am writing to you under pseudonym, and through my attorney, because I have been stalked by pedophiles in the recent past and I am concerned that disclosure of my legal name and address could lead to further stalking.

I appreciate the Supreme Court's recent recognition in the Paroline decision of the pain and loss suffered by victims and the need for mandatory restitution. This upholds both the victim's need for compensation and helping the offender realize they have hurt an actual person. The difficult part of this decision is the immense amount of time and work investment that will be required by the victim to collect restitution, without the guarantee that they will ever collect the full amount to be made whole again. With each case in which the victim seeks restitution from someone who has possessed and/or distributed their images, there is an emotional cost just for being involved in the case. It brings up the painful reality of the victim's situation of never-ending humiliation and puts it right in the victim's face once again. This decision places on the victim the huge burden of several years of litigation without any promise of closure. This is a dismal prospect because it leaves victims like Amy and myself with the choice between not pursuing restitution (which would not provide us with the help we desperately need to heal) or continuing to have this painful part of our lives in our face on a regular basis for several more years, if not decades. Without any guidelines as to how the district courts will calculate restitution from each offender, I worry that the emotional toll may not be adequately compensated for in the end. I sincerely hope that Congress will take the time to create some guidelines for restitution for victims of child pornography possession and distribution that will protect the victim and enable them to receive full compensation.

I would be happy to talk with you about this at some later time. I am currently very pregnant and due to deliver my first child in two weeks. I respectfully ask that you support this legislation and do all that you can to see that it becomes law.

Very truly yours,

''VICKY''.

Mr. HATCH. Second, I wish to thank Amy and Vicky's legal team who were instrumental in developing this legislation. They include Professor Paul Cassell at the University of Utah School of Law, one of the leading authorities on criminal law in this country, and attorneys James Marsh of New York and Carol Hepburn in Seattle. Professor Cassell argued the Paroline case before the Supreme Court, and it is the experience of these tireless advocates that informed how to respond to that decision.

Third, I wish to thank the Senators on both sides of the aisle who join me in introducing this bill. In particular, I wish to recognize the senior Senator from New York Mr. SCHUMER who also signed on to the legal brief I filed in the Paroline case. We serve together on the Judiciary Committee, and he has long been a champion for crime victims.

I ask unanimous consent that an editorial from today's Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 6, 2014]

CONGRESS NEEDS TO ACT TO ALLOW VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX ABUSE TO RECOVER RESTITUTION

(By Editorial Board)

''I am a 19 year old girl and I am a victim of child sex abuse and child pornography. I am still discovering all the ways that the abuse and exploitation I suffer has hurt me. . . .'' So began the victim impact statement of a young woman who was 8 when she was raped but whose abuse has never ended because the uncle who assaulted her took pictures that have been widely trafficked on the Internet. ''It is hard to describe what it feels like to know that at any moment, anywhere, someone is looking at pictures of me as a little girl being abused by my uncle and is getting some kind of sick enjoyment from it,'' she wrote.

The Supreme Court did not dispute her suffering nor her right to receive restitution from viewers who take pleasure in her abuse and create the sordid market demand for child pornography. But the court set aside the $3.4 million awarded her. Now Congress needs to fix the law.

The 5-to-4 ruling in Paroline v. United States is a double-edged sword for the advocates of child pornography victims. It upholds part of the Violence Against Women Act, which calls for restitution to victims such as ''Amy Unknown,'' as the woman is identified in court papers, but it limits the amount of damages proximate to the harm caused by a specific offender—a standard that puts the burden on the victim and makes it difficult to collect damages.

Doyle Randall Paroline, who pleaded guilty to possessing child pornography that included images of Amy, was ordered by an appeals court to pay all of the $3.4 million owed to Amy for the psychological damage and lost income she has suffered. The court's majority, in an opinion written by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, ruled that Mr. Paroline should be assessed an amount that is not trivial but comports with ''the defendant's relative role in the causal process that underlies the victim's general losses.''

Justice Kennedy acknowledged that his approach ''is not without difficulties.'' How should a court calculate the harm caused by one person's possession of an image seen by thousands? Mathematically dividing the total amount by the number of estimated views produces an amount so small as to be insulting rather than therapeutic. What, in short, is the right number between zero and $3.4 million?

The justices are right in thinking that Congress should revisit the issue. Legislation set to be introduced Wednesday by Sens. Charles E. Schumer (D–N.Y.) and Orrin G. Hatch (R–Utah) seems to be a step in the right direction, with its outline of options for full victim recovery when multiple individuals are involved and giving multiple defendants who have banned the same victim the ability to sue each other to spread the cost of restitution. The court was clear in its opinion that ''the victim should someday collect restitution for all her child pornography losses.'' Congress needs to provide the tools to turn that someday into reality.

Mr. HATCH. It says that the Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Improvement Act is ''a step in the right direction.''

I urge all of my colleagues to join us in enacting this legislation. It creates a practical process and recognizes the unique kind of harm caused by child

pornography and requires restitution in a manner that will actually help victims.

In her letter, Amy writes that the legislation we are introducing today ''can finally make restitution happen for all victims of this horrible crime.''

Let's get it done.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3010. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3011. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3012. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, supra.

SA 3013. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3014. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. FLAKE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3015. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3016. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3017. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3018. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3019. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3020. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3021. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3022. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3023. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3012 submitted by Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN) to the bill S. 2262, supra.

SA 3024. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3023 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3012 submitted by Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN) to the bill S. 2262, supra.

SA 3025. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2262, supra.

SA 3026. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3025 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2262, supra.

SA 3027. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2262, supra.

SA 3028. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3027 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2262, supra.

SA 3029. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3028 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3027 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2262, supra.

SA 3030. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3031. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3032. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3033. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3034. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3035. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3036. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3037. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3038. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3039. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3040. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3041. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3042. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3043. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3044. Mr. REID (for Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. WYDEN)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3010. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. _____. COMPLIANCE WITH LACEY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1981.

Section 5 of Public Law 112–237 (126 Stat. 1629) is amended by inserting after ''zebra mussels'' the following: ''and other fish, wildlife, and plants present in Lake Texoma that are prohibited under section 3 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 3372) or under section 42 of title 18, United States Code''.

SA 3011. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5____. APPROVAL OF CERTAIN SETTLEMENTS UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (12) through (21) as paragraphs (13) through (22), respectively;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (10) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), and (12), respectively;

(3) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(1) AFFECTED PARTY.—The term 'affected party' means any person (including a business entity), or any State, tribal government, or local subdivision, the rights of which may be affected by a determination made under section 4(a) in an action brought under section 11(g)(1)(C).''; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (5) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(6) COVERED SETTLEMENT.—The term 'covered settlement' means a consent decree or a settlement agreement in an action brought under section 11(g)(1)(C).''.

(b) INTERVENTION; APPROVAL OF COVERED SETTLEMENT.—Section 11(g) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1540(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) PUBLISHING COMPLAINT; INTERVENTION.—

''(i) PUBLISHING COMPLAINT.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the plaintiff serves the defendant with the complaint in an action brought under paragraph (1)(C) in accordance with Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish the complaint in a readily accessible manner, including electronically.

''(II) FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE.—The failure of the Secretary to meet the 30-day deadline described in subclause (I) shall not be the basis for an action under paragraph (1)(C).

''(ii) INTERVENTION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—After the end of the 30-day period described in clause (i), each affected party shall be given a reasonable opportunity to move to intervene in the action described in clause (i), until the end of which a party may not file a motion for a consent decree or to dismiss the case pursuant to a settlement agreement.

''(II) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—In considering a motion to intervene by any affected

party, the court shall presume, subject to rebuttal, that the interests of that affected party would not be represented adequately by the parties to the action described in clause (i).

''(III) REFERRAL TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—If the court grants a motion to intervene in the action, the court shall refer the action to facilitate settlement discussions to—

''(AA) the mediation program of the court; or

''(BB) a magistrate judge.

''(bb) PARTIES INCLUDED IN SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS.—The settlement discussions described in item (aa) shall include each—

''(AA) plaintiff;

''(BB) defendant agency; and

''(CC) intervenor.'';

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) LITIGATION COSTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the court, in issuing any final order in any action brought under paragraph (1), may award costs of litigation (including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees) to any party, whenever the court determines such an award is appropriate.

''(B) COVERED SETTLEMENT.—

''(i) CONSENT DECREES.—The court shall not award costs of litigation in any proposed covered settlement that is a consent decree.

''(ii) OTHER COVERED SETTLEMENTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—For a proposed covered settlement other than a consent decree, the court shall ensure that the covered settlement does not include payment to any plaintiff for the costs of litigation.

''(II) MOTIONS.—The court shall not grant any motion, including a motion to dismiss, based on the proposed covered settlement described in subclause (I) if the covered settlement includes payment to any plaintiff for the costs of litigation.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) APPROVAL OF COVERED SETTLEMENT.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF SPECIES.—In this paragraph, the term 'species' means a species that is the subject of an action brought under paragraph (1)(C).

''(B) IN GENERAL.—

''(i) CONSENT DECREES.—The court shall not approve a proposed covered settlement that is a consent decree unless each State and county in which the Secretary of the Interior believes a species occurs approves the covered settlement.

''(ii) OTHER COVERED SETTLEMENTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—For a proposed covered settlement other than a consent decree, the court shall ensure that the covered settlement is approved by each State and county in which the Secretary of the Interior believes a species occurs.

''(II) MOTIONS.—The court shall not grant any motion, including a motion to dismiss, based on the proposed covered settlement described in subclause (I) unless the covered settlement is approved by each State and county in which the Secretary of the Interior believes a species occurs.

''(C) NOTICE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide to each State and county in which the Secretary of the Interior believes a species occurs notice of a proposed covered settlement.

''(ii) DETERMINATION OF RELEVANT STATES AND COUNTIES.—The defendant in a covered settlement shall consult with each State described in clause (i) to determine each county in which the Secretary of the Interior believes a species occurs.

''(D) FAILURE TO RESPOND.—The court may approve a covered settlement or grant a motion described in subparagraph (B)(ii)(II) if, not later than 45 days after the date on which a State or county is notified under subparagraph (C)—

''(i)(I) a State or county fails to respond; and

''(II) of the States or counties that respond, each State or county approves the covered settlement; or

''(ii) all of the States and counties fail to respond.

''(E) PROOF OF APPROVAL.—The defendant in a covered settlement shall prove any State or county approval described in this paragraph in a form—

''(i) acceptable to the State or county, as applicable; and

''(ii) signed by the State or county official authorized to approve the covered settlement.''.

SA 3012. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

In this Act, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

TITLE I—BUILDINGS

Subtitle A—Building Energy Codes

SEC. 101. GREATER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDING CODES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 303 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6832) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (14) and inserting the following:

''(14) MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODE.—The term 'model building energy code' means a voluntary building energy code and standards developed and updated through a consensus process among interested persons, such as the IECC or the code used by—

''(A) the Council of American Building Officials, or its legal successor, International Code Council, Inc.;

''(B) the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers; or

''(C) other appropriate organizations.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(17) IECC.—The term 'IECC' means the International Energy Conservation Code.

''(18) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).''.

(b) STATE BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY CODES.—Section 304 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6833) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 304. UPDATING STATE BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY CODES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) encourage and support the adoption of building energy codes by States, Indian tribes, and, as appropriate, by local governments that meet or exceed the model building energy codes, or achieve equivalent or greater energy savings; and

''(2) support full compliance with the State and local codes.

''(b) STATE AND INDIAN TRIBE CERTIFICATION OF BUILDING ENERGY CODE UPDATES.—

''(1) REVIEW AND UPDATING OF CODES BY EACH STATE AND INDIAN TRIBE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which a model building energy code is updated, each State or Indian tribe shall certify whether or not the State or Indian tribe, respectively, has reviewed and updated the energy provisions of the building code of the State or Indian tribe, respectively.

''(B) DEMONSTRATION.—The certification shall include a demonstration of whether or not the energy savings for the code provisions that are in effect throughout the State or Indian tribal territory meet or exceed—

''(i) the energy savings of the updated model building energy code; or

''(ii) the targets established under section 307(b)(2).

''(C) NO MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODE UPDATE.—If a model building energy code is not updated by a target date established under section 307(b)(2)(D), each State or Indian tribe shall, not later than 2 years after the specified date, certify whether or not the State or Indian tribe, respectively, has reviewed and updated the energy provisions of the building code of the State or Indian tribe, respectively, to meet or exceed the target in section 307(b)(2).

''(2) VALIDATION BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 90 days after a State or Indian tribe certification under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(A) determine whether the code provisions of the State or Indian tribe, respectively, meet the criteria specified in paragraph (1); and

''(B) if the determination is positive, validate the certification.

''(c) IMPROVEMENTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH BUILDING ENERGY CODES.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of a certification under subsection (b), each State and Indian tribe shall certify whether or not the State and Indian tribe, respectively, has—

''(i) achieved full compliance under paragraph (3) with the applicable certified State and Indian tribe building energy code or with the associated model building energy code; or

''(ii) made significant progress under paragraph (4) toward achieving compliance with the applicable certified State and Indian tribe building energy code or with the associated model building energy code.

''(B) REPEAT CERTIFICATIONS.—If the State or Indian tribe certifies progress toward achieving compliance, the State or Indian tribe shall repeat the certification until the State or Indian tribe certifies that the State or Indian tribe has achieved full compliance, respectively.

''(2) MEASUREMENT OF COMPLIANCE.—A certification under paragraph (1) shall include documentation of the rate of compliance based on—

''(A) independent inspections of a random sample of the buildings covered by the code in the preceding year; or

''(B) an alternative method that yields an accurate measure of compliance.

''(3) ACHIEVEMENT OF COMPLIANCE.—A State or Indian tribe shall be considered to achieve full compliance under paragraph (1) if—

''(A) at least 90 percent of building space covered by the code in the preceding year substantially meets all the requirements of the applicable code specified in paragraph (1), or achieves equivalent or greater energy savings level; or

''(B) the estimated excess energy use of buildings that did not meet the applicable code specified in paragraph (1) in the preceding year, compared to a baseline of comparable buildings that meet this code, is not more than 5 percent of the estimated energy use of all buildings covered by this code during the preceding year.

''(4) SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF COMPLIANCE.—A State or Indian tribe shall be considered to have made significant progress toward achieving compliance for purposes of paragraph (1) if the State or Indian tribe—

''(A) has developed and is implementing a plan for achieving compliance during the 8-year-period beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph, including annual targets for compliance and active training and enforcement programs; and

''(B) has met the most recent target under subparagraph (A).

''(5) VALIDATION BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 90 days after a State or Indian tribe certification under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(A) determine whether the State or Indian tribe has demonstrated meeting the criteria of this subsection, including accurate measurement of compliance; and

''(B) if the determination is positive, validate the certification.

''(d) STATES OR INDIAN TRIBES THAT DO NOT ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) REPORTING.—A State or Indian tribe that has not made a certification required under subsection (b) or (c) by the applicable deadline shall submit to the Secretary a report on—

''(A) the status of the State or Indian tribe with respect to meeting the requirements and submitting the certification; and

''(B) a plan for meeting the requirements and submitting the certification.

''(2) FEDERAL SUPPORT.—For any State or Indian tribe for which the Secretary has not validated a certification by a deadline under subsection (b) or (c), the lack of the certification may be a consideration for Federal support authorized under this section for code adoption and compliance activities.

''(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—In any State or Indian tribe for which the Secretary has not validated a certification under subsection (b) or (c), a local government may be eligible for Federal support by meeting the certification requirements of subsections (b) and (c).

''(4) ANNUAL REPORTS BY SECRETARY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall annually submit to Congress, and publish in the Federal Register, a report on—

''(i) the status of model building energy codes;

''(ii) the status of code adoption and compliance in the States and Indian tribes;

''(iii) implementation of this section; and

''(iv) improvements in energy savings over time as result of the targets established under section 307(b)(2).

''(B) IMPACTS.—The report shall include estimates of impacts of past action under this section, and potential impacts of further action, on—

''(i) upfront financial and construction costs, cost benefits and returns (using investment analysis), and lifetime energy use for buildings;

''(ii) resulting energy costs to individuals and businesses; and

''(iii) resulting overall annual building ownership and operating costs.

''(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to States and Indian tribes to implement the goals and requirements of this section, including procedures and technical analysis for States and Indian tribes—

''(1) to improve and implement State residential and commercial building energy codes;

''(2) to demonstrate that the code provisions of the States and Indian tribes achieve equivalent or greater energy savings than the model building energy codes and targets;

''(3) to document the rate of compliance with a building energy code; and

''(4) to otherwise promote the design and construction of energy efficient buildings.

''(f) AVAILABILITY OF INCENTIVE FUNDING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide incentive funding to States and Indian tribes—

''(A) to implement the requirements of this section;

''(B) to improve and implement residential and commercial building energy codes, including increasing and verifying compliance with the codes and training of State, tribal, and local building code officials to implement and enforce the codes; and

''(C) to promote building energy efficiency through the use of the codes.

''(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—Additional funding shall be provided under this subsection for implementation of a plan to achieve and document full compliance with residential and commercial building energy codes under subsection (c)—

''(A) to a State or Indian tribe for which the Secretary has validated a certification under subsection (b) or (c); and

''(B) in a State or Indian tribe that is not eligible under subparagraph (A), to a local government that is eligible under this section.

''(3) TRAINING.—Of the amounts made available under this subsection, the State or Indian tribe may use amounts required, but not to exceed $750,000 for a State, to train State and local building code officials to implement and enforce codes described in paragraph (2).

''(4) LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—States may share grants under this subsection with local governments that implement and enforce the codes.

''(g) STRETCH CODES AND ADVANCED STANDARDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide technical and financial support for the development of stretch codes and advanced standards for residential and commercial buildings for use as—

''(A) an option for adoption as a building energy code by local, tribal, or State governments; and

''(B) guidelines for energy-efficient building design.

''(2) TARGETS.—The stretch codes and advanced standards shall be designed—

''(A) to achieve substantial energy savings compared to the model building energy codes; and

''(B) to meet targets under section 307(b), if available, at least 3 to 6 years in advance of the target years.

''(h) STUDIES.—The Secretary, in consultation with building science experts from the National Laboratories and institutions of higher education, designers and builders of energy-efficient residential and commercial buildings, code officials, and other stakeholders, shall undertake a study of the feasibility, impact, economics, and merit of—

''(1) code improvements that would require that buildings be designed, sited, and constructed in a manner that makes the buildings more adaptable in the future to become zero-net-energy after initial construction, as advances are achieved in energy-saving technologies;

''(2) code procedures to incorporate measured lifetimes, not just first-year energy use, in trade-offs and performance calculations; and

''(3) legislative options for increasing energy savings from building energy codes, including additional incentives for effective State and local action, and verification of compliance with and enforcement of a code other than by a State or local government.

''(i) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section or section 307 supersedes or modifies the application of sections 321 through 346 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291 et seq.).

''(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section and section 307 $200,000,000, to remain available until expended.''.

(c) FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.—Section 305 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834) is amended by striking ''voluntary building energy code'' each place it appears in subsections (a)(2)(B) and (b) and inserting ''model building energy code''.

(d) MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODES.—Section 307 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6836) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 307. SUPPORT FOR MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall support the updating of model building energy codes.

''(b) TARGETS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall support the updating of the model building energy codes to enable the achievement of aggregate energy savings targets established under paragraph (2).

''(2) TARGETS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall work with State, Indian tribes, local governments, nationally recognized code and standards developers, and other interested parties to support the updating of model building energy codes by establishing one or more aggregate energy savings targets to achieve the purposes of this section.

''(B) SEPARATE TARGETS.—The Secretary may establish separate targets for commercial and residential buildings.

''(C) BASELINES.—The baseline for updating model building energy codes shall be the 2009 IECC for residential buildings and ASHRAE Standard 90.1–2010 for commercial buildings.

''(D) SPECIFIC YEARS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Targets for specific years shall be established and revised by the Secretary through rulemaking and coordinated with nationally recognized code and standards developers at a level that—

''(I) is at the maximum level of energy efficiency that is technologically feasible and life-cycle cost effective, while accounting for the economic considerations under paragraph (4);

''(II) is higher than the preceding target; and

''(III) promotes the achievement of commercial and residential high-performance buildings through high performance energy efficiency (within the meaning of section 401 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17061)).

''(ii) INITIAL TARGETS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this clause, the Secretary shall establish initial targets under this subparagraph.

''(iii) DIFFERENT TARGET YEARS.—Subject to clause (i), prior to the applicable year, the Secretary may set a later target year for any of the model building energy codes described in subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that a target cannot be met.

''(iv) SMALL BUSINESS.—When establishing targets under this paragraph through rulemaking, the Secretary shall ensure compliance with the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; Public Law 104–121).

''(3) APPLIANCE STANDARDS AND OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING BUILDING ENERGY USE.—In establishing building code targets under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall develop and adjust the targets in recognition of potential savings and costs relating to—

''(A) efficiency gains made in appliances, lighting, windows, insulation, and building envelope sealing;

''(B) advancement of distributed generation and on-site renewable power generation technologies;

''(C) equipment improvements for heating, cooling, and ventilation systems;

''(D) building management systems and SmartGrid technologies to reduce energy use; and

''(E) other technologies, practices, and building systems that the Secretary considers appropriate regarding building plug load and other energy uses.

''(4) ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing and revising building code targets under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall consider the economic feasibility of achieving the proposed targets established under this section and the potential costs and savings for consumers and building owners, including a return on investment analysis.

''(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODE-SETTING AND STANDARD DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, on a timely basis, provide technical assistance to model building energy code-setting and standard development organizations consistent with the goals of this section.

''(2) ASSISTANCE.—The assistance shall include, as requested by the organizations, technical assistance in—

''(A) evaluating code or standards proposals or revisions;

''(B) building energy analysis and design tools;

''(C) building demonstrations;

''(D) developing definitions of energy use intensity and building types for use in model building energy codes to evaluate the efficiency impacts of the model building energy codes;

''(E) performance-based standards;

''(F) evaluating economic considerations under subsection (b)(4); and

''(G) developing model building energy codes by Indian tribes in accordance with tribal law.

''(3) AMENDMENT PROPOSALS.—The Secretary may submit timely model building energy code amendment proposals to the model building energy code-setting and standard development organizations, with supporting evidence, sufficient to enable the model building energy codes to meet the targets established under subsection (b)(2).

''(4) ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY.—The Secretary shall make publicly available the entire calculation methodology (including input assumptions and data) used by the Secretary to estimate the energy savings of code or standard proposals and revisions.

''(d) DETERMINATION.—

''(1) REVISION OF MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODES.—If the provisions of the IECC or ASHRAE Standard 90.1 regarding building energy use are revised, the Secretary shall make a preliminary determination not later than 90 days after the date of the revision, and a final determination not later than 15 months after the date of the revision, on whether or not the revision will—

''(A) improve energy efficiency in buildings compared to the existing model building energy code; and

''(B) meet the applicable targets under subsection (b)(2).

''(2) CODES OR STANDARDS NOT MEETING TARGETS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary makes a preliminary determination under paragraph (1)(B) that a code or standard does not meet the targets established under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may at the same time provide the model building energy code or standard developer with proposed changes that would result in a model building energy code that meets the targets and with supporting evidence, taking into consideration—

''(i) whether the modified code is technically feasible and life-cycle cost effective;

''(ii) available appliances, technologies, materials, and construction practices; and

''(iii) the economic considerations under subsection (b)(4).

''(B) INCORPORATION OF CHANGES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—On receipt of the proposed changes, the model building energy code or standard developer shall have an additional 270 days to accept or reject the proposed changes of the Secretary to the model building energy code or standard for the Secretary to make a final determination.

''(ii) FINAL DETERMINATION.—A final determination under paragraph (1) shall be on the modified model building energy code or standard.

''(e) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

''(1) publish notice of targets and supporting analysis and determinations under this section in the Federal Register to provide an explanation of and the basis for such actions, including any supporting modeling, data, assumptions, protocols, and cost-benefit analysis, including return on investment; and

''(2) provide an opportunity for public comment on targets and supporting analysis and determinations under this section.

''(f) VOLUNTARY CODES AND STANDARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any model building code or standard established under section 304 shall not be binding on a State, local government, or Indian tribe as a matter of Federal law.''.

Subtitle B—Worker Training and Capacity Building

SEC. 111. BUILDING TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide grants to institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) and Tribal Colleges or Universities (as defined in

section 316(b) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))) to establish building training and assessment centers—

(1) to identify opportunities for optimizing energy efficiency and environmental performance in buildings;

(2) to promote the application of emerging concepts and technologies in commercial and institutional buildings;

(3) to train engineers, architects, building scientists, building energy permitting and enforcement officials, and building technicians in energy-efficient design and operation;

(4) to assist institutions of higher education and Tribal Colleges or Universities in training building technicians;

(5) to promote research and development for the use of alternative energy sources and distributed generation to supply heat and power for buildings, particularly energy-intensive buildings; and

(6) to coordinate with and assist State-accredited technical training centers, community colleges, Tribal Colleges or Universities, and local offices of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and ensure appropriate services are provided under this section to each region of the United States.

(b) COORDINATION AND NONDUPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate the program with the industrial research and assessment centers program and with other Federal programs to avoid duplication of effort.

(2) COLLOCATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, building, training, and assessment centers established under this section shall be collocated with Industrial Assessment Centers.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 112. CAREER SKILLS TRAINING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay grants to eligible entities described in subsection (b) to pay the Federal share of associated career skills training programs under which students concurrently receive classroom instruction and on-the-job training for the purpose of obtaining an industry-related certification to install energy efficient buildings technologies, including technologies described in section 307(b)(3) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6836(b)(3)).

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to obtain a grant under subsection (a), an entity shall be a nonprofit partnership described in section 171(e)(2)(B)(ii) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2916(e)(2)(B)(ii)).

(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of carrying out a career skills training program described in subsection (a) shall be 50 percent.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Subtitle C—School Buildings

SEC. 121. COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.

(a) DEFINITION OF SCHOOL.—In this section, the term ''school'' means—

(1) an elementary school or secondary school (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

(2) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a));

(3) a school of the defense dependents' education system under the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et seq.) or established under section 2164 of title 10, United States Code;

(4) a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(5) a tribally controlled school (as defined in section 5212 of the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2511)); and

(6) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

(b) DESIGNATION OF LEAD AGENCY.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall act as the lead Federal agency for coordinating and disseminating information on existing Federal programs and assistance that may be used to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out coordination and outreach under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) in consultation and coordination with the appropriate Federal agencies, carry out a review of existing programs and financing mechanisms (including revolving loan funds and loan guarantees) available in or from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, the Department of Education, the Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate Federal agencies with jurisdiction over energy financing and facilitation that are currently used or may be used to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects for schools;

(2) establish a Federal cross-departmental collaborative coordination, education, and outreach effort to streamline communication and promote available Federal opportunities and assistance described in paragraph (1), for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects that enables States, local educational agencies, and schools—

(A) to use existing Federal opportunities more effectively; and

(B) to form partnerships with Governors, State energy programs, local educational, financial, and energy officials, State and local government officials, nonprofit organizations, and other appropriate entities, to support the initiation of the projects;

(3) provide technical assistance for States, local educational agencies, and schools to help develop and finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects—

(A) to increase the energy efficiency of buildings or facilities;

(B) to install systems that individually generate energy from renewable energy resources;

(C) to establish partnerships to leverage economies of scale and additional financing mechanisms available to larger clean energy initiatives; or

(D) to promote—

(i) the maintenance of health, environmental quality, and safety in schools, including the ambient air quality, through energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofit projects; and

(ii) the achievement of expected energy savings and renewable energy production through proper operations and maintenance practices;

(4) develop and maintain a single online resource Web site with contact information for relevant technical assistance and support staff in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for States, local educational agencies, and schools to effectively access and use Federal opportunities and assistance described in paragraph (1) to develop energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects; and

(5) establish a process for recognition of schools that—

(A) have successfully implemented energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects; and

(B) are willing to serve as resources for other local educational agencies and schools to assist initiation of similar efforts.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the implementation of this section.

Subtitle D—Better Buildings

SEC. 131. ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN FEDERAL AND OTHER BUILDINGS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) COST-EFFECTIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The terms ''cost-effective energy efficiency measure'' and ''measure'' mean any building product, material, equipment, or service and the installing, implementing, or operating thereof, that provides energy savings in an amount that is not less than the cost of such installing, implementing, or operating.

(b) MODEL PROVISIONS, POLICIES, AND BEST PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary and after providing the public with an opportunity for notice and comment, shall develop model leasing provisions and best practices in accordance with this subsection.

(2) COMMERCIAL LEASING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection shall, at a minimum, align the interests of building owners and tenants with regard to investments in cost-effective energy efficiency measures to encourage building owners and tenants to collaborate to invest in such measures.

(B) USE OF MODEL PROVISIONS.—The Administrator may use the model provisions developed under this subsection in any standard leasing document that designates a Federal agency (or other client of the Administrator) as a landlord or tenant.

(C) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall periodically publish the model leasing provisions developed under this subsection, along with explanatory materials, to encourage building owners and tenants in the private sector to use such provisions and materials.

(3) REALTY SERVICES.—The Administrator shall develop policies and practices to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures for the realty services provided by the Administrator to Federal agencies (or other clients of the Administrator), including periodic training of appropriate Federal employees and contractors on how to identify and evaluate those measures.

(4) STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall make available model leasing provisions and best practices developed under this subsection to State, county, and municipal governments to manage owned and leased building space in accordance with the goal of encouraging investment in all cost-effective energy efficiency measures.

SEC. 132. SEPARATE SPACES WITH HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.

Subtitle B of title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17081 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 424. SEPARATE SPACES WITH HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term 'high-performance energy efficiency measure' means a technology, product, or practice that will result in substantial operational cost savings by reducing energy consumption and utility costs.

''(2) SEPARATE SPACES.—The term 'separate spaces' means areas within a commercial building that are leased or otherwise occupied by a tenant or other occupant for a period of time pursuant to the terms of a written agreement.

''(b) STUDY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall complete a study on the feasibility of—

''(A) significantly improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings through the design and construction, by owners and tenants, of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures; and

''(B) encouraging owners and tenants to implement high-performance energy efficiency measures in separate spaces.

''(2) SCOPE.—The study shall, at a minimum, include—

''(A) descriptions of—

''(i) high-performance energy efficiency measures that should be considered as part of the initial design and construction of separate spaces;

''(ii) processes that owners, tenants, architects, and engineers may replicate when designing and constructing separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures;

''(iii) policies and best practices to achieve reductions in energy intensities for lighting, plug loads, heating, cooling, cooking, laundry, and other systems to satisfy the needs of the commercial building tenant;

''(iv) return on investment and payback analyses of the incremental cost and projected energy savings of the proposed set of high-performance energy efficiency measures, including consideration of available incentives;

''(v) models and simulation methods that predict the quantity of energy used by separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures and that compare that predicted quantity to the quantity of energy used by separate spaces without high-performance energy efficiency measures but that otherwise comply with applicable building code requirements;

''(vi) measurement and verification platforms demonstrating actual energy use of high-performance energy efficiency measures installed in separate spaces, and whether such measures generate the savings intended in the initial design and construction of the separate spaces;

''(vii) best practices that encourage an integrated approach to designing and constructing separate spaces to perform at optimum energy efficiency in conjunction with the central systems of a commercial building; and

''(viii) any impact on employment resulting from the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures; and

''(B) case studies reporting economic and energy saving returns in the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

''(3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register requesting public comments regarding effective methods, measures, and practices for the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

''(4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish the study on the website of the Department of Energy.''.

SEC. 133. TENANT STAR PROGRAM.

Subtitle B of title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17081 et seq.) (as amended by section 132) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 425. TENANT STAR PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term 'high-performance energy efficiency measure' has the meaning given the term in section 424.

''(2) SEPARATE SPACES.—The term 'separate spaces' has the meaning given the term in section 424.

''(b) TENANT STAR.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall develop a voluntary program within the Energy Star program established by section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a), which may be known as Tenant Star, to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces leased by tenants or otherwise occupied within commercial buildings.

''(c) EXPANDING SURVEY DATA.—The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall—

''(1) collect, through each Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey of the Energy Information Administration that is conducted after the date of enactment of this section, data on—

''(A) categories of building occupancy that are known to consume significant quantities of energy, such as occupancy by data centers, trading floors, and restaurants; and

''(B) other aspects of the property, building operation, or building occupancy determined by the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to be relevant in lowering energy consumption;

''(2) with respect to the first Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey conducted after the date of enactment of this section, to the extent full compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1) is not feasible, conduct activities to develop the capability to collect such data and begin to collect such data; and

''(3) make data collected under paragraphs (1) and (2) available to the public in aggregated form and provide such data, and any associated results, to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for use in accordance with subsection (d).

''(d) RECOGNITION OF OWNERS AND TENANTS.—

''(1) OCCUPANCY-BASED RECOGNITION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which sufficient data is received pursuant to subsection (c), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, following an opportunity for public notice and comment—

''(A) in a manner similar to the Energy Star rating system for commercial buildings, develop policies and procedures to recognize tenants in commercial buildings that voluntarily achieve high levels of energy efficiency in separate spaces;

''(B) establish building occupancy categories eligible for Tenant Star recognition based on the data collected under subsection (c) and any other appropriate data sources; and

''(C) consider other forms of recognition for commercial building tenants or other occupants that lower energy consumption in separate spaces.

''(2) DESIGN- AND CONSTRUCTION-BASED RECOGNITION.—After the study required by section 424(b) is completed, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary and following an opportunity for public notice and comment, may develop a voluntary program to recognize commercial building owners and tenants that use high-performance energy efficiency measures in the design and construction of separate spaces.''.

Subtitle E—Energy Information for Commercial Buildings

SEC. 141. ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

(a) REQUIREMENT OF BENCHMARKING AND DISCLOSURE FOR LEASING BUILDINGS WITHOUT ENERGY STAR LABELS.—Section 435(b)(2) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17091(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)''; and

(2) by striking ''signing the contract,'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following:

''signing the contract, the following requirements are met:

''(A) The space is renovated for all energy efficiency and conservation improvements that would be cost effective over the life of the lease, including improvements in lighting, windows, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

''(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), the space is benchmarked under a nationally recognized, online, free benchmarking program, with public disclosure, unless the space is a space for which owners cannot access whole building utility consumption data, including spaces—

''(I) that are located in States with privacy laws that provide that utilities shall not provide such aggregated information to multitenant building owners; and

''(II) for which tenants do not provide energy consumption information to the commercial building owner in response to a request from the building owner.

''(ii) A Federal agency that is a tenant of the space shall provide to the building owner, or authorize the owner to obtain from the utility, the energy consumption information of the space for the benchmarking and disclosure required by this subparagraph.''.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a study, with opportunity for public comment—

(A) on the impact of—

(i) State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies, and any associated building efficiency policies, for commercial and multifamily buildings; and

(ii) programs and systems in which utilities provide aggregated information regarding whole building energy consumption and usage information to owners of multitenant commercial, residential, and mixed-use buildings;

(B) that identifies best practice policy approaches studied under subparagraph (A) that have resulted in the greatest improvements in building energy efficiency; and

(C) that considers—

(i) compliance rates and the benefits and costs of the policies and programs on building owners, utilities, tenants, and other parties;

(ii) utility practices, programs, and systems that provide aggregated energy consumption information to multitenant building owners, and the impact of public utility commissions and State privacy laws on those practices, programs, and systems;

(iii) exceptions to compliance in existing laws where building owners are not able to gather or access whole building energy information from tenants or utilities;

(iv) the treatment of buildings with—

(I) multiple uses;

(II) uses for which baseline information is not available; and

(III) uses that require high levels of energy intensities, such as data centers, trading floors, and televisions studios;

(v) implementation practices, including disclosure methods and phase-in of compliance;

(vi) the safety and security of benchmarking tools offered by government agencies, and the resiliency of those tools against cyber-attacks; and

(vii) international experiences with regard to building benchmarking and disclosure laws and data aggregation for multitenant buildings.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—At the conclusion of the study, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

(c) CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DATABASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act and following opportunity for public notice and comment, the Secretary, in coordination with other relevant agencies shall, to carry out the purpose described in paragraph (2)—

(A) assess existing databases; and

(B) as necessary—

(i) modify and maintain existing databases; or

(ii) create and maintain a new database platform.

(2) PURPOSE.—The maintenance of existing databases or creation of a new database platform under paragraph (1) shall be for the purpose of storing and making available public energy-related information on commercial and multifamily buildings, including—

(A) data provided under Federal, State, local, and other laws or programs regarding building benchmarking and energy information disclosure;

(B) buildings that have received energy ratings and certifications; and

(C) energy-related information on buildings provided voluntarily by the owners of the buildings, in an anonymous form, unless the owner provides otherwise.

(d) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—Based on the results of the research for the portion of the study described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(ii), and with criteria developed following public notice and comment, the Secretary may make competitive awards to utilities, utility regulators, and utility partners to develop and implement effective and promising programs to provide aggregated whole building energy consumption information to multitenant building owners.

(e) INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS.—The Secretary shall seek input from stakeholders to maximize the effectiveness of the actions taken under this section.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the progress made in complying with this section.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (b) $2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, to remain available until expended.

TITLE II—INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY AND COMPETITIVENESS

Subtitle A—Manufacturing Energy Efficiency

SEC. 201. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this subtitle are—

(1) to reform and reorient the industrial efficiency programs of the Department of Energy;

(2) to establish a clear and consistent authority for industrial efficiency programs of the Department;

(3) to accelerate the deployment of technologies and practices that will increase industrial energy efficiency and improve productivity;

(4) to accelerate the development and demonstration of technologies that will assist the deployment goals of the industrial efficiency programs of the Department and increase manufacturing efficiency;

(5) to stimulate domestic economic growth and improve industrial productivity and competitiveness; and

(6) to strengthen partnerships between Federal and State governmental agencies and the private and academic sectors.

SEC. 202. FUTURE OF INDUSTRY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 452 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17111) is amended by striking the section heading and inserting the following: ''**FUTURE OF INDUSTRY PROGRAM**''.

(b) DEFINITION OF ENERGY SERVICE PROVIDER.—Section 452(a) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17111(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (4) through (6), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2):

''(3) ENERGY SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term 'energy service provider' means any business providing technology or services to improve the energy efficiency, power factor, or load management of a manufacturing site or other industrial process in an energy-intensive industry, or any utility operating under a utility energy service project.''.

(c) INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS.—Section 452(e) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17111(e)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary'';

(3) in subparagraph (A) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: '', including assessments of sustainable manufacturing goals and the implementation of information technology advancements for supply chain analysis, logistics, system monitoring, industrial and manufacturing processes, and other purposes''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) COORDINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To increase the value and capabilities of the industrial research and assessment centers, the centers shall—

''(i) coordinate with Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers of the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

''(ii) coordinate with the Building Technologies Program of the Department of Energy to provide building assessment services to manufacturers;

''(iii) increase partnerships with the National Laboratories of the Department of Energy to leverage the expertise and technologies of the National Laboratories for national industrial and manufacturing needs;

''(iv) increase partnerships with energy service providers and technology providers to leverage private sector expertise and accelerate deployment of new and existing technologies and processes for energy efficiency, power factor, and load management;

''(v) identify opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

''(vi) promote sustainable manufacturing practices for small- and medium-sized manufacturers.

''(3) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall provide funding for—

''(A) outreach activities by the industrial research and assessment centers to inform small- and medium-sized manufacturers of the information, technologies, and services available; and

''(B) coordination activities by each industrial research and assessment center to leverage efforts with—

''(i) Federal and State efforts;

''(ii) the efforts of utilities and energy service providers;

''(iii) the efforts of regional energy efficiency organizations; and

''(iv) the efforts of other industrial research and assessment centers.

''(4) WORKFORCE TRAINING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay the Federal share of associated internship programs under which students work with or for industries, manufacturers, and energy service providers to implement the recommendations of industrial research and assessment centers.

''(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of carrying out internship programs described in subparagraph (A) shall be 50 percent.

''(5) SMALL BUSINESS LOANS.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall, to the maximum extent practicable, expedite consideration of applications from eligible small business concerns for loans under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) to implement recommendations of industrial research and assessment centers established under paragraph (1).

''(6) ADVANCED MANUFACTURING STEERING COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory steering committee to provide recommendations to the Secretary on planning and implementation of the Advanced Manufacturing Office of the Department of Energy.''.

SEC. 203. SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part E of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6341) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 376. SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—As part of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy,

the Secretary, on the request of a manufacturer, shall conduct onsite technical assessments to identify opportunities for—

''(1) maximizing the energy efficiency of industrial processes and cross-cutting systems;

''(2) preventing pollution and minimizing waste;

''(3) improving efficient use of water in manufacturing processes;

''(4) conserving natural resources; and

''(5) achieving such other goals as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the initiative in coordination with the private sector and appropriate agencies, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to accelerate adoption of new and existing technologies and processes that improve energy efficiency.

''(c) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESSES.—As part of the industrial efficiency programs of the Department of Energy, the Secretary shall carry out a joint industry-government partnership program to research, develop, and demonstrate new sustainable manufacturing and industrial technologies and processes that maximize the energy efficiency of industrial plants, reduce pollution, and conserve natural resources.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. prec. 6201) is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to part E of title III the following:

''Sec. 376. Sustainable manufacturing initiative.''.

SEC. 204. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) Section 106 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15811) is repealed.

(b) Sections 131, 132, 133, 2103, and 2107 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 6348, 6349, 6350, 13453, 13456) are repealed.

(c) Section 2101(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13451(a)) is amended in the third sentence by striking ''sections 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, and 2108'' and inserting ''sections 2102, 2104, 2105, 2106, and 2108 of this Act and section 376 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act,''.

Subtitle B—Supply Star

SEC. 211. SUPPLY STAR.

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after section 324A (42 U.S.C. 6294a) the following:

''SEC. 324B. SUPPLY STAR PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Department of Energy a Supply Star program to identify and promote practices, recognize companies, and, as appropriate, recognize products that use highly efficient supply chains in a manner that conserves energy, water, and other resources.

''(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

''(1) consult with other appropriate agencies; and

''(2) coordinate efforts with the Energy Star program established under section 324A.

''(c) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Supply Star program described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

''(1) promote practices, recognize companies, and, as appropriate, recognize products that comply with the Supply Star program as the preferred practices, companies, and products in the marketplace for maximizing supply chain efficiency;

''(2) work to enhance industry and public awareness of the Supply Star program;

''(3) collect and disseminate data on supply chain energy resource consumption;

''(4) develop and disseminate metrics, processes, and analytical tools (including software) for evaluating supply chain energy resource use;

''(5) develop guidance at the sector level for improving supply chain efficiency;

''(6) work with domestic and international organizations to harmonize approaches to analyzing supply chain efficiency, including the development of a consistent set of tools, templates, calculators, and databases; and

''(7) work with industry, including small businesses, to improve supply chain efficiency through activities that include—

''(A) developing and sharing best practices; and

''(B) providing opportunities to benchmark supply chain efficiency.

''(d) EVALUATION.—In any evaluation of supply chain efficiency carried out by the Secretary with respect to a specific product, the Secretary shall consider energy consumption and resource use throughout the entire lifecycle of a product, including production, transport, packaging, use, and disposal.

''(e) GRANTS AND INCENTIVES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants or other forms of incentives on a competitive basis to eligible entities, as determined by the Secretary, for the purposes of—

''(A) studying supply chain energy resource efficiency; and

''(B) demonstrating and achieving reductions in the energy resource consumption of commercial products through changes and improvements to the production supply and distribution chain of the products.

''(2) USE OF INFORMATION.—Any information or data generated as a result of the grants or incentives described in paragraph (1) shall be used to inform the development of the Supply Star Program.

''(f) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall use funds to support professional training programs to develop and communicate methods, practices, and tools for improving supply chain efficiency.

''(g) EFFECT OF OUTSOURCING OF AMERICAN JOBS.—For purposes of this section, the outsourcing of American jobs in the production of a product shall not count as a positive factor in determining supply chain efficiency.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2023.''.

Subtitle C—Electric Motor Rebate Program

SEC. 221. ENERGY SAVING MOTOR CONTROL, ELECTRIC MOTOR, AND ADVANCED MOTOR SYSTEMS REBATE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVANCED MOTOR AND DRIVE SYSTEM.—The term ''advanced motor and drive system'' means an electric motor and any required associated electronic control that—

(A) offers variable or multiple speed operation;

(B) offers efficiency at a rated full load that is greater than the efficiency described for the equivalent rating in—

(i) table 12–12 of National Electrical Manufactures Association (NEMA MG 1–2011); or

(ii) section 431.446 of National Electrical Manufactures Association (2012); and

(C) uses—

(i) permanent magnet alternating current synchronous motor technology;

(ii) electronically commutated motor technology;

(iii) switched reluctance motor technology;

(iv) synchronous reluctance motor technology; or

(v) such other motor that has greater than 1 horsepower and uses a drive systems technology, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) ELECTRIC MOTOR.—The term ''electric motor'' has the meaning given the term in section 431.12 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(3) QUALIFIED PRODUCT.—The term ''qualified product'' means—

(A) a new constant speed electric motor control that—

(i) is attached to an electric motor; and

(ii) reduces the energy use of the electric motor by not less than 5 percent; and

(B) commercial or industrial machinery or equipment that—

(i) is manufactured and incorporates an advanced motor and drive system that has greater than 1 horsepower into a redesigned machine or equipment that did not previously make use of the advanced motor and drive system; or

(ii) was previously used and placed back into service in calendar year 2014 or 2015 that upgrades the existing machine or equipment with an advanced motor and drive system.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to provide rebates for expenditures made by qualified entities for the purchase and installation of qualified products.

(c) QUALIFIED ENTITIES.—A qualified entity under this section shall be—

(1) in the case of a qualified product described in subsection (a)(3)(A), the purchaser of the qualified product for whom the qualified product is installed; and

(2) in the case of a qualified product described in subsection (a)(3)(B)), the manufacturer of the machine or equipment that incorporated the advanced motor and drive system into the machine or equipment.

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a rebate under this section, a qualified entity shall submit to the Secretary or an entity designated by the Secretary an application and certification in such form, at such time, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including demonstrated evidence that the qualified entity purchased a qualified product and—

(A) in the case of a qualified product described in subsection (a)(3)(A)—

(i) demonstrated evidence that the qualified entity installed the qualified product in calendar year 2014 or 2015;

(ii) demonstrated evidence that the qualified product reduces motor energy use by not less than 5 percent, in accordance with procedures approved by the Secretary; and

(iii) the serial number, manufacturer, and model number from the nameplate of the installed motor of the qualified entity on which the qualified product was installed; and

(B) in the case of a qualified product described in subsection (a)(3)(B)—

(i) demonstrated evidence that the manufacturer—

(I) redesigned a machine or equipment of a manufacturer that did not previously make use of an advanced motor and drive system; or

(II) upgraded a used machine or equipment to incorporate an advanced motor and drive system;

(ii) demonstrated evidence that the qualified product was sold, installed, or placed

back into service in calendar year 2014 or 2015; and

(iii) the serial number, manufacturer, and model number from the nameplate of the installed motor of the qualified entity with which the advanced motor and drive system is integrated.

(2) AUTHORIZED AMOUNT OF REBATE.—The Secretary may provide to a qualified entity that has satisfied the requirements of paragraph (1) a rebate the amount of which shall be equal to the product obtained by multiplying—

(A) the nameplate rated horsepower of—

(i) the electric motor to which the new constant speed electric motor control is attached;

(ii) the new electric motor that replaced a previously installed electric motor; or

(iii) the advanced electric motor control system; and

(B) $25.

(3) MAXIMUM AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—No entity shall be entitled to aggregate rebates under this section in excess of $250,000.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015, to remain available until expended.

Subtitle D—Transformer Rebate Program

SEC. 231. ENERGY EFFICIENT TRANSFORMER REBATE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED TRANSFORMER.—In this section, the term ''qualified transformer'' means a transformer that meets or exceeds the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) Premium Efficiency designation, calculated to 2 decimal points, as having 30 percent fewer losses than the NEMA TP–1–2002 efficiency standard for a transformer of the same number of phases and capacity, as measured in kilovolt-amperes.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than January 1, 2014, the Secretary shall establish a program under which rebates are provided for expenditures made by owners of industrial or manufacturing facilities, commercial buildings, and multifamily residential buildings for the purchase and installation of a new energy efficient transformers.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a rebate under this section, an owner shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form, at such time, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including demonstrated evidence that the owner purchased a qualified transformer.

(2) AUTHORIZED AMOUNT OF REBATE.—For qualified transformers, rebates, in dollars per kilovolt-ampere (referred to in this paragraph as ''kVA'') shall be—

(A) for 3-phase transformers—

(i) with a capacity of not greater than 10 kVA, 15;

(ii) with a capacity of not less than 10 kVA and not greater than 100 kVA, the difference between 15 and the quotient obtained by dividing—

(I) the difference between—

(aa) the capacity of the transformer in kVA; and

(bb) 10; by

(II) 9; and

(iii) with a capacity greater than or equal to 100 kVA, 5; and

(B) for single-phase transformers, 75 percent of the rebate for a 3-phase transformer of the same capacity.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015, to remain available until expended.

(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority provided by this section terminates effective December 31, 2015.

TITLE III—FEDERAL AGENCY ENERGY EFFICIENCY

SEC. 301. ENERGY-EFFICIENT AND ENERGY-SAVING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES.

Section 543 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8253) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second subsection (f) (relating to large capital energy investments) as subsection (g); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT AND ENERGY-SAVING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

''(B) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'information technology' has the meaning given the term in section 11101 of title 40, United States Code.

''(2) DEVELOPMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, each Federal agency shall collaborate with the Director to develop an implementation strategy (including best-practices and measurement and verification techniques) for the maintenance, purchase, and use by the Federal agency of energy-efficient and energy-saving information technologies.

''(3) ADMINISTRATION.—In developing an implementation strategy, each Federal agency shall consider—

''(A) advanced metering infrastructure;

''(B) energy efficient data center strategies and methods of increasing asset and infrastructure utilization;

''(C) advanced power management tools;

''(D) building information modeling, including building energy management; and

''(E) secure telework and travel substitution tools.

''(4) PERFORMANCE GOALS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2014, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall establish performance goals for evaluating the efforts of Federal agencies in improving the maintenance, purchase, and use of energy-efficient and energy-saving information technology systems.

''(B) BEST PRACTICES.—The Chief Information Officers Council established under section 3603 of title 44, United States Code, shall supplement the performance goals established under this paragraph with recommendations on best practices for the attainment of the performance goals, to include a requirement for agencies to consider the use of—

''(i) energy savings performance contracting; and

''(ii) utility energy services contracting.

''(5) REPORTS.—

''(A) AGENCY REPORTS.—Each Federal agency subject to the requirements of this subsection shall include in the report of the agency under section 527 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17143) a description of the efforts and results of the agency under this subsection.

''(B) OMB GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY REPORTS AND SCORECARDS.—Effective beginning not later than October 1, 2014, the Director shall include in the annual report and scorecard of the Director required under section 528 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17144) a description of the efforts and results of Federal agencies under this subsection.

''(C) USE OF EXISTING REPORTING STRUCTURES.—The Director may require Federal agencies to submit any information required to be submitted under this subsection though reporting structures in use as of the date of enactment of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014.''.

SEC. 302. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DESIGN UPDATES.

Section 3307 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h) as subsections (e) through (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DESIGN UPDATES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), for any project for which congressional approval is received under subsection (a) and for which the design has been substantially completed but construction has not begun, the Administrator of General Services may use appropriated funds to update the project design to meet applicable Federal building energy efficiency standards established under section 305 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834) and other requirements established under section 3312.

''(2) LIMITATION.—The use of funds under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 125 percent of the estimated energy or other cost savings associated with the updates as determined by a life cycle cost analysis under section 544 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8254).''.

SEC. 303. ENERGY EFFICIENT DATA CENTERS.

Section 453 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17112) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014, the Secretary and the Administrator shall—

''(A) designate an established information technology industry organization to coordinate the program described in subsection (b); and

''(B) make the designation public, including on an appropriate website.'';

(2) by striking subsections (e) and (f) and inserting the following:

''(e) STUDY.—The Secretary, with assistance from the Administrator, shall—

''(1) not later than December 31, 2014, make available to the public an update to the Report to Congress on Server and Data Center Energy Efficiency published on August 2, 2007, under section 1 of Public Law 109–431 (120 Stat. 2920), that provides—

''(A) a comparison and gap analysis of the estimates and projections contained in the original report with new data regarding the period from 2007 through 2013;

''(B) an analysis considering the impact of information technologies, to include virtualization and cloud computing, in the public and private sectors; and

''(C) updated projections and recommendations for best practices through fiscal year 2020; and

''(2) collaborate with the organization designated under subsection (c) in preparing the report.

''(f) DATA CENTER ENERGY PRACTITIONER PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in collaboration with the organization designated

under subsection (c) and in consultation with the Administrator for the Office of E-Government and Information Technology within the Office of Management and Budget, shall maintain a data center energy practitioner program that leads to the certification of energy practitioners qualified to evaluate the energy usage and efficiency opportunities in data centers.

''(2) EVALUATIONS.—Each Federal agency shall consider having the data centers of the agency evaluated every 4 years by energy practitioners certified pursuant to the program, whenever practicable using certified practitioners employed by the agency.'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (j); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) OPEN DATA INITIATIVE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in collaboration with the organization designated under subsection (c) and in consultation with the Administrator for the Office of E-Government and Information Technology within the Office of Management and Budget, shall establish an open data initiative for Federal data center energy usage data, with the purpose of making the data available and accessible in a manner that empowers further data center optimization and consolidation.

''(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In establishing the initiative, the Secretary shall consider use of the online Data Center Maturity Model.

''(h) INTERNATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS AND METRICS.—The Secretary, in collaboration with the organization designated under subsection (c), shall actively participate in efforts to harmonize global specifications and metrics for data center energy efficiency.

''(i) DATA CENTER UTILIZATION METRIC.—The Secretary, in collaboration with the organization designated under subsection (c), shall assist in the development of an efficiency metric that measures the energy efficiency of the overall data center.''.

SEC. 304. BUDGET-NEUTRAL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENTS AT MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL UNITS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall establish a demonstration program under which, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, and ending on September 30, 2017, the Secretary may enter into budget-neutral, performance-based agreements that result in a reduction in energy or water costs with such entities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate under which the entities shall carry out projects for energy or water conservation improvements at not more than 20,000 residential units in multifamily buildings participating in—

(1) the project-based rental assistance program under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), other than assistance provided under section 8(o) of that Act;

(2) the supportive housing for the elderly program under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); or

(3) the supportive housing for persons with disabilities program under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) PAYMENTS CONTINGENT ON SAVINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to an entity a payment under an agreement under this section only during applicable years for which an energy or water cost savings is achieved with respect to the applicable multifamily portfolio of properties, as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with subparagraph (B).

(B) PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Each agreement under this section shall include a pay-for-success provision—

(I) that will serve as a payment threshold for the term of the agreement; and

(II) pursuant to which the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall share a percentage of the savings at a level determined by the Secretary that is sufficient to cover the administrative costs of carrying out this section.

(ii) LIMITATIONS.—A payment made by the Secretary under an agreement under this section shall—

(I) be contingent on documented utility savings; and

(II) not exceed the utility savings achieved by the date of the payment, and not previously paid, as a result of the improvements made under the agreement.

(C) THIRD PARTY VERIFICATION.—Savings payments made by the Secretary under this section shall be based on a measurement and verification protocol that includes at least—

(i) establishment of a weather-normalized and occupancy-normalized utility consumption baseline established preretrofit;

(ii) annual third party confirmation of actual utility consumption and cost for owner-paid utilities;

(iii) annual third party validation of the tenant utility allowances in effect during the applicable year and vacancy rates for each unit type; and

(iv) annual third party determination of savings to the Secretary.

(2) TERM.—The term of an agreement under this section shall be not longer than 12 years.

(3) ENTITY ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall—

(A) establish a competitive process for entering into agreements under this section; and

(B) enter into such agreements only with entities that demonstrate significant experience relating to—

(i) financing and operating properties receiving assistance under a program described in subsection (a);

(ii) oversight of energy and water conservation programs, including oversight of contractors; and

(iii) raising capital for energy and water conservation improvements from charitable organizations or private investors.

(4) GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY.—Each agreement entered into under this section shall provide for the inclusion of properties with the greatest feasible regional and State variance.

(c) PLAN AND REPORTS.—

(1) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed plan for the implementation of this section.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) conduct an evaluation of the program under this section; and

(B) submit to Congress a report describing each evaluation conducted under subparagraph (A).

(d) FUNDING.—For each fiscal year during which an agreement under this section is in effect, the Secretary may use to carry out this section any funds appropriated to the Secretary for the renewal of contracts under a program described in subsection (a).

TITLE IV—REGULATORY PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Third-party Certification Under Energy Star Program

SEC. 401. THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION UNDER ENERGY STAR PROGRAM.

Section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall revise the certification requirements for the labeling of consumer, home, and office electronic products for program partners that have complied with all requirements of the Energy Star program for a period of at least 18 months.

''(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In the case of a program partner described in paragraph (1), the new requirements under paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall not require third-party certification for a product to be listed; but

''(B) may require that test data and other product information be submitted to facilitate product listing and performance verification for a sample of products.

''(3) THIRD PARTIES.—Nothing in this subsection prevents the Administrator from using third parties in the course of the administration of the Energy Star program.

''(4) TERMINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), an exemption from third-party certification provided to a program partner under paragraph (1) shall terminate if the program partner is found to have violated program requirements with respect to at least 2 separate models during a 2-year period.

''(B) RESUMPTION.—A termination for a program partner under subparagraph (A) shall cease if the program partner complies with all Energy Star program requirements for a period of at least 3 years.''.

Subtitle B—Federal Green Buildings

SEC. 411. HIGH-PERFORMANCE GREEN FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

Section 436(h) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17092(h)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''SYSTEM'' and inserting ''SYSTEMS'';

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Based on an ongoing review, the Federal Director shall identify and shall provide to the Secretary pursuant to section 305(a)(3)(D) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D)), a list of those certification systems that the Director identifies as the most likely to encourage a comprehensive and environmentally sound approach to certification of green buildings.''; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''system'' and inserting ''systems'';

(B) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) an ongoing review provided to the Secretary pursuant to section 305(a)(3)(D) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D)), which shall—

''(i) be carried out by the Federal Director to compare and evaluate standards; and

''(ii) allow any developer or administrator of a rating system or certification system to be included in the review;'';

(C) in subparagraph (E)(v), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) a finding that, for all credits addressing grown, harvested, or mined materials, the system does not discriminate against the use of domestic products that have obtained certifications of responsible sourcing; and

''(H) a finding that the system incorporates life-cycle assessment as a credit pathway.''.

Subtitle C—Water Heaters

SEC. 421. GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS.

Part B of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 325(e), by adding at the end the following:

''(6) ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) ACTIVATION KEY.—The term 'activation key' means a physical device or control directly on the water heater, a software code, or a digital communication means—

''(I) that must be activated to enable the product to operate continuously and at its designed specifications and capabilities; and

''(II) without which activation the product will provide not greater than 50 percent of the rated first hour delivery of hot water certified by the manufacturer.

''(ii) GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATER.—The term 'grid-enabled water heater' means an electric resistance water heater—

''(I) with a rated storage tank volume of more than 75 gallons;

''(II) manufactured on or after April 16, 2015;

''(III) that has—

''(aa) an energy factor of not less than 1.061 minus the product obtained by multiplying—

''(AA) the rated storage volume of the tank, expressed in gallons; and

''(BB) 0.00168; or

''(bb) an efficiency level equivalent to the energy factor under item (aa) and expressed as a uniform energy descriptor based on the revised test procedure for water heaters described in paragraph (5);

''(IV) equipped by the manufacturer with an activation key; and

''(V) that bears a permanent label applied by the manufacturer that—

''(aa) is made of material not adversely affected by water;

''(bb) is attached by means of non-water-soluble adhesive; and

''(cc) advises purchasers and end-users of the intended and appropriate use of the product with the following notice printed in 16.5 point Arial Narrow Bold font:

'' 'IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This water heater is intended only for use as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program. It will not provide adequate hot water unless enrolled in such a program and activated by your utility company or another program operator. Confirm the availability of a program in your local area before purchasing or installing this product.'.

''(B) REQUIREMENT.—The manufacturer or private labeler shall provide the activation key only to utilities or other companies operating electric thermal storage or demand response programs that use grid-enabled water heaters.

''(C) REPORTS.—

''(i) MANUFACTURERS.—The Secretary shall require each manufacturer of grid-enabled water heaters to report to the Secretary annually the number of grid-enabled water heaters that the manufacturer ships each year.

''(ii) OPERATORS.—The Secretary shall require utilities and other demand response and thermal storage program operators to report annually the number of grid-enabled water heaters activated for their programs using forms of the Energy Information Agency or using such other mechanism that the Secretary determines appropriate after an opportunity for notice and comment.

''(iii) CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall treat shipment data reported by manufacturers as confidential business information.

''(D) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In 2017 and 2019, the Secretary shall publish an analysis of the data collected under subparagraph (C) to assess the extent to which shipped products are put into use in demand response and thermal storage programs.

''(ii) PREVENTION OF PRODUCT DIVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that sales of grid-enabled water heaters exceed by 15 percent or greater the number of such products activated for use in demand response and thermal storage programs annually, the Secretary shall, after opportunity for notice and comment, establish procedures to prevent product diversion for non-program purposes.

''(E) COMPLIANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraphs (A) through (D) shall remain in effect until the Secretary determines under this section that grid-enabled water heaters do not require a separate efficiency requirement.

''(ii) EFFECTIVE DATE.—If the Secretary exercises the authority described in clause (i) or amends the efficiency requirement for grid-enabled water heaters, that action will take effect on the date described in subsection (m)(4)(A)(ii).

''(iii) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out this section with respect to electric water heaters, the Secretary shall consider the impact on thermal storage and demand response programs, including the consequent impact on energy savings, electric bills, electric reliability, integration of renewable resources, and the environment.

''(iv) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this subparagraph, the Secretary shall require that grid-enabled water heaters be equipped with communication capability to enable the grid-enabled water heaters to participate in ancillary services programs if the Secretary determines that the technology is available, practical, and cost-effective.''; and

(2) in section 332—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in the first paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating the second paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

(D) in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) with respect to grid-enabled water heaters that are not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program, for any person knowingly and repeatedly—

''(A) to distribute activation keys for those grid-enabled water heaters;

''(B) otherwise to enable the full operation of those grid-enabled water heaters; or

''(C) to remove or render illegible the labels of those grid-enabled water heaters.''.

Subtitle D—Energy Performance Requirement for Federal Buildings

SEC. 431. ENERGY PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

Section 543 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8253) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) ENERGY PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL BUILDINGS.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—Subject to paragraph (2), each agency shall apply energy conservation measures to, and shall improve the design for the construction of, the Federal buildings of the agency (including each industrial or laboratory facility) so that the energy consumption per gross square foot of the Federal buildings of the agency in fiscal years 2006 through 2017 is reduced, as compared with the energy consumption per gross square foot of the Federal buildings of the agency in fiscal year 2003, by the percentage specified in the following table:

''Fiscal Year	Percentage Reduction
2006	2
2007	4
2008	9
2009	12
2010	15
2011	18
2012	21
2013	24
2014	27
2015	30
2016	33
2017	36

''(2) EXCLUSION FOR BUILDINGS WITH ENERGY INTENSIVE ACTIVITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An agency may exclude from the requirements of paragraph (1) any building (including the associated energy consumption and gross square footage) in which energy intensive activities are carried out.

''(B) REPORTS.—Each agency shall identify and list in each report made under section 548(a) the buildings designated by the agency for exclusion under subparagraph (A).

''(3) REVIEW.—Not later than December 31, 2017, the Secretary shall—

''(A) review the results of the implementation of the energy performance requirements established under paragraph (1); and

''(B) based on the review conducted under subparagraph (A), submit to Congress a report that addresses the feasibility of requiring each agency to apply energy conservation measures to, and improve the design for the construction of, the Federal buildings of the agency (including each industrial or laboratory facility) so that the energy consumption per gross square foot of the Federal buildings of the agency in each of fiscal years 2018 through 2030 is reduced, as compared with the energy consumption per gross square foot of the Federal buildings of the agency in the prior fiscal year, by 3 percent.''; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) ONGOING COMMISSIONING.—The term 'ongoing commissioning' means an ongoing process of commissioning using monitored data, the primary goal of which is to ensure continuous optimum performance of a facility, in accordance with design or operating needs, over the useful life of the facility,

while meeting facility occupancy requirements.'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.—An energy manager designated under subparagraph (A) shall consider use of a system to manage energy use at the facility and certification of the facility in accordance with the International Organization for Standardization standard numbered 50001 and entitled 'Energy Management Systems'.'';

(C) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the following:

''(3) ENERGY AND WATER EVALUATIONS AND COMMISSIONING.—

''(A) EVALUATIONS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), effective beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014, and annually thereafter, each energy manager shall complete, for each calendar year, a comprehensive energy and water evaluation and recommissioning or retrocommissioning for approximately 25 percent of the facilities of each agency that meet the criteria under paragraph (2)(B) in a manner that ensures that an evaluation of each facility is completed at least once every 4 years.

''(B) EXCEPTIONS.—An evaluation and recommissioning shall not be required under subparagraph (A) with respect to a facility that—

''(i) has had a comprehensive energy and water evaluation during the 8-year period preceding the date of the evaluation;

''(ii)(I) has been commissioned, recommissioned, or retrocommissioned during the 10-year period preceding the date of the evaluation; or

''(II) is under ongoing commissioning;

''(iii) has not had a major change in function or use since the previous evaluation and commissioning;

''(iv) has been benchmarked with public disclosure under paragraph (8) within the year preceding the evaluation; and

''(v)(I) based on the benchmarking, has achieved at a facility level the most recent cumulative energy savings target under subsection (a) compared to the earlier of—

''(aa) the date of the most recent evaluation; or

''(bb) the date—

''(AA) of the most recent commissioning, recommissioning, or retrocommissioning; or

''(BB) on which ongoing commissioning began; or

''(II) has a long-term contract in place guaranteeing energy savings at least as great as the energy savings target under subclause (I).

''(4) IMPLEMENTATION OF IDENTIFIED ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of completion of each evaluation under paragraph (3), each energy manager may—

''(i) implement any energy- or water-saving measure that the Federal agency identified in the evaluation conducted under paragraph (3) that is life-cycle cost effective; and

''(ii) bundle individual measures of varying paybacks together into combined projects.

''(B) MEASURES NOT IMPLEMENTED.—The energy manager shall, as part of the certification system under paragraph (7), explain the reasons why any life-cycle cost effective measures were not implemented under subparagraph (A) using guidelines developed by the Secretary.''; and

(D) in paragraph (7)(C), by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) SUMMARY REPORT.—The Secretary shall make available a report that summarizes the information tracked under subparagraph (B)(i) by each agency and, as applicable, by each type of measure.''.

SEC. 432. FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS; CERTIFICATION SYSTEM AND LEVEL FOR GREEN BUILDINGS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 303 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6832) (as amended by section 101(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking ''to be constructed'' and inserting ''constructed or altered''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(19) MAJOR RENOVATION.—The term 'major renovation' means a modification of building energy systems sufficiently extensive that the whole building can meet energy standards for new buildings, based on criteria to be established by the Secretary through notice and comment rulemaking.''.

(b) FEDERAL BUILDING EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.—Section 305 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) by striking ''(3)(A) Not later than'' and all that follows through subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(3) REVISED FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS; CERTIFICATION FOR GREEN BUILDINGS.—

''(A) REVISED FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014, the Secretary shall establish, by rule, revised Federal building energy efficiency performance standards that require that—

''(I) new Federal buildings and alterations and additions to existing Federal buildings—

''(aa) meet or exceed the most recent revision of the International Energy Conservation Code (in the case of residential buildings) or ASHRAE Standard 90.1 (in the case of commercial buildings) as of the date of enactment of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014; and

''(bb) meet or exceed the energy provisions of State and local building codes applicable to the building, if the codes are more stringent than the International Energy Conservation Code or ASHRAE Standard 90.1, as applicable;

''(II) unless demonstrated not to be life-cycle cost effective for new Federal buildings and Federal buildings with major renovations—

''(aa) the buildings be designed to achieve energy consumption levels that are at least 30 percent below the levels established in the version of the ASHRAE Standard or the International Energy Conservation Code, as appropriate, that is applied under subclause (I)(aa), including updates under subparagraph (B); and

''(bb) sustainable design principles are applied to the location, siting, design, and construction of all new Federal buildings and replacement Federal buildings;

''(III) if water is used to achieve energy efficiency, water conservation technologies shall be applied to the extent that the technologies are life-cycle cost effective;

''(IV) if life-cycle cost effective, as compared to other reasonably available technologies, not less than 30 percent of the hot water demand for each new Federal building or Federal building undergoing a major renovation be met through the installation and use of solar hot water heaters; and

''(V) in addition to complying with the other requirements under this paragraph, unless found not to be life-cycle cost effective, new Federal buildings that are at least 5,000 square feet in size shall comply with the Guiding Principles for Sustainable New Construction and Major Renovations (as established in the document entitled High Performance and Sustainable Buildings Guidance (Final) and dated December 1, 2008).

''(ii) LIMITATION.—Clause (i)(I) shall not apply to unaltered portions of existing Federal buildings and systems that have been added to or altered.

''(B) UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of approval of each subsequent revision of the ASHRAE Standard or the International Energy Conservation Code, as appropriate, the Secretary shall determine whether the revised standards established under subparagraph (A) should be updated to reflect the revisions, based on the energy savings and life-cycle cost-effectiveness of the revisions.'';

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''(C) In the budget request'' and inserting the following:

''(C) BUDGET REQUEST.—In the budget request''; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

''(D) CERTIFICATION FOR GREEN BUILDINGS.—

''(i) SUSTAINABLE DESIGN PRINCIPLES.—Sustainable design principles shall be applied to the siting, design, and construction of buildings covered by this subparagraph.

''(ii) SELECTION OF CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS.—The Secretary, after reviewing the findings of the Federal Director under section 436(h) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17092(h)), in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense relating to those facilities under the custody and control of the Department of Defense, shall determine those certification systems for green commercial and residential buildings that the Secretary determines to be the most likely to encourage a comprehensive and environmentally sound approach to certification of green buildings.

''(iii) BASIS FOR SELECTION.—The determination of the certification systems under clause (ii) shall be based on ongoing review of the findings of the Federal Director under section 436(h) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17092(h)) and the criteria described in clause (v).

''(iv) ADMINISTRATION.—In determining certification systems under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall—

''(I) make a separate determination for all or part of each system;

''(II) confirm that the criteria used to support the selection of building products, materials, brands, and technologies are fair and neutral (meaning that such criteria are based on an objective assessment of relevant technical data), do not prohibit, disfavor, or discriminate against selection based on technically inadequate information to inform human or environmental risk, and are expressed to prefer performance measures whenever performance measures may reasonably be used in lieu of prescriptive measures; and

''(III) use environmental and health criteria that are based on risk assessment methodology that is generally accepted by the applicable scientific disciplines.

''(v) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the green building certification systems under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall take into consideration—

''(I) the ability and availability of assessors and auditors to independently verify the criteria and measurement of metrics at the scale necessary to implement this subparagraph;

''(II) the ability of the applicable certification organization to collect and reflect public comment;

''(III) the ability of the standard to be developed and revised through a consensus-based process;

''(IV) an evaluation of the robustness of the criteria for a high-performance green building, which shall give credit for promoting—

''(aa) efficient and sustainable use of water, energy, and other natural resources;

''(bb) use of renewable energy sources;

''(cc) improved indoor environmental quality through enhanced indoor air quality, thermal comfort, acoustics, day lighting, pollutant source control, and use of low-emission materials and building system controls; and

''(dd) such other criteria as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

''(V) national recognition within the building industry.

''(vi) REVIEW.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services and the Secretary of Defense, shall conduct an ongoing review to evaluate and compare private sector green building certification systems, taking into account—

''(I) the criteria described in clause (v); and

''(II) the identification made by the Federal Director under section 436(h) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17092(h)).

''(vii) EXCLUSIONS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), if a certification system fails to meet the review requirements of clause (v), the Secretary shall—

''(aa) identify the portions of the system, whether prerequisites, credits, points, or otherwise, that meet the review criteria of clause (v);

''(bb) determine the portions of the system that are suitable for use; and

''(cc) exclude all other portions of the system from identification and use.

''(II) ENTIRE SYSTEMS.—The Secretary shall exclude an entire system from use if an exclusion under subclause (I)—

''(aa) impedes the integrated use of the system;

''(bb) creates disparate review criteria or unequal point access for competing materials; or

''(cc) increases agency costs of the use.

''(viii) INTERNAL CERTIFICATION PROCESSES.—The Secretary may by rule allow Federal agencies to develop internal certification processes, using certified professionals, in lieu of certification by certification entities identified under clause (ii).

''(ix) PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING.—With respect to privatized military housing, the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary may, through rulemaking, develop alternative certification systems and levels than the systems and levels identified under clause (ii) that achieve an equivalent result in terms of energy savings, sustainable design, and green building performance.

''(x) WATER CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES.—In addition to any use of water conservation technologies otherwise required by this section, water conservation technologies shall be applied to the extent that the technologies are life-cycle cost-effective.

''(xi) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

''(I) DETERMINATIONS MADE AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2015.—The amendments made by section 432(b)(1)(C) of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014 shall apply to any determination made by a Federal agency after December 31, 2015.

''(II) DETERMINATIONS MADE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2015.—This subparagraph (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014) shall apply to any use of a certification system for green commercial and residential buildings by a Federal agency on or before December 31, 2015.''; and

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

''(c) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) once every 5 years, review the Federal building energy standards established under this section; and

''(2) on completion of a review under paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that significant energy savings would result, upgrade the standards to include all new energy efficiency and renewable energy measures that are technologically feasible and economically justified.''.

SEC. 433. ENHANCED ENERGY EFFICIENCY UNDERWRITING.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term ''covered agency''—

(A) means—

(i) an executive agency, as that term is defined in section 102 of title 31, United States Code; and

(ii) any other agency of the Federal Government; and

(B) includes any enterprise, as that term is defined under section 1303 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4502).

(2) COVERED LOAN.—The term ''covered loan'' means a loan secured by a home that is issued, insured, purchased, or securitized by a covered agency.

(3) HOMEOWNER.—The term ''homeowner'' means the mortgagor under a covered loan.

(4) MORTGAGEE.—The term ''mortgagee'' means—

(A) an original lender under a covered loan or the holder of a covered loan at the time at which that mortgage transaction is consummated;

(B) any affiliate, agent, subsidiary, successor, or assignee of an original lender under a covered loan or the holder of a covered loan at the time at which that mortgage transaction is consummated;

(C) any servicer of a covered loan; and

(D) any subsequent purchaser, trustee, or transferee of any covered loan issued by an original lender.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(6) SERVICER.—The term ''servicer'' means the person or entity responsible for the servicing of a covered loan, including the person or entity who makes or holds a covered loan if that person or entity also services the covered loan.

(7) SERVICING.—The term ''servicing'' has the meaning given the term in section 6(i) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2605(i)).

(b) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) energy costs for homeowners are a significant and increasing portion of their household budgets;

(B) household energy use can vary substantially depending on the efficiency and characteristics of the house;

(C) expected energy cost savings are important to the value of the house;

(D) the current test for loan affordability used by most covered agencies, commonly known as the ''debt-to-income'' test, is inadequate because it does not take into account the expected energy cost savings for the homeowner of an energy efficient home; and

(E) another loan limitation, commonly known as the ''loan-to-value'' test, is tied to the appraisal, which often does not adjust for efficiency features of houses.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are to—

(A) improve the accuracy of mortgage underwriting by Federal mortgage agencies by ensuring that energy cost savings are included in the underwriting process as described below, and thus to reduce the amount of energy consumed by homes and to facilitate the creation of energy efficiency retrofit and construction jobs;

(B) require a covered agency to include the expected energy cost savings of a homeowner as a regular expense in the tests, such as the debt-to-income test, used to determine the ability of the loan applicant to afford the cost of homeownership for all loan programs; and

(C) require a covered agency to include the value home buyers place on the energy efficiency of a house in tests used to compare the mortgage amount to home value, taking precautions to avoid double-counting and to support safe and sound lending.

(c) ENHANCED ENERGY EFFICIENCY UNDERWRITING CRITERIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the advisory group established in subsection (f)(2), develop and issue guidelines for a covered agency to implement enhanced loan eligibility requirements, for use when testing the ability of a loan applicant to repay a covered loan, that account for the expected energy cost savings for a loan applicant at a subject property, in the manner set forth in paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) REQUIREMENTS TO ACCOUNT FOR ENERGY COST SAVINGS.—The enhanced loan eligibility requirements under paragraph (1) shall require that, for all covered loans for which an energy efficiency report is voluntarily provided to the mortgagee by the mortgagor, the covered agency and the mortgagee shall take into consideration the estimated energy cost savings expected for the owner of the subject property in determining whether the loan applicant has sufficient income to service the mortgage debt plus other regular expenses. To the extent that a covered agency uses a test such as a debt-to-income test that includes certain regular expenses, such as hazard insurance and property taxes, the expected energy cost savings shall be included as an offset to these expenses. Energy costs to be assessed include the cost of electricity, natural gas, oil, and any other fuel regularly used to supply energy to the subject property.

(3) DETERMINATION OF ESTIMATED ENERGY COST SAVINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The guidelines to be issued under paragraph (1) shall include instructions for the covered agency to calculate estimated energy cost savings using—

(i) the energy efficiency report;

(ii) an estimate of baseline average energy costs; and

(iii) additional sources of information as determined by the Secretary.

(B) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—For the purposes of subparagraph (A), an energy efficiency report shall—

(i) estimate the expected energy cost savings specific to the subject property, based on specific information about the property;

(ii) be prepared in accordance with the guidelines to be issued under paragraph (1); and

(iii) be prepared—

(I) in accordance with the Residential Energy Service Network's Home Energy Rating System (commonly known as ''HERS'') by an individual certified by the Residential Energy Service Network, unless the Secretary finds that the use of HERS does not further the purposes of this section; or

(II) by other methods approved by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the advisory group established in subsection (f)(2), for use under this section, which shall include a third-party quality assurance procedure.

(C) USE BY APPRAISER.—If an energy efficiency report is used under paragraph (2), the energy efficiency report shall be provided to the appraiser to estimate the energy efficiency of the subject property and for potential adjustments for energy efficiency.

(4) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE TO CONSUMER FOR A HOME WITH AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY REPORT.—If an energy efficiency report is used under paragraph (2), the guidelines to be issued under paragraph (1) shall require the mortgagee to—

(A) inform the loan applicant of the expected energy costs as estimated in the energy efficiency report, in a manner and at a time as prescribed by the Secretary, and if practicable, in the documents delivered at the time of loan application; and

(B) include the energy efficiency report in the documentation for the loan provided to the borrower.

(5) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE TO CONSUMER FOR A HOME WITHOUT AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY REPORT.—If an energy efficiency report is not used under paragraph (2), the guidelines to be issued under paragraph (1) shall require the mortgagee to inform the loan applicant in a manner and at a time as prescribed by the Secretary, and if practicable, in the documents delivered at the time of loan application of—

(A) typical energy cost savings that would be possible from a cost-effective energy upgrade of a home of the size and in the region of the subject property;

(B) the impact the typical energy cost savings would have on monthly ownership costs of a typical home;

(C) the impact on the size of a mortgage that could be obtained if the typical energy cost savings were reflected in an energy efficiency report; and

(D) resources for improving the energy efficiency of a home.

(6) PRICING OF LOANS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered agency may price covered loans originated under the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this section in accordance with the estimated risk of the loans.

(B) IMPOSITION OF CERTAIN MATERIAL COSTS, IMPEDIMENTS, OR PENALTIES.—In the absence of a publicly disclosed analysis that demonstrates significant additional default risk or prepayment risk associated with the loans, a covered agency shall not impose material costs, impediments, or penalties on covered loans merely because the loan uses an energy efficiency report or the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this section.

(7) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered agency may price covered loans originated under the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this section in accordance with the estimated risk of those loans.

(B) PROHIBITED ACTIONS.—A covered agency shall not—

(i) modify existing underwriting criteria or adopt new underwriting criteria that intentionally negate or reduce the impact of the requirements or resulting benefits that are set forth or otherwise derived from the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this subsection; or

(ii) impose greater buy back requirements, credit overlays, or insurance requirements, including private mortgage insurance, on covered loans merely because the loan uses an energy efficiency report or the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this subsection.

(8) APPLICABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION DATE.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and before December 31, 2017, the enhanced loan eligibility requirements required under this subsection shall be implemented by each covered agency to—

(A) apply to any covered loan for the sale, or refinancing of any loan for the sale, of any home;

(B) be available on any residential real property (including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives) that qualifies for a covered loan; and

(C) provide prospective mortgagees with sufficient guidance and applicable tools to implement the required underwriting methods.

(d) ENHANCED ENERGY EFFICIENCY UNDERWRITING VALUATION GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) in consultation with the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council and the advisory group established in subsection (f)(2), develop and issue guidelines for a covered agency to determine the maximum permitted loan amount based on the value of the property for all covered loans made on properties with an energy efficiency report that meets the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(B); and

(B) in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, issue guidelines for a covered agency to determine the estimated energy savings under paragraph (3) for properties with an energy efficiency report.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The enhanced energy efficiency underwriting valuation guidelines required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a requirement that if an energy efficiency report that meets the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(B) is voluntarily provided to the mortgagee, such report shall be used by the mortgagee or covered agency to determine the estimated energy savings of the subject property; and

(B) a requirement that the estimated energy savings of the subject property be added to the appraised value of the subject property by a mortgagee or covered agency for the purpose of determining the loan-to-value ratio of the subject property, unless the appraisal includes the value of the overall energy efficiency of the subject property, using methods to be established under the guidelines issued under paragraph (1).

(3) DETERMINATION OF ESTIMATED ENERGY SAVINGS.—

(A) AMOUNT OF ENERGY SAVINGS.—The amount of estimated energy savings shall be determined by calculating the difference between the estimated energy costs for the average comparable houses, as determined in guidelines to be issued under paragraph (1), and the estimated energy costs for the subject property based upon the energy efficiency report.

(B) DURATION OF ENERGY SAVINGS.—The duration of the estimated energy savings shall be based upon the estimated life of the applicable equipment, consistent with the rating system used to produce the energy efficiency report.

(C) PRESENT VALUE OF ENERGY SAVINGS.—The present value of the future savings shall be discounted using the average interest rate on conventional 30-year mortgages, in the manner directed by guidelines issued under paragraph (1).

(4) ENSURING CONSIDERATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT FEATURES.—Section 1110 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3339) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and'' and inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) that State certified and licensed appraisers have timely access, whenever practicable, to information from the property owner and the lender that may be relevant in developing an opinion of value regarding the energy- and water-saving improvements or features of a property, such as—

''(A) labels or ratings of buildings;

''(B) installed appliances, measures, systems or technologies;

''(C) blueprints;

''(D) construction costs;

''(E) financial or other incentives regarding energy- and water-efficient components and systems installed in a property;

''(F) utility bills;

''(G) energy consumption and benchmarking data; and

''(H) third-party verifications or representations of energy and water efficiency performance of a property, observing all financial privacy requirements adhered to by certified and licensed appraisers, including section 501 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. 6801).

Unless a property owner consents to a lender, an appraiser, in carrying out the requirements of paragraph (4), shall not have access to the commercial or financial information of the owner that is privileged or confidential.''.

(5) TRANSACTIONS REQUIRING STATE CERTIFIED APPRAISERS.—Section 1113 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3342) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the semicolon the following: '', or any real property on which the appraiser makes adjustments using an energy efficiency report''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting after ''atypical'' the following: '', or an appraisal on which the appraiser makes adjustments using an energy efficiency report.''.

(6) PROTECTIONS.—

(A) AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE LIMITATIONS.—The guidelines to be issued under paragraph (1) shall include such limitations and conditions as determined by the Secretary to be necessary to protect against meaningful under or over valuation of energy cost savings or duplicative counting of energy efficiency features or energy cost savings in the valuation of any subject property that is used to determine a loan amount.

(B) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—At the end of the 7-year period following the implementation of enhanced eligibility and underwriting valuation requirements under this section, the Secretary may modify or apply additional exceptions to the approach described in paragraph (2), where the Secretary finds that the unadjusted appraisal will reflect an accurate market value of the efficiency of the subject property or that a modified approach will better reflect an accurate market value.

(7) APPLICABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION DATE.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and before December 31, 2017, each covered agency shall implement the guidelines required under this subsection, which shall—

(A) apply to any covered loan for the sale, or refinancing of any loan for the sale, of any home; and

(B) be available on any residential real property, including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives, that qualifies for a covered loan.

(e) MONITORING.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the enhanced eligibility and underwriting valuation requirements are implemented under this section, and every year thereafter, each covered agency with relevant activity shall issue and make available to the public a report that—

(1) enumerates the number of covered loans of the agency for which there was an energy efficiency report, and that used energy efficiency appraisal guidelines and enhanced loan eligibility requirements;

(2) includes the default rates and rates of foreclosures for each category of loans; and

(3) describes the risk premium, if any, that the agency has priced into covered loans for which there was an energy efficiency report.

(f) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the advisory group established in paragraph (2), which may contain such classifications, differentiations, or other provisions, and may provide for such proper implementation and appropriate treatment of different types of transactions, as the Secretary determines are necessary or proper to effectuate the purposes of this section, to prevent circumvention or evasion thereof, or to facilitate compliance therewith.

(2) ADVISORY GROUP.—To assist in carrying out this section, the Secretary shall establish an advisory group, consisting of individuals representing the interests of—

(A) mortgage lenders;

(B) appraisers;

(C) energy raters and residential energy consumption experts;

(D) energy efficiency organizations;

(E) real estate agents;

(F) home builders and remodelers;

(G) State energy officials; and

(H) others as determined by the Secretary.

(g) ADDITIONAL STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall reconvene the advisory group established in subsection (f)(2), in addition to water and locational efficiency experts, to advise the Secretary on the implementation of the enhanced energy efficiency underwriting criteria established in subsections (c) and (d).

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The advisory group established in subsection (f)(2) shall provide recommendations to the Secretary on any revisions or additions to the enhanced energy efficiency underwriting criteria deemed necessary by the group, which may include alternate methods to better account for home energy costs and additional factors to account for substantial and regular costs of homeownership such as location-based transportation costs and water costs. The Secretary shall forward any legislative recommendations from the advisory group to Congress for its consideration.

Subtitle E—Third Party Testing

SEC. 441. VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS FOR AIR CONDITIONING, FURNACE, BOILER, HEAT PUMP, AND WATER HEATER PRODUCTS.

Section 326(b) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6296(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS FOR AIR CONDITIONING, FURNACE, BOILER, HEAT PUMP, AND WATER HEATER PRODUCTS.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF BASIC MODEL GROUP.—In this paragraph, the term 'basic model group' means a set of models—

''(i) that share characteristics that allow the performance of 1 model to be generally representative of the performance of other models within the group; and

''(ii) in which the group of products does not necessarily have to share discrete performance.

''(B) RELIANCE ON VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS.—For the purpose of testing to verify the performance rating of, or receiving test reports from manufacturers certifying compliance with energy conservation standards and Energy Star specifications established under sections 324A, 325, and 342, the covered products described in paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (9), and (11) of section 322(a) and covered equipment described in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), (F), (I), (J), and (K) of section 340(1), the Secretary and Administrator shall rely on voluntary certification programs that—

''(i) are nationally recognized;

''(ii) maintain a publicly available list of all certified products and equipment;

''(iii) as determined by the Secretary, annually test not less than 10 percent and not more than 30 percent of the basic model group of a program participant

''(iv) require the changing of the performance rating or removal of the product or equipment from the program, if verification testing determines that the performance rating does not meet the levels the manufacturer has certified to the Secretary;

''(v) require the qualification of new participants in the program through testing and production of test reports;

''(vi) allow for challenge testing of products and equipment within the scope of the program;

''(vii) require program participants to certify the performance rating of all covered products and equipment within the scope of the program;

''(viii) are conducted by a certification body that is accredited under International Organization for Standardization/ International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) Standard 17065;

''(ix) provide to the Secretary—

''(I) an annual report of all test results;

''(II) prompt notification when program testing results in—

''(aa) the rerating of the performance rating of a product or equipment; or

''(bb) the delisting of a product or equipment; and

''(III) test reports, on the request of the Secretary or the Administrator, for Energy Star compliant products, which shall be treated as confidential business information as provided for under section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act'');

''(x) use verification testing that—

''(I) is conducted by an independent test laboratory that is accredited under International Organization for Standardization/ International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) Standard 17025 with a scope covering the tested products or equipment;

''(II) follows the test procedures established under this title; and

''(III) notes in each test report any instructions specified by the manufacturer or the representative of the manufacturer for the purpose of conducting the verification testing; and

''(xi) satisfy such other requirements as the Secretary has determined—

''(I) are essential to ensure standards compliance; or

''(II) have consensus support achieved through a negotiated rulemaking process.

''(C) ADMINISTRATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not require—

''(I) manufacturers to participate in a voluntary certification program described in subparagraph (B); or

''(II) participating manufacturers to provide information that can be obtained through a voluntary certification program described in subparagraph (B).

''(ii) LIST OF COVERED PRODUCTS.—The Secretary or the Administrator may maintain a publicly available list of covered products and equipment certified under a program described in subparagraph (B) that distinguishes between—

''(I) covered products and equipment verified by the program; and

''(II) products not verified by the program.

''(iii) REDUCTION OF REQUIREMENTS.—Any rules promulgated by the Secretary that require testing of products or equipment for certification of performance ratings shall on average reduce requirements and burdens for manufacturers participating in a voluntary certification program described in subparagraph (B) for the products or equipment relative to other manufacturers.

''(iv) PERIODIC TESTING BY PROGRAM NONPARTICIPANTS.—In addition to certification requirements, the Secretary shall require a manufacturer that does not participate in a voluntary certification program described in subparagraph (B)—

''(I) to verify the accuracy of the performance rating of the product or equipment through periodic testing using the testing methods described in clause (iii) or (x) of subparagraph (B); and

''(II) to provide to the Secretary test results and, on request, test reports verifying the certified performance for each basic model group of the manufacturer.

''(v) RESTRICTIONS ON TEST LABORATORIES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), with respect to covered products and equipment, a voluntary certification program described in subparagraph (B) shall not be a test laboratory that conducts the testing on products or equipment within the scope of the program.

''(II) LIMITATION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply to Energy Star specifications established under section 324A.

''(vi) EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this paragraph limits the authority of the Secretary or the Administrator to test products or equipment or to enforce compliance with any law (including regulations).''.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 501. OFFSET.

Section 422(f) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17082(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end; and

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) $200,000,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

''(5) $144,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.''.

SEC. 502. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

SEC. 503. ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.

The authorization of amounts under this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be effective for any fiscal year only to the extent and in the amount provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

SA 3013. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV, add the following:

Subtitle F—Electricity Security and Affordability

SEC. 451. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Electricity Security and Affordability Act''.

SEC. 452. STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE FOR NEW FOSSIL FUEL-FIRED ELECTRIC UTILITY GENERATING UNITS.

(a) LIMITATION.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not issue, implement, or enforce any proposed or final rule under section 111 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411) that establishes a standard of performance for emissions of any greenhouse gas from any new source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit unless such rule meets the requirements under subsections (b) and (c).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing any rule under section 111 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411) establishing standards of performance for emissions of any greenhouse gas from new sources that are fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (for purposes of establishing such standards)—

(1) shall separate sources fueled with coal and natural gas into separate categories; and

(2) shall not set a standard based on the best system of emission reduction for new sources within a fossil-fuel category unless—

(A) such standard has been achieved on average for at least one continuous 12-month period (excluding planned outages) by each of at least 6 units within such category—

(i) each of which is located at a different electric generating station in the United States;

(ii) which, collectively, are representative of the operating characteristics of electric generation at different locations in the United States; and

(iii) each of which is operated for the entire 12-month period on a full commercial basis; and

(B) no results obtained from any demonstration project are used in setting such standard.

(c) COAL HAVING A HEAT CONTENT OF 8300 OR LESS BRITISH THERMAL UNITS PER POUND.—

(1) SEPARATE SUBCATEGORY.—In carrying out subsection (b)(1), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall establish a separate subcategory for new sources that are fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units using coal with an average heat content of 8300 or less British Thermal Units per pound.

(2) STANDARD.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(2), in issuing any rule under section 111 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411) establishing standards of performance for emissions of any greenhouse gas from new sources in such subcategory, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not set a standard based on the best system of emission reduction unless—

(A) such standard has been achieved on average for at least one continuous 12-month period (excluding planned outages) by each of at least 3 units within such subcategory—

(i) each of which is located at a different electric generating station in the United States;

(ii) which, collectively, are representative of the operating characteristics of electric generation at different locations in the United States; and

(iii) each of which is operated for the entire 12-month period on a full commercial basis; and

(B) no results obtained from any demonstration project are used in setting such standard.

(d) TECHNOLOGIES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude the issuance, implementation, or enforcement of a standard of performance that—

(1) is based on the use of one or more technologies that are developed in a foreign country, but has been demonstrated to be achievable at fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units in the United States; and

(2) meets the requirements of subsection (b) and (c), as applicable.

SEC. 453. CONGRESS TO SET EFFECTIVE DATE FOR STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE FOR EXISTING, MODIFIED, AND RECONSTRUCTED FOSSIL FUEL-FIRED ELECTRIC UTILITY GENERATING UNITS.

(a) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies with respect to any rule or guidelines issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under section 111 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411) that—

(1) establish any standard of performance for emissions of any greenhouse gas from any modified or reconstructed source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit; or

(2) apply to the emissions of any greenhouse gas from an existing source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit.

(b) CONGRESS TO SET EFFECTIVE DATE.—A rule or guidelines described in subsection (a) shall not take effect unless a Federal law is enacted specifying such rule's or guidelines' effective date.

(c) REPORTING.—A rule or guidelines described in subsection (a) shall not take effect unless the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has submitted to Congress a report containing each of the following:

(1) The text of such rule or guidelines.

(2) The economic impacts of such rule or guidelines, including the potential effects on—

(A) economic growth, competitiveness, and jobs in the United States;

(B) electricity ratepayers, including low-income ratepayers in affected States;

(C) required capital investments and projected costs for operation and maintenance of new equipment required to be installed; and

(D) the global economic competitiveness of the United States.

(3) The amount of greenhouse gas emissions that such rule or guidelines are projected to reduce as compared to overall global greenhouse gas emissions.

(d) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection (c), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, the Comptroller General of the United States, the Director of the National Energy Technology Laboratory, and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

SEC. 454. REPEAL OF EARLIER RULES AND GUIDELINES.

The following rules and guidelines shall be of no force or effect, and shall be treated as though such rules and guidelines had never been issued:

(1) The proposed rule—

(A) entitled ''Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units'', published at 77 Fed. Reg. 22392 (April 13, 2012); and

(B) withdrawn pursuant to the notice entitled ''Withdrawal of Proposed Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units'', signed by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on September 20, 2013, and identified by docket ID number EPA–HQ–OAR–2011–0660.

(2) The proposed rule entitled ''Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units'', signed by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on September 20, 2013, identified by docket ID number EPA–HQ–OAR–2013–0495, and published at 79 Fed. Reg. 1430 (January 8, 2014).

(3) With respect to the proposed rule described in paragraph (1), any successor or substantially similar proposed or final rule that—

(A) is issued prior to the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) is applicable to any new source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit; and

(C) does not meet the requirements under subsections (b) and (c) of section 452.

(4) Any proposed or final rule or guidelines under section 111 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411) that—

(A) are issued prior to the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) establish any standard of performance for emissions of any greenhouse gas from any modified or reconstructed source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit or apply to the emissions of any greenhouse gas from an existing source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit.

SEC. 455. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The term ''demonstration project'' means a project to

test or demonstrate the feasibility of carbon capture and storage technologies that has received Federal Government funding or financial assistance.

(2) EXISTING SOURCE.—The term ''existing source'' has the meaning given such term in section 111(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411(a)), except such term shall not include any modified source.

(3) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term ''greenhouse gas'' means any of the following:

(A) Carbon dioxide.

(B) Methane.

(C) Nitrous oxide.

(D) Sulfur hexafluoride.

(E) Hydrofluorocarbons.

(F) Perfluorocarbons.

(4) MODIFICATION.—The term ''modification'' has the meaning given such term in section 111(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411(a)).

(5) MODIFIED SOURCE.—The term ''modified source'' means any stationary source, the modification of which is commenced after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(6) NEW SOURCE.—The term ''new source'' has the meaning given such term in section 111(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411(a)), except that such term shall not include any modified source.

SA 3014. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. FLAKE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. ELIMINATION OF CORN ETHANOL MANDATE FOR RENEWABLE FUEL.

(a) REMOVAL OF TABLE.—Section 211(o)(2)(B)(i) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking subclause (I).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 211(o)(2)(B) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by redesignating subclauses (II) through (IV) as subclauses (I) through (III), respectively;

(B) in subclause (I) (as so redesignated), by striking ''of the volume of renewable fuel required under subclause (I),''; and

(C) in subclauses (II) and (III) (as so redesignated), by striking ''subclause (II)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subclause (I)''; and

(2) in clause (v), by striking ''clause (i)(IV)'' and inserting ''clause (i)(III)''.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section affects the volumes of advanced biofuel, cellulosic biofuel, or biomass-based diesel that are required under section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)).

SA 3015. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 25, strike line 23 and insert the following:

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—To promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the programs, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct or collect applicable third-party evaluations on every federally funded energy worker training program established during the 7–year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act, including technical training, on-the-job training, and industry-recognized credentialing programs; and

(2) publish and disseminate evidence-based guidance for the programs after considering the third-party evaluations.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is

SA 3016. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME PERSONS.

Section 415 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6865) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A State shall use up to 8 percent of any grant made by the Secretary under this part to track applicants for and recipients of weatherization assistance under this part to determine the impact of the assistance and eliminate or reduce reliance on the assistance over a period of not more than 3 years.

''(2) ANNUAL STATE PLANS.—A State may submit to the Secretary for approval within 90 days an annual plan for the administration of assistance under this part in the State that includes, at the option of the State—

''(A) local income eligibility standards for the assistance that are not based on the formula that are used to allocate assistance under this part; and

''(B) the establishment of revolving loan funds for multifamily affordable housing units.''.

SA 3017. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 111, strike subsection (b) and insert the following:

(b) NONDUPLICATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education prior to issuing any funding opportunity announcements under this Act to ensure that duplication does not occur.

SA 3018. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. OFFSETS FOR INCREASED COSTS TO FEDERAL AGENCIES FOR REGULATIONS LIMITING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency proposes a rule that limits greenhouse gas emissions and imposes increased costs on 1 or more other Federal agencies, the Administrator shall include in the proposed rule an offset from funds available to the Administrator for all projected increased costs that the proposed rule would impose on other Federal agencies.

(b) NO OFFSETS.—If the Administrator proposes a rule that limits greenhouse gas emissions and imposes increased costs on 1 or more other Federal agencies but does not provide an offset in accordance with paragraph (1), the Administrator may not finalize the rule until the promulgation of the final rule is approved by law.

SA 3019. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 5, strike line 17 and all that follows through page 6, line 11, and insert the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State or Indian tribe has submitted written notification to the Secretary that the State or Indian tribe has decided to participate in the program under this section, not later than 2 years after the date on which a model building energy code is updated, each participating State or Indian tribe shall certify whether or not the State or Indian tribe, respectively, has reviewed and updated the energy provisions of the building code of the State or Indian tribe, respectively.

''(B) DEMONSTRATION.—The certification shall include a demonstration of whether or not the energy savings for the code provisions that are in effect throughout the State or Indian tribal territory meet or exceed—

''(i) the energy savings of the updated model building energy code; or

''(ii) the targets established under section 307(b)(2).

''(C) NO MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODE UPDATE.—If a model building energy code is not updated by a target date established under section 307(b)(2)(D), the participating State or Indian tribe.

SA 3020. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike subtitles C and D of title II.

SA 3021. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, lines 14 through 16, strike '', and verification of compliance with and enforcement of a code other than by a State or local government''.

SA 3022. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 303, insert the following:

SEC. 304. FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Data Center Consolidation Act of 2014''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator for the Office of E-Government and Information Technology within the Office of Management and Budget.

(2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term ''covered agency'' means the following (including all associated components of the agency):

(A) Department of Agriculture;
(B) Department of Commerce;
(C) Department of Defense;
(D) Department of Education;
(E) Department of Energy;
(F) Department of Health and Human Services;
(G) Department of Homeland Security;
(H) Department of Housing and Urban Development;
(I) Department of the Interior;
(J) Department of Justice;
(K) Department of Labor;
(L) Department of State;
(M) Department of Transportation;
(N) Department of Treasury;
(O) Department of Veterans Affairs;
(P) Environmental Protection Agency;
(Q) General Services Administration;
(R) National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
(S) National Science Foundation;
(T) Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
(U) Office of Personnel Management;
(V) Small Business Administration;
(W) Social Security Administration; and
(X) United States Agency for International Development.

(3) FDCCI.—The term ''FDCCI'' means the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative described in the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum on the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative, dated February 26, 2010, or any successor thereto.

(4) GOVERNMENT-WIDE DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION AND OPTIMIZATION METRICS.—The term ''Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics'' means the metrics established by the Administrator under subsection (c)(2)(G).

(c) FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION INVENTORIES AND STRATEGIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the head of each covered agency, assisted by the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall submit to the Administrator—

(i) a comprehensive inventory of the data centers owned, operated, or maintained by or on behalf of the agency; and

(ii) a multi-year strategy to achieve the consolidation and optimization of the data centers inventoried under clause (i), that includes—

(I) performance metrics—

(aa) that are consistent with the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(bb) by which the quantitative and qualitative progress of the agency toward the goals of the FDCCI can be measured;

(II) a timeline for agency activities to be completed under the FDCCI, with an emphasis on benchmarks the agency can achieve by specific dates;

(III) year-by-year calculations of investment and cost savings for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date described in subsection (f), broken down by each year, including a description of any initial costs for data center consolidation and optimization and life cycle cost savings and other improvements, with an emphasis on—

(aa) meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(bb) demonstrating the amount of agency-specific cost savings each fiscal year achieved through the FDCCI; and

(IV) any additional information required by the Administrator.

(B) USE OF OTHER REPORTING STRUCTURES.—The Administrator may require a covered agency to include the information required to be submitted under this subsection through reporting structures determined by the Administrator to be appropriate.

(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTING.—For any year that the Department of Defense is required to submit a performance plan for reduction of resources required for data servers and centers, as required under section 2867(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note), the Department of Defense—

(i) may submit to the Administrator, in lieu of the multi-year strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(II) the report on cost savings required under section 2867(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(ii) shall submit the comprehensive inventory required under subparagraph (A)(i), unless the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note)—

(I) contains a comparable comprehensive inventory; and

(II) is submitted under clause (i).

(D) STATEMENT.—Beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the head of each covered agency, acting through the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall—

(i)(I) submit a statement to the Administrator stating whether the agency has complied with the requirements of this section; and

(II) make the statement submitted under subclause (I) publically available; and

(ii) if the agency has not complied with the requirements of this section, submit a statement to the Administrator explaining the reasons for not complying with such requirements.

(E) AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Each covered agency, under the direction of the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall—

(I) implement the strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

(II) provide updates to the Administrator, on a quarterly basis, of—

(aa) the completion of activities by the agency under the FDCCI;

(bb) any progress of the agency towards meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(cc) the actual cost savings and other improvements realized through the implementation of the strategy of the agency.

(ii) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—For purposes of clause (i)(I), implementation of the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note) by the Department of Defense shall be considered implementation of the strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii).

(F) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the reporting of information by a covered agency to the Administrator, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or Congress.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Administrator shall—

(A) establish the deadline, on an annual basis, for covered agencies to submit information under this section;

(B) establish a list of requirements that the covered agencies must meet to be considered in compliance with paragraph (1);

(C) ensure that information relating to agency progress towards meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics is made available in a timely manner to the general public;

(D) review the inventories and strategies submitted under paragraph (1) to determine whether they are comprehensive and complete;

(E) monitor the implementation of the data center strategy of each covered agency that is required under paragraph (1)(A)(ii);

(F) update, on an annual basis, the cumulative cost savings realized through the implementation of the FDCCI; and

(G) establish metrics applicable to the consolidation and optimization of data centers Government-wide, including metrics with respect to—

(i) costs;

(ii) efficiencies, including at least server efficiency; and

(iii) any other metrics the Administrator establishes under this subparagraph.

(3) COST SAVING GOAL AND UPDATES FOR CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop, and make publically available, a goal, broken down by year, for the amount of planned cost savings and optimization improvements achieved through the FDCCI during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date described in subsection (f).

(B) ANNUAL UPDATE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the goal described in subparagraph (A) is made publically available, and each year thereafter, the Administrator shall aggregate the reported cost savings of each covered agency and optimization improvements achieved to date through the FDCCI and compare the savings to the projected cost savings and optimization improvements developed under subparagraph (A).

(ii) UPDATE FOR CONGRESS.—The goal required to be developed under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to Congress and shall be accompanied by a statement describing—

(I) whether each covered agency has in fact submitted a comprehensive asset inventory, including an assessment broken down by agency, which shall include the specific numbers, utilization, and efficiency level of data centers; and

(II) whether each covered agency has submitted a comprehensive consolidation strategy with the key elements described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii).

(4) GAO REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review and verify the quality and completeness of the asset inventory and strategy of each covered agency required under paragraph (1)(A).

(B) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, on an annual basis, publish a report on each review conducted under subparagraph (A).

(d) ENSURING CYBERSECURITY STANDARDS FOR DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION AND CLOUD COMPUTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In implementing a data center consolidation and optimization strategy under this section, a covered agency shall do so in a manner that is consistent with Federal guidelines on cloud computing security, including—

(A) applicable provisions found within the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP); and

(B) guidance published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the ability of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to update or modify the Federal guidelines on cloud computing security.

(e) WAIVER OF DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of National Intelligence may waive the applicability to any element (or component of an element) of the intelligence community of any provision of this section if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such waiver is in the interest of national security. Not later than 30 days after making a waiver under this subsection, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a statement describing the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

(f) SUNSET.—This section is repealed effective on October 1, 2018.

SA 3023. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3012 submitted by Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN) to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

SA 3024. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3023 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3012 submitted by Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN) to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''1 day'' and insert ''2 days''.

SA 3025. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

SA 3026. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3025 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''3 days'' and insert ''4 days''.

SA 3027. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

SA 3028. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3027 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''5 days'' and insert ''6 days''.

SA 3029. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3028 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3027 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''6 days'' and insert ''7 days''.

SA 3030. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. TRANSPARENCY AND FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall track the use of taxpayer funds relating to the rulemaking processes of the Environmental Protection Agency that impact energy development, production, or generation, economic development, or job creation.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to Congress and post on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency an annual report detailing the results of the evaluation under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The annual report under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—

(A) the administrative costs associated with the rulemaking processes, including the personnel costs;

(B) the costs associated with holding public hearings and meetings;

(C) travel costs; and

(D) third-party expenses, such as the costs associated with hiring consultants and scientists.

SA 3031. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), on the request of a State, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall provide the State not less than 120 additional days to review and comment on any proposed regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency that the State determines will have an impact on energy development, production, or generation, economic development, or job creation in the State.

SA 3032. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 134, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. 5_____. CONVEYANCE TO STATES OF PROPERTY INTEREST IN STATE SHARE OF ROYALTIES AND OTHER PAYMENTS.

Section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by striking ''shall be paid into the Treasury'' and inserting ''shall, except as provided in subsection (d), be paid into the Treasury'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting ''and except as provided in subsection (d)'' before '', any rentals''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) CONVEYANCE TO STATES OF PROPERTY INTEREST IN STATE SHARE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on request of a State (other than the State of Alaska) and in lieu of any payments to the State under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the State all right, title, and interest in and to 50 percent of all amounts otherwise required to be paid into the Treasury under subsection (a) from sales, bonuses, royalties (including interest charges), and rentals for all public land or deposits located in the State.

''(2) STATE OF ALASKA.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on request of the State of Alaska and in lieu of any payments to the State under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the State all right, title, and interest in and to 90 percent of all amounts otherwise required to be paid into the Treasury under subsection (a) from sales, bonuses, royalties (including interest charges), and rentals for all public land or deposits located in the State.

''(3) AMOUNT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, after a conveyance to a State under paragraph (1) or (2), any person shall pay directly to the State any amount owed by the person for which the right, title, and interest has been conveyed to the State under this subsection.

''(4) NOTICE.—The Secretary of the Interior shall promptly provide to each holder of a

lease of public land to which subsection (a) applies that are located in a State to which right, title, and interest is conveyed under this subsection notice that—

''(A) the Secretary of the Interior has conveyed to the State all right, title, and interest in and to the amounts referred to in paragraph (1) or (2); and

''(B) the leaseholder is required to pay the amounts directly to the State.''.

SA 3033. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 5_____. REGIONAL HAZE PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the ''Administrator'') shall not reject or disapprove in whole or in part a State regional haze implementation plan addressing any regional haze regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency (including the regulations described in section 51.308 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)) if—

(1) the State has submitted to the Administrator a State implementation plan for regional haze that—

(A) considers the factors identified in section 169A of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7491); and

(B) applies the relevant laws (including regulations);

(2) the Administrator fails to demonstrate using the best available science that a Federal implementation plan action governing a specific source, when compared to the State plan, results in at least a 1.0 deciview improvement in any class I area (as classified under section 162 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7472)); and

(3) implementation of the Federal implementation plan, when compared to the State plan, will result in an economic cost to the State or to the private sector of greater than $100,000,000 in any fiscal year or $300,000,000 in the aggregate.

SA 3034. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. FEDERAL VEHICLE REPAIR COST SAVINGS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that, in March 2013, the Government Accountability Office issued a report that confirmed that—

(1) there are approximately 588,000 vehicles in the civilian Federal fleet;

(2) Federal agencies spent approximately $975,000,000 on repair and maintenance of the Federal fleet in 2011;

(3) remanufactured vehicle components, such as engines, starters, alternators, steering racks, and clutches, tend to be less expensive than comparable new replacement parts; and

(4) the United States Postal Service and the Department of the Interior both informed the Government Accountability Office that the respective agencies rely on the use of remanufactured vehicle components to reduce costs.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO USE REMANUFACTURED VEHICLE COMPONENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ''Federal agency'' has the meaning given that term in section 102 of title 40, United States Code.

(B) REMANUFACTURED VEHICLE COMPONENT.—The term ''remanufactured vehicle component'' means a vehicle component (including an engine, transmission, alternator, starter, turbocharger, steering, or suspension component) that has been returned to same-as-new, or better, condition and performance by a standardized industrial process that incorporates technical specifications (including engineering, quality, and testing standards) to yield fully warranted products.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The head of each Federal agency shall encourage the use of remanufactured vehicle components to maintain Federal vehicles—

(A) if using those components reduces the cost while maintaining quality; but

(B) not if using those components—

(i) does not reduce the cost of maintaining Federal vehicles;

(ii) lowers the quality of vehicle performance, as determined by the employee of the Federal agency responsible for the repair decision; or

(iii) delays the return to service of a vehicle.

SA 3035. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON NEW RULES FOR AUTOMATIC COMMERCIAL ICE MAKERS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Energy shall not propose or finalize any new rule to increase energy conservation or efficiency standards for automatic commercial ice makers, including the proposed rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Automatic Commercial Ice Makers'' (79 Fed. Reg. 14846 (March 17, 2014)).

SA 3036. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. ELECTRIC GENERATING UNIT COMPLIANCE DELAY FOR CERTAIN EPA RULES.

(a) DEFINITION OF COAL REFUSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ''coal refuse'' means any waste coal, rock, shale, slurry, culm, gob, boney, slate, clay and related materials, associated with or near a coal seam, that are—

(A) brought aboveground or otherwise removed from a coal mine in the process of mining coal; or

(B) separated from coal during cleaning or preparation operations.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''coal refuse'' includes underground development waste, coal processing waste, and excess spoil.

(b) COMPLIANCE DELAY.—An electric generating unit that uses coal refuse as the primary feedstock of the electric generating unit shall be exempt from the rule of the Environmental Protection Agency entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Fossil-Fuel-Fired Electric Utility, Industrial-Commercial-Institutional, and Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units'' (77 Fed. Reg. 9304 (February 16, 2012)) until December 31, 2017.

SA 3037. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON NEW RULES FOR RESIDENTIAL BOILERS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Energy shall not propose or finalize any new rule to increase energy conservation or efficiency standards for residential boilers, including proposals described in the Department of Energy document entitled ''Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Boilers: Availability of Analytical Results and Modeling Tools'' (79 Fed. Reg. 8122 (February 11, 2014)).

SA 3038. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5____. EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS TO WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(c) For purposes'' and inserting the following:

''(c) EXPEDITED APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRY.—In this subsection, the term 'World Trade Organization member country' has the meaning given the term 'WTO member country' in section 2 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501).

''(2) EXPEDITED APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—For purposes''; and

(2) in paragraph (2) (as so designated), by inserting ''or to a World Trade Organization member country'' after ''trade in natural gas''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to applications for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) that are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3039. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an

amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 501 and insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. ACCESS TO CONSUMER ENERGY INFORMATION (E-ACCESS).

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall encourage and support the adoption of policies that allow electricity consumers access to their own electricity data.

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE ENERGY PLANS.—Section 362(d) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6322(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (16), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (17) as paragraph (18); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (16) the following:

''(17) programs—

''(A) to enhance consumer access to and understanding of energy usage and price information, including consumers' own residential and commercial electricity information; and

''(B) to allow for the development and adoption of innovative products and services to assist consumers in managing energy consumption and expenditures; and''.

(c) VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR ELECTRIC CONSUMER ACCESS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) RETAIL ELECTRIC ENERGY INFORMATION.—The term ''retail electric energy information'' means—

(i) the electric energy consumption of an electric consumer over a defined time period;

(ii) the retail electric energy prices or rates applied to the electricity usage for the defined time period described in clause (i) for the electric consumer;

(iii) the estimated cost of service by the consumer, including (if smart meter usage information is available) the estimated cost of service since the last billing cycle of the consumer; and

(iv) in the case of nonresidential electric meters, any other electrical information that the meter is programmed to record (such as demand measured in kilowatts, voltage, frequency, current, and power factor).

(B) SMART METER.—The term ''smart meter'' means the device used by an electric utility that—

(i)(I) measures electric energy consumption by an electric consumer at the home or facility of the electric consumer in intervals of 1 hour or less; and

(II) is capable of sending electric energy usage information through a communications network to the electric utility; or

(ii) meets the guidelines issued under paragraph (2).

(2) VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR ELECTRIC CONSUMER ACCESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall issue voluntary guidelines that establish model standards for implementation of retail electric energy information access in States.

(B) CONSULTATION.—Before issuing the voluntary guidelines, the Secretary shall—

(i) consult with—

(I) State and local regulatory authorities, including the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners;

(II) other appropriate Federal agencies, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(III) consumer and privacy advocacy groups;

(IV) utilities;

(V) the National Association of State Energy Officials; and

(VI) other appropriate entities, including groups representing commercial and residential building owners and groups that represent demand response and electricity data devices and services; and

(ii) provide notice and opportunity for comment.

(C) STATE AND LOCAL REGULATORY ACTION.—In issuing the voluntary guidelines, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be guided by actions taken by State and local regulatory authorities to ensure electric consumer access to retail electric energy information, including actions taken after consideration of the standard established under section 111(d)(17) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2621(d)(17)).

(D) CONTENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The voluntary guidelines shall provide guidance on issues necessary to carry out this subsection, including—

(I) the timeliness and specificity of retail electric energy information;

(II) appropriate nationally recognized open standards for data;

(III) the protection of data security and electric consumer privacy, including consumer consent requirements; and

(IV) issues relating to access of electric energy information for owners and managers of multitenant commercial and residential buildings.

(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The voluntary guidelines shall include guidance that—

(I) retail electric energy information should be made available to electric consumers (and third party designees of the electric consumers) in the United States—

(aa) in an electronic machine readable form, without additional charge, in conformity with nationally recognized open standards developed by a nationally recognized standards organization;

(bb) as timely as is reasonably practicable;

(cc) at the level of specificity that the data is transmitted by the meter or as is reasonably practicable; and

(dd) in a manner that provides adequate protections for the security of the information and the privacy of the electric consumer;

(II) in the case of an electric consumer that is served by a smart meter that can also communicate energy usage information to a device or network of an electric consumer or a device or network of a third party authorized by the consumer, the feasibility should be considered of providing to the consumer or third party designee, at a minimum, access to usage information (not including price information) of the consumer directly from the smart meter;

(III) retail electric energy information should be provided by the electric utility of the consumer or such other entity as may be designated by the applicable electric retail regulatory authority;

(IV) retail electric energy information of the consumer should be made available to the consumer through a website or other electronic access authorized by the electric consumer, for a period of at least 13 months after the date on which the usage occurred;

(V) consumer access to data, including data provided to owners and managers of commercial and multifamily buildings with multiple tenants, should not interfere with or compromise the integrity, security, or privacy of the operations of a utility and the electric consumer;

(VI) electric energy information relating to usage information generated by devices in or on the property of the consumer that is transmitted to the electric utility should be made available to the electric consumer or the third party agent designated by the electric consumer; and

(VII) the same privacy and security requirements applicable to the contracting utility should apply to third party agents contracting with a utility to process the customer data of that utility.

(E) REVISIONS.—The Secretary shall periodically review and, as necessary, revise the voluntary guidelines to reflect changes in technology, privacy needs, and the market for electric energy and services.

(d) VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may submit to the Secretary a description of the data sharing policies of the State relating to consumer access to electric energy information for certification by the Secretary that the policies meet the voluntary guidelines issued under subsection (c)(2).

(2) ASSISTANCE.—Subject to the availability of funds under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall make Federal amounts available to any State that has data sharing policies described in paragraph (1) that the Secretary certifies meets the voluntary guidelines issued under subsection (c)(2) to assist the State in implementing section 362(d)(17) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6322(d)(17)).

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 5_____. OFFSET.

Section 422(f) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17082(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end; and

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014;

''(5) $145,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

''(6) $100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2018.''.

SA 3040. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. NATURAL GAS EXPORTS.

(a) DECISION DEADLINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue a final decision, or a conditional decision in the case of an application that has not completed the review required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), on any application for authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) not later than 90 days after the later of—

(A) the end of the comment period for the decision as set forth in the applicable notice published in the Federal Register; or

(B) the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) CONDITIONAL DECISION.—If the Secretary issues a conditional decision pursuant to

paragraph (1), the Secretary shall issue a final decision on any application for authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) not later than 60 days after conclusion of the review required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(b) JUDICIAL ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States Court of Appeals for the circuit in which the export facility will be located pursuant to an application described in subsection (a) shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action for the review of —

(A) an order issued by the Secretary with respect to the application; or

(B) the failure of the Secretary to issue a decision on the application.

(2) ORDER.—If the Court in a civil action described in paragraph (1) finds that the Secretary has failed to issue a decision on the application as required under subsection (a), the Court shall order the Secretary to issue the decision not later than 30 days after the order of the Court.

(3) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—The Court shall—

(A) set any civil action brought under this subsection for expedited consideration; and

(B) set the matter on the docket as soon as practicable after the filing date of the initial pleading.

(c) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF EXPORT DESTINATIONS.—Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS EXPORT DESTINATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any authorization to export liquefied natural gas, the Secretary of Energy shall require the applicant to report to the Secretary of Energy the names of the 1 or more countries of destination to which the exported liquefied natural gas is delivered.

''(2) TIMING.—The applicant shall file the report required under paragraph (1) not later than—

''(A) in the case of the first export, the last day of the month following the month of the first export; and

''(B) in the case of subsequent exports, the date that is 30 days after the last day of the applicable month concerning the activity of the previous month.

''(3) DISCLOSURE.—The Secretary of Energy shall publish the information reported under this subsection on the website of the Department of Energy and otherwise make the information available to the public.''.

SA 3041. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 134, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. 5_____. ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICANT.—The term ''applicant'' means a nonprofit organization that applies for a grant under this section.

(2) ENERGY-EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''energy-efficiency improvement'' means an installed measure (including a product, equipment, system, service, or practice) that results in a reduction in use by a nonprofit organization for energy or fuel supplied from outside the nonprofit building.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''energy-efficiency improvement'' includes an installed measure described in subparagraph (A) involving—

(i) repairing, replacing, or installing—

(I) a roof or lighting system, or component of a roof or lighting system;

(II) a window;

(III) a door, including a security door; or

(IV) a heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system or component of the system (including insulation and wiring and plumbing improvements needed to serve a more efficient system);

(ii) a renewable energy generation or heating system, including a solar, photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, or biomass (including wood pellet) system or component of the system; and

(iii) any other measure taken to modernize, renovate, or repair a nonprofit building to make the nonprofit building more energy efficient.

(3) NONPROFIT BUILDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''nonprofit building'' means a building operated and owned by a nonprofit organization.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''nonprofit building'' includes a building described in subparagraph (A) that is—

(i) a hospital;

(ii) a youth center;

(iii) a school;

(iv) a social-welfare program facility;

(v) a faith-based organization; and

(vi) any other nonresidential and noncommercial structure.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program to award grants for the purpose of retrofitting nonprofit buildings with energy-efficiency improvements.

(c) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants under the program established under subsection (b).

(2) APPLICATION.—The Secretary may award a grant under this section if an applicant submits to the Secretary an application at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Secretary may prescribe.

(3) CRITERIA FOR GRANT.—In determining whether to award a grant under this section, the Secretary shall apply performance-based criteria, which shall give priority to applications based on—

(A) the energy savings achieved;

(B) the cost-effectiveness of the energy-efficiency improvement;

(C) an effective plan for evaluation, measurement, and verification of energy savings;

(D) the financial need of the applicant; and

(E) the percentage of the matching contribution by the applicant.

(4) LIMITATION ON INDIVIDUAL GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant awarded under this section shall not exceed—

(A) an amount equal to 50 percent of the energy-efficiency improvement; and

(B) $200,000.

(5) COST SHARING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded under this section shall be subject to a minimum non-Federal cost-sharing requirement of 50 percent.

(B) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal share may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions of materials or services.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, to remain available until expended.

(e) OFFSET.—Section 942(f) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16251(f)) is amended by striking ''$250,000,000'' and inserting ''$200,000,000''.

SA 3042. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE VI—METAL THEFT PREVENTION ACT

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Metal Theft Prevention Act of 2014''.

SEC. 602. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(1) the term ''critical infrastructure'' has the meaning given the term in section 1016(e) of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e));

(2) the term ''specified metal'' means metal that—

(A)(i) is marked with the name, logo, or initials of a city, county, State, or Federal government entity, a railroad, an electric, gas, or water company, a telephone company, a cable company, a retail establishment, a beer supplier or distributor, or a public utility; or

(ii) has been altered for the purpose of removing, concealing, or obliterating a name, logo, or initials described in clause (i) through burning or cutting of wire sheathing or other means; or

(B) is part of—

(i) a street light pole or street light fixture;

(ii) a road or bridge guard rail;

(iii) a highway or street sign;

(iv) a water meter cover;

(v) a storm water grate;

(vi) unused or undamaged building construction or utility material;

(vii) a historical marker;

(viii) a grave marker or cemetery urn;

(ix) a utility access cover; or

(x) a container used to transport or store beer with a capacity of 5 gallons or more;

(C) is a wire or cable commonly used by communications and electrical utilities; or

(D) is copper, aluminum, and other metal (including any metal combined with other materials) that is valuable for recycling or reuse as raw metal, except for—

(i) aluminum cans; and

(ii) motor vehicles, the purchases of which are reported to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (established under section 30502 of title 49); and

(3) the term ''recycling agent'' means any person engaged in the business of purchasing specified metal for reuse or recycling, without regard to whether that person is engaged in the business of recycling or otherwise processing the purchased specified metal for reuse.

SEC. 603. THEFT OF SPECIFIED METAL.

(a) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful to knowingly steal specified metal—

(1) being used in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce; and

(2) the theft of which is from and harms critical infrastructure.

(b) PENALTY.—Any person who commits an offense described in subsection (a) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

SEC. 604. DOCUMENTATION OF OWNERSHIP OR AUTHORITY TO SELL.

(a) OFFENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for a recycling agent to purchase specified metal described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 602(2), unless—

(A) the seller, at the time of the transaction, provides documentation of ownership of, or other proof of the authority of the seller to sell, the specified metal; and

(B) there is a reasonable basis to believe that the documentation or other proof of authority provided under subparagraph (A) is valid.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a recycling agent that is subject to a State or local law that sets forth a requirement on recycling agents to obtain documentation of ownership or proof of authority to sell specified metal before purchasing specified metal.

(3) RESPONSIBILITY OF RECYCLING AGENT.—A recycling agent is not required to independently verify the validity of the documentation or other proof of authority described in paragraph (1).

(4) PURCHASE OF STOLEN METAL.—It shall be unlawful for a recycling agent to purchase any specified metal that the recycling agent—

(A) knows to be stolen; or

(B) should know or believe, based upon commercial experience and practice, to be stolen.

(b) CIVIL PENALTY.—A person who knowingly violates subsection (a) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $10,000 for each violation.

SEC. 605. TRANSACTION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) RECORDING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a recycling agent shall maintain a written or electronic record of each purchase of specified metal.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a recycling agent that is subject to a State or local law that sets forth recording requirements that are substantially similar to the requirements described in paragraph (3) for the purchase of specified metal.

(3) CONTENTS.—A record under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the name and address of the recycling agent; and

(B) for each purchase of specified metal—

(i) the date of the transaction;

(ii) a description of the specified metal purchased using widely used and accepted industry terminology;

(iii) the amount paid by the recycling agent;

(iv) the name and address of the person to which the payment was made;

(v) the name of the person delivering the specified metal to the recycling agent, including a distinctive number from a Federal or State government-issued photo identification card and a description of the type of the identification; and

(vi) the license plate number and State-of-issue, make, and model, if available, of the vehicle used to deliver the specified metal to the recycling agent.

(4) REPEAT SELLERS.—A recycling agent may comply with the requirements of this subsection with respect to a purchase of specified metal from a person from which the recycling agent has previously purchased specified metal by—

(A) reference to the existing record relating to the seller; and

(B) recording any information for the transaction that is different from the record relating to the previous purchase from that person.

(5) RECORD RETENTION PERIOD.—A recycling agent shall maintain any record required under this subsection for not less than 2 years after the date of the transaction to which the record relates.

(6) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Any information collected or retained under this section may be disclosed to any Federal, State, or local law enforcement authority or as otherwise directed by a court of law.

(b) PURCHASES IN EXCESS OF $100.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a recycling agent may not pay cash for a single purchase of specified metal of more than $100. For purposes of this paragraph, more than 1 purchase in any 48-hour period from the same seller shall be considered to be a single purchase.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a recycling agent that is subject to a State or local law that sets forth a maximum amount for cash payments for the purchase of specified metal.

(3) PAYMENT METHOD.—

(A) OCCASIONAL SELLERS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), for any purchase of specified metal of more than $100 a recycling agent shall make payment by check that—

(i) is payable to the seller; and

(ii) includes the name and address of the seller.

(B) ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS.—A recycling agent may make payments for a purchase of specified metal of more than $100 from a governmental or commercial supplier of specified metal with which the recycling agent has an established commercial relationship by electronic funds transfer or other established commercial transaction payment method through a commercial bank if the recycling agent maintains a written record of the payment that identifies the seller, the amount paid, and the date of the purchase.

(c) CIVIL PENALTY.—A person who knowingly violates subsection (a) or (b) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $5,000 for each violation, except that a person who commits a minor violation shall be subject to a penalty of not more than $1,000.

SEC. 606. ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The Attorney General may bring an enforcement action in an appropriate United States district court against any person that engages in conduct that violates this title.

SEC. 607. ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An attorney general or equivalent regulator of a State may bring a civil action in the name of the State, as parens patriae on behalf of natural persons residing in the State, in any district court of the United States or other competent court having jurisdiction over the defendant, to secure monetary or equitable relief for a violation of this title.

(b) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days before the date on which an action under subsection (a) is filed, the attorney general or equivalent regulator of the State involved shall provide to the Attorney General—

(1) written notice of the action; and

(2) a copy of the complaint for the action.

(c) ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTION.—Upon receiving notice under subsection (b), the Attorney General shall have the right—

(1) to intervene in the action;

(2) upon so intervening, to be heard on all matters arising therein;

(3) to remove the action to an appropriate district court of the United States; and

(4) to file petitions for appeal.

(d) PENDING FEDERAL PROCEEDINGS.—If a civil action has been instituted by the Attorney General for a violation of this title, no State may, during the pendency of the action instituted by the Attorney General, institute a civil action under this title against any defendant named in the complaint in the civil action for any violation alleged in the complaint.

(e) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of bringing a civil action under subsection (a), nothing in this section regarding notification shall be construed to prevent the attorney general or equivalent regulator of the State from exercising any powers conferred under the laws of that State to—

(1) conduct investigations;

(2) administer oaths or affirmations; or

(3) compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

SEC. 608. DIRECTIVE TO SENTENCING COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, the United States Sentencing Commission, shall review and, if appropriate, amend the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and policy statements applicable to a person convicted of a criminal violation of section 603 of this title or any other Federal criminal law based on the theft of specified metal by such person.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Sentencing Commission shall—

(1) ensure that the sentencing guidelines and policy statements reflect the—

(A) serious nature of the theft of specified metal; and

(B) need for an effective deterrent and appropriate punishment to prevent such theft;

(2) consider the extent to which the guidelines and policy statements appropriately account for—

(A) the potential and actual harm to the public from the offense, including any damage to critical infrastructure;

(B) the amount of loss, or the costs associated with replacement or repair, attributable to the offense;

(C) the level of sophistication and planning involved in the offense; and

(D) whether the offense was intended to or had the effect of creating a threat to public health or safety, injury to another person, or death;

(3) account for any additional aggravating or mitigating circumstances that may justify exceptions to the generally applicable sentencing ranges;

(4) assure reasonable consistency with other relevant directives and with other sentencing guidelines and policy statements; and

(5) assure that the sentencing guidelines and policy statements adequately meet the purposes of sentencing as set forth in section 3553(a)(2) of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 609. STATE AND LOCAL LAW NOT PREEMPTED.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to preempt any State or local law regulating the sale or purchase of specified metal, the

reporting of such transactions, or any other aspect of the metal recycling industry.

SEC. 610. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This title shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3043. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3___. INCREASING WATER EFFICIENCY IN FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ANSI-ACCREDITED PLUMBING CODE.—The term ''ANSI-accredited plumbing code'' means a construction code for a plumbing system of a building that meets applicable codes established by the American National Standards Institute.

(2) ANSI-AUDITED DESIGNATOR.—The term ''ANSI-audited designator'' means an accredited developer that is recognized by the American National Standards Institute.

(3) GREEN PLUMBERS USA TRAINING PROGRAM.—The term ''Green Plumbers USA training program'' means the training and certification program teaching sustainability and water-savings practices that is established by the Green Plumbers organization.

(4) HELMETS TO HARDHATS PROGRAM.—The term ''Helmets to Hardhats program'' means the national, nonprofit program that connects National Guard, Reserve, retired, and transitioning active-duty military service members with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry.

(5) PLUMBING EFFICIENCY RESEARCH COALITION.—The term ''Plumbing Efficiency Research Coalition'' means the industry coalition comprised of plumbing manufacturers, code developers, plumbing engineers, and water efficiency experts established to advance plumbing research initiatives that support the development of water efficiency and sustainable plumbing products, systems, and practices.

(b) WATER EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall work with ANSI-audited designators to promote the implementation and use in the construction of Federal building of plumbing products, systems, and practices that meet standards and codes that achieve the highest level of water efficiency and conservation practicable consistent with construction budgets and the goals of Executive Order 13514 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; relating to Federal leadership in environmental, energy, and economic performance), including—

(1) the most recent version of the ANSI-accredited plumbing code; and

(2) if no ANSI-accredited plumbing code exists, alternative plumbing standards and codes established by the Secretary.

(c) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall work with nationally recognized plumbing training programs that meet applicable plumbing licensing requirements to provide competency training for individuals who install and repair plumbing systems in Federal and other buildings, including—

(1) the Helmets to Hardhats training program; and

(2) the Green Plumbers USA training program.

(d) WATER EFFICIENCY RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall promote plumbing research that increases water efficiency and conservation in plumbing products, systems, and practices used in Federal and other buildings and reduces the unintended consequences of reduced flows in the building drains and water supply systems of the United States, which may include working with the Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center and the Plumbing Efficiency Research Coalition—

(1) to provide and exchange experts to conduct water efficiency and conservation plumbing-related studies;

(2) to assist in creating public awareness of reports of the Plumbing Efficiency Research Coalition; and

(3) to provide financial assistance if applicable and available.

SA 3044. Mr. REID (for Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. WYDEN)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology recommends that the United States develop a Government wide Federal energy policy and update the policy regularly with strategic Quadrennial Energy Reviews similar to the reviews conducted by the Department of Defense;

(2) a Quadrennial Energy Review may—

(A) establish integrated, Government wide national energy objectives in the context of economic, environmental, and security priorities;

(B) recommend coordinated actions across Federal agencies;

(C) identify the resources needed for the invention, adoption, and diffusion of energy technologies; and

(D) provide a strong analytical base for Federal energy policy decisions;

(3) a Quadrennial Energy Review should consider reasonable estimates of future Federal budgetary resources when making recommendations;

(4) the development of an energy policy resulting from a Quadrennial Energy Review would—

(A) enhance the energy security of the United States;

(B) create jobs; and

(C) mitigate environmental harm; and

(5) while a Quadrennial Energy Review will be a product of the executive branch, the review will have substantial input from—

(A) Congress;

(B) the energy industry;

(C) academia;

(D) State, local and tribal governments;

(E) nongovernmental organizations; and

(F) the public.

(b) QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW.—Section 801 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7321) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 801. QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy within the Executive Office of the President.

''(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'Federal Laboratory' has the meaning given the term 'laboratory' in section 12(d) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a(d)).

''(B) INCLUSION.—The term 'Federal Laboratory' includes a federally funded research and development center sponsored by a Federal agency.

''(3) QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW.—The term 'Quadrennial Energy Review' means a comprehensive multiyear review, coordinated across Federal agencies, that—

''(A) describes plans for energy programs and technologies;

''(B) establishes energy objectives across the Federal Government; and

''(C) considers each of the areas described in subsection (d)(2), as appropriate.

''(4) TASK FORCE.—The term 'Task Force' means a Quadrennial Energy Review Task Force established under subsection (b)(1).

''(b) QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW TASK FORCE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014, and every 4 years thereafter, the President shall establish a Quadrennial Energy Review Task Force to coordinate the Quadrennial Energy Review.

''(2) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The appropriate senior Federal Government official designated by the President and the Director shall be co-chairpersons of the Task Force.

''(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall be comprised of representatives at level I or II of the Executive Schedule of—

''(A) the Department of Energy;

''(B) the Department of Commerce;

''(C) the Department of Defense;

''(D) the Department of State;

''(E) the Department of the Interior;

''(F) the Department of Agriculture;

''(G) the Department of the Treasury;

''(H) the Department of Transportation;

''(I) the Office of Management and Budget;

''(J) the National Science Foundation;

''(K) the Environmental Protection Agency; and

''(L) such other Federal organizations, departments, and agencies that the President considers to be appropriate.

''(c) CONDUCT OF REVIEW.—Each Quadrennial Energy Review shall be conducted to provide an integrated view of important national energy objectives and Federal energy policy, including the maximum practicable alignment of research programs, incentives, regulations, and partnerships.

''(d) SUBMISSION OF QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW TO CONGRESS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than August 1, 2015, and not more than every 4 years thereafter, the President shall publish and submit to Congress a report on the Quadrennial Energy Review.

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—The report described in paragraph (1) should include, as appropriate—

''(A) an integrated view of short-, intermediate-, and long-term objectives for Federal energy policy in the context of economic, environmental, and security priorities;

''(B) executive actions (including programmatic, regulatory, and fiscal actions) and resource requirements—

''(i) to achieve the objectives described in subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) to be coordinated across multiple agencies;

''(C) an analysis of the prospective roles of parties (including academia, industry, consumers, the public, and Federal agencies) in achieving the objectives described in subparagraph (A), including—

''(i) an analysis, by energy use sector, including—

''(I) commercial and residential buildings;

''(II) the industrial sector;

''(III) transportation; and

''(IV) electric power;

''(ii) requirements for invention, adoption, development, and diffusion of energy technologies that are mapped onto each of the energy use sectors; and

''(iii) other research that inform strategies to incentivize desired actions;

''(D) an assessment of policy options to increase domestic energy supplies and energy efficiency;

''(E) an evaluation of energy storage, transmission, and distribution requirements, including requirements for renewable energy;

''(F) an integrated plan for the involvement of the Federal Laboratories in energy programs;

''(G) portfolio assessments that describe the optimal deployment of resources, including prioritizing financial resources for energy programs;

''(H) a mapping of the linkages among basic research and applied programs, demonstration programs, and other innovation mechanisms across the Federal agencies;

''(I) an identification of, and projections for, demonstration projects, including timeframes, milestones, sources of funding, and management;

''(J) an identification of public and private funding needs for various energy technologies, systems, and infrastructure, including consideration of public-private partnerships, loans, and loan guarantees;

''(K) an assessment of global competitors and an identification of programs that can be enhanced with international cooperation;

''(L) an identification of policy gaps that need to be filled to accelerate the adoption and diffusion of energy technologies, including consideration of—

''(i) Federal tax policies; and

''(ii) the role of Federal agencies as early adopters and purchasers of new energy technologies;

''(M) a priority list for implementation of objectives and actions taking into account estimated Federal budgetary resources;

''(N) an analysis of—

''(i) points of maximum leverage for policy intervention to achieve outcomes; and

''(ii) areas of energy policy that can be most effective in meeting national goals for the energy sector; and

''(O) recommendations for executive branch organization changes to facilitate the development and implementation of Federal energy policies.

''(e) INTERIM REPORTS.—The President may prepare and publish interim reports as part of the Quadrennial Energy Review.

''(f) EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall provide the Quadrennial Energy Review with an Executive Secretariat who shall make available the necessary analytical, financial, and administrative support for the conduct of each Quadrennial Energy Review required under this section.

''(2) COOPERATION.—The heads of applicable Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Secretary and provide such assistance, information, and resources as the Secretary may require to assist in carrying out this section.''.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section supersedes, modifies, amends, or repeals any provision of Federal law not expressly superseded, modified, amended, or repealed by this section.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 7, 2014, at 9 a.m. in room SR–328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''2014 Farm Bill: Implementation and Next Steps.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 7, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Progress, Challenges, and Next Steps.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 7, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Policy be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 7, 2014 at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Drivers of Job Creation.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 7, 2014, in room SD–562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 2:15 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Fight Against Cancer: Challenges, Progress, and Promise.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Sydney Kaufman, a fellow from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 113th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KILAH DAVENPORT CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3627 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3627) to require the Attorney General to report on State law penalties for certain child abusers, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3627) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2824 AND H.R. 3826

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2824) to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to stop the ongoing waste by the Department of the Interior of taxpayer resources and implement the final rule on excess spoil, mining waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 3826) to provide direction to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the establishment of standards for emissions of any greenhouse gas from fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 113–4

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be

removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on May 7, 2014, by the President of the United States: the Protocol Amending the Tax Convention with Spain, treaty document No. 113–4.

I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read for the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to its ratification, the Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol, signed at Madrid on February 22, 1990, and a related Memorandum of Understanding signed on January 14, 2013, at Madrid, together with correcting notes dated July 23, 2013, and January 31, 2014 (together the ''proposed protocol''). I also transmit for the information of the Senate the report of the Department of State, which includes an overview of the proposed protocol.

The proposed protocol was negotiated to bring United States-Spain tax treaty relations into closer conformity with U.S. tax treaty policy. The proposed protocol exempts from source-country withholding cross-border payments of certain direct dividends, interest, royalties, and capital gains, and updates the provisions of the existing convention with respect to preventing abuse by third-country investors and the exchanges of information between revenue authorities. The proposed protocol also updates the mutual agreement procedure by requiring binding arbitration of certain cases that the competent authorities of the United States and Spain have been unable to resolve after a reasonable period of time.

I recommend the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the proposed protocol and give its advice and consent to its ratification.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 7, 2014.*

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the time until 11:15 be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that at 11:15 a.m. the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order; further, that the cloture vote with respect to S. 2262, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, occur upon disposition of Executive Calendar No. 4560 on Monday, May 12; finally, that the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments to S. 2262 be 1 p.m. tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, tomorrow there will be a series of votes at 11:15 a.m. and another series at 1:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:40 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 8, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

CHRISTINE R. BERBERICK
MIMI CANNONIER
LISA M. COLE
LISA A. DAVISON
KRISTA L. DIXON
COLLEEN M. FROHLING
LOUIS A. GALLO
CHERRON R. GALLUZZO
ANDREA K. GOODEN
ROSEMARY T. HALEY
MICHELIN Y. JOPLIN
MARIA L. MARCANGELO
BRENDA J. MORGAN
ROBYN D. NELSON
CHRISTOPHER T. PAIGE
KAREN J. RADER
IMELDA M. REEDY
AVEN L. STRAND
THEODORE J. WALKER, JR.
DEEDRA L. ZABOKRTSKY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

KENNETH G. CROOKS
KELVIN G. GARDNER
RANDALL E. KITCHENS
RICHARD P. NOVOTNY
DAVID M. TERRINONI
JAMES D. TIMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JOHN T. AALBORG, JR.
TERRENCE A. ADAMS
TIMOTHY W. ALBRECHT
CLIFFORD G. ALTIZER
CHRISTOPHER R. AMRHEIN
BRET D. ANDERSON
JAMES G. ANDERSON
MICHAEL P. ANDERSON
THOMAS P. J. ANGELO
RONJON ANNABALLI
BRIAN S. ARMSTRONG
WILLIAM B. ASHWORTH
MATTHEW D. ATKINS
TIMOTHY D. BAILEY
JARVIS R. BAKER
THOMAS E. BARNETT
MARK A. BARRERA
SHANE A. BARRETT
CURTIS R. BASS
BRIAN MARC BAUMANN
MICHAEL J. BEACH
W. B. BEAUMONT
KENYON K. BELL
WILLIAM S. BELL
MATTHEW P. BENIVEGNA
CHRISTOPHER L. BENNETT
EARL R. BENNETT, JR.
SHERI G. BENNINGTON
JOSEPH T. BENSON
JON F. BERRY
MICHAEL D. BIORN
ARNO J. BISCHOFF
DAVID M. BISSONNETTE
HEATHER W. BLACKWELL
JONATHAN N. BLAND
MARK E. BLOMME
JASON J. BOCK
HARLIE J. BODINE
JEREMY S. BOENISCH
BRIAN J. BOHENEK
JUSTIN W. BOLDENOW
PETER M. BONETTI
RANDY L. BOSWELL
WILLIAM D. BOWMAN
SHAWN P. BRADY
BRADLEY E. BRIDGES
STEPHEN R. BROOKS
PATRICK A. BROWN
WILLIAM W. BROWNE III
WILLIAM D. BRYANT
BRIAN D. BURNS
SCOTT A. CAIN
KIM N. CAMPBELL
SEAN J. CANTRELL
LARRY D. CARD II
ERIC A. CARNEY
TRENT R. CARPENTER
DOUGLAS T. CARROLL
JENISE M. CARROLL
BURTON H. CATLEDGE
RHETT D. CHAMPAGNE
JENNIFER V. CHANDLER
ERIC D. CHAPITAL
MICHAEL A. CHARECKY
GEORGE T. CLARK
LANCE D. CLARK
JOHN C. CLAXTON
BRADLEY L. COCHRAN
OMAR S. COLBERT
RICHARD O. COLE
RICHARD T. COONEY, JR.
DENISE L. COOPER
JEFFREY T. COOPER
ROBERT B. COPES
CHRISTOPHER L. CORLEY
HEIDI E. CORNELL
CAVAN K. CRADDOCK
RYAN B. CRAYCRAFT
LUKE C. G. CROPSEY
FRED R. CUNNINGHAM
SCOVILL W. CURRIN
JAMES M. CURRY
JOHN W. DABERKOW
KIMBERLY A. DAMALAS
BRIAN K. DANIELS
LELAND A. DAVIS
MARK J. DAVIS
ROBERT D. DAVIS
CHRISTOPHER J. DEJESUS
JOHN M. DESTAZIO
STAN S. DIAMANTI
BARRY A. DICKEY
SCOTT A. DICKSON
ROBERT A. DIETRICK
GERALD A. DONOHUE
TIMOTHY E. DREIFKE
LYLE K. DREW
SHANNON N. DRISCOLL
DANIEL J. DUFFY
JEFFREY W. DYBALL
DAVID S. EAGLIN
PATRICK S. EBERLE
JASON S. EDELBLUTE
NATHAN J. ELLIOTT
ERIC G. ELLMYER
OSCAR E. ESPINOZA
LARRY A. ESTES
MIKE FAUNDA II
RODNEY L. FAUTH, JR.
ERIC J. FELT
THOMAS D. FICKLIN
WILLIAM D. FISCHER
MICHAEL J. FLATTEN
LARRY A. FLOYD, JR.
WILLIAM A. FOSTER
SETH C. FRANK
STEPHEN P. FRANK

TIMOTHY P. FRANZ
LORINDA A. FREDERICK
ROBERT C. FREDERIKSEN
WILLIAM C. FREEMAN
MATTHEW T. FRITZ
JOHN T. GABRIEL
CHARLES S. GALBREATH
BRIAN D. GALLO
CHARLES M. GAONA
ELVERT L. GARDNER
RUSSELL S. GARNER
LAURA K. GARRETT
JOEL W. GARTNER
THOMAS A. GEISER
TIMOTHY W. GILLASPIE
TIMOTHY TODD ALA GILLESPIE
GREGORY M. GILLINGER
DOUGLAS W. GILPIN
AARON W. GITTNER
GERARD G. GLECKEL, JR.
JOHN M. GONDOL
RICHARD E. GOODMAN II
LASHEECO B. GRAHAM
JENNIFER L. GRANT
MICHAEL R. GREEN
MATT E. GREENE
JAMES S. GRIFFIN
BRENT A. GROMETER
JULIE A. GRUNDAHL
DARREN L. HALL
JONATHAN T. HAMILL
MICHAEL T. HAMMOND
MICHAEL D. HARM
CHRISTOPHER HARRIS
TROY R. HARTING
CHAD JAMES HARTMAN
BRADY P. HAUBOLDT
STEVEN R. HEFFINGTON
PHILLIP L. HENDRIX II
MARK D. HENRY
BRUCE P. HESELTINE, JR.
JUSTIN L. HICKMAN
MATTHEW W. HIGER
BRANDON R. HILEMAN
WILLIAM R. HILL II
JASON T. HINDS
STEPHEN L. HODGE
JUSTIN R. HOFFMAN
KELLY R. HOLBERT
MICHAL D. HOLLIDAY
CRAIG M. HOLLIS
DAVID W. HONCHUL
STEVEN P. HORTON
EDWARD J. HOSPODAR, JR.
JOHN O. HOWARD
CHRISTOPHER R. HUISMAN
BRITT K. HURST
STACY J. HUSER
GREGORY E. HUTSON
JOSEPH H. IMWALLE
GRANT L. IZZI
ROBERT W. JACKSON II
ROBERT A. JAKCSY
DAVID E. JAMES
STEVEN J. JANTZ
CHRISTOPHER E. JENSEN
MATTHEW G. JOGANICH
RICK T. JOHNS
ROY A. JONES III
WISTARIA J. JOSEPH
TERRENCE M. JOYCE
CURTIS G. JUELL
JON T. JULIAN
JAMES R. KEEN
JONATHAN H. KIM
THOMAS C. KIRKHAM
FRED C. KOEGLER III
MARK A. KRABY
BRIAN C. KRAVITZ
JENNIFER JOYCE KRISCHER
AARON A. LADE
STEVEN E. LANG
CHRISTOPHER J. LARSON
JAMES L. LAWRENCE II
DAVID M. LEARNED
DAVID M. LENDERMAN
JASON E. LINDSEY
CHRISTOPHER S. LOHR
STEVEN R. LUCZYNSKI
JOEL J. LUKER
MARK J. LYNCH
ANDREW C. MAAS
MARCHAL B. MAGEE
MICHAEL P. MAHAR
MICHAEL H. MANION
RYAN T. MARSHALL
KEVIN B. MASSIE
MICHAEL N. MATHES
DOUGLAS E. MCCLAIN
LYNN E. MCDONALD
PETER P. MCDONOUGH
HEATHER L. MCGEE
CATHERINE E. MCGOWAN
TIMOTHY M. MCKENZIE
WOODROW A. MEEKS
KERRI T. MELLOR
DAVID C. MERRITT
BRENT J. MESQUIT
KYLE D. MIKOS
RICHARD J. MILLS
CLINTON A. MIXON
JOSEPH P. MOEHLMANN
PAUL D. MOGA
BRIAN R. MOORE
DEWITT MORGAN III
JOSEPH E. MORITZ
COLIN R. MORRIS
ROBERT J. MORSE
ERIC B. MOSES
BRUCE E. MUNGER
SEAN D. MURPHY
JEFFREY A. MYER
ANDRES R. NAZARIO
FRANCINE N. NELSON
MICHAEL G. NELSON
STUART WESTON NEWBERRY
CAMILLE Y. NICHOLS
RYAN B. NICHOLS
GEOFFREY C. NIEBOER
ERIC D. OBERGFELL
CHARLES G. OHLIGER
PAUL M. OLDHAM
JOSHUA M. OLSON
LEE M. OLYNIEC
JOHN T. ORCHARD, JR.
DAVID L. OWENS
SEUNG U. PAIK
THOMAS B. PALENSKE
BRANDON D. PARKER
CHRISTOPHER R. PARRISH
ANDREA M. PAUL
HEIDI A. PAULSON
THOMAS C. PAULY
BRENT A. PEACOCK
BRANDON H. PEARCE
JOHN S. PESAPANE
WILL H. PHILLIPS III
DONNA L. PILSON
PETER M. POLLOCK
PATRICK D. POPE
RAYMOND M. POWELL
TYLER T. PREVETT
MICHELLE L. PRYOR
CRAIG M. RAMSEY
MARK J. REENTS
JENNIFER K. REEVES
JEFFREY D. REIMAN
TRAVIS D. REX
JAMES F. REYNOLDS
LANCE B. REYNOLDS
DERRICK B. RICHARDSON
MICHAEL S. RICHARDSON
SEAN K. RIVERA
CHRISTOPHER J. ROBERTS
GREGORY A. ROBERTS
TROY A. ROBERTS
SCOTT A. ROBINSON
THOMAS R. ROCK, JR.
HENRY T. ROGERS III
JAMES S. ROMASZ
JENNIFFER F. ROMERO
CLINTON A. ROSS
JONATHAN K. ROSSOW
SEAN P. RUCKER
JEFFREY C. RUSSELL
JOEL W. SAFRANEK
RYAN R. SAMUELSON
MICHAEL G. SAWYER
KURT M. SCHENDZIELOS
STEPHEN C. SCHERZER
PATRICK L. SCHLICHENMEYER
JASON R. SCHOTT
RONALD W. SCHWING
DOMINIC A. SETKA
THOMAS P. SEYMOUR
RICHARD C. SHEFFE
DAVID G. SHOEMAKER
EDWARD T. SHOLTIS
LOUISE A. SHUMATE
RODNEY L. SIMPSON
WILLIAM E. SITZABEE
MARK B. SKOUSON
JOSEPH P. SLAVICK
SHANE A. SMITH
MICHAEL G. SNELL
SCOTT E. SOLOMON
REBECCA J. SONKISS
JAMES S. SPARROW
JOSEPH B. SPEED
TODD A. SRIVER
TRAVIS A. STEEN
OWEN D. STEPHENS
CHARLES W. STEVENS
JAY L. STEWART
JON D. STRIZZI
TIMOTHY G. SUMJA
RYAN J. SUTTLEMYRE
JONATHAN D. TAMBLYN
RUSSELL F. TEEHAN
ROBERT C. TESCHNER
ANDREA E. THEMELY
DOUGLAS G. THIES
CHRISTOPHER M. THOMPSON
MICHAEL E. THOMPSON
RANDOLPH B. TORIS
JOHN S. TRUBE
TRENT C. TUTHILL
BRIAN J. TYLER
MATTHEW J. VANPARYS
CURTIS E. VELASQUEZ
CHARLES M. VELINO
FRANK R. VERDUGO
KEVIN M. VIRTS
JAMES K. WAKEFIELD IV
SCOTT T. WALLACE
RICHARD S. WARD
DOUGLAS WAYNE WARNOCK, JR.
RANDALL E. WARRING
JAMES F. WEAVER
TED E. WELCH
ANDREW J. WERNER
CHARLES E. WESTBROOK III
DALE R. WHITE
TODD E. WIEST
DAVID M. WILLCOX
KEVIN S. WILLIAMS
GEORGE S. WILSON
EMMETT L. WINGFIELD III
BRYAN M. WOOD
GREGORY E. WOOD
CHRISTOPHER A. WYCKOFF
ROBERT B. YBARRA
JEFFREY L. YORK
CHARLES P. YOUNG
BRIAN F. ZANE
ANDREW J. ZEIGLER, JR.
MICHAEL A. ZROSTLIK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

KIM L. BOWEN
MICHAEL R. CURTIS
STEVEN T. DABBS
JEFFREY D. GRANGER
JAMES A. HAMEL
DWAYNE A. JONES
DAVID W. KELLEY
BRIAN E. MCCORMACK
ANDREW G. MCINTOSH
MICHAEL S. NEWTON
JAMES L. PARRISH
TIMOTHY S. ROSENTHAL
JOHN W. SHIPMAN
DANIEL W. THOMPSON
JONATHAN H. WADE
DANIEL K. WATERMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ROY G. ALLEN III
ISABELLA M. ALVAREZ
MICHELL A. ARCHEBELLE
LILIAN B. AVIGNONE
MELINDA L. BEGLIN
JENNIFER J. BRATZ
JOVINA G. BUSCAGAN
MIEV Y. CARHART
REGIS S. CARR
KEVIN M. COX
DAVID A. DELANG
AARON P. DIMITRAS
REBECCA S. ELLIOTT
LEONTYNE H. FIELDS
STEVEN R. FISHER
GWENDOLYN A. FOSTER
ERIC A. GONZALES
CHRISTOPHER A. GOODENOUGH
ERIC F. GOOSMAN
KATHLEEN MYERS GRIMM
MELIZA HARRIS
ROBERT M. HEIL
LORIE A. HIPPLE
DAVID L. JOHNSON
MISCHA A. JOHNSON
BRIAN D. KITTELSON
LAURA J. LEWIS
CHERYL CORNELL LOCKHART
KATHY E. MARTIN
MA ADELVER QUINITIO MARTIN
ANGELA J. MASAK
MAXINE A. MCINTOSH
KATIE A. MCSHANE
TAMI R. MILLER
GEOFFREY J. MITTELSTEADT
RUTH A. MONSANTO WILLIAMS
JARED A. MORT
LISA G. ODOM
SUSAN M. PARDA WATTERS
TERRY L. PARTHEMORE II
MICHAEL A. POWELL
SCOTT D. POYNTER
KIMBERLY D. REED
KATHRYN P. REESE HUDOCK
KARYN L. REVELLE
JASON N. RICHARD
NANCY L. SALMANS
TRACEY S. SAPP
MICHELLE A. SCHNAKENBERG
SHELLEY A. SHELTON
ANTOINETTE N. SHEPPARD
TANIA R. SIMS
WALTER SINGH
RANDAL A. SNOOTS
AMY L. SWARTHOUT EBARB
STEVE J. SZULBORSKI
DONNA C. TEW
WILLIAM E. THOMS, JR.
MELONY A. VALENCIA
PHUONG K. VANECEK
BETTY A. VENTH
JOHN M. WILLIAMSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

VICTORIA M. AGLEWILSON
SUSAN L. ALBANO
MICHELE G. ALLEN
MARISSA L. AMMERMAN
DANIEL J. BEVINGTON
ANNABELLE C. BIRCH
LORNA A. BLODGETT
PAUL F. BOSEMAN
MATTHEW W. BRACKEN
SCOTT D. BROCIOUS
JEANETTE MARIE BROGAN
MELISSA A. BUZBEE STILES
ELBERTA M. CARTER
JENNIFER CARUSO
LAUREL M. CHIARAMONTE
JONATHAN D. CHIN
ADAM L. CHRISTOPHER
JOANNA D. CLARK
JESSICA L. COLE
SARAH M. COSSETTE
REGINALD L. CRISOSTOMO
PAMELA J. CURRY
JENNIFER R. CURTIS
TONI M. DAVIDSON
KIMBERLY M. DAVIS
ALLAN J. DELGADO
ORLANDO T. DURAN, SR.
DONNA L. EATON
TAMMY R. EDWARDS
ASSUMPTA C. EJIMKONYE
ADRIENNE N. FIELDS
STEVEN C. GAUTREAUX
JODI L. GONYOU
STANLEY W. GRODRIAN
KATHRYN R. HANNAH
JUDY M. HANSON
WILLIAM M. HENNAGE
BARTLEY J. HOLMES
SARAH L. HORSFORD
LINDSAY B. HOWARD
JEANAE M. JACKSON
KRISTEN L. JACOB
CONNIE L. JONES
MICHAEL L. KOOTSTRA
DANYELL Y. LAMBERT
DENISE J. LANE
DARRELL A. LEE, JR.
DILLETTE I. LINDO
MARGARET A. LINTHICUM
LORRAINE K. LITTRELL
CHRISTINE M. LOVE
JEFFERY A. MARSH
AMY C. MAY
LAURA A. MCNICOL
RAFFY C. MENDOZA
BRENDA K. MIAZGA
JENNIFER L. MILAM
SHELLEY J. MORRIS
LUCKY L. MULUMBA
PAULA J. NEEMANN
TERRI R. NEYLON
CARRIE M. OWEN
DARCI A. PARKER
CHRISTIE A. PAULSEN
JULIE L. PETSCHE
ALEACHA C. PHILSON
DESIREE D. POINTER
TAMEKA M. POSTON
CHARLES H. PURVIS
ROBERT P. REEVES, JR.
JOHN J. RICCIARDI
SARAH F. ROBBINS
ASIA L. ROBERSON
MORGAN B. ROBERT
CYNTHIA V. ROMERO
DAISY RUPE
MARIA V. SANCHEZ
BRIAN H. SANTOS
SAUNDRA L. SEMENTILLI
TERESA M. SIVIL
AMY A. SIVILS
AMY E. SMITH
BARBARA L. SMITH
JOSEPH A. SOLGHAN
AMY L. SPOTANSKI
DENISE K. STILTNER
SCOTT R. STRATER
STEPHANIE A. SUBERVI
TONYA A. SWANN
MICHELLE A. TIBBETTS
REGINA S. TOW
DONALD H. TRITZ, JR.
ROBERT L. TROBAUGH
ILEEN R. VERBLE
KEISHA M. VILSAINT
GWENDOLYN E. WALKER
LANETTE K. WALKER
LORRAINE L. WALTERS
MARK ALLEN WARE
KELLIE D. WEBB CASERO
SHANITA W. WEBB
STACEY R. WHITE
TRACEY A. WHITE
LORI C. WICHMAN
CHASITY D. L. WILLIAMS
LAVON R. WILLIAMS
DEBORAH L. WILLIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

HEATHER A. BODWELL
RAYMOND J. BOYER
SAMUEL H. BRIDGES
RANDY A. CROFT
DENNIS U. DEGUZMAN
RALPH T. ELLIOTT, JR.
JOSEPH G. FISHER
JAMES M. HENDRICK
KEVIN L. HUMPHREY
KYLE A. HUNDLEY
BRADLEY L. KIMBLE
JOEL D. KORNEGAY
DUANE G. MCCRORY
JESUS NAVARRETE
BRANDON N. PARKER
JOSHUA N. PAYNE
ROLAND W. REITZ
KYLE L. ROEHRIG
SARAH D. SCHECHTER
KATHERINE M. SCOTT
TRAVIS N. SEARS
STEVEN L. SURVANCE
ANTHONY R. WADE
CHRISTIAN L. WILLIAMS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MARIBETH A. AFFELDT
RIVERA H. L. AGOSTO
ANTHONY J. AQUINO
ROBERT E. ARNOLD
ROBERT P. ASHBY
DANIEL J. AUSTIN
VICTOR M. BAKKILA
KEVIN M. BEALL
CHRISTOPHER J. BEAUDOIN
BRYAN G. BELL
ROBERT A. BENJAMIN
MARK J. BENNETT
JAMES J. BENNING II
EDWARD J. BENZ III
RUSSELL E. BERG
WILLIAM E. BERGERON
CARL E. BERTHA
CRAIG A. BISHOP
WALTER E. BLACKWOOD
RICHARD W. BLAKE
DONALD BLUE
DAVID J. BOLTER
RONALD A. BONOMO
TINA B. BOYD
ROBERT A. BOYER
MICHAEL S. BRADY
JOSEPH A. BRECHER
DANA M. BREEN
CAL BROOKINS
MARK D. BROOKS
JOEL L. BRYANT
STEPHEN T. BURCHAM
FLOYD O. BURRIS III
DAVID G. CABRAL
MICHAEL A. CALLAHAN
RICHARD D. CAMPBELL
MIKE W. CARABALLO
STANLEY A. CARIGNAN
WADE S. CARMICHAEL
CURTIS E. A. CARNEY
ANTHONY P. CARROLL
DON CARTER
JAMES R. CASEY
VAMIN S. CHA
KURT W. CHEBATORIS
CHET C. CHILES
ROBERT T. CHINN, JR.
DAVID A. CHOVANCEK
MARK H. CLARK
JEROME T. CLARKE
TIMOTHY M. CLEMENTE
KEVIN P. CMIEL
JENNIFER A. COLLINS
TRACEY M. COLLINS
WILLIAM M. CONNOR
CYNTHIA E. COOK
HENRY B. COOK
MARK W. COPLEN
LAURA CORBETT
CARY J. COWAN, JR.
CRAIG W. COX
JEREMY A. CRIST
THOMAS J. CRONIN
TROY A. DAGOSTINO
JAMES C. DAVIS
RONNIE M. DAVIS
RICHARD DELGADO, JR.
THOMAS E. DICKERHOOF
DANIEL G. DONELIN
JOHN J. DOWLING
LESLEY A. DRAPER
PATRICK D. DUGAN
FRANK G. DUNAWAY
STEVEN R. DURST
DAVID P. ECLIPS
JAMES D. EISENHART
KEVIN D. ELLSON
ALAN M. EVANS
CARL T. EVERY
RICHARD A. FAULKNER, JR.
TIMOTHY J. FENLASON
KENNETH A. FETZER, JR.
JOSEPH P. FINNEGAN
JAMES D. FISHER
BRADLEY J. FOSTER
KENNETH R. FOULKS, JR.
HEIDI B. FOUTY
CHRISTOPHER F. FOXX
VIVIAN E. GAZ
CARMELA D. GIVENS
JOACHIM A. GLOSCHAT, JR.
KIM M. GOFFAR
WILLIAM J. GORMLEY
KRISTINE A. GOULD
RICHARD M. GRAHAM
DAVID L. GREEN
MICHAEL L. GRIESBAUER
JAMES R. GROVES
JEFFREY HALICK
ANTHONY T. HARTMANN
BRYAN S. HAVER
WANDA M. HAWLEY
EDWARD R. HENDERSON
ERNEST C. HERNANDEZ
KERI J. HESTER
THOMAS E. HEYDEN
MICHAEL V. HICKMAN
DANIEL L. HIGGINS
EDWARD J. HLOPAK
RICHARD A. HOUGH II
ROBERT L. HOVEY
STEPHANIE Q. HOWARD
JUAN HOWIE
HARRY B. HUDICK
TIMOTHY P. HUGHES
CRAIG R. JENKINS
BRUCE E. JENNINGS
JACQUELIN JENNINGS
MONA S. JIBRIL
JOHN T. JOHNS
CARTER A. JOHNSON
DOUGLAS C. JOHNSON
BRUCE W. JONES
MATTHEW T. JONES
JAMES R. JOOS
MATTHEW A. JUDSON
STEPHEN D. JULIAN
TERRY R. KEENE
WILLIAM B. KELLY
DAVID J. KEPPEL
DELORES C. KESTLER
VERNER M. KIERNAN
KEVIN KNUUTI
CHRISTOPHER M. KOC
WILLIAM M. KOEHLER
JAMES J. KOKASKA, JR.
KEITH A. KRAJEWSKI
PATTY A. KUBEJA
BENNY LAMANNA
DAVID S. LANGFELLOW
WILLIAM E. LAYNE
JOSEPH M. LESTORTI
TERENCE J. LEWIS
MICHELLE A. LINK
DAVID C. MADISON
MICHAEL A. MAGLIOCCO
MICHAEL C. MAGUIRE
ANA V. MALKOWSKI
MARK R. MALLON
WILLIAM S. MANDRICK
PATRICIA B. MANUEL
VALERIE C. MARKHAM
DARRYL A. MARTIN
VORIS W. MCBURNETTE
BRIAN MCCARTHY
CAREY J. MCCARTHY
CHRISTOPHER V. MCCASKILL
REUBEN L. MCCOY
JOHN J. MCKEE
VICTORIA L. MCKERNAN
BRUCE S. MCLAUGHLIN
STEVEN B. MCLAUGHLIN
SARAH A. MCMULLEN
JUAN MENDEZMERCADO
ALAN D. MEYER
LOGAN B. MITCHELL
MICHAEL H. MITTAG
DAMON G. MONTGOMERY
JOHN C. MOODY, JR.
STEVEN R. MOON
PATRICK W. MOONEY II
CLAYTON L. MORGAN
ROBERT J. MORIARTY
MARK T. MOSES
JAMES J. MURRAY
ELIZABETH T. MURREN
JOHN E. MYUNG
ANDREW G. NAULT
DAVID D. NEWSOME
STEVE A. NICHOLS
JAMES R. NOLIN
CHARLES J. NORRIS
TIMOTHY M. OBRIEN
GREGORY S. OLINGER
JOSEPH OSTROWSKI
FRANK A. PALOMBARO
ANN M. PELLIEN

MARTIN T. PENNOCK
RICHARD PEREZ
JOHN J. PFLAUMER
GLENN W. PHILLIPS
TINA M. PICOLITEOLIS
MICHAEL A. PLATTENBURG
DAVID POLANECZKY
WILLIAM PONCE, JR.
SHAWN A. POOLE
RICHARD L. POTTERTON, JR.
STANLEY R. PRYGA
THOMAS F. RAFTER
JOSEPH A. RICCIARDI
MARK R. RINAMAN
MARIA D. RITTER
MICHAEL D. ROACHE
JAMES E. RUDORFER
DAVID J. RUSSO
ERIC S. RUTHMAN
MICHAEL S. RYDER
ALAN C. SAMUELS
ALPHONSO L. SANDERS
CLIFTON P. SAWYER
WILLIAM M. SAXON
STEVEN R. SAYERS
RICHARD T. SAYRE
JED J. SCHAERTL
MARK A. SCHNABEL
ROSS C. SCOTT
MARK L. SEGOVIA
CHARLES W. SEIFERT
SHEILA K. SEITZ
CONNIE R. SHANK
MICHAEL J. SHARON
STEVEN E. SHATZER
EDWARD L. P. SHEPHERD
TIM O. SHERIDAN
AYLEEN A. SHERRILL
WAYNE D. SIEBERT
CLARKE V. SIMMONS
CINDY C. SMITH
MICHAEL D. SMITH
STEPHEN R. SMITH
TERENCE SMITH
TIMOTHY B. SMITH
WARREN W. SMITH
RICHARD S. SMUDIN
KEVIN S. SNYDER
JON E. SOLEM
RANDY J. SOUTHARD
JOSEPH C. SPENCER
MICHAEL J. STELLA
CATHERINE L. STEPHENS
WESLEY K. STEWART
CURTIS S. STRANGE
ARNOLD V. STRONG
DARRYL L. SUGGS
JOHN F. SULLIVAN
ARCHIE L. SWAIN, SR.
JUSTIN M. SWANSON
GERARDO L. TAMEZ
BRIAN H. TAYLOR
MARGUERITE E. TAYLOR
THOMAS A. THLIVERIS
KELLY F. THRASHER
DIANA TORRES
REGINALD M. TRUSS
GREGORY A. TZUCANOW
MARK K. VAUGHN
JEFFREY A. VOICE
KEITH R. VOLLERT
FRANK M. VONFAHNESTOCK
JASON J. WALLACE
PATRICIA R. WALLACE
CHRISTOPHER G. WALLS
BRIAN F. WALTMAN
ALONZO WANNAMAKER
CRAIG E. WATTS
JOHN A. WEAKLAND
REID W. WEBBER
WILLIAM L. WERNER
FRANK D. WETEGROVE
DOMINIC J. WIBE
THOMAS M. K. WIELAND
DAVID B. WIERSMA
STEPHANIE L. WILLENBROCK
DANIEL E. WILLIAMS
WANDA N. WILLIAMS
WALTER D. WITMER
ROBERT A. WOJCIECHOWSKI, JR.
KATHERINE WOMBLE
DAVID D. WONG
EDWARD A. WOOD
DENNIS M. WRIGHT
BLAISE ZANDOLI
DAVID C. ZILLIC
BRIAN L. ZUCHELKOWSKI
JOHN A. ZULUAGA
R10045

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MIGUEL AGUILAR
JOHN W. ALTEBAUMER, JR.
LEON B. ALTMAN
BRUCE E. ALZNER
AMY L. ANDERSON
WOODROW L. ARAKAWA
JAIME A. AREIZAGA
CURT E. ASHBY
WILLIAM J. BANWELL
BRUCE L. BARKER
MICHAEL W. BARR
WILLIAM D. BARTON
JAMIE L. BENTON
KAREN A. BERRY
GREGORY J. BETTS
ANDREW A. BEVINGTON
MARK J. BIDWELL
ERIC W. BISHOP
GREGORY A. BLACKWELL
JOHN L. BLAHA
ROGER R. BODENSCHATZ
STEPHEN B. BOESEN II
MARK A. BOETTCHER, JR.
CHARLIE E. BOND II
LUKE J. BOUTOT
CLARENCE BOWSER
CHRISTIAN P. BRADLEY
FELICIA BROKAW
GEORGE V. BROWN, JR.
JAMES L. BROWN
JONATHAN E. BROWN
THOMAS W. BURKE
JEFFREY L. BUTLER
WILLIAM P. CANALEY
WILLIAM J. CARLSON
STEVEN D. CARROLL
JAMES A. CARUSO II
JEFFREY H. CASADA
ROBERT F. CHARLESWORTH
TIMOTHY R. CLARKE
MARK W. CLIFTON
DAMON N. CLUCK
JOHN S. COLEMAN
BARRY L. COLLINS
CHARLES M. COLLINS
JEFFEREY R. CONNELL
BEAU D. COOK
LONNIE D. COOK
KEITH A. COTE
ERIC J. CROKE
BARRY L. CRUM
RANDALL D. CUDWORTH
MARTY P. CURTRIGHT
JAMIE J. DAILEY
ANDREW C. DAVIS
BARRY B. DAVIS
BRIAN P. DAVIS
MARTIN M. DAVIS
JOSEPH B. DAY, JR.
JOSEPH H. DEFEE II
KIMBERELY DEROUENSLAVEN
JONATHAN N. DEVRIES
LAMBERT D. DEVRIES
JEREMY M. DICK
WILLIAM P. DILLON
ROBERT E. DOWNS, JR.
DAVID J. DUBOIS
KERRY P. DULL
NEAL J. EDMONDS
SHAWN R. EDWARDS
JOSEPH M. EINING
ARTHUR M. ELBTHAL
DAVID L. ELLIS
CARL H. FARLEY
JOANNE T. FARRIS
BRUCE S. FEIN
MICHAEL S. FINER
SCOTT A. FONTAINE
MICHAEL B. FORDHAM
MICHAEL G. FORSON
JEFFERY P. FOUNTAIN
THOMAS C. FRILOUX
GABRIEL G. I. FRUMKIN
IVETTE GALARZA
JAY D. GANN
EDWARD P. GARGAS
RICARDO R. GARRATON
GREGORY J. GLENN
ALEXANDER C. GRABIEC
THOMAS P. GRAHAM
LEONARD A. GRATTERI
MILTON L. GRIFFITH, JR.
ALLYN D. GRONEWOLD
KENNETH A. GUSTAVSON
GREGG L. HADLOCK
ERIC J. HANSEN
MARVIN E. HARRIS
THOMAS A. HARROP
DAN T. HASH
CHARLES D. HAUSMAN
JAMES M. HENNIGAN
TIMOTHY P. HERRINGTON
KAARLO J. HIETALA, JR.
SCOTT W. HIIPAKKA
CAROL J. HITCHCOCK
MICHAEL K. HOBLIN
JEFFREY HOLLIDAY
AMIR A. HUSSAIN
JACK A. JAMES
EPIFANIO JIMENEZ
MARVIN D. JOHNSON
JOHN M. JOHNSTON
JEFFREY A. JONES
NORRIS J. KEETON
WILLIAM D. KELLY
ROBERT W. KIMBERLIN
JOHN S. KLINKAM
CHARLES S. KOHLER
MICHAEL A. KRELL
STEVEN J. KREMER
JEFFREY T. KURKA
CHARLES A. LANGLEY
WILLIAM R. LATTA
JOSEPH R. LAWENDOWSKI
ANTHONY S. LEAL
MICHAEL J. LEENEY
HARVEY B. LLOYD III
TODD F. LUNDIN
PHILLIP E. LUNT, JR.
JOANNE E. MACGREGOR
DAVID B. MAJURY
SHARON A. MARTIN
MARIANNE B. MARTINEZ
SCOTT C. MASON
SCOTT A. MATHNA
PAUL J. MCDONALD
JAMES W. MCGLAUGHN
CURTIS E. MCGUIRE
ELIZABETH B. MCLAUGHLIN
JOHN B. MCSHANE, JR.
KEVIN M. MILLER
LAWRENCE MILLER
JAIME A. MIRANDA
WILLIAM P. MITCHELL
ERIC J. MONTEITH
ARLAND D. MOON
CHRISTINA J. MOORE
SHARON D. MOORE
WILLIAM T. MOORE, JR.
JERRY L. MORRISON
JOHN M. MURPHEY
REGINALD G. A. NEAL
RONALD M. NEELY
STEVEN L. NICOLUCCI
JOHN C. NIPP
ROBERT M. NUGENT
ANCEL P. NUNN
DALE E. OLDHAM
MICHAEL J. OSTER
WILLIAM A. OVERBY
PATRICK T. PARDY
GREGORY C. PARKER
JOHN R. PASSET
VINCENT T. PATTERSON
JOSEPH S. PEAL
LARRY M. PEEPLES
JOHN J. PERKINS
CHRISTOPHER M. PFAFF
BRIAN H. PFARR
MARK D. PIKE
LADENNA M. PIPER
ARDIS C. PORTER
EVERETTE A. PRICE
JEFFREY A. PRICE
ROGER T. PUKAHI
RICHARD A. RABE
WILLIAM T. RACHAL
JOSEPH D. REALE
MILLARD G. REEDY IV
STEPHEN L. RHOADES
BRENT L. RICHARDS
EMERSON B. ROBINSON III
SPENCER W. ROBINSON
ANDREW J. ROCHSTEIN
TONYA H. ROGERS
CHRISTOPHER A. ROLLINS
RICHARD G. ROLLINS
TIMOTHY M. ROONEY
KIM T. RUSSELL
RICK RYCZKOWSKI
THOMAS G. RYNDERS
CHAD M. SACKETT
KENNETH SAFE
ARMANDO M. SANTOS
CHARLES M. SCHOENING
CHRISTOPHER D. SCHRIEKS
ERIC A. SCHROEDER
GARY W. SCHUMACHER
MICHAEL P. SEINE
DYLAN F. SEITZ
JON F. SHAFER
AMY L. SHEEHAN
JOHN SILVA
JOSEPH H. SMITH
JASON B. SNOW
STEVEN M. SOLKA
JONATHAN L. STEPHENSON
TODD D. STEVENS
RICHARD M. STEWART
THOMAS M. STEWART
SHANNON W. STONE
WILLIAM F. STROUP II
HIRAM TABLER
CATHERINE M. TAIT
ERIC J. TARBOX
JOHN C. TATE
CHRISTOPHER A. TATIAN
JOHN F. TAYLOR, JR.
JOHNNY L. TEEGARDIN
MARK J. TEEL
ROLAND M. TETREAULT
RODNEY A. THACKER
LLOYD R. THOMAS
MARCUS H. THOMAS
FREDERICK L. TOPLIN
JR TREHARNE
MECHELLE M. TUTTLE
MATTHEW VATTER
ANTHONY D. VERCHIO
DAVID R. VERDI
TIMOTHY D. VINCENT
JAMES WALKER, JR.

MICHAEL F. WASHINGTON
CHARLES L. WEAVER, JR.
JOHN P. WEBER
KIRK R. WHITE
MARGARET C. WHITE
BRENT A. WILKINS
PHILLIP W. WILLIAMS, JR.
PAUL K. WILSON
STEPHEN N. WILSON
BRIAN P. WOLHAUPTER
DAVID A. YAEGERS, JR.
FRANK A. ZENKO
MARK A. ZINSER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JEFFREY M. ABEL
JEFFREY D. ABRAMOWITZ
STACY M. BABCOCK
AIDA T. BORRAS
DAVE R. BRUETT
GLENNIE E. BURKS
CHARLES J. BUTLER
RICHARD T. CALCHERA
TIMOTHY D. CONNELLY
LESLIE M. DILLARD
CHARLES W. DURR
ERIC FOLKESTAD
JOHN A. FONTANA
ANTHONY A. FRANCIA, JR.
DARIUS S. GALLEGOS
BRUNILDA E. GARCIA
VANESSA M. GATTIS
LEE P. GEARHART
DANIEL B. GEORGE
SUSIE J. GRANGER
BRIAN E. GRIFFIN
BRADLEY A. HESTON
MICHAEL A. HOLLAND
KENNETH G. HOLLEY
KENNETH Z. JENNINGS
GREGORY T. JONES
GLENN A. KIESEWETTER
LAURENCE S. LINTON
BRAD P. LUEBBERT
KEVIN C. LUKE
PAIGE T. MALIN
ROBERT K. MCCASKELL
GEORGE A. MILTON
JAN C. NORRIS
ALAN C. NOTGRASS
GERALD O. OSTLUND
JOHN R. PELCZARSKI
KATHLEEN J. PORTER
ALAN K. SCHREWS
GREGORY SCOTT
PERRY J. SEAWRIGHT
ROBERT B. SENTELL
JAMELLE C. SHAWLEY
KEITH A. THOMPSON
MICHAEL D. THOMPSON
OWEN T. WARD
JENNIFER D. WESLEY
BRADFORD O. WHITNEY
JOHN F. WILLIAMS
DEBORAH A. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

BOBBY L. CHRISTINE
JEFFREY C. DICKERSON
MARK W. LACHNIET
JAMES K. MASSENGILL

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

VICTOR SORRENTINO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JEFFREY P. MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

RICHARD D. MCCORMICK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

DAVID W. ATWOOD
PAUL R. BURES
JAMES P. CAMPBELL
LEISA M. R. DEUTSCH
JAMI L. HICKEY
PATRICK J. KLOCEK
KEVIN M. LUNNEY
SCOTT C. OLSON
MARY M. RHODES
JACQUELENN M. STUHLDREHER
MICHAEL D. VANMANEN
ANNA H. WOODARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

WILLIAM S. SWITZER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

TODD A. ABRAHAMSON
LEOPOLDO S. J. ALBEA
BRENT A. ALFONZO
BENJAMIN J. ALLBRITTON
ANDREW D. AMIDON
EDWARD T. ANDERSON
ERIC J. ANDUZE
CHRISTOPHER E. ARCHER
MATTHEW L. ARNY
ANTHONY P. BAKER
BOBBY J. BAKER
STEVEN M. BARR
PAUL J. BERNARD
JEFFREY A. BERNHARD
JOSEPH J. BIONDI
JOHN R. BIXBY
MICHAEL F. BLACK
MATTHEW J. BONNER
JOHN D. BOONE
MICHAEL J. BOONE
LESLIE W. BOYER III
JOSEPH P. BOZZELLI
DOUGLAS A. BRADLEY
DAVID A. BRETZ
BRADEN O. BRILLER
CHRISTOPHER J. BUDDE
DWAYNE E. BURBRIDGE
MICHAEL L. BURD
JASON A. BURNS
MATTHEW J. BURNS
CHRISTOPHER BUZIAK
GREGORY D. BYERS
KEVIN P. BYRNE
MARCELLO D. CACERES
JOSEPH CARRIGAN
RYAN T. CARRON
BRYAN M. COCHRAN
PETER M. COLLINS
MICHAEL P. CONNOR
ERIC L. CONZEN
FREDERICK E. CRECELIUS
ADAN G. CRUZ
DONALD S. CUNNINGHAM
NOEL J. DAHLKE
PAUL M. DALE
DEARCY P. DAVIS IV
JEFFREY D. DEBRINE
ANTONIO DEFRIAS, JR.
TOM S. DEJARNETTE
STEPHEN J. DELANTY
CHRISTOPHER R. DEMAY
STEVEN H. DEMOSS
HOMER R. DENIUS III
ELLIOTT J. DONALD
DAVID W. DRY
DWAYNE D. DUCOMMUN
CHRISTIAN A. DUNBAR
JAMES W. EDWARDS, JR.
JAMES J. ELIAS
JENNIFER L. ELLINGER
WILLIAM R. ELLIS, JR.
ERIK J. ESLICH
JOHN H. FERGUSON
ROBERT D. FIGGS
CHRISTOPHER S. FORD
JOHN H. FOX
FERNANDO GARCIA
MICHAEL S. GARRICK
SAM R. GEIGER
TIMOTHY M. GIBBONEY
FREDERIC C. GOLDHAMMER
WILLIAM M. GOTTEN, JR.
TAMARA K. GRAHAM
WAYNE G. GRASDOCK
EDWIN J. GROHE, JR.
DARREN B. GUENTHER
MATTHEW K. HAAG
KEVIN K. HANSON
KEITH A. HASH
WILLIAM A. HEARTHER
JEREMY R. HILL
DAVID HOPPER
JACK E. HOUDESHELL
MONROE M. HOWELL II
STEPHEN J. JACKSON
DAVID C. JAMES
GEOFFREY C. JAMES
BRYAN L. JOHNSON
BRYON K. JOHNSON
IAN L. JOHNSON
VINCENT R. JOHNSON
WILLIAM JOHNSON
MICHAEL S. JOHNSTON
RUSSELL W. JONES
THOMAS C. KAIT, JR.
PHILIP E. KAPUSTA
SEAN D. KEARNS
COREY J. KENISTON
CALEB A. KERR
JACKIE L. KILLMAN
ANDREW J. KIMSEY
JAMES E. KIRBY
ROBERT A. KLASZKY
MATTHEW A. KOSNAR
JON P. R. LABRUZZO
EUGENE D. LACOSTE
JONATHAN B. LAUBACH
STEVEN S. LEE
KEVIN D. LONG
ROBERT E. LOUGHRAN, JR.
ROY LOVE
JAMES P. LOWELL
MICHAEL D. LUCKETT
JONATHAN D. MACDONALD
LLOYD B. MACK
MICHAEL D. MACNICHOLL
RICHARD N. MASSIE
JAY A. MATZKO
SHAUN C. MCANDREW
PATRICK J. MCCORMICK
MARK W. MCCULLOCH
CHRISTOPHER R. MCDOWELL
KEVIN M. MCLAUGHLIN
GREGORY E. MCRAE
KEVIN P. MEYERS
MARC J. MIGUEZ
JAMES E. MILLER
JEFFREY A. MILLER
THOMAS P. MONINGER
KENT W. MOORE
EDGARDO A. MORENO
STEPHEN H. MURRAY
MICHAEL J. NADEAU
CHRISTOPHER A. NASH
STEVEN T. NASSAU
DARREN W. NELSON
GREGORY D. NEWKIRK
BENJAMIN R. NICHOLSON
ERIK R. NILSSON
CASSIDY C. NORMAN
JOSEPH R. OBRIEN
JAMES E. OHARRAH, JR.
MICHAEL A. OLEARY
ADAM D. PALMER
TIMOTHY V. PARKER
JOHN E. PERRONE
BRIAN K. PUMMILL
JOHN K. REILLEY
ANTHONY C. ROACH
MATTHEW P. ROBERTS
JOSE L. RODRIGUEZ
DOUGLAS W. ROSA
ANTHONY E. ROSSI
DAVID M. ROWLAND
MARK A. SCHRAM
SHANTI R. SETHI
JUSTIN M. SHINEMAN
WILLIAM C. SHOEMAKER
TYREL T. SIMPSON
LEE P. SISCO
QUINN D. SKINNER
TIMOTHY J. SLENTZ
GREGORY A. SLEPPY
ROBERT S. SMITH
WILLIAM H. SNYDER III
WILLIAM E. SOLOMON III
MICHAEL T. SPENCER
ERIK A. SPITZER
MARK G. STOCKFISH
JAMES L. STORM
TABB B. STRINGER
JOHN A. SUAZO
TIMOTHY E. SYMONS
SHANE P. TALLANT
BRADLEY B. TERRY
RICHARD A. VACCARO
LARRY P. VARNADORE
JIANCARLO VILLA
CHAD P. VINCELETTE
PHILIP W. WALKER
DAVID P. WALT
ANDREW R. WALTON
KJELL A. WANDER
MICHAEL S. WATHEN
HERSCHEL W. WEINSTOCK
JOHN M. WENKE, JR.
DAVID G. WHITEHEAD
STEVEN R. WILKINSON
ROBERT E. WIRTH
ALAN M. WORTHY
STACEY K. WRIGHT
PETER A. YELLE
DAVID J. YODER
MELVIN K. YOKOYAMA
DAVID A. YOUTT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

TIMOTHY A. BARNEY
WILLIAM D. CARROLL
DANIEL J. COLPO
KATHERINE M. DOLLOFF
DANIEL W. ETTLICH

JAMES W. HARRELL
VINCENT J. JANOWIAK
JON A. JONES
BRIAN D. LAWRENCE
JOHN L. LOWERY
BRIAN A. METCALF
JONATHAN E. RUCKER
MARIA E. SILSDORF
DANA F. SIMON
KEVIN R. SMITH
THOMAS A. TRAPP
ROBERT A. WOLF

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

DOUGLAS S. BELVIN
JAMES P. M. BORGHARDT
MATTHEW B. COMMERFORD
STEVEN F. DESANTIS
SCOTT B. JOSSELYN
MARK P. KEMPF
ARMEN H. KURDIAN
BRANDT A. MOSLENER
RICHARD M. PLAGGE
CHAD B. REED
JASON L. RIDER
WESLEY S. SANDERS
THOMAS M. SANTOMAURO
LAURA A. SCHUESSLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JERRY L. ALEXANDER, JR.
SIMONIA R. BLASSINGAME
NICOLE L. DERAMUSSUAZO
LYN Y. HAMMER
SABRA D. KOUNTZ
LEE A. C. NEWTON
LAURIE M. PORTER
SHARON L. RUEST
RENEE J. SQUIER
JASON L. WEBB

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

ROBERT L. CALHOUN, JR.
DAVID J. ROBILLARD
DAVID G. SMITH
THADDEUS O. WALKER III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

CHRISTOPHER J. COUCH
DUANE L. DECKER
MARK E. NIETO
NATHAN D. SCHNEIDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

GREGORY S. IRETON
BRETT S. MARTIN
SEAN P. MEMMEN
CYNTHIA V. MORGAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

CHARLES W. BROWN
AMY E. DERRICKFROST
SCOTT E. NORR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JEFFREY D. BUSS
WILLIAM M. CARTER
BRIAN ERICKSON
ADAM C. LYONS
ERIK R. MARSHBURN
BRAULIO PAIZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

MICHAEL L. BAKER
LEONARDO A. DAY
ROBERT K. FEDERAL III
KWAN LEE
STEVEN A. MORGENFELD
ROBERT F. OGDEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

NONITO V. BLAS
ROGER J. BROUILLET
WILLIAM R. JOHNSON
SCOTT B. LYONS
GARY D. MARTIN
MARK A. MESKIMEN
JEFFREY M. PAFFORD
DAVID S. WARNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

ANTHONY T. BUTERA
MARY K. HALLERBERG
MICHAEL J. HANNAN
JOSHUA C. HIMES
MATTHEW F. HOPSON
GRAHAM K. JACKSON
JOHN J. LEWIN
EDWARD J. PADINSKE
TUAN N. PHAM
ADAM D. PORTER
CHRISTOPHER H. SHARMAN
MIRIAM K. SMYTH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

BRYAN E. BRASWELL
MICHAEL S. COONEY
TODD A. GAGNON
PETER GIANGRASSO
WILLIAM J. KRAMER
BOSWYCK D. OFFORD
VANE A. RHEAD
MICHAEL RIGGINS
JULIA L. SLATTERY
TYRONE L. WARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

REGINALD T. KING
SHEILA M. MCMAHON
KEVIN L. STECK

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Wednesday, May 7, 2014*

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 7, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID JOLLY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

MOTHER'S DAY CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor mothers across America.

Mothers play an incredible role in our lives. We have all seen the sacrifices they make to raise their children and the care and devotion they dedicate to them. We know their commitment.

Mothers have been our greatest advocates. When we were young, they cared for us when we were sick, supported us in our pursuits, lifted us up when we fell down, and read to us at night. They held our hands when we needed them.

Mothers work 8 to 10 hours a day in the workforce, come home and do the cooking, the laundry, and help with the homework, and then get up the next day and do it all over again.

So when was the last time we actually took a moment to say thank you to our mothers and grandmothers? Do enough people take time to stop and say, Thanks, Mom?

There is one person who did so in a very special way. She was a young lady born in 1864 in a small coal mining town in West Virginia. Her mother had worked during the Civil War to provide nursing care and promote better sanitation, helping save thousands of lives on both sides of the conflict. When she passed away in 1902, this young lady, Anna Jarvis, wanted to celebrate her mother's life and came up with the idea of a national honor for mothers: Mother's Day.

Consequently, in 1908, Anna Jarvis organized the very first official Mother's Day celebration, which took place in the Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. However, Anna wanted more people to honor mothers.

She worked with a department store owner in Philadelphia, and soon thousands of people started attending Mother's Day events at retail stores all across America. Following these successes, Anna resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. She argued that the national holidays were biased towards male achievements and that the accomplishments of mothers deserve a day of appreciation.

Anna Jarvis started a letter-writing campaign to newspapers and politicians urging them to adopt a special day honoring motherhood. By 1912, many States, towns, and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual event.

Her persistence paid off. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially recognizing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis, who never married or had children of her own, dedicated her life to establishing a day to honor her mother and all mothers across America.

This Sunday, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mother's Day. This holiday is just a small way to show our gratitude to our mothers and grandmothers. This Sunday, we can stop for a moment to simply say thank you. Because when our mothers are gone, that loss reaches into all of our hearts and touches each of us, for no longer will we hear the sound of their voice, the touch of their hand, or that warm embrace. It causes a huge loss in all of our lives.

We should pause on this one day to say thank you to our mothers, who love us in spite of ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Mother's Day we honor the dedication and vision of Anna Jarvis, as well as all of our mothers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN JIM OBERSTAR

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today is National Bike to School Day. How fitting is it that Congressman Jim Oberstar's family's request for the remembrance of our beloved Jim is a contribution to the National Safe Routes to School program?

Tens of thousands of children can get to school today more safely and millions will be more safe in the future because of his tireless efforts over two decades on behalf of that program.

Jim Oberstar, I must confess, was like an uncle to me. Together, we spent hundreds and hundreds of hours in consultation, planning, touring, and legislating. It was the most effective mentoring possible.

There are those who have been known as ''a man of the House,'' and Jim Oberstar certainly was ''a man of the people's House.'' But even more, he was a man of the T&I Committee, the Public Works Committee.

He rose through the staff ranks to become staff director. Then, succeeding his Congressman, Congressman Blatnik, he became a Member of Congress, and ultimately became its chair. This is something no one else has done, serving as staff director of a committee and then ultimately presiding over it.

As staff, committee member, or chair, or as a member of all the subcommittees, whether in the majority or minority, Jim Oberstar had an outsized influence on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for decades. It is safe to say that over the last 50 years no one had more influence than Jim.

For almost 20 years he was the top Democrat, but most feel he was the top member, period. He was totally seeped in policy, the history, and the mechanics of transportation. But it was not just transportation. It was aviation, marine, the waterways, and waterworks of America as well. They were all his areas of expertise.

Jim Oberstar was a partisan—and not necessarily a political partisan, but he was an infrastructure partisan. A true expert. That is why his partnership with Congressman Bud Shuster, although they were of different parties, was so effective. Bud was Jim's partner for years on the committee, even before either of them assumed their respective top leadership positions.

Infrastructure came first, partisanship second.

One of my most vivid memories was how our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, under the leadership of Jim Oberstar and Bud Shuster, beat Speaker Gingrich and President Clinton when it mattered on our highway bill in 1997.

Jim was a man of remarkable memory and learning. He spoke a half-dozen languages. He never stopped fighting for what he believed in and what he knew for his district, his State, or for the American people.

He was a man of faith that never wavered. But as much as he loved the job of being Congressman, his people, his bicycle, his first love was his family. I don't think he ever recovered from the loss of his first wife, Jo, but then he found Jean. They were married 20 years. They were a remarkable team.

Jean is a knowledgeable and experienced transportation professional in her own right. She knew what Jim's speeches were about. In fact, she could encourage him occasionally, in good humor, to shorten them just a little bit.

Over the years, dozens of members of my staff felt in a sense that they worked for Jim Oberstar as well, because of his commitment, his skill, and his innate decency. I am hearing of their sense of loss from people around the country.

We all knew that Jim Oberstar had a lot to say. What he said was worth listening to. America is a better place not just because of what he said, but what he did in a remarkable career spanning almost 50 years.

Few people had more lasting impact on this institution of Congress and on America than Jim Oberstar. We are all richer for his life of outstanding service.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in deep appreciation for a group of individuals who hold our future in their hands: our Nation's teachers.

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week, during which we thank the countless men and women who strive every day to ensure that a child's potential can become reality.

America's ability to outcompete rival nations is contingent upon the next generation of minds possessing the education but also the confidence to think outside the box. Our future competitiveness is contingent upon our next generation of children having the skills but also creativity, vision, and know-how to build the future.

Each child's potential is realized through the engagement of families and communities, but also teachers rising to the occasion, which they have done for generations.

So let us take a moment to recognize the compassionate individuals who dedicate their lives and professions to the cultivation of minds and the betterment of our Nation.

During this Teacher Appreciation Week let us not forget those teachers who have helped shape our own lives. They deserve our praise.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have come to this floor once a week during the 113th Congress to talk about hunger—specifically, how we can end hunger now if we simply muster the political will to do so.

Technically identified as food insecure by the Department of Agriculture, there are nearly 50 million hungry people who live in the United States, the richest country in the history of the world. These people don't earn enough to be able to put food on their table. Simply, they don't know where their next meal will come from.

Now, let's be clear. This has not been a particularly kind Congress to those who struggle with hunger. We are seeing nearly $20 billion cut from our Nation's preeminent antihunger program, known as SNAP.

SNAP is a lifeline for the 46 million Americans who rely on it to have something to eat each day. Yet this Congress decided that Americans who live at or below the poverty line can simply absorb massive cuts to SNAP.

Sadly, Republicans and some Democrats joined together to cut a benefit that was already meager and didn't last through the month even before these cuts took effect.

These cuts are bad and hurtful, but just as hurtful is how these Americans were described and depicted on the floor of this House during the debate about cuts to SNAP. During the debate on the farm bill, some Republican Members came to the floor to justify cuts to SNAP as a way to prevent murderers, rapists, and pedophiles from getting a government benefit.

Poor people have been routinely characterized as ''those people,'' as part of a culture of dependency. They have been described as ''lazy.''

Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of poor people being demonized. I am sick and tired of their struggle being belittled. We are here to represent all people, including those struggling in poverty.

Unfortunately, insults continue.

For the most part, we try to keep campaign rhetoric out of the debate on the House floor. However, today I want to highlight some rhetoric that is even more vile than even some of the language that was used on the House floor during the SNAP debate.

A few weeks ago, a Republican candidate for United States Senate in South Dakota actually equated SNAP recipients to wild animals. That's right. We are now at a point where it is apparently okay for political candidates to denigrate our fellow citizens by comparing them to animals.

Dr. Annette Bosworth shared a viral image on her Facebook page that said the following:

> The food stamp program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They proudly report that they distribute free meals and food stamps to over 46 million people on an annual basis. Meanwhile, the National Park Service, run by the U.S. Department of the Interior, asks us, Please do not feed the animals. Their stated reason for this policy being that . . . the animals will grow dependent on the handouts, and then they will never learn to take care of themselves.

The post continues:

> This concludes today's lesson. Any questions?

□ 1015

What an incredibly offensive thing for anybody to say.

Mr. Speaker, I was taught to love my neighbor. I was taught to care about the people and to strive to make everyone's life better, and what is being tolerated as political dialogue violates those teachings and my core beliefs in humanity.

We can all do better. Some of us may need a hand up in order to get by, but that doesn't mean that they are lesser people for it. They deserve our respect, and they deserve our help while they are struggling.

It is hard to be poor, and because of many of the actions that have been taken by this Congress, it is even harder to get out of poverty.

Dr. Bosworth should apologize to the 46 million of her fellow Americans who need SNAP to put food on their tables. She should apologize to the nearly 50 million of her fellow Americans who struggle with hunger and don't know where their next meal will come from, and Republicans should repudiate her disgusting remarks.

I am an optimist. I believe we can end hunger, and I believe we can end poverty in America, if we just make the commitment to do so, but hurtful rhetoric like this simply divides us and does nothing to help us achieve the worthy goal of ending hunger now.

Hunger is a political condition. We have the food, and we have the ability to make certain that nobody in this country goes hungry, but we lack the political will; and demonizing the poor, as so many in this Chamber have done and continue to do so, is a sad commentary on this Congress.

Our government has a special obligation to the most vulnerable. It is time we lived up to that obligation. The war against the poor must stop.

IN SUPPORT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Charter Schools Week. In preparation for National Charter Schools Week, I visited a lot of charter schools that are in my district that I had not yet visited, and I took some time to understand what exactly they do that is unique and different from other charter schools.

What I found is that a school, a curriculum, and a student body that was fitting in one place was very different in another charter. What I learned is that diversity actually delivers a better result for those student populations.

There was Pinnacle Classical Academy in Shelby, North Carolina, a charter that utilizes a classical learning model focused on providing their students with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st Century.

Then there was Evergreen Community Charter School in Asheville. Evergreen employs a holistic education model with a goal of teaching their students the importance of environmental stewardship and community service.

Finally, this past week, I visited Mountain Island Charter School in Mount Holly. Mountain Island has a traditional curriculum focused on building the character of students and instilling a spirit for community within them.

Each one of those three charter schools, as well as the others that are in my district and, I think, across America, have a unique learning environment. What I have found in these schools is that these students flourish in that right environment, and there is a unique environment for every student to find success. One student's successful environment is so different than another.

While each school was different, their similarities highlight the benefits of charters. Each school utilizes a challenging curriculum that encourages not just the students, but their parents as well, to stay involved. That parental involvement is such an important part of the educational process.

After each of these visits, it is clear that our educational system would hugely benefit by expanding access to charter schools. I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 10.

I look forward to voting for it this week, in the hopes of giving all American children greater access to quality charter schools and educational opportunities of their choice and their parents' choice, so that we have a better-educated workforce and a stronger America.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED A VOTE ON EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1 month since the Senate acted in a bipartisan fashion to pass emergency unemployment extension.

Just hours after the Senate acted, I introduced a bill, H.R. 4415, the same language passed by the Senate. It is fully paid for, would not increase the deficit, unlike the hundreds of billions of dollars in permanent tax breaks that the Republican leadership intends to bring to the floor this week.

A month later, we still have no vote scheduled for extending unemployment insurance for millions of Americans—no vote, despite the fact that over 150 Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, have cosponsored H.R. 4415; no vote, despite the fact that 2.6 million Americans have already lost this important benefit and 2.8 million will have lost that benefit by the end of the month, almost 3 million Americans; no vote, with 72,000 individuals, hardworking Americans, every week at risk of losing their unemployment insurance if we don't act.

Helping jobless Americans who are actively looking for work is not only the right thing to do, but we have done this before. We have done this under Democratic administrations and Republican administrations. It is not a handout. It is simply a lifeline to help those folks who have lost their job stay above ground, above water, before they get their next job.

This should not be a partisan issue; yet, yesterday, the Republican leadership said no to letting some of these jobless Americans testify at a Capitol Hill hearing. We were locked out of the room that we had requested.

2.8 million jobless Americans, they may be invisible to the House Republican leadership, but they will not be silenced.

While they were locked out of the hearing room at the Rayburn House Office Building, I and other Members joined these unemployed Americans yesterday, went to the steps of the Capitol, and listened to them as they told their stories. This is their Capitol; it is not ours. It belongs to them, and their voices deserve to be heard.

I also asked hardworking Americans who are unemployed to tweet and email me their stories. My newsfeed and inbox was flooded with stories of people just trying to get by, struggling to pay their rent, struggling to feed their families as they continue to be denied a vote in the House of Representatives to renew unemployment insurance.

They have continued to be denied their voice in the House of Representatives, and this is the people's House. So what I would like to do with my remaining time is just tell a few of the stories that have come in. Lynette B. says:

> We just received our foreclosure letter on our home. I am 49 years old, and this is certainly not where I see myself at this age. I am educated, and I have been applying to no less than three jobs per day, only to not get a reply to most of them, or else I am overqualified.

Jennifer S., this is Jennifer and her family:

> I never thought I would be in this position, unemployed and worrying about feeding my two growing boys, 14 and 9. I have had to go to food pantries to keep food on the table. I am behind in my car payment and the utilities since my unemployment benefits stopped December 28.

Laura B. writes:

> I need the extension, so I can afford to keep the Internet on to look for jobs and afford the gas to go to interviews. It's very hard out there, and there are so many unemployed people looking for each job, that the chances are slim.

Angela M. writes:

> Please help with UI. I have lost almost everything, sold my car, pawned my wedding rings, selling furniture to keep a rented roof over my kids' heads.

Elaine G. writes:

> I live with my 27-year-old daughter and sleep on an air mattress. I have no phone. I complete job applications now and ask employers to contact me through email. I expect, any day, that my car will be repossessed, as soon as the finance company is able to locate the car.

Carol C. writes:

> Come June 1, I will have to leave my apartment. My car, phone, Internet will be gone. I have no money for essentials like good toilet paper and soap. How does somebody find a job?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to raise these voices. These are real Americans. They are real stories.

Some of the questions we face in this Congress are complicated. This one is simple. Take up H.R. 4415, and we can take away the pain that so many Americans—almost 3 million Americans—are facing.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF JONI EARECKSON TADA

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

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life of Joni Eareckson Tada.

When Joni was 17 years old, she was just like any other high school graduate. She was thrilled to be on the brink of college, and she was excited to

spend a summer swimming in the nearby Chesapeake Bay.

With high school behind her, she was ready to really begin her life. She was not prepared, however, to have her fourth cervical vertebrae crushed in a terrible accident, an accident which would render her a paralyzed quadriplegic and shatter her mobility and independence forever.

Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened. On July 30, 1967, while diving with her sister, Joni misjudged the depth of the water and snapped her neck at the bottom of the water. She lost all movement in her hands and legs and was rushed, motionless, to the hospital.

Joni spent many grueling months there and often thought about killing herself. She thought her life was not worth living, and she didn't want to be a burden on her loved ones.

''There were many nights I would wrench my head back and forth on the pillow, hoping to break my neck up at a higher level. I wanted to die,'' Joni later said.

There were times she even asked her friends to help her commit suicide. She was desperate to end her life; but despite her intense depression, despite her intense physical suffering, it was during this time that Joni turned to her Christian faith and began to search for new purpose in her tragedy.

She studied her Bible, leaned on her friends and family, and prayed for guidance, until she realized, almost overnight, that while she would never be able to walk again, she could choose to live through her disability. The Lord could use her to inspire and encourage others.

So she resolved, ''One night, lying there in the hospital, I said, 'God, if I can't die, please show me how to live.' ''

I am glad to say, Mr. Speaker, that she has lived well, is one of the most inspirational figures I know, and has touched so many lives with her incredible story. Let me briefly outline some of her many accomplishments and undertakings.

During a 2-year rehabilitation period after she left the hospital, Joni learned how to hold a paintbrush using her teeth. She labored away at this skill and often struggled, until she mastered the technique. Today, her artwork is prized around the world and is just one of the many ways she has provided inspiration.

In 1979, she founded Joni and Friends, a Christian ministry dedicated to serving the disabled community around the world. It partners with local churches to provide resources and support for thousands of families afflicted by disabilities. In fact, her organization has served families in 47 countries and, in 2006, opened a new facility in the United States.

Just a few weeks ago, I had the pleasure to meet and talk with Joni about her ministry and was privileged to introduce her before she spoke at Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi.

□ 1030

The ministry does such incredible work. And let me tell you, I don't think she has any plans of slowing down.

In addition to all this, she has somehow found time to publish over 50 books, many of which are critically acclaimed and rank on bestseller lists. Her radio show, ''Joni and Friends,'' is broadcast in over 1,000 outlets and, in 2002, won the Radio Program of the Year award from the National Religious Broadcasters Association.

Joni has even helped us get things done here in Washington. She has represented the disabled on numerous government committees and was instrumental in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. And she continues to help.

As for awards, her list is very long. She is the recipient of the Victory Award from the National Rehabilitation Hospital, the Golden Word Award from the International Bible Society, and the Courage Award from the Courage Rehabilitation Center. She is a member of the Christian Booksellers Association's Hall of Honor and is a recipient of the William Wilberforce Award.

Joni holds honorary degrees from Westminster Theological Seminary, Biola University, Indiana Wesleyan University, Columbia International University, Lancaster Bible College, Gordon College, and Western Maryland College.

As I said, she is quite the achiever. And how does she really do it? Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, I think something that C.S. Lewis once said helps to answer that. He said:

> If you read history, you will find that the people who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since people have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this world.

I think Joni understands this. Her mind is truly set on another place. Her life has been extraordinary.

So, again, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I would like to recognize and celebrate the life of Joni Eareckson Tada, a courageous woman who truly knows how to live.

THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, May is Older Americans Month, and today I rise to call attention to historic legislation that has for decades served as a lifeline to our country's seniors.

The Older Americans Act is responsible for critical services, like housing, nutrition, and employment assistance. For many seniors, the Older Americans Act is responsible for the delivery of their only warm meal of the day and their only social interaction.

The legislation expired in 2011; and today I am speaking in support of H.R. 4122, the bill I introduced with the gentleman from Texas, Congressman RUBÉN HINOJOSA, to reauthorize the Older Americans Act.

Congress first passed the Older Americans Act in 1965 as one of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society programs. Its goal is to ensure that our seniors age with dignity, maintain independence for as long as possible, and do not grow old in poverty.

Over the years, the OAA has been reauthorized and improved upon to meet the needs of the changing population. As Americans live longer, our policy needs to keep pace.

Our legislation includes stronger elder abuse protections, modernized senior centers, improved transportation services, and other programs that promote seniors' independence.

One of the titles in the Older Americans Act provides important employment support to the country's seniors, something they need now more than ever. The Senior Community Service Employment Program provides job training and job placement for low-income seniors. Many of the people who use this important program were laid off during the recession, only to see their position disappear altogether during the recovery. Now they find that they lack the necessary skills to fill the new jobs that have been created, and they must compete with a younger, inexperienced workforce willing to accept wages lower than their earning potential.

This important program, known as SCSEP, provides specialized training for these mature workers. By partnering with local nonprofits and State agencies, SCSEP helps older Americans develop new skills and then pairs them with employers.

I recently met with several SCSEP participants at the Forest Grove, Oregon, senior center in my district, and I heard firsthand how the program helps people get back on their feet. Programs like this are exactly what many of the long-term unemployed need. And while we continue to debate extending the emergency unemployment program, SCSEP is addressing the problem head-on for many of our constituents by offering a solution that is good for employees, businesses, and the economy as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the Older Americans Act was developed so our country's seniors could age with dignity. Today it continues to provide support to older Americans who are eager to work and live independent lives as they age. The Senate has advanced its own bipartisan Older Americans Act bill, and I am

hopeful my colleagues will follow suit and support H.R. 4122.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4192. An act to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Don Williams, Maine State Police, Augusta, Maine, offered the following prayer:

I thank You, God, for giving me the opportunity to represent You and the Maine State Police and the people of the great State of Maine. I pray that I represent them well, as should be the desire of this great body as they represent their States.

My dearest Heavenly Father, I come to You today on behalf of this body of Representatives from our great and wonderful United States. As they represent their people, I ask that You give them wisdom and understanding from above.

God, we all need Your wisdom. I thank You for these men and women who have given of themselves to represent their people and make decisions that will affect all the people of this great and wonderful Nation.

God, please give them the character and integrity to rule this Nation. Give them strength to stand true to their beliefs and the courage to stand for what is true and right. Help us to be faithful to Your Word. Lord, I ask for Your blessing to return to our great and wonderful Nation.

In thy Holy Name, I pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DON WILLIAMS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Chaplain Donald Williams as today's guest chaplain.

Chaplain Williams is originally from Springfield, Missouri, but he came to Maine in 1985, where he served as pastor of the Fellowship Baptist Church.

Chaplain Williams was sworn in as deputy sheriff and chaplain for the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office in 1987. In addition to serving as chaplain for the Maine State Police and Augusta Police Department, he is involved with the Maine Law Enforcement Chaplain Corps and the State's Criminal Justice Academy.

Chaplain Williams has gone above and beyond in serving the spiritual needs of Maine's police force for over 20 years. His remarkable service was reflected in his nomination for the 2010 National Sheriff's Association Chaplain of the Year award.

He is a true asset to our State and our country. I am proud to stand with him here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

ICANN

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, the President recently announced that the U.S. Commerce Department would end its Internet agreement with ICANN, a nonprofit organization who has overseen our databases since 1998.

President Obama's plans could lead to international control and come at a time when nations all over the world are looking for any technological advantage they can gain over the United States.

Both Republicans and Democrats alike agree that the Obama administration's decision to cut ties with ICANN could lead to an uncertain future that hinders free speech and threatens national security.

The United States has always been the most protective country of free speech in the entire world. As other countries and international organizations advocate for a more globalized Web, the trampling of our First Amendment rights and greater censorship will be at an even higher risk.

It is imperative that we closely monitor this situation moving forward to ensure that free speech in any medium is never censored.

In God we trust.

FACES OF THE UNEMPLOYED

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week, I unveiled the ''Faces of the Unemployed,'' an effort to help put a human face on the unemployment crisis.

Yesterday, out-of-work Americans from all over the country came to Congress to tell their story, and they were shut out of the Capitol Building. They were not allowed to share their experiences inside the building that belongs to them and in front of the people they sent to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, you may have stopped them from sharing their stories inside the Capitol yesterday, but with the ''Faces of the Unemployed,'' their faces and stories will be in the Halls of Congress every single day until you bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

There are 2.5 million Americans without this safety net today, and that number could reach nearly 5 million if Congress does not act to extend unemployment benefits before the end of this year. These are real Americans, many of whom have worked their whole lives until recently and now can't afford basic necessities. They spent all their savings. Some have become homeless, and others are on the verge of losing everything.

Every one of these people deserves a vote, Mr. Speaker. I urge you to bring the Senate bill to the floor for an immediate vote so that we can extend unemployment benefits and help millions of Americans.

CELEBRATING ST. CHARLES' 180TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the city of St. Charles' 180th anniversary this May.

Known as the ''Pride of the Fox,'' St. Charles has earned its reputation, boasting beautiful parks, innovative schools, and unique architecture.

Formerly known as Charleston, the city was incorporated 3 years before the city of Chicago. In 2011, St. Charles was named the number one city nationwide in which to raise a family by Family Circle magazine.

From RiverFest to the nationally acclaimed Scarecrow Festival, from Hotel Baker to high schools that graduate an average of 95 percent of seniors each year, St. Charles has been an ideal center of commerce, family, fun, and rest. The city leads by example in Illinois, and I am proud to celebrate its many years of prosperity.

As we celebrate this 180th anniversary, I would also like to give special recognition to someone's 18th anniversary—of birth, that is. My daughter Kylie, who is my princess, turns 18 today. I wish I could be with you today, Kylie, but happy birthday.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teacher Appreciation Week.

We know that a good education is critical for today's youth to have a successful future. We owe our thanks to the teachers who dedicate themselves to providing this.

The need for education begins early, setting children on a positive path for learning at a young age. And, as students get older, it is essential to provide them with the skills, especially math and science education, that will give them the ability to compete in a globalized economy.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should use this week to recommit ourselves to fund and support programs that improve education for our children. Education is the most powerful tool we have to fight poverty in our neighborhoods, improve opportunities for our youth, build stronger communities, and create a more successful tomorrow.

SUPPORTING THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the establishment of the select committee on Benghazi.

Constituents in my district demand to know what really happened on September 11, 2012, in Libya. Almost 2 years have passed, and Congress continues to get stonewalled by the administration. The most serious of these offenses is that the terrorists who are responsible for this action have not yet been brought to justice.

The creation of a House select committee is a serious matter. We owe this to the families and loved ones that were lost. This is the best way forward to uncover what actually happened. Under the leadership of Congressman TREY GOWDY, I am confident we will get to the bottom of this.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the creation of the select committee on Benghazi.

BRING THEM HOME

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from New York just recently talked about education and why it is so important and what a great tool it is to fight poverty and provide for the future of our young people, which is why what I am going to say is even more serious.

In the middle of the night on April 15, hundreds of girls were abducted from their beds in a school in Nigeria. The militant terrorist group Boko Haram is now planning to sell these young women into sex slavery for just $12 a girl.

I have just gotten back from the Nigerian Embassy. My colleagues and I met with Nigerian officials for updates on this ongoing tragedy and to stand in unity behind strengthened efforts to bring these girls back home to their families.

As a mother and a grandmother, I cannot imagine the pain the parents of these girls are experiencing. Many of these parents are terrified to speak to the media for fear of what might happen to their daughters.

I appreciate our President's new commitment to help the Nigerian Government bring these girls home. These girls were pursuing their education, despite threats from a terrorist group bent on preventing the education of women.

We cannot stand idly by while fear and violence oppress the freedom and dreams of women around the world.

MEDIA IDENTIFY AS DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are lots of reasons why the national media leans liberal. Surely, reporters' political party affiliation explains some of their bias.

A new study of the media by two Indiana University professors found that among journalists who choose a side, Democrats outnumber Republicans by four to one. Maybe that explains why the liberal national media have largely ignored the IRS and Benghazi scandals, dismissed climate change skeptics, and sugarcoated ObamaCare.

It shouldn't surprise us that journalists have removed from their code of ethics the requirement that their ''news reports should be free of opinion or bias and represent all sides of the issue.''

Isn't it incredible that it has been removed from the journalists' code of ethics?

The media should give the American people the facts, not tell them what to think.

STOP THE GAMES

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, while the Democrats are working hard to address the needs of working Americans, over 2.5 million having been left out in the cold since the Republicans refused to bring up a bill, which is paid for, to extend unemployment insurance. Republicans are busy with yet another partisan, political exploitation of the tragedy in Benghazi.

Yesterday, citizens had to go to the steps of the Capitol to talk about how they have lost their jobs and their unemployment insurance, and now they are at their wits' end and at the end of the family's budget. They need a responsive government to step up. Yet Republicans are announcing a select committee on Benghazi, despite already having had 13 hearings, 25,000 pages of document requests, and 50 briefings.

This is an exploitation of a serious tragedy. We know what happened. But, you know what? It is politics.

Unfortunately, the American people need a responsive government to help them, like the 2.5 million people who are desperately in need of the opportunity for their government to step forward to help them with this unemployment crisis.

We can do more. We have got to do it now. Stop the games.

□ 1215

MOLDOVA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, with Russian-backed militants creating chaos in Ukraine, neighboring Moldova has put their forces on high alert.

Moldova and Ukraine share a similar problem of breakaway states within their borders. In fact, there is evidence that Russian forces located in the Transnistria region of Moldova have

been involved in the recent violence seen in Odessa, Ukraine.

Moldova, just like Ukraine, wishes for a better relationship with their European neighbors, but could see its attempts to cement friendships undermined by pro-Russian provocateurs.

We should make it clear that any effort to undermine Moldova's sovereignty will not be tolerated. Last week, I introduced a bipartisan resolution that calls on this House to support Moldovan independence and oppose aggression by the Russian Federation.

It is clear that Vladimir Putin will take advantage of any sign of weakness. We need to display strength on behalf of our friends in the region, engage them, and support their right to defend the independent Republic of Moldova from aggressive actions.

INTRODUCING THE PLANNING ACTIVELY FOR CANCER TREATMENT ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the serious gaps in our cancer care system, a system the Institute of Medicine has deemed in crisis.

For too many cancer patients, the process of a cancer diagnosis and treatment is overwhelming. Patients must navigate treatment provided by multiple providers, with little help to coordinate the treatments, the side effects, and the psychosocial impacts.

While some providers involve their patients actively in their cancer care, we need to make it the standard, not the exception. That is why I have introduced the Planning Actively for Cancer Treatment, or PACT, Act with my Republican colleague, Representative BOUSTANY from Louisiana.

The PACT Act would provide a personalized roadmap to cancer care developed by the patient and provider. These plans have been shown to improve patient outcomes, increase patient satisfaction, and reduce unnecessary utilization of scarce health care facilities.

That is why cancer patient research and provider groups like the Lymphoma Research Foundation and the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, they all support this bill.

With the PACT Act, we have an opportunity to make cancer patients better, along with the health care systems that care for them.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important bill.

BLATANT MISMANAGEMENT OF THE VA

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged over reports involving the care of our veterans and the blatant mismanagement at the VA.

We have made promises to our Nation's veterans, and, yet, wounded veterans are waiting months and even years, with some even dying due to backlogs at the VA.

I found out yesterday a veteran in my district died from excessive delays because he was unable to get necessary heart surgery. Delays at the VA hospital in Phoenix may have led to additional deaths.

Reportedly, VA officials have ordered hospital workers to shield this information in order to hide incredibly long waits. Workers at a VA clinic in Fort Collins, Colorado, were supposedly told to falsify appointment records to escape retribution for not meeting agency-imposed goals. If they didn't do that, they were going to end up on a bad boys list.

Mr. Speaker, if true, these reports demonstrate a serious problem within the VA. The brave Americans who served our country did not wait months or years to answer the call to protect our freedom. They deserve the best care that we can give them in a timely manner.

Unfortunately, under current leadership at the VA, that seems impossible. If Secretary Shinseki can't get this done, President Obama needs to find somebody who can.

ENSURING THAT ALL VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES HAVE ACCESS TO EARNED BENEFITS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, last week, during the VA approps debate, I spoke about Madelynn Taylor, a veteran being denied the right to be interred with her spouse, Jean, in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery because they are lesbians.

Idaho does not recognize their marriage and is denying the couple the honor and dignity earned through Madelynn's service in the U.S. Navy. Clearly, LGBT veterans continue to face discrimination.

Nearly a year after the landmark decision striking down DOMA, the VA still does not have a clear policy to ensure all veterans and their spouses have access to their earned benefits.

In response to the situation, Idaho resident and 27-year Army veteran, Colonel Barry Johnson, offered Madelynn and Jean his plot at the State cemetery stating:

> Madelynn loves her country. She wants her partner by her side, and she wants to eternally rest among veterans in the State she made home.

She deserves that. We need more people like the colonel here in Congress, willing to speak up on behalf of all our veterans and their families who deserve to receive the benefits that they have earned.

CONGRATULATING HEBREW ACADEMY JUMP TEAM

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the team from Hebrew Academy in South Florida for winning this year's National Council of Synagogue Youth JUMP competition.

Schools across the country were charged with creating events related to Israel advocacy, Jewish values, Holocaust remembrance, and bullying prevention. Through this competition, students develop and build critical aspects of leadership that can be applied throughout their lives.

For their team's winning project, the Hebrew Academy JUMP team created an Israel awareness day, developed a bullying awareness week and discussion groups about cliques and bullying, and created a remembrance project that engaged Holocaust survivors to have their stories integrated in their school's Holocaust curriculum.

I congratulate these impressive students on what they have accomplished for our community and for their victory in the national competition.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit into the RECORD the names of the exceptional Hebrew Academy JUMP team members.

They are students Jackie Olemberg, Alix Klein, Ariela Stein, Jacob Mitrani, Ariela Isrealov, Merah Frank, Adina Bronstein, Shane Hershkowitz, Madison Emas, Danny Bister; and faculty Rabbi Avi Fried.

CONDEMNING THE ABDUCTION OF THE NIGERIAN SCHOOL GIRLS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last night, I introduced a bipartisan resolution condemning the abduction of Nigerian school girls by the terrorist group Boko Haram, which has claimed responsibility.

Leadership of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee on Africa joined me and cosponsored House Resolution 573.

Mr. Speaker, I am personally deeply disturbed by this atrocity, and it shines a light on the terror that so many girls face around the world every day in attaining the basic right of an education.

We must do everything in our power to ensure the safe return of these precious children and strengthen efforts to

protect them from those who conduct violent attacks.

I support Secretary Kerry's decision to send a security team to Nigeria. It will take the efforts of the Nigerian Government, the United States Government, and the international community to rescue the missing young girls. These young women could be our daughters, our sisters, our nieces.

Mr. Speaker, the terror is still continuing as I stand and address this House. We must end this nightmare for these girls and for girls all over the world.

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE REPORT 113–415 AND AN ACCOMPANYING RESOLUTION, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 565, APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 568 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 568

Resolved, That if House Report 113-415 is called up by direction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: (a) all points of order against the report are waived and the report shall be considered as read; and

(b)(1) an accompanying resolution offered by direction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform shall be considered as read and shall not be subject to a point of order; and

(2) the previous question shall be considered as ordered on such resolution to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (i) 50 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees; (ii) after conclusion of debate one motion to refer if offered by Representative Cummings of Maryland or his designee which shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (iii) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 565) calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except 40 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule, H. Res. 568.

House Resolution 568 provides for consideration of two important resolutions. Both resolutions are critical to getting to the bottom of the IRS' targeting of conservative nonprofit groups, and they are critical to holding this government accountable.

The groups who are discriminated against deserve to know the full truth and so do the American people. To this day, Mr. Speaker, no one has been held accountable for the actions of the IRS.

I wish that the underlying resolutions weren't necessary; but, once again, the self-proclaimed ''most transparent administration in history'' hasn't been helping much in providing the answers to the American people that they so rightly deserve.

For example, one of the underlying resolutions, H. Res. 565, calls for the Attorney General to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting that took place.

Again, it is frustrating that this House even needs to take this step, Mr. Speaker; but as we have come to find out, the Justice Department chose a Democratic political supporter to lead their investigation into the IRS' actions. This attorney donated over $6,000 to President Obama's election campaigns, and if that is not a conflict of interest, I don't know what it is.

That is extremely disappointing to me because this administration had the opportunity to give Americans assurances that they wouldn't stand for the IRS' conduct, they wouldn't allow an agency to be a tool to punish people for their political beliefs and would work diligently to root out this behavior and hold the appropriate people accountable.

Instead, the administration severely undermined the credibility of the investigation at every turn. We need impartiality and objectiveness from this administration; and, Mr. Speaker, we just didn't get it.

We have hit a wall, Mr. Speaker. It is time we had a special counsel to look into the issue so we can fully understand the depths of the targeting.

What we do know, Mr. Speaker, is that all signs point to Lois Lerner as a central figure in this scandal. Ms. Lerner has been unwilling to answer questions before the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, despite giving testimony to two other bodies.

Her actions to this point beg the question: What is she trying to hide?

Ms. Lerner has roughly a year—she has had a year to work with the committee and ample time to comply with this subpoena. Unfortunately, she has refused to do so.

When called to testify before the committee, Lois Lerner simultaneously asserted her innocence, while depriving the American people of the opportunity to get their questions answered.

Ms. Lerner made 17 separate factual assertions before invoking her Fifth Amendment right—17, Mr. Speaker.

In the words of my colleague from South Carolina, that is a lot of talking for someone who wants to remain silent.

□ 1230

Some people believe—me being one of them—that you can't do that. You can't make selective assertions and still invoke your Fifth Amendment right.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Mrs. Lerner's conduct shows contempt for this body. I certainly do. I truly believe that. But that is what we are here today for, to have a debate, to see what the majority of this body believes.

This rule allows for the debate to happen and a vote to happen. It allows Congress to do its job, providing oversight of the executive branch.

If the contempt vote passes, it will place the issue into Federal court. It will be up to them to decide if we are accurate or off base. Let the court decide that. That is the appropriate step, because that is where the dispute between these two branches is supposed to reside. The judicial branch is the arbitrator between the executive branch and the legislative branch when it comes to issues like this. That is how a three-branch system works. We should let the process take place.

I support this rule, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, welcome to witch-hunt week here in the United States House of Representatives. Our economy is slowly recovering, slower than any of us would like. Millions of unemployed Americans have been left behind because their unemployment benefits have expired. Our immigration system is broken. Millions of Americans are living in poverty because they don't earn enough to make ends meet. And we have a pay equity issue where

women, on average, earn less than men for doing the same job. I mean, climate change is a real issue and is getting worse.

So what is the response from the House Republican leadership? A jobs bill? No. A fully funded transportation bill? No. An extension of long-term unemployment benefits? No. Comprehensive immigration reform? No. An increase in the minimum wage? No way. A pay equity bill? No. A sensible energy policy? No. Of course not, not from this leadership.

You know, when it comes to jobs or improving the economy, my Republican friends have no ideas. And here is the deal: they are afraid the American people are going to figure this out. And so what do they do? They create distractions and diversions, more investigations, more investigations.

Mr. Speaker, instead of tackling the issues that actually matter to people, House Republicans are once again playing to cheap seats with hyperpartisan political witch-hunts.

Now, this rule before us today contains two bills. One would hold Lois Lerner, the former Director of the IRS Exempt Organizations in contempt of Congress; the other would appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of nonprofit groups by the IRS. And that is just today. The House Republican leadership will be doubling down on the crazy later this week by creating a select committee to exploit the tragedy of Benghazi. It is shameful.

This is ridiculous. The IRS clearly overstepped in the way they identified and targeted nonprofit groups. That is not an issue for debate. But an issue of this magnitude and importance, potential abuse by the Internal Revenue Service, deserves to be handled in a bipartisan and professional manner. That standard has not been achieved during these investigations.

I say ''these investigations,'' plural, because multiple committees have spent nearly a year looking into this. From nearly the beginning, Republicans have operated on their own and not in a bipartisan and professional manner. To date, 39 witnesses have been interviewed, more than 530,000 pages of documents have been reviewed, and the IRS has spent at least $14 million of taxpayer money cooperating with all of these requests and investigations.

And what do we have to show for all this work? We have had a circus in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform—a circus. We have seen Ms. Lerner assert her Fifth Amendment rights, and we have seen Chairman ISSA literally cut the mic while Ranking Member CUMMINGS was speaking. In all my years as a Member of Congress and as a staff member, I have never seen such behavior in a committee before, ever.

And during this investigation, we have seen over 30 legal experts come together and state that Chairman ISSA's contempt proceedings—one of the bills that we are considering here today—are constitutionally deficient. In other words, more than 30 legal experts—both Democrats and Republicans, and also including former House counsels—believe that the courts would throw this contempt resolution out of court. Now, of course, Chairman ISSA is entitled to his own opinion, but we cannot just ignore the legal opinions of more than 30 legal experts, including two former House counsels.

Ranking Member CUMMINGS had a great idea, a sensible idea, and I can't quite understand why my friends on the other side haven't accepted it. He said let's hold a hearing with many of these legal experts and get to the bottom of why they feel Chairman ISSA's actions are deficient. But Chairman ISSA nixed that quickly and said no way, no hearings.

This is the Oversight Committee. This is the committee that is supposed to be nonpartisan, when you think about it. I mean, the investigations are supposed to have some credibility. But Chairman ISSA nixed that. In fact, he is refusing to hold such a hearing.

And actually, it just baffles me. If Chairman ISSA firmly believes that this contempt resolution has merit and has legal standing, then what is the harm in holding a hearing and considering these legal experts' opinions?

The truth is that Chairman ISSA and the Republican leadership really do not care about doing this fairly, and they never have. This is an exercise in political theater, designed for the conservative media closed information loop.

Mr. Speaker, speaking truth to power is important. Investigating abuses of power is even more important. But abusing the process in the name of investigating abuse is wrong. We have been down this road before. We have seen this kind of witch-hunt steamroll through this very Capitol. But not even Joseph McCarthy was able to strip away an American citizen's constitutional rights under the Fifth Amendment, as Chairman ISSA is trying to do.

The Congressional Research Service found that the last time Congress tried to hold witnesses in contempt after they asserted their Fifth Amendment right not to testify was in the 1950s and 1960s in Senator Joseph McCarthy's committee, the House un-American Activities Committee, and others. In nearly every case, the juries refused to convict or Federal courts overturned those convictions. This exercise that we are engaged in today is nearly identical to the actions of Senator McCarthy. It was wrong then; it is wrong now.

This is sad because it demeans this House of Representatives. It may be red meat for the extreme right wing, but for too many Americans, it adds to the cynicism that this is a place where trivial issues get debated passionately and important ones not at all.

Mr. Speaker, the IRS is a powerful agency. The Tax Code, itself, can be either daunting or beneficial, depending on where you sit. The IRS and the Code can be used to help people, like through the EITC, the child tax credit, and the R&D tax credits; or it could be used punitively, as it was during the Nixon administration.

The IRS, under the Obama administration, must be held to a high standard. We must keep politics out of the way the IRS is run and the way it operates. In fact, the hearings, depositions, and investigations held to date actually show that there was no White House involvement in this case—none.

The problem here is that the narrative that my Republican friends have doesn't fit the facts and they are frustrated, so they want to kick the ball down to the court and have more committees, more investigations, more special counsels. Maybe they will find something. In addition, these hearings that were held, these depositions and investigations show that the targeting of nonprofit groups by the IRS was not limited to conservative groups.

Unfortunately, this whole process is so political that my friends, the Republicans on the Oversight Committee, intentionally limited the scope of what they are focused on to just conservative groups. It doesn't matter what happened to progressive groups. The truth is that both liberal and conservative groups were targeted. That is a fact that is conveniently left out of the arguments and accusations posed by my friends on the Republican side.

Mr. Speaker, I understand what the Republicans are trying to do here. It is crystal clear. They do not want to talk about the issues that matter to people. From the economy to the environment to immigration, they don't want to talk about those issues because a majority of the American people disagree with them. They don't want to talk about those issues because they have no ideas, nothing, nothing to offer. They don't even want to talk about ObamaCare anymore now that 8 million Americans have health coverage. They don't know what to do now, so they are coming up with these desperate attempts to try to create distractions. So this is what they are left with: sad little scraps of political nonsense that they keep trying to peddle as leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this rule and resolution are colossal wastes of time. They do nothing. They do nothing at all to try to ensure that the IRS is above politics. They do nothing at all to try to achieve any kind of justice or truth.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' and to get on with the business of actually solving real problems that affect real Americans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, it is amazing that those on the other side of the aisle would say this is trivial. This impacted American citizens. And I won't disagree that it may have impacted those on the left; but, to a greater extent, it impacted those on the right. And to Americans, one of the most powerful organizations there is in America is the IRS. They can instill fear into your heart when you get that letter. So when you have one that does something that is so outrageous as what they have done, it is not trivial, at least not to the people I represent.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding.

I am reminded of a passage in the Bible that you can see a speck of sawdust in your neighbor's eye but not the plank in your own.

We are talking about a resolution. Isn't it amazing that we have to go to a resolution to restore to the American people their faith and trust that they are quickly losing in the government because we will not finish the job. We will continue to backpedal. We will run around the edges, and we will try to put the spotlight someplace else.

This is not gender specific. This is not party specific. This has nothing to do with anything other than honesty and truth. To sit here and bloviate about something that doesn't really exist—oh, they are trying to move the spotlight somewhere else.

Well, I would invite all of you to go back to what it is when we came in here and took a pledge. It is not just a pledge, and it is not just a responsibility. It is an obligation to get to the truth. When we have to have a resolution asking the chief law enforcement officer of the country to appoint a special committee, how far have we fallen in the eyes of the people we represent?

Is there an issue here? Yes, there is. Are there things that have to be settled? Yes, there are.

A year ago, on May 10, I was 65. This Saturday, I will be 66. I have learned more about myself in the last year than the American people have learned about what the IRS had done to them. This covers all Americans. This is not a Republican issue. This is not a Democrat issue, a Libertarian, or an Independent issue.

Whenever we get to the point where absolutely defending the people we represent becomes secondary to a political agenda, then we have fallen far from where we were supposed to be. In this great House, so much has been decided on policy for the American people. Isn't it time to restore their faith and confidence in this model? And why we would sit back and scratch our heads and say: I don't know why our approval rating is so low. Maybe if we just answered the questions and answered them truthfully and were truly transparent, the American people wouldn't cast doubts on who it is that they elected to represent them.

I applaud this issue, and I applaud this resolution. Be it resolved that we will restore to the American people the trust and faith and confidence they have to have in their form of government.

Please, to talk about political maneuvering? We are making balloon animals and are trying to tell people: This is what you need to look at. Don't worry that we have taken away your personal freedoms and your personal liberties. That is not the issue. You see, the issue is, this November, we have got to get reelected.

So let's make it about something else. Let's turn it on gender. Let's turn it on pay inequality. Let's turn it on everything that we can possibly do and turn the light away from what the problem is, and that is the loss of faith and confidence by the people of this great country in the most remarkable model the world has ever known and who everybody would love to emulate but they can't.

It falls on our shoulders, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as representatives of the people of this great country, to get the answers that they deserve. Let's stop the fooling around about things that don't really pertain to this, and let's get them the answer.

And again, we have to have a resolution asking the chief law enforcement officer of the United States to do his job? That is pathetic.

□ 1245

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

I have great respect for the gentleman from Pennsylvania, but I think he has kind of highlighted kind of the differences between the two parties here. He mentioned that we are trying to focus attention on gender inequalities and other issues. We are.

I think there is something wrong when women in this country make 77 cents on every dollar a man makes. I think that is outrageous. I think women ought to be paid the same as men to do the same job. So, yeah, that is an issue, and that is something we should talk about. And it is not just a women's issue, by the way; it is a family issue.

The Senate sent us over an immigration bill that would reduce the deficit by $900 billion over the next 20 years—$900 billion. They did it in a bipartisan way. We can't even get a vote here. We can't even get a vote here in the House of Representatives.

There are millions of our fellow citizens who are unemployed and whose unemployment benefits have run out. We can't even get a vote to extend unemployment benefits for these people—maybe because they don't have a super-PAC, maybe because those aren't their natural constituencies. I don't know what the reason is. But those are important issues. And, quite frankly, yes, that is what the American people want us to be talking about—things that matter to them.

The problem with what we are doing here today, this is so blatantly politically motivated, even in terms of the scope of the investigation, that it just is laughable. It is laughable.

Listening to the debate in the Rules Committee last night amongst those on the Oversight Committee, the back and forth, and realizing how broken that committee is, how partisan that committee has become because of the leadership in this House, it is really sad.

No one here is defending the IRS. No one here is defending Lois Lerner. But what we don't want to do is trample on the Constitution, and we don't want to unnecessarily politicize these proceedings, which is what is happening right now.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. MCGOVERN from Massachusetts, a distinguished member of the Rules Committee, with whom I spent 5 hours last night. I wish my friend Mr. KELLY were still here on the floor because he reminds us we take an oath when we become a Member of Congress and at the beginning of every new Congress to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States. We don't take an oath to look at the best polling for our respective parties and pursue—no matter what—the issues that rile up our base.

At the Republican retreat earlier this year, two issues polled real well with their base: Benghazi and the IRS. Sadly, cynically, we are here today—irrespective of the constitutional rights of an American citizen who happened to be an IRS employee—bending and genuflecting at the altar of that polling data to fire up that base.

We are not here defending the Constitution, because if we were, we would be invoking our own history. There was a sad period known as the McCarthy era in this very body where constitutional rights of citizens—Federal employees and non-Federal employees—were trampled upon. The Fifth Amendment right is one of only 10 enumerated in the Constitution, and for a reason, because staying in the memories of our early colonists were the star-chambers that had occurred in Great Britain, the parent country, and even here. And they wanted to protect all citizens—innocent and guilty alike—from self-entrapment, from their own words being used against them in legal proceedings unfairly. They felt so passionate about it that it was one of only

10 enumerated rights in the Bill of Rights.

In the McCarthy era, there were some famous cases, U.S. v. Quinn being one of them, and another one, Hoag, in which the Supreme Court of the United States and District Courts of the United States found that an individual did not waive his or her Fifth Amendment rights simply because they had a prefatory statement proclaiming their innocence. As a matter of fact, in the Hoag case, Ms. Hoag actually participated at times in answering other questions, having already invoked her Fifth Amendment.

The standard is very high. If you have made it crystal clear that you intend to invoke your Fifth Amendment, it takes a lot to construe that has been waived. We Members of Congress who take that oath to the Constitution should err on the side of protection of constitutional rights, not simple waiver. But, of course, if our agenda isn't getting at the truth, if it is pandering to those two issues that polled so well with our base, Benghazi and IRS, then constitutional rights are incidental to the enterprise, and, sadly, that is what we are considering here today.

I don't think you have to be a Democrat or a Republican, a liberal or a conservative, to be concerned about protecting the constitutional rights of every citizen even for—and maybe especially for—non-heroic figures such as the woman we are dealing with today, Lois Lerner. Because when you trample on her rights, you have risked every American's rights. What is next? Who is next at the docket? While we are at it, when we are trampling the Fifth Amendment, what about the First? What about that sacred Second? What about the Fourth? What about any of those rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights?

This is not a noble enterprise we are about today, Mr. Speaker, and I urge this House to reject this rule and to reject the underlying contempt citation as not worthy of this body and not consistent with the oath each and every one of us takes.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, it is just interesting to hear the argument on the other side. I have spent 37, 38 years protecting people's rights. That is what I did. As a sheriff, we did things and lived within the law. We answered questions truthfully. That is all we are asking.

This is terrible that we have to get to this point, but at the end of the day, we are not taking her rights away. We are going to the court and asking the court, Are we right in our assumption in regards to what the House counsel had told us? Are we right? If we are not, they are going to tell us we are not.

So, she has due process. This whole thing about we are taking her due process away is just ludicrous. It doesn't make sense.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I just remind the gentleman that 32 legal experts have said that my friends are wrong. I would like to yield to Mr. CONNOLLY to clarify that.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I thank my friend. Thirty-two legal experts have the other point of view. And, furthermore, I just say to my friend, if the answer to the House of Representatives is that if you want your constitutional rights to be protected, hire a lawyer, we will see you in court, that is not the oath we took.

It starts and stops here. What is the constitutional protection of citizens here on the floor of the House of Representatives? To simply say go hire a lawyer is a terrible message in terms of constitutional rights protection to the citizens of this country.

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

Mr. NUGENT. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not an attorney. That is what they say on commercials when somebody wants to give some legal advice: I am not an attorney.

What I will tell you from my past experience is that I can get attorneys' opinions on either side of an issue. That is what they get paid to do. Whether they are paid or unpaid, they all have an opinion. It doesn't mean their opinion is the right opinion. It just means that they have an opinion.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Just so everybody is clear here, we are not just talking about any attorney. We are talking about legal scholars. Quite frankly, the overwhelming opinion is that my friends are overreaching here, and, again, it makes a mockery of this House and especially at a time when we ought to be doing the people's work.

Millions of our fellow citizens who are unemployed can't even get a vote on the House floor to extend unemployment benefits. These are the people we are supposed to represent. We are telling them, forget it, you are on your own. We have all these excuses why we can't bring that to the floor.

The minimum wage, we have people working full-time in this country who are stuck in poverty. My friends went after people on SNAP, the program that they like to target, a program that provides food to hungry people, and they say everybody ought to get a job. Well, the majority of able-bodied people on that program work, and they earn so little because wages are so low that they still are entitled to some benefit. If you work in this country, you ought not to be in poverty.

So, Mr. Speaker, on both this issue of unemployment and the minimum wage and on the issue of immigration, those are the things we ought to be debating here today. That is what the American people—that would be solving problems, not creating partisan political theater.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask people to defeat the previous question. If they do, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up legislation that would restore unemployment insurance and provide much-needed relief to countless families across this country.

To discuss our proposal, I would like to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Massachusetts for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question so that we can immediately bring up H.R. 4415, which would restore unemployment benefits to 2.8 million Americans, people who have lost their job and are simply trying to find their next job and want to prevent their families from losing everything they have worked for in that period.

I heard the gentleman on the other side say that folks on this side are trying to change the subject to something else. You have got almost 3 million Americans who stand to lose everything they have worked for, everything that they have built over their lifetime, and this Congress has the power to act. We could do it today. The Senate passed an unemployment extension. The President will sign it.

On the other side, we heard that we don't want to take up UI because it is not paid for. So, we have a bill that the Senate passed in a bipartisan fashion that is paid for. It does not increase the deficit. You have got the bill you want. You have got the bill you asked for. It would save almost 3 million people from losing everything they have fought for.

Do we bring that to the floor? No vote on unemployment extension. We can talk about everything else, we can bring political messaging bills to the floor, but for the 2.8 million people who are losing everything, no vote for them, not in the House of Representatives today.

For the 72,000 people every week that are losing their unemployment benefits—hardworking Americans—some on the other side say they want to be unemployed. Yesterday, we had a group of unemployed citizens. We intended to have a hearing. We couldn't get a room. The Republican leadership wouldn't allow it. We went to the steps of the Capitol, and we heard these stories.

I suggest we take a look at the people in your own district, in your own districts back home who are unemployed, trying to find their next job, have lost their unemployment benefits, and look them in the face and tell them that the political messaging bills

that are coming to this House are more important than preserving the life that these people have worked hard to create for themselves and their kids.

Some of the issues that we deal with in this House are really complex questions. Some of them are not so complicated. This is one that is simple: 2.8 million people could be helped only if this Congress will act.

Set aside this nonsense. Bring up H.R. 4415, and let's get back to the business of the American people.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY).

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule. Now, I think tyranny is worth discussing because when we look at what we are here to do today, it is to declare Lerner in contempt.

There is nothing more uniquely un-American than abusing the public's trust to target fellow countrymen based on their political beliefs. This is something—when you target your political enemies—that Lerner did and the IRS did, and you reward by expediting the President's own political operation. So you punish your enemies and you reward your friends—this is Soviet-style governance.

I would think everyone on both sides of the aisle would be very, very vociferous in opposition to what the IRS was doing to the American public. We only hear criticism now from the other side of our proceeding. My friends on the other side of the dais have, no doubt, viewed this as a partisan witch-hunt. But let there be no mistake: we would not be here today if Ms. Lerner had not conducted her own partisan witch-hunt.

□ 1300

What Lois Lerner did is completely un-American, and it undermines the very fundamentals of the principles of what this country is founded upon; and if we don't hold Lois Lerner accountable for her actions—and this is about accountability in the government—then we are sending a message to future administrations that this type of Nixonian behavior is acceptable. Let's not send that message.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, wow, when we talk about tyranny, I should remind the gentleman that you have two bills coming to the floor under a closed rule—absolutely closed. Nobody can offer any amendments. It is your way or the highway. They are absolutely closed.

When you talk about tyranny, we can't get a vote on the House floor on unemployment compensation. We can't get a vote on minimum wage. We can't get a vote on pay equities. We can't get a vote on immigration reform.

I don't know what the gentleman is talking about. I mean, it is our side, those of us on this side that can't get our voices heard. Last session, you had one of the most closed Congresses in our history, after you promised a wide-open, transparent process. You have just shut everything down.

Even the scope of what this bill is focused on is closed in a very partisan way to focus only on abuses that deal with potential rightwing groups, conservative groups, but you totally cut out any abuse that might have happened to a liberal group or a progressive group, so I don't know what the gentleman is talking about.

This is a closed process. We talk about democracy and that we need to promote democracy around the world. We need a little democracy here in the House of Representatives. We don't have any.

Let me just say one other thing here, Mr. Speaker. We had 39 experts—39 witnesses that were interviewed by the committee, 39. Not one single one indicated there was any link between the White House and the IRS mess, not one.

I mean, if there had been a few, I guess we could have a debate here about whether we need to go further, but not one. So here is the problem: their narrative doesn't fit the facts, and they are upset about it.

I get it. You were hoping for some juicy conspiracy that doesn't exist, so you have to create more investigations, more investigations, all the while, we are neglecting our work, our duty to the people of this country.

Yes, let's make sure that the IRS is above politics. I am all with you on that. I don't want them tagging anybody for political reasons, and I am committed to that, and so is everybody on this side, but that is not what we are doing here.

This is witch-hunt week. Make no mistake about it because we are doing this today, and then we are doing Benghazi tomorrow. That is the theme of the week, and what a tragedy, what a tragedy when so much more needs to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), who is on the Rules Committee.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I concur with the gentleman from Massachusetts and appreciate his passion for his remarks.

This process is closed. Look, we have something that shouldn't be a controversial bill, extending the R&D tax credit, helping make American companies more competitive; and it has a cost, $155 billion, so let's talk about how we pay for that cost, so we can provide the certainty that our companies need to hire more people and grow.

We have an idea. I was proud to offer an amendment with Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. GARCIA. It had a bipartisan pay-for. It passed the Senate with more than two-thirds majority. We have a bipartisan bill, H.R. 15, in the House. We were able to use that to pay for this tax cut, over $200 billion.

Not only does our proposal, immigration reform, fully pay for the R&D tax credit, but it also reduces our deficit by $50 billion, and guess what, we were denied a vote on our amendment. There weren't even any ideas from the other side about how to pay for it.

If they voted it down, they voted it, but let's have a discussion. If you don't like our way of paying for it, find another. No Member of this House is even allowed to propose a way of paying for things under this rule. It is a guaranteed recipe for Republican tax-and-spend deficit policies.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I do have to go back to the comments that my good friend from Massachusetts mentioned. Now, I wasn't here in 2008, but if you look back at the history, the Democrats controlled this body and the Rules Committee in 2008.

When Congress considered a contempt resolution in 2008, the rules opted to hereby the resolution, preventing Members from even debating it or holding a vote on the measure on the floor. They just said: here we are, we are bringing it to the floor for debate and a vote.

It is pretty open to me.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding. I can't cover all of the issues that are being raised here today, but I do want to say this: I spent 7½ years as a criminal court judge in Tennessee before coming to Congress trying felony criminal cases, and so I have interest in this question about the waiving of Fifth Amendment rights.

Let me just mention what some others have said about this. Alan Dershowitz of Harvard said Lois Lerner's statement of innocence opened a ''legal Pandora's box. You can't simply make statements about a subject and then plead the Fifth. Once you open the door to an area of inquiry, you have waived your Fifth Amendment right; you've waived your self-incrimination right on that subject matter.''

Paul Rothstein, a well-respected law professor at Georgetown University—and both of these gentlemen are very, very liberal politically. Professor Rothstein said of Lois Lerner, that she ''has run a very grave risk of having waived her right to refuse to testify on the details of things she has already generally talked about. She voluntarily talked about a lot of the same things that lawmakers wanted to ask her about in her opening statement. In that situation, when you voluntarily open up the subject they want to inquire into and it is all in the same proceeding, that would be a waiver.''

Cleta Mitchell, a lawyer who specializes in ethics laws stated, ''Lois Lerner came before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. She gave an opening statement in which she said, 'I'm not guilty, I haven't done anything wrong.' The second way in which she waived her Fifth Amendment privilege was when she voluntarily, willingly, agreed to meet with the Department of Justice lawyers. To me, this is a pretty clear case of how she has waived her Fifth Amendment rights not to testify and not to answer questions. She just is being selective, and the one place she will not answer questions is with anyone that she thinks might ask her hard questions.''

Hans von Spakovsky of The Heritage Foundation, another legal expert, said, ''Under the applicable rules of the Federal courts in the District of Columbia, the interview she gave to prosecutors meant that she waived her right to assert the Fifth Amendment.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. NUGENT. I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. If we allow somebody to come in and say they are not guilty—repeatedly say they haven't done anything wrong, if we allow people to say that and do that in these types of proceedings and then plead the Fifth, we are making a mockery of the justice system and making a mockery of the Fifth Amendment privilege in this country.

Last, I would just say this: there has been some mention about some liberal groups being targeted. There were over 200 conservative groups audited and targeted and investigated in this investigation. I think there were three that might have been classified as liberal.

It was so obvious what was intended by the IRS activities in this situation, and so I support this rule and support the underlying resolution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I respect the comments of my friend, but I think the talk he just gave supports one of the points that we have been trying to make here, and that is we have 39 legal experts, former House counsels, who basically say that what my friends are doing here today are trampling on Ms. Lerner's constitutional rights.

It would seem to me that, if you wanted this whole circus to be a little bit more legitimate, that you would have agreed to what Chairman CUMMINGS had asked for, which was a hearing to bring in legal experts to actually talk about the merits of this before kind of rushing to the floor with this purely partisan bill.

The second thing I would say to my friend from Tennessee is, when you talk about the number of liberal groups targeted, one of the reasons why we are not talking about liberal groups being targeted here is because the majority kind of stacked the deck.

They formed the rules. They only want to focus on conservative groups, so that is why there is even more evidence of the fact that this is a purely partisan exercise.

I just want to say, so my colleagues are clear, not one witness—not one single witness interviewed by the committee identified any evidence that political bias motivated the use of the inappropriate selection criteria.

The inspector general, Russell George, was asked at a May 17, 2013, hearing before the Ways and Means Committee, ''Did you find any evidence of political motivation in the selection of the tax exemption applications?''

In response, the inspector general testified, ''We did not, sir.''

Oversight Committee staff asked all 39 witnesses whether they were aware of any political bias in the creation or use of inappropriate criteria. Not one identified even a single instance of political motivation or bias.

Look, there needs to be reforms to the IRS. We need to make sure that the IRS is above politics, but bringing this political circus, this witch-hunt, to the floor purely because it polls well amongst your base is ludicrous.

It is ludicrous because we should be focused on extending unemployment benefits for people who have lost their unemployment compensation. We should be raising the minimum wage. We should be passing immigration reform.

We should be dealing with the pay equity bill, so that women get paid the same amount as men do for working the same job.

It is also a family issue. We ought to be focused on getting this economy going; but instead, because my friends on the other side of the aisle don't have a clue on what to do, they are asking to look over here, let's do a distraction, let's do a diversion. I think this is outrageous.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I love the comments about McCarthyism as it relates to this particular issue, but really, McCarthyism is the IRS. The IRS is targeting American citizens who have done nothing wrong, who merely wanted to express their freedom of expression that is guaranteed by the Constitution. That is all they wanted to do.

We hear that there is a bunch of liberal groups that were caught up. I don't believe so. The record will reflect that there was less than half a dozen, while there were conservative groups of over 200 that were targeted. I think that is pretty compelling, and those are the facts. It is not just my thought. It is the facts.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me just say this because facts are important, Inspector General J. Russell George testified before the Oversight Committee that his audit did not look at the IRS be-on-the-lookout list with regard to progressive groups. That is what the inspector general testified, so let's stop this partisanship.

I would say to my colleagues, if my friends want to do this correctly, if they want to do this in a way that has some credibility, they ought to do this in a nonpartisan way.

It is really quite shameful that the Oversight Committee has become so polarized and so politicized and that this whole issue is being brought before us in this way that really, quite frankly, I think is beneath this House.

We ought to do a proper oversight, but not purely because it polls well or do it in a way that plays well with a political base. We ought to do it in the right way.

The IRS should not be involved with politics, period. Whether it is going after conservative groups or liberal groups, that is absolutely unacceptable, and we ought to make sure that doesn't happen, but that is not what we are doing here.

What we are doing here is a witch-hunt. This is the first witch-hunt bill of the week. We have several that we are going to be doing this week, and I think our time could be better spent on helping the American people get back to work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, the minority is entitled to opinions, but not facts that just aren't so.

Our committee issued an extensive committee report, a staff report as to the targeting of conservatives. The minority offered no response, so the gentleman not on the committee might say something that just isn't so.

The targeting by the IRS was conservative groups. They were the ones that got the special treatment. They were the ones that were asked inappropriate questions. They were the ones that Lois Lerner said she did nothing wrong about, but she did.

□ 1315

Mr. MCGOVERN. How much time do I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) has 2½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) has 14½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Ways and Means Democrats found out that there was extensive scrutiny of liberal progressive groups, groups that had names ''Progressive,'' ''Occupy,'' and ''Acorn'' in their name. That is the Ways and Means Committee. That just

goes to show how partisan this process has become, how politicized it has become. This is beneath this House.

If you do oversight, it ought to be nonpartisan. This has turned into a circus. This has turned into a witch-hunt. Enough of this. Let's start doing the people's work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, again, BOLOs were issued, be on the lookout, if you will, for conservative groups. Conservative groups were systematically denied, for more than 2 years, their approvals. Conservative groups were asked inappropriate and personal questions, things like where do you pray, things like what are your political views, and please show us your donor list, even though that was inappropriate.

The fact that the minority will allude to word searches to see how many of some application was out there is not about the inappropriate targeting and systematically withholding and mistreating of groups. That is what happened. That is what evidence is beginning to show Lois Lerner was at the heart of.

We are here today about contempt for somebody pleading a number of cases of what was right or what they did or didn't do, followed by taking the Fifth, then followed by answering questions having once waived and, thus, essentially waiving her rights.

Now, you can, after the fact, get 39 people to say one thing and somebody else can get 39 to say another. Today, we are trying to move contempt to the court system where an impartial judge can evaluate whether or not Lois Lerner should be ordered back to testify so the American people can know the truth about why she did what she did. What she did was target conservative groups. That is not in doubt. I don't want people using words like ''circus'' in order to confuse people.

Conservatives were targeted; that is clear. Lois Lerner has things to answer. She only answers the part she wants to, including before the Justice Department but not before the U.S. Congress.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I ask the gentleman from Florida whether he has any additional speakers or whether the chairman will want to say any more.

Mr. NUGENT. I do not have any additional speakers, but go right ahead.

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

This is a circus, and it is really sad that we are here on the floor debating this.

Just for the record, witnesses testified that progressive groups got a multitiered review and that liberal groups like Emerge went through a 2-year process before getting denied.

The other thing you ought to know is that the IRS has begun a path to reform. It has implemented all the inspector general's recommendations, including going above and beyond by eliminating BOLOs altogether.

Mr. Speaker, if this were done in a fair and professional manner, we wouldn't be having this controversy today, but the exact opposite happened in the Committee on Oversight. It was a joke. We all saw it on TV. Enough of this. Enough of this. Let's start doing the people's work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment that I will offer into the RECORD, along with extraneous materials, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. This is on extending unemployment compensation benefits. It might be nice to do something that might help somebody around here, that might help the American people, instead of doing this witch-hunt, this week of investigations, this week of distraction, when our economy needs our attention, when people need jobs, when people's unemployment needs to be extended.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote ''no'' and defeat the previous question. I urge a ''no'' vote on this rule, which is a closed rule, two closed rules. Again, when we do oversight, it ought to be nonpartisan. This has become a partisan joke.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

We have heard a lot today. It should concern the American people of what we have heard in regards to the allegations and the operations within the IRS.

You know, I regret, I really do regret that somehow this turned into a partisan shouting match. Both sides—both sides—are involved in this. I regret it because we have lost sight of the real issue: The IRS constituted a serious violation of public trust.

Mr. Speaker, this goes back to when I was sheriff, and I would sit there and have parents come in and complain about schoolteachers and the police officers that arrested their son or daughter for a violation of law, and they were more concerned about what were perceived as issues—in regards to how they were handled—versus the actual conduct of their child. This is the same thing.

We are blowing smoke all over the place trying to obscure the fact that the IRS—under the direction, we believe, of Lois Lerner, the involvement of her—violated Americans' rights across the board. Talk about McCarthyism. They have done it. They have the power to do it. They have the power to come in. If you remember the questions asked, they asked people about what they believed and what were their conversations, who they talked with. Was it an invasion of privacy? I think so.

The American people—and you have heard this from other speakers today—really need to have their faith restored that this government operates in a very open way, that people can trust government again.

No one should have to worry. No one—Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, or otherwise—should ever have to worry about their political speech having them singled out by the IRS. No one should have to worry about that. No one group should have to worry about the government worrying about their speech and having the ability to counter it in a way that brings officialness to it. How do you do that?

This is true, though, whether you are Republican, Democrat, conservative, liberal, or anything else. The point is we should be alarmed. This is what we are talking about today. We should be alarmed about the conduct of the IRS under the direction of Lois Lerner. We should be worried about that in the future, because that is the biggest single threat to America today is how our own government treats its people, Mr. Speaker. A Federal Government agency used its weight to bully Americans. That is not what America is all about, Mr. Speaker.

Make no mistake, though, that is exactly what happened. The IRS bullied people. We had someone last night testify about constituents in their district that wanted to promote an organization and do something, and they were bullied by the IRS until they finally said: You know what, I give up. I can't take it. I worry about what is going to happen because I know the IRS has the ability to do other things on my personal tax return and call it into question.

This is an extreme disservice to the American public. They really do deserve better. If we are ever going to right this wrong, we have got to find out what happened. We have to understand all the facts. And so my friends across the aisle really don't want to hear the facts. They talk about everything else under the Sun, but they really don't want to talk about what happened.

You know, my good friend talked about this being trivial, doubling down on crazy. Well, I guess that you are talking about my constituents, because my constituents have that concern. They do have the concern because of what they have seen and what has been reported in the media by both the left and right media in regards to the overstepping of Federal investigation—the IRS—on groups.

I heard this called a circus. Well, that is what we are trying to get away from. We are trying to get away from this partisanship, and let's do what we are supposed to do. By appointing a special counsel, we are hoping to take politics out of it, because politics are on both sides of this issue. So to do that, you would appoint someone, a special counsel, to investigate. Let's take away the partisanship.

It is also important that people are held accountable for their actions. Ms. Lerner defied a lawfully issued subpoena, and there ought to be repercussions for that; otherwise, this is just for show. We really have no oversight ability if people just come and say: Oh, I am not going to tell you.

That is not how it works. That is not how it is supposed to work.

This rule brings this question to the floor, not like the Democrats did in 2008. This rule brings everybody to the floor where they can have an open debate and question and vote on what they think is right.

So I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation. We have the ability to get answers, because whether it is a Republican administration or a Democratic administration, the American people need to know that their government is going to be held accountable if they overreach. If they trample on my rights as a citizen, we should have the ability to know who is doing it and why, and there should be some redress.

Today it is really about we don't care. That is what we are hearing. There are all kinds of other issues, but we don't care about this. It doesn't matter that we sent numerous bills over to the Senate—we talk about job creation—that were passed bipartisanly here. The Senate has refused to take any action on that, has refused to bring it up, discuss it, debate it, amend it, and send it back. They have done nothing.

So we have the ability today to get politics out of it. Let a D.C. court make a decision. Let's do the right thing.

I urge all my colleagues to support this rule.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 568 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Amendment in nature of substitute:

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert:

That immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4415) to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 2. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 4415.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R–Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

The Republican majority may say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: ''Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.''

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: ''Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4438, AMERICAN RESEARCH AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 569 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 569

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4438) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 90 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order

against H. Res. 569 because the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act. The resolution contains a waiver of all points of order against consideration of the bill, which includes a waiver of section 425 of the Congressional Budget Act, which causes a violation of section 426(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The gentleman has met the threshold burden under the rule, and the gentleman from Illinois and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration. Following debate, the Chair will put the question as the statutory means of disposing of the point of order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

□ 1330

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I raise this point of order not only out of concern for unfunded mandates, but to highlight the failure of Republican House leadership to protect the long-term unemployed, low-income citizens, and others who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

I raise this point of order because the bill before us would add $156 billion to the deficit to provide permanent tax breaks for businesses while doing nothing for the 2.6 million Americans living with the constant nightmare of having no job, no food, no money, no lights, no gas, no college tuition money, and no unemployment check.

H.R. 4438 is 15 times the cost of helping the 2.6 million Americans who are looking for jobs that have been shipped overseas, jobs that have been downsized or outsourced, or jobs that simply do not exist. Please tell me, Mr. Speaker: What are they supposed to do?

H.R. 4438 would give $156 billion in tax breaks for businesses but do nothing for the 72,000 additional Americans who lose benefits each and every week. An estimated 74,000 Illinoisans lost benefits on December 28, 2013, with 38,000 of these citizens living in Cook County alone. Forty-two thousand Illinoisans exhausted their benefits in the first 3 months of 2014. H.R. 4438 completely fails these Americans, many of whom stood on the Capitol steps yesterday pleading with Republican leadership to do the right thing. But the heartless response has been and continues to be refusal to help hard-working Americans struggling to provide food, shelter, clothing, and medical care for their families.

Now is not the time to cut, deny, or delay unemployment benefits. Failure to continue emergency unemployment benefits threatens the continuation of our economic recovery, costing over 200,000 greatly-needed jobs. The expiration has already drained almost $5 billion from our national economy in the first quarter of this year. In Illinois alone, this loss of Federal aid means the loss in purchasing power of $23 million each week—money that could be used to support local businesses, buy gasoline, pay utility bills, provide copayments at doctors' offices, clinics, hospitals; purchase groceries, and pay children's graduation fees. Every $1 in unemployment insurance generates $1.63 in economic activity. I say let us practice good economy, let's be reasonable, and let's have a heart. In my State of Illinois, the unemployment rate remains 8.6 percent, and in much of my district it is more than 20 percent. Finding a job is not easy, but people are still trying.

Government leaders have a responsibility to protect our citizens and our country, especially during times of national crisis. Instead of helping Americans who already are hardest hit by the economic crisis—including older Americans, low-income Americans, veterans, and members of minority groups—Republicans prioritize $156 billion in unpaid-for business tax breaks and tell the American people that it is all about fiscal responsibility and deficit reduction.

Mr. Speaker, extending unemployment assistance is a true demonstration of leadership and our national commitment to all Americans, not just the most secure. Refusal to help these citizens is an unacceptable, abject, and mean-spirited approach to leadership.

I urge that we reject this rule and the underlying bill by voting ''no'' on this motion until the Republican leadership puts people first and provides unemployment insurance to the 2.6 million Americans struggling to keep their lights on and gas in their automobiles, to pay rent and mortgages, and to feed their families. I urge that we vote ''no'' on this rule and to the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the point of order in favor of consideration of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, the question before the House is should we now proceed and consider House Resolution 569. While the resolution waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, the Committee on Rules is not aware of any violation. In my view, Mr. Speaker, the point of order is merely a dilatory tactic.

In fact, the Joint Committee on Taxation states that ''the bill contains no intergovernmental or private sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.''

This legislation makes permanent a simplified research credit that will help open the door for economic growth and give businesses the certainty they need to thrive. This measure has been routinely extended and supported by both parties for many years. In order to allow the House to continue its scheduled business for the day, I urge members to vote ''yes'' on the question of consideration of the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The question is, Will the House now consider the resolution?

The question of consideration was decided in the affirmative.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for consideration of H.R. 4438, a bill that would permanently extend and enhance the research and development tax credit.

The resolution provides a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 4438 and provides for 90 minutes of debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means. In addition, the rule provides for a motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, dozens of so-called temporary tax extensions expired at the end of 2013. Some of them, like the one we will consider under this rule, have long been bipartisan and long been renewed annually.

As a small business owner myself, one of the things that a business craves is certainty, certainty that you can plan around. Providing a certain tax structure is important to businesses.

Take, for example, the R&D tax credit for which this resolution provides consideration. The R&D tax credit has been repeatedly extended since 1981. If it doesn't make you think it is permanent, I don't know what does.

Too often, we here in Washington tell businesses ''trust us,'' that we can promise to extend X, Y, or Z tax provisions indefinitely. But they can't take that to the bank. They can't take our word that we will be able to deliver on

promises that we make. The only thing they can rely on is the law itself. If our tax laws expire every year, it injects an uncertainty into the business environment that inhibits economic growth.

We all know that encouraging research and development makes good economic sense. Ernst & Young did a study that found that the R&D credit increases wages in both the short and long term. Additionally, the legislation we will consider also increases research-oriented employment in both the short and the long term.

Many of my friends on the other side talk about raising the minimum wage and about increasing jobs. Those are certainly worthy matters to discuss. Permanent extension of the R&D tax credit does just that. That is why both sides have routinely extended this tax credit in good times and in bad. It is time to make it part of the permanent Tax Code.

Mr. Speaker, others have criticized this legislation because it only deals with a small portion of the expired tax provisions. However, to them I would say two things:

First, just as we have had to examine and pare back the discretionary side of the budget, we need to examine the tax side of the budget. There are over 200 tax expenditures, or spending on the tax side of the ledger, that, if all extended, will cost us more than $12 trillion over the next 10 years. We need to take a serious look at which credit should be extended.

And secondly, this provision is the first of many that will be considered by this House. While the Senate has been content to move in a ''comprehensive manner'' on issues like immigration and even tax extenders, the House has taken a more deliberate approach.

The Ways and Means Committee has marked up seven different extenders affecting a variety of industries that I hope the House will consider in the coming weeks. This will allow us to have a vehicle to take to conference with the Senate to provide individuals and businesses with the certainty that they so desperately crave.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Chairman CAMP for beginning this process in earnest and look forward to consideration of additional measures at the appropriate time. Many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have supported the extension of the R&D credit because they have seen the value of making this provision permanent.

I urge support of the rule and the underlying legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

While I support research and development incentives and consider encouraging American businesses to research, innovate, build, and make it in America some of Congress' most important duties, I rise today in opposition to this rule and the underlying bill.

Four months ago, my friends on the other side of the aisle allowed emergency unemployment insurance for more than 1.3 million Americans to expire.

During the farm bill negotiations, my friends on the other side of the aisle insisted on cutting $8.6 billion from nutrition assistance programs.

Last week, Republicans on the Ways and Means Committee insisted on removing a $12 million provision that would help foster children who are victims of sex trafficking. I find that ironic because this happens to be Foster Care Month.

They also fought tooth and nail to derail disaster assistance to the victims of Hurricane Sandy, and almost succeeded.

Furthermore, they have triggered a government shutdown and sequestration cuts that have drastically cut nondefense discretionary spending by $294 billion.

And the reason offered for all these austerity measures still hamstringing recovery? Why can't the Republicans pass a bill to create jobs by improving our crumbling infrastructure? Well, deficit reduction, I guess, is the answer.

Yet, this bill, a favorite of Big Business without question, will add $156 billion to the deficit.

Tax policy in general, and then extenders package specifically, is about prioritizing the needs of our country.

Dozens of temporary tax provisions that expired at the end of 2013 and several others scheduled to expire at the end of this year have been skipped over.

They have passed up the chance to renew the work opportunity tax credit, which helps veterans get work, and the new markets tax credit, which helps vitalize communities.

They have chosen to ignore renewable energy tax credits and tax credits to help working parents pay for child care.

They have decided that it is not important to extend deductions for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses, qualified tuition and related expenses, mortgage insurance premiums, and State and local sales tax, a deduction which is critical for our constituents in Florida.

□ 1345

My friends on the other side of the aisle would allow charitable provisions, including the enhanced deduction for contributions of food inventory and provisions allowing for tax-free distributions from retirement accounts for charitable purposes to expire rather than renew them.

This bill today and the other extenders—there were six of them that were marked up by the Ways and Means Committee—are the six extenders favored by Big Business.

That is why these will be the first and will likely be the only of the extenders—and there are 50-plus of them overall—that the House will vote on. That is why these are the measures my friends want to make permanent.

While I agree particularly that the one that is being discussed should be made permanent, they have no problem increasing the deficit, so long as it is a policy that is a priority for them and for Big Business.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to begin, actually, by agreeing on a couple of points with my friend from Florida.

Sandy, if you will recall—and I know you do. I actually voted with you. I believe that relief should have been rendered. I am glad we did that, and it was done in a bipartisan fashion; so certainly, where I am concerned, my friend knows that I have been consistent on that point.

I also want to agree that there are a lot of extenders in this package that ought to be considered. As my friend knows, I actually raised one of those last night in an amendment at the Rules Committee—and it was withdrawn—simply to make the very point that he is making, that we shouldn't only focus on a few, but that all of these need to be considered, and each of them ought to have an opportunity to be looked at and discussed.

I think Ways and Means owes us a pathway, if you will. I have no objection to what they are doing here today, but I do think we all need to understand what is going to be considered.

In my view, all of these, since we have routinely extended them in the past, probably ought to be considered in one fashion or another. I suspect, frankly, they will be because, once we arrive in the conference committee, the Senate will probably have passed that in total, and there will be some sort of discussion there. Again, my friend's point is an important one with which I agree, in that we ought to look at these things.

The reason we are beginning with this one—and with a series of five or six others is—number one, these are ones that both parties have generally agreed upon in the past. This is not a controversial measure. When they were in the majority in 2008 and in 2010, my friends extended this particular tax credit, along with many others, so we don't think it is controversial in the partisan sense.

Secondly, we think these are the types of tax cuts that broadly contribute to growth, and that is something I know both sides want. We want a growing economy, we want the jobs that that generates, and frankly, we

want the additional tax revenue that a growing economy yields.

We have made some very tough decisions over the last few years, sometimes on a bipartisan basis, about reducing this deficit. When this majority came in, the deficit was running at about $1.4 trillion a year. This year, it will come in at something like $540 billion.

That is actually a very rapid decline. Along the way, some of those decisions have been pretty tough decisions—bipartisan, some of them. We, on our side, like to focus on the cuts we have made, and as my friend has pointed out, we have cut out literally hundreds of billions of dollars of discretionary spending.

None of that has been easy—again, sometimes on a bipartisan basis. Eventually, it had to pass a Democratic Senate and be signed by a Democratic President, so in a sense, those reductions had been bipartisan.

We have also generated revenue. The fiscal cliff bill, which I supported, preserved most of the Bush tax cuts, but it did generate revenue. Those things working together have helped bring the deficit down, but we are never going to get the deficit where I know both sides want it to be, if we don't have an economy that is growing and moving, creating jobs, innovating, is at the cutting edge, and is competitive with our international peers. This legislation is an attempt to do just that.

It is also an attempt, in my view, by Ways and Means and by Chairman CAMP to begin the process of looking at these tax extenders one by one. While all of them have some constituency in this body and while many of them have overwhelming bipartisan constituencies, there is no question that not every single one of them would pass muster if it were looked at individually, so I applaud Chairman CAMP and his committee for what they are doing.

I think we are trying to proceed in the right direction here. I don't have any illusions that this will be the final legislation. It will simply get us into conference with the Senate; and, hopefully, there will be more discussion there, but I think we are doing the right thing and are proceeding in the right way.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), my friend, who is the ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this is really not about the R&D tax credit. I have favored it. I continue to favor it. Democrats, indeed, are in favor of tax incentives. Sometimes, we are criticized for that, but that is not the issue here.

It is whether we make this permanent without paying for it. It is fiscally irresponsible to do so, and it endangers key programs that matter for all Americans, and that is why the veto message from the President.

Why fiscally irresponsible? It is unpaid for, costing, over 10 years, $156 billion. As you said, the gentleman from Oklahoma, it is part of a package, the total of which would be $310 billion; and if you add the others referred to, the package could be $500 billion, more or less—a huge sum—unpaid for. The $310 billion that is represented by this package is more than one half of the projected deficit this year.

So it is not only fiscally irresponsible, it is also hypocritical. It violates the Republican budget itself that requires extenders to be paid for, if permanent, with other revenue measures.

Here is what the chairman of the Budget Committee said last month:

> Our debt has grown more than twice the size of our economy. You can't have a prosperous society with that kind of debt.

Mr. BRADY, who, I guess, will be speaking on this, said last month:

> Americans have had it with Washington's fiscal irresponsibility, and I don't blame them. While families across the Nation continue to tighten their belts due to rising costs and shrinking paychecks, Washington continues to spend more than it takes in.

In 2009, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee said:

> The path to our economic recovery starts with fiscal responsibility in Washington.

Interestingly enough, the tax reform draft presented by the chairman makes R&D and some of the other extenders permanent, but without impacting the deficit. It is revenue neutral—it is paid for—and now, you come here and not pay for it.

This doesn't even include other key extenders, like the new markets; like the work opportunity tax credit as you referred to, Mr. HASTINGS, on veterans; renewable energy.

It leaves in jeopardy some key provisions that expire in 2017—the EITC, 27 million people affected; the child tax credit, 24 million; the American opportunity tax credit—education—12 million. The $310 billion is three times the amount spent on education, job training, social services in a full year. Nondefense discretionary is now just about 3 percent of GDP, as low as it has been in decades.

Any permanent R&D has to be done comprehensively, not piecemeal and unpaid for. To do it this way is fiscally irresponsible. I think it is hypocritical and is programmatically dangerous.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. LEVIN. So I oppose this rule, and I hope everybody who is thinking of voting ''yes,'' including on the Republican side, will think back on what they have said before about the deficit.

I hope we Democrats will think we are for this incentive R&D. It needs to be done comprehensively, not piecemeal—threatening so many of the programs that benefit so many Americans.

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

I want to agree with my friend about his concern on the deficit. I know it is genuine. Frankly, I appreciate the fact that our friends on the other side of the aisle are concerned about the deficit.

I will remind them, when we took the majority in this Chamber in January of 2011, the deficit was about $1.4 trillion. It is about $540 billion today. So to suggest that this majority has not been serious about lowering the deficit and has not made really tough decisions—sometimes with my friends on the other side of the aisle, sometimes not—I think is to misstate the facts.

We are concerned about the deficit. If renewing this R&D credit is irresponsible without an offset, I will point out to my friends that you did it in 2008 and in 2010 when you were in the majority, so I don't think you are being consistent here in terms of this particular measure.

Finally, I want to make the point that the real key to getting out of this situation in the long term is threefold. First, obviously restraining domestic discretionary spending, we have done that, and it has been hard to do. Second, I think getting entitlement reform, we haven't done that. Hopefully, someday, we will.

Third—and maybe most importantly—is getting the economy growing again, moving in a way that creates jobs first and foremost, that provides a higher standard of living for our people, but that, yes, generates extra revenue to the government. There is nothing like a growing economy to help shrink the deficit.

This is a measure that both sides in the past have agreed actually stimulates economic growth; creates jobs; and, therefore, generates additional revenue. I think that we ought to approve the rule and that we ought to consider this thoughtful consideration of our Tax Code on a piece by piece, item by item basis and move ahead.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), my good friend.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I support a permanent research and development credit to incentivize research for new products.

For decades, there has never really been any question about whether we should incentivize research. The question has been how—how to pay for that incentive and how to ensure that it actually encourages more jobs and more economic development with desirable research that would not otherwise happen without the credit.

Until today, Republicans who claimed to be for fiscal responsibility before they were against it have not been so brash as to demand that we finance this entire research credit on a permanent basis and similar legislation by borrowing more money.

A Government Accountability Office investigation of this credit concluded that a few corporations snatched most of the credit and that ''a substantial portion of credit dollars is a windfall, earned for spending what they would have spent anyway, instead of being used to support potentially beneficial new research.''

This credit is just another type of special treatment that a few giant multinationals can count on to lower their already low tax rates.

Last month, The Wall Street Journal reported the complaints of one giant. It said that, without this credit, its tax rate would climb effectively from 16 percent all the way to 18 percent.

Another corporation complained that its rate would go from 13 percent to 19 percent. Most of the small businesses that I represent in my part of Texas would be delighted to have a rate at that level. They pay substantially more.

□ 1400

Multinationals can use this taxpayer subsidy to finance research that produces patents and copyrights and the like that are then owned by offshore tax haven subsidiaries that pay little or no taxes.

One company investigated by Senator LEVIN in the Senate last year did 95 percent of its research and development right here in America, but then it shifted $74 billion of its earnings to an Irish subsidiary.

Apparently, the most effective multinational research anywhere in the world has focused on how to avoid paying for their fair share of financing our national security.

These are companies that ship both jobs and profits overseas. They are not about making it in America. They are about taking it from America. And that shifts the burden to small businesses and individuals.

Nor is all of this taxpayer-subsidized research beneficial to the public. For example, some of the research that was done for the electronic cigarettes, the latest fad to addict our children to nicotine, qualified for this tax subsidy.

Meanwhile, the House Republican budget undermines vital private research that is funded through the National Institutes of Health for Alzheimer's, for cancer, for Parkinson's, and for other dread diseases. They say we cannot afford to do what is necessary in research for those.

They also cut research for efforts to ensure that taxpayers get their money's worth from our investment in public services. Without adequate research, you cannot determine whether an initiative that is proposed justifies Federal dollars or is truly evidence-based.

I think we should reject today's proposal in favor of a research credit that actually incentivizes necessary research made in America and which is paid for, in part, by comprehensive reform of the credit itself.

As for comprehensive reform, from day one of this Congress, H.R. 1 was reserved for the much-ballyhooed Republican comprehensive tax reform. And yet we are well through this Congress and it still says, ''Reserved for Speaker.''

That is because the Republicans couldn't agree on which tax loophole to close to maintain a revenue-neutral—a not borrowing more money—and as a result of not being able to do what they said they would do——

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DOGGETT. Because they told us January of last year they would be here with a simpler, fairer, lower tax rate, but they can't agree on how to pay for it because they are dominated by lobby groups that want to protect the very complexities and loopholes that plague this tax system—because they couldn't do that and have not done that, they are now back, as the gentleman says, with the first of not one or two but of many provisions to make them permanent, and pay for it with either borrowed money or mandatory cuts.

I think that is a serious mistake.

Today's bill represents only the first installment of more tax breaks to come that are not paid for or are paid for with mandatory cuts. Surely, we don't need more research today to know that that is the wrong way to go, it is the irresponsible way to go, and it ought to be rejected.

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

I hate to keep repeating myself, but I think I will.

My friends passed this tax credit themselves when they were in the majority in 2008 and 2010. So while I appreciate this newfound concern about deficits on their side of the aisle, I remind them that since we have been in the majority, the deficit has actually declined—and declined pretty dramatically—from $1.4 trillion, which is what they handed over to us, to about $540 billion today.

I would be the first to agree that is far too high, but the movement has been in the right direction.

So to suggest that somehow this side of the aisle has been fiscally reckless or irresponsible, I think simply doesn't bear up to scrutiny.

Second, I remind my friends again this has been a bipartisan tax measure over the years. It has been routinely renewed, whether it was a Democratic Congress or Republican Congress, since 1981. It is as close as you ever get to be permanently in the Tax Code without actually being there.

But we still have that level of uncertainty that is associated every time that we have a discussion over the extension. We are simply removing, I think, that uncertainty, and we are doing what all sides have done regularly, which is recognize this is an important component of our Code and that we think it generates a great deal in terms of valuable research and generates economic growth and jobs.

I would agree with my friend that we are going to have to do different things to actually get the deficit down to where we want to go.

I serve on the Appropriations Committee, not on Ways and Means, and I will tell you we have really made dramatic cuts in the discretionary budget, some of which I think are actually too extensive. We have done that in an effort to try and, again, restore fiscal sanity.

I have cooperated with my friends on things like the fiscal cliff that have generated revenue. So it hasn't just all been cuts.

I do agree with my friends that Ways and Means needs to do two things: it is responsible for taxes and it is responsible for entitlements.

We all know that entitlement spending is the largest single driver of the deficit, by far. I would hope our friends, on a bipartisan basis, would sit down and start looking at entitlements on the Ways and Means Committee.

In terms of taxes, I think that is exactly what they are trying to do in this measure; that is, begin to look at this piece by piece and pick out the things that are worth keeping.

This credit, without question, both sides for over 30 years looked at and said, This is worth keeping. This is valuable. It generates jobs. It generates growth.

If my friends on Ways and Means want to look at this and tinker and change it around the edges, they are the tax experts. I trust them to bring us something here that is good. But remember, this bill is going to conference. There is a United States Senate that probably has a different view than us. It is going to sit down and negotiate with us. Then the bill has to go to the President.

So I look on this as a step in the right direction, not as a final destination point, let alone as some sort of dramatic departure from what we have been doing around here. It is actually pretty consistent with what we have been doing in terms of the policy.

What we are doing is making important correctives, turning what has been temporary into something that is permanent. And we are doing it piece by

piece. Because, again, not all of these extenders, quite frankly, should be extended, but we ought to look at them one at a time and make that decision. I really think that is all we are about, Madam Speaker.

With that, I would again hope that we pass the rule and the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, the American people will be better served if we addressed our broken immigration system, which has become a huge drag on our country's economic growth.

If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 15, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, so the House can finally vote on something that will move this country forward.

To discuss our proposal, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. I thank my distinguished colleague from Florida.

Today, we are debating research and development in the United States. However, what we are actually doing is creating more funding for research and development while ignoring hundreds of thousands of the best and brightest researchers in our Nation—students who will come out of our research universities and immediately get sent home to another country. They will build economies overseas while we fall behind here in the United States. This is because of our broken immigration system.

Yesterday, I offered a very relevant amendment in the Rules Committee to complete the underlying bill. This amendment would pay for the tax credits and pass comprehensive immigration reform at the same time. By doing this, we would massively improve research and development in this country, unleashing the talents of our students, turning them into job-creating workers right here in the United States, which will support our U.S. economy.

Everyone agrees that we must support innovation through research and development. However, we must make sure that our businesses have the researchers to do that job.

Last month, we saw the annual H–1B visa cap reached in only 5 days.

Again, our outdated immigration laws put American innovation on hold. Imagine how the U.S. economy would grow and how many Americans jobs would be created if we didn't send away more than half of the Ph.D.'s graduating with STEM degrees right here in our U.S. universities simply because they were foreign born.

This amendment is the best way to pay for these tax credits and to expand research and development by creating jobs, raising revenue, and supercharging our local U.S. economy.

We must pass comprehensive immigration reform to continue leading the world in research. Because of a failure to consider this valid—and valuable—offset, I urge a ''no'' vote on the rule.

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

I want to disagree with my good friend from Florida on one thing, and I think it is probably just a phrase, but I want to put an important corrective in the RECORD.

My friend said we could finally vote on something that would be worthwhile. I would actually suggest that we voted on a number of things that have been worthwhile.

Frankly, this would have been in December, but the Ryan-Murray budget agreement, I think, was very worthwhile. I think that the omnibus spending bill that finally put us back into some semblance of regular order in the appropriations process was worthwhile.

I think the farm bill that was passed as both a safety net program for many of our needy families in our country, as well as an important economic tool that my friend Mr. LUCAS got through on a bipartisan basis, was, again, very worthwhile.

I think the flood insurance bill that this Congress has passed on a bipartisan basis was, again, very worthwhile.

I think the fact that we have dealt with the doc fix, as there has actually been in Ways and Means an agreement as to what we should do—not an agreement on how to fund it, but we bought a year's worth of time so our health care providers that do such a great job helping and seniors and our needy people on both Medicare and Medicaid are going to be continued to be reimbursed—I think that is a good job.

I think this Congress doing the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research bill, taking money out of political conventions and putting it toward pediatric research, that is a pretty good job.

I think the fact that a couple of appropriations bills have actually crossed this floor on a bipartisan basis and are ready to go to conference earlier than any time since 1974 is a pretty good job.

So while we disagree—and I wouldn't say this is the most productive Congress in modern American history—to suggest that it is not doing its job and moving along legislation expeditiously is something I do have at least a different view on.

I want to agree with my friend from California on H–1B visas. I actually think he is correct about that. As I understand it, there has been action on that issue in the Judiciary Committee. It actually passed out of committee. When it comes to the floor is sort of not in my lane, but I do hope we do deal with that.

And no question, the whole immigration issue that my friend brings up is an important one. I appreciate him doing that. I thanked him for doing that last night. I thank him for doing it again today.

I don't think this is probably the vehicle for a comprehensive bill. I think it would probably meet more resistance. But talking about it and pointing out the importance of dealing with some of these issues I think is extremely helpful.

It doesn't change the basic fact, though, Madam Speaker. What we are dealing with here is pretty simple, but pretty important, though. Let's do something that in the past we have agreed on on a bipartisan basis. Let's focus on research and development so America is always at the cutting edge of technology and job creation and give our entrepreneurs and our businesses this very important tool and a sense of certainty that it is going to be there.

Again, this is something we have been doing since 1981. It is not new. It has been bipartisan. I think making it permanent, letting businesses know that we can actually work together, is the right thing to do.

Then we ought to proceed, as the Ways and Means Committee is proceeding, systematically and look at all these other extenders, some of which will make it, some of which won't. We will undoubtedly have a vigorous debate about that.

It won't always be a partisan debate. I suspect on some of these things I will be with my friends on their side of the aisle and vice versa because things like the Indian Lands Tax Credit I don't consider partisan. It gets very good Democratic and Republican support all the time.

So, again, let's work together. I think that is what Ways and Means is trying to do. They are advancing a product systematically and appropriately.

I think we have the right rule for it. I think we have a good piece of legislation. I suspect and certainly hope there will be a strong bipartisan vote on the underlying legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

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

Madam Speaker, I am going to take my good friend's point where I made the statement that we would have an opportunity to finally vote on something worthwhile and take that ''finally'' out and replace it with ''something more worthwhile'' than some of the things that he pointed out that I certainly agree with, in many particulars, were certainly measures that were important to us.

I can't resist adding to Mr. CÁRDENAS' appeal with reference to

H.R. 15 and point out that 40 percent of the Fortune 500 companies were founded by an immigrant or a child of an immigrant. Twenty-eight percent of all companies founded in the United States, in just the year 2011, had immigrant founders.

Seventy-six percent of the patents at the top 10 U.S. patent-producing universities had at least one foreign-born inventor. Immigrant-owned businesses generated more than $775 billion in revenue for the economy in 2011.

I could go on and on. I shall not. It is important, I believe, that if not this vehicle, some vehicle become the one that allows us to deal with things like the H–1B visa. For example, when we put the cap on it in the last tranche, we achieved that cap in 5 days.

Availability of H–1B numbers is a growing problem for the U.S. STEM competitiveness again. It is something that we need to deal with, must deal with.

Now, I turn, finally, to the research credit measure that we are dealing with. It is an important provision that should be extended. Since its enactment in mid-1981, as has been pointed out by my colleagues, Congress has extended the provision 15 times and significantly modified it five times.

However, it is not just what we do that matters; it is how we do it that also matters. This will be the 57th closed rule, which means most Members will not even get a chance to make changes to the bill.

This bill violates the revenue floor of the Ryan budget that Republicans passed only 3 weeks ago, meaning the Rules Committee will have to give yet another special waiver.

Republicans have waived their own CutGo rule 15 times since taking over the House. Republicans insist that comprehensive tax reform be deficit neutral, but won't hold these permanent changes to the same standard. In fact, they are using these measures to hide the cost of comprehensive tax reform.

They aren't just moving the goalposts. They are changing the game as it is being played.

Madam Speaker, there is something inconsistent between what my friends say and what they do, and I find that very disturbing. Hiding behind a mantra of austerity only when it is convenient is, in my view, irresponsible and opportunistic, at best.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' and defeat the previous question. I urge a ''no'' vote on the rule.

I am very pleased at this time to yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Florida. It is always a pleasure to appear with him.

I do want to make a point that, with respect to all tax provisions, they almost always do come to this floor under a closed rule because, quite frankly, they have to be scored, i.e., we have to figure out how much the amendments cost and what have you.

So it is very seldom we have an open rule on anything that deals with tax policy, and I think we are following customary procedure here.

I also, again, want to make the basic point that this is legislation that, honestly, I think, over the years, most of the time, both sides of the aisle have agreed upon.

There is no objection to research and tax credits. Both sides have decided it is good policy, that it helps American companies be competitive. It helps us stay at the head of the pack, in terms of innovation and technical development in this country.

This is probably one of the least controversial provisions in the Tax Code, so I think moving it and making it permanent, removing all uncertainty and confusion, is probably, well, in my view, certainly a good thing for our economy. I hope, after the rule vote, that we can come together on that.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to encourage my colleagues to move the process forward. This approach is important because it allows the House to consider individual tax provisions on their own merits and not hidden by a larger deal.

This credit is good for economic growth. It both creates jobs and increases wages. It is important that we not lose sight of that in the midst of this debate, so I would urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 569 OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 15) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 15.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R–Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

The Republican majority may say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: ''Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.''

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule

[a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: ''Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

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

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

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 863) to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 863

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum established by section 3(a).

(2) MUSEUM.—The term ''Museum'' means the National Women's History Museum.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be composed of 8 members, of whom—

(1) 2 members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(2) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) 2 members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and

(4) 2 members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Commission shall be appointed to the Commission from among individuals, or representatives of institutions or entities, who possess—

(1)(A) a demonstrated commitment to the research, study, or promotion of women's history, art, political or economic status, or culture; and

(B)(i) expertise in museum administration;

(ii) expertise in fundraising for nonprofit or cultural institutions;

(iii) experience in the study and teaching of women's history;

(iv) experience in studying the issue of the representation of women in art, life, history, and culture at the Smithsonian Institution; or

(v) extensive experience in public or elected service;

(2) experience in the administration of, or the planning for, the establishment of, museums; or

(3) experience in the planning, design, or construction of museum facilities.

(d) PROHIBITION.—No employee of the Federal Government may serve as a member of the Commission.

(e) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—The initial members of the Commission shall be appointed not later than the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission—

(1) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(2) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(g) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall, by majority vote of all of the members, select 1 member of the Commission to serve as the Chairperson of the Commission.

SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) REPORTS.—

(1) PLAN OF ACTION.—The Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report containing the recommendations of the Commission with respect to a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC.

(2) REPORT ON ISSUES.—The Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report that addresses the following issues:

(A) The availability and cost of collections to be acquired and housed in the Museum.

(B) The impact of the Museum on regional women history-related museums.

(C) Potential locations for the Museum in Washington, DC, and its environs.

(D) Whether the Museum should be part of the Smithsonian Institution.

(E) The governance and organizational structure from which the Museum should operate.

(F) Best practices for engaging women in the development and design of the Museum.

(G) The cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Museum.

(3) DEADLINE.—The reports required under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be submitted not later than the date that is 18 months after the date of the first meeting of the Commission.

(b) FUNDRAISING PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall develop a fundraising plan to support the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Museum through contributions from the public.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the fundraising plan under paragraph (1), the Commission shall consider—

(A) the role of the National Women's History Museum (a nonprofit, educational organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that was incorporated in 1996 in Washington, DC, and dedicated for the purpose of establishing a women's history museum) in raising funds for the construction of the Museum; and

(B) issues relating to funding the operations and maintenance of the Museum in perpetuity without reliance on appropriations of Federal funds.

(3) INDEPENDENT REVIEW.—The Commission shall obtain an independent review of the viability of the plan developed under paragraph (1) and such review shall include an analysis as to whether the plan is likely to achieve the level of resources necessary to fund the construction of the Museum and the operations and maintenance of the Museum in perpetuity without reliance on appropriations of Federal funds.

(4) SUBMISSION.—The Commission shall submit the plan developed under paragraph (1) and the review conducted under paragraph (3) to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, House Administration, Natural Resources, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Rules and Administration, Energy and Natural Resources, and Appropriations of the Senate.

(c) LEGISLATION TO CARRY OUT PLAN OF ACTION.—Based on the recommendations contained in the report submitted under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), the Commission shall submit for consideration to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, House Administration, Natural Resources, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Rules and Administration, Energy and Natural Resources, and Appropriations of the Senate recommendations for a legislative plan of action to establish and construct the Museum.

(d) NATIONAL CONFERENCE.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the initial members of the Commission are appointed under section 3, the Commission may, in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this section, convene a national conference relating to the Museum, to be comprised of individuals committed to the advancement of the life, art, history, and culture of women.

SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.

(a) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may employ and compensate an executive director and any other additional personnel that are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) RATES OF PAY.—Rates of pay for persons employed under paragraph (1) shall be consistent with the rates of pay allowed for employees of a temporary organization under section 3161 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.—Any individual employed under this Act shall not be considered a Federal employee for the purpose of any law governing Federal employment.

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), on request of the Commission, the head of a Federal agency may provide technical assistance to the Commission.

(2) PROHIBITION.—No Federal employees may be detailed to the Commission.

SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Commission—

(A) shall not be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose by reason of service on the Commission; and

(B) shall serve without pay.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed a per diem allowance for travel expenses, at rates consistent with those authorized under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, DEVISES.—The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money, services, or real or personal property for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission.

(c) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Commission shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

SEC. 7. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the final versions of the reports required under section 4(a) are submitted.

SEC. 8. FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the Commission.

(b) PROHIBITION.—No Federal funds may be obligated to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 863 establishes a commission to study the potential creation of a National Women's History Museum.

The commission will prepare a report with key findings that include an evaluation of potential locations for the museum in Washington, D.C.; guidance on whether it should be part of the Smithsonian Institution; and cost estimates for constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility.

In terms of fiscal responsibility, H.R. 863 requires an independent review of the report to analyze the ability of the museum to operate without taxpayer funding.

With the information generated by the report, Congress will be able to evaluate the proposed museum. This legislation does not authorize the museum to be built or authorize spending of taxpayer dollars of any kind.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the National Women's History Museum has a rightful place in our Nation's Capital, and it is very appropriate that we are considering this legislation the week of Mothers' Day.

I believe we should all be able to agree that, when our children and their children visit our Nation's Capital, they should be inspired by the stories of the men and women who helped shape this country. Sadly, today, that is not the case.

Women's contributions to our country are largely missing from our national museums, memorials, statues, and textbooks. The bill before us today seeks to finally change that.

It would be the first National Women's History Museum in Washington and the first in the United States of America, and, I believe, the first in the entire world that would chronicle the important contributions of American women to America.

H.R. 863 would create a bipartisan, eight-person commission to develop a plan and recommendations for a National Women's History Museum in our Nation's Capital.

The commission, which would be funded entirely with private donations, would have 18 months to submit its recommendations to Congress and the President.

Congress will then have to consider these recommendations, and a second bill would be needed to support the establishment of a women's museum, so the bill before us enables a commission to study this and for Congress, then, to react to their proposals.

Now, I would like to stress that this has been a very strong, bipartisan effort. I am proud to have worked on this bill with Congresswoman MARSHA BLACKBURN, who has been a wonderful partner and has done so much to get us where we are today. She has been outstanding.

Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON has been a great champion of this effort for years, along with Congresswoman CYNTHIA LUMMIS and many, many other Members from both parties whose support has been absolutely essential.

I would like to thank Speaker BOEHNER, Democratic Leader PELOSI, Majority Leader CANTOR, and Democratic Whip STENY HOYER for their support as well.

Thank you to the leadership and members of the House Administration and Natural Resources Committee for ushering this legislation through their committees with unanimous support, Congressmen BRADY and MILLER and Congressmen DEFAZIO and HASTINGS.

We are all working on this together because we believe that ensuring our country's full story is told, not just half of it, is part of our patriotic responsibility that rises above party lines, and we are working hard to make sure that this is a bill that can be supported by Members of both parties.

As I mentioned, no public funds would be used to support this commission, and the commission is required to consider a plan for the museum to be constructed and operated by private funds only. No taxpayer dollars will be involved.

Most importantly, neither this bill nor the commission it would create would set the content of this museum. That part will come later, after Congress acts on the commission's recommendations and the museum is finally established.

One could imagine a museum featuring original women thinkers ranging from Ayn Rand, who authored ''Atlas Shrugged,'' to Mary Whiton Calkins. Ms. Rand, I suspect you may know about her, but you may not have heard of Ms. Calkins.

She was born in 1863 and studied at Harvard, under the influential American philosopher, William James, who believed her Ph.D. to be the most brilliant examination for a Ph.D. that he had ever seen; but Mary was not granted a degree because, at that time, Harvard had a policy against conferring degrees on women.

Despite the setback, she went on to become a charter member of the American Philosophical Association and the first woman president of the American Psychological Association.

□ 1430

But most people have never heard of her or her accomplishments because when the story of America has been told, the story of many remarkable women has all too often been left out.

Currently in the Nation's Capital and near The Mall or on The Mall, there is an Air and Space Museum, a Spy Museum, a Textile Museum, a National Postal Museum, even a Crime and Punishment Museum and a media museum. These are all wonderful, enriching institutions that are destinations for millions of visitors every year. But there is no museum in the country that shows the full scope of the history of the amazing, brilliant, courageous, innovative, and sometimes defiant

women who have helped to shape our history and make this country what it is.

Even though women make up 50 percent of the population, a survey of 18 history textbooks found that only 10 percent of the individuals identified in the texts were women; less than 5 percent of the 2,400 National Historic Landmarks chronicle the achievements of women; and of the 210 statues in the United States Capitol, only nine are of female leaders.

As an example, while nearly every high school student learns about the midnight ride of Paul Revere, how many of them learn about Sybil Ludington? She is the 16-year-old whose midnight ride to send word to her father's troops that the British were coming was longer than Paul Revere's, just as important, and, in many ways, was even more remarkable. But her ride has been long forgotten.

On display in our Capitol Rotunda is a statue of three courageous women who fought so hard for women to gain the right to vote. And it is my hope that in 2020, on the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote, that we will open the doors to this important museum.

I urge the passage of this long overdue legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN).

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank my wonderful colleague from the State of Wyoming.

Madam Speaker, I would like to stipulate, first of all, that all Republican women are pro-women and that all Republican men that serve in this Congress are pro-women, as are the Democrat women and the Democrat men in this Congress.

A ''no'' vote on the current legislation, which I advocate for, very simply, is a vote to stand up for the pro-life movement, a vote to stand up for traditional marriage, and a vote to stand up for the traditional family.

There already are 20 women's museums in the United States, including one affiliated with the Smithsonian Museum and including one right next to the United States Capitol. So why would we be building another?

I rise today in opposition to this bill because I believe, ultimately, this museum that would be built on The National Mall, on Federal land, will enshrine the radical feminist movement that stands against the pro-life movement, the pro-family movement, and the pro-traditional marriage movement.

The idea of celebrating women is admirable. It is shared by everyone in this Chamber. No one disputes that. And a few of the museum's proposed exhibits are worthy. No one disputes that.

I, for one, am honored to be featured in an online exhibit about motherhood that highlights our 23 foster children and our five biological children.

However, I am deeply concerned that any worthy exhibits are clearly the exception and not the rule. A cursory view of the overall content already listed on the Web site shows an overwhelming bias toward women who embrace liberal ideology, radical feminism, and it fails to paint an accurate picture of the lives and actions of American women throughout our history.

The most troubling example is the museum's glowing review of the woman who embraced the eugenics movement in the United States, Margaret Sanger. She is an abortion trailblazer, and she is the founder of Planned Parenthood, which this body has sought to defund. Yet the museum glosses over Margaret Sanger's avid support for sterilization of women and abortion and for the elimination of chosen ethnic groups, particularly African Americans, and classes of people. I find Margaret Sanger's views highly offensive, yet she is featured over and over again as a woman to extoll on this Web site and, ultimately, in this museum. Adding in a conservative woman to balance out Sanger's inclusion does not alleviate the fact that the museum tries to whitewash her abhorrent views and props Margaret Sanger up as a role model for our daughters and for our granddaughters.

The list of troubling examples goes on, including the fact they leave out the pro-life views of the early suffragettes.

But let's face it, we wouldn't be here today if it weren't the museum's ultimate goal to get a place on The Federal Mall, for land, and for Federal funding. If you look at their authorizing legislation, you will see that it was a template for this legislation: begin with a commission, then congressional approval, and finally Federal funding. For 16 years, this group has tried to raise financial support, and the museum has only been able to raise enough to cover the current operating expenses and salaries of those trying to get this museum. Nothing has gone toward the $400 million for its building.

As it is currently written, the legislation lacks the necessary safeguards to ensure that the proposed museum will not become an ideological shrine to abortion, that will eventually receive Federal funding and a prominent spot on The National Mall.

I thank the leading pro-life groups, like Concerned Women for America, Eagle Forum, Family Research Council, Susan B. Anthony List, and Heritage Action, among others, who have been outspoken on standing up for the right to life for all Americans in an accurate portrayal of American women.

Since these concerns have not been adequately addressed, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against H.R. 863.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, this bill, as we all know, if you read it, will not cost taxpayers one single dime. It will not cost taxpayers one single cent. It didn't cost it in the past, it doesn't today, and it will not in the future use any Federal funding. It is written into the legislation.

And the commission is not at all about determining the content of the museum. That part would come much later if the recommendations were approved by this body. The content would be determined in the future by professional curators that would chronicle the history of this great country and the great women that are a part of it. The commission would have 18 months to prepare and submit their recommendations to Congress, and then Congress, this body, would have the final say. So if Congress decides favorably, then, and only then, would a second bill be needed to support the museum and move forward.

So to vote ''no'' on this bill would basically be voting ''no'' on a cost-free, no-strings-attached conversation by a bipartisan panel on the important contributions of women to this country.

I now yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, and I thank her for her extraordinary leadership on this issue and so many, many other issues.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentlewoman from New York. Her persistence has been indomitable; and without that persistence, we certainly would not be on the floor today.

But I also want to thank the Majority leadership who have permitted this bill to come forward on suspension, and I particularly thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming for her leadership.

The remarks of the gentlewoman from Minnesota were unfortunate. You would think you were voting on a museum. My colleagues, this is not a bill for a museum. This is a bill for a commission to study whether there should be a museum and under what circumstances. It is unfortunate, indeed, to criticize a bill for a study, the outcome of which we have no idea, except for the following:

The appointees to this commission will come from the leadership of this House and the minority in this House and from the leadership in the Senate and the minority in the Senate. It seems to me it would be very difficult for this bill to be converted into not a study of whether the history of women in the United States should be commemorated but a study of current women's issues that are highly controversial. To have a museum featuring controversial issues of the day flies in

the face of what women's history has been about. That is for this House. That is not for a museum.

There is no neglect of the issues that the gentlewoman was concerned about—pro-life issues, traditional family—where we find Democrats and Republicans on both sides of those issues. You get lots of discussion on that. But, Madam Speaker, there is almost no discussion about the history of women in our country.

There are lots of things we could disagree about, but I think that almost no one will disagree that the time has come to at least study whether there should be an institution, a museum, not about women in America—and I stress, this is not a women's museum. It is about the history of women in America. The gentlewoman from New York has spoken about how distinguished that history has been. But it should come as no surprise that women were not writing the history books, and so women, like many others in our country, have not exactly been included. Yet we are half of the population.

Wherever you stand on women's issues, I am sure there is consensus in this House that half of the population should not go unmentioned in the textbooks of our country, should not be unseen in the memorials and in the museums of our country, and certainly should be in the Nation's Capital. If there is to be a museum—and we don't know what the commission will find—I would surely hope it would be in the Nation's Capital, where, for the first time, women's history, historical figures who are women, would be acknowledged and perhaps commemorated.

I do want to say one thing about what these commissions do. If we who desire a women's museum made any mistake, it was being so enthusiastic that we went straightforward to try to set up a museum, saw no reason why there wouldn't be unanimous consent, virtually, to have a museum about women's history in our country. That was a mistake. We should have gone the same route that many before us have gone: set up a commission to see whether you ought to have a museum at all; do it in an entirely bipartisan way so as to make sure that if you authorize a museum, it can't possibly be controversial.

And that is what we have here, a failsafe method of assuring that if you vote for this commission, you are voting for a study, and nothing more than a study. If you don't like this study, you will surely have another chance to say ''no.'' Women, Democratic and Republican, deserve a bipartisan commission to give our country, if they can agree, a nonpartisan museum in the Nation's Capital.

And I thank the gentlelady from New York particularly for her hard work. This is hard work that began when the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women called for a women's museum in Washington. I remind the House that the House has voted for this museum. The Senate has voted for the museum. All that has been lacking is Senate and House votes for the museum at the same time.

□ 1445

Today we are not voting for a museum. We ask you to vote only for a commission to study whether there should be a museum. We got so far last time as to actually find land for this museum. All of that is pulled back to put before the House today: Do you believe that the history of women in the United States of America is important enough to appoint a commission to study that history?

I thank the gentlelady.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I want to underscore that no taxpayer money will be used now or in the future. In fact, there is a National Women's History Museum organization with a 501(c)(3) that is headed by Joan Wages, and they have already raised well over $10 million privately to support the commission and the commission's work.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 7 minutes to the gentlelady from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from Wyoming for her superb work on this issue and for her guidance as this bill moved through the Natural Resources Committee. It is amazing. We had two committees of jurisdiction that oversaw this legislation, House Admin, chaired by Congresswoman CANDICE MILLER, and Natural Resources, with Congressman DOC HASTINGS.

This legislation came through each of these committees on a unanimous vote—a unanimous vote, something deemed impossible in Washington—but everybody agrees that it is time that we come together and that we have an appropriate, bipartisan approach to addressing the collecting and the enshrining of what women have done in the fight and the cause of freedom.

Now, Madam Speaker, I do want to highlight just a couple of things. There has been so much misinformation distributed about the bill. This is a 10-page bill—I should say nine pages and about three lines. I think that Congresswoman MALONEY, who has worked so diligently on this effort, will say, and as she and I discussed this morning, we basically have come forward and agreed on a new approach for all museums that could possibly want to be considered. That approach is Congress, not a Presidential commission, but Congress having the ability to determine, in a bipartisan way, who serves on the commissions to review these museums and do a feasibility study, which is something those of us in business always do before we embark on any project. It is appropriate that the Federal Government do that, also. This is a fiscally conservative approach to addressing the cost of a museum.

Now, the duties of the commission my colleagues are going to find on page 4, and you will see there are several things that will be covered in this feasibility study: the availability and cost of collections, the impact of the museum on women's regional, history-related museums, potential locations in D.C., whether or not the museum should ever be part of the Smithsonian, the governance and organizational structure, best practices for engaging women in the development and design of the museum, and the cost and construction of operating and maintaining. In other words, they have got to have an endowment. They have to be able to pay their operational costs and their upfront costs—all of it—with private funds—never, ever with one penny of taxpayer money into this project.

Now, after 18 months of work, the commission will report back to Congress, an independent review will be done of their work, and then there will be a determination by Congress on whether or not to proceed with this project. That is the point at which there will be a vote on whether or not to carry forth with a museum.

But I would highlight with my friends this is about chronicling the history that women have participated in, the freedom and opportunity of this country and the fullness of opportunity in this country. We talk so much about how we work with other nations and especially some of these nations that have struggled in Eastern Europe and in the Middle East, and we show what freedom can do for hope and opportunity for women and children.

Wouldn't it be great if we had a museum that told that story? Like the story of the suffragists—Seneca Falls—that convention which—by the way it was Republican and conservative women and the Quakers who called together the Seneca Falls convention to start looking at the issue of suffrage. You probably are also interested to know Frederick Douglass was the one gentleman invited to speak at that convention on suffrage, then, of course, the suffragists who led the fight, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Anne Dallas Dudley—strong Republican women. It is time for that story to be told.

The ratification of the 19th Amendment with women receiving the right to vote took place in Nashville, Tennessee, my State, at our State capitol, where I have had the opportunity, and the Speaker has also had the opportunity, to serve.

We know that it is important to tell that story of what women have done in the cause of freedom. That is why we have come together to agree on the structure, to work to put a commission in place that will do the necessary due diligence, that will put the safeguards in place, and will guarantee that in perpetuity—forever—there will not be Federal taxpayer money that is spent on this.

Madam Speaker, working to highlight what women have accomplished is a worthy goal, and it is something that in a bipartisan manner we should be able to come together and to agree on. This is a goal, and Washington, D.C., is an appropriate place that we can recognize this history, we can chronicle this history, and for future generations, our children, our grandchildren, and for other nations as they come to see us, they can see how women find victory through freedom, opportunity, and the doors that open and what it allows them to experience in their lives.

I thank the chairman from Wyoming for yielding the time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from the great State of Tennessee for her statement on the floor today and her hard work in passing this bill.

My good friend, Mrs. BACHMANN, said there were 20 other women's museums. Well, there is not one comprehensive women's museum that chronicles the achievements and the contributions of women. There are many niche museums. There is a museum in Seneca Falls that pays tribute to the founding mothers of the first women's rights convention, the abolitionist movement, and the right for women to gain the right to vote. There are museums in the Capital for women artists. There is part of the Smithsonian that focuses on the first ladies and the gowns that they wore in their inaugural. There are niche museums out West for the pioneering great women who led the effort in the West. But there is not one comprehensive museum, and I find it astonishing in the United States that chronicles the many outstanding women contributions. If you Google all the women that have won the Nobel, it is astonishing, but there is no place that displays this.

So, I think it is long overdue to have a national women's history museum. Quite frankly, I can't even find one in the entire world that chronicles women's contributions.

I would now like to yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from the great State of New York, Congresswoman MENG, my distinguished colleague, which she has requested, but she can have more if she wants it.

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I also want to thank my colleagues, Congresswomen CAROLYN MALONEY and MARSHA BLACKBURN, for championing this important issue.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 863 to establish the commission to study the potential creation of a national women's history museum. This bipartisan legislation is a small step to ensuring women's stories are shared, celebrated, and inspire future generations of Americans. Unfortunately, women's stories and accomplishments have consistently been forgotten, or presented only as a footnote.

Despite the great strides women have made in America, we are still underrepresented in essential sectors, such as business, government, and the critical fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Research has demonstrated that one of the factors limiting success for women and minorities is the lack of both celebrated specific role models and overall restricted representation.

In other words, simply having a museum showcasing women's accomplishments as an integral part of our history—whether it is individuals who broke barriers, social movements led by women, or the demonstration that women were not necessarily defined by men in their lives—will ultimately lead to more young women and minorities striving to break the glass ceiling and create a more equitable society for us all.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. MENG. The National Women's History Museum already hosts online exhibits, but a building complete with permanent access to resources would allow for further research and increased access for our citizens.

This legislation allows for the creation of a commission to study the feasibility of creating a permanent museum, and prohibits Federal funds from being used for this project. I encourage my colleagues to support this long overdue legislation.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from the great State of Maryland, DONNA EDWARDS, the distinguished leader who is also the chair of the bipartisan Women's Caucus here in Congress.

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewomen from New York, from Tennessee, and from Wyoming for your leadership and for doing what women do in this Congress, which is work together toward a common good. So I thank you very much for your leadership.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 863, the National Women's History Commission Act. It is a bill that would establish a commission to study the potential creation of the National Women's History Museum right here in Washington, D.C., and, as has been stated before, not at any cost to the taxpayer.

It would showcase the contributions that women have made throughout our history, both in this country and around the world, contributions that have historically been underrepresented, to say the least, in books, museums, and other records of our Nation's great story.

There are institutions, for example, in Maryland, the Maryland Women's Heritage Center in Baltimore, that are really leading the pushback in our State against the void of women's representation in our historical records. The Baltimore Heritage Center serves as a museum, an information resource center, and a gathering place for events focused on impacting girls and women. When I visited the Heritage Center, number one, they said to me, are you supporting the National Women's History Commission Act?

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. EDWARDS. This will complement those histories and tell the story of women at the Goddard Space Flight Center, women who are in science, technology, engineering, and math; women who are engineers, explorers and innovators. So, I want to thank the gentlewomen for their work on this effort, and I urge my colleagues to support the commission bill, to study the process—there is no cost to the taxpayer—and to see into law, finally, telling the stories of women all across this country.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York has 2 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to just point out and build on what my good friend and colleague, MARSHA BLACKBURN, said. It was Seneca Falls in New York that was the birthplace of the suffrage movement to grant women the right to vote.

In 1920, when the 19th Amendment granting that right to vote was at last in the process of being ratified by the States, it was the State of Tennessee that put that effort over the top. Now Tennessee and New York have come together again, and we are working very hard to create a women's museum that will talk about this great achievement and many others in all fields that have empowered this country and moved this country forward—not only achievements by individual women, but I would say collective achievements by women and their hard work, such as

the effort by women to create pasteurization of milk, the immunization of children, increased health care, improved health care, and improved education. These are all efforts that collectively women have worked together on.

So I ask my colleagues today to vote ''yes'' on this bill and to vote for allowing an idea to be examined and to come forward before this committee again, and let's see how it can work.

□ 1500

A ''yes'' vote will cost this country nothing, and it could mean everything to our young people, to our girls and our boys and our children and their children to be able to come to their Nation's Capital and to learn many things, including the many important contributions of half the population, women.

I would like to remind my colleagues that this is Mother's Day week, and I cannot think of a better present to our mothers than to recognize the contributions that they have made to the American family and to this country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the women who have participated in this debate today. These are dynamic American leaders. I want to thank each and every one of them, including the gentlelady from Minnesota, who expressed the views of those who have concern about this bill. They were well articulated.

She is someone with whom I am proud to serve in Congress and was very proud to see in the dais, participating in lively, strident debates when she ran for President, seeking the Republican nomination in the last Presidential election. These are all very formidable, important women—gentlewomen, one and all.

I rise in support of the study and in support of the passage of this bill. I come from the Equality State, the State of Wyoming, the first government in the world to continuously grant women the right to vote, so I come by my point of view honestly.

I am very excited about the opportunity to study and to report back to this Congress the notion of having a museum of the history of American women. The contributions to our society of American women are so extraordinary and are sometimes underrepresented.

I particularly look forward to touting the opportunity to show the history of American women of the West, people like Cattle Kate. She was a criminal, a scoundrel, a cattle thief. She was the first woman hanged in Wyoming. She is a historical figure.

Sacagawea, who led the Lewis and Clark expedition across this great, vast country; Annie Oakley, who was portrayed as a model of the American West and freedom in Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West show; and particularly, I would like to see Dale Evans recognized in this museum.

Let me tell you something about Dale Evans you may not know. Dale Evans was an actress, a songwriter, a mother, and she was the wife of Roy Rogers. They were the king of the cowboys and the queen of the cowgirls. Dale Evans and Roy Rogers had a special-needs child among their many children.

Back in Hollywood in the late 1940s and 1950s, there was a cultural condition in this country that was particularly prevalent in Hollywood, and that was people didn't want to see special-needs children in public. People didn't want to face the fact that not everyone in this country is born exactly the same.

Roy and Dale took their special-needs child with them everywhere they went, and they were ostracized, and they ceased to be invited to people's homes because they didn't want to see that child. It was a gutsy thing to do.

Roy Rogers and Dale Evans changed the way Americans viewed special-needs children. Now, when we see special-needs people in our society, it puts a smile on our faces. They are so integrated into our every day, and they are important members of our society.

When that child died, Dale Evans wrote the song ''Happy Trails'' to that child. She wrote, ''Happy trails to you, until we meet again,'' and in my heart, I believe they will meet again, Madam Speaker.

I think those are the kinds of women that we want to see portrayed in American history, and I am highly supportive of this study. I look forward to robust participation by Republicans and Democrats and look forward to receiving the study, not knowing how it is going to turn out, but with great hope and expectation for something terrific, at least on paper, so we can determine at that point whether to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I commend to this body's attention H.R. 863.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 863 to commission a study on the potential creation of a National Women's History Museum.

As you know Mr. Speaker, women make up over half of our population, and yet we know their stories are often underrepresented—and underappreciated—in our history.

Here in the Capitol, for example, we have over 200 statues, but only 12 depict women. As Ms. Magazine recently noted, ''The nation's capital includes museums for the postal service, textiles and spies, but lacks a museum to recognize the rich history and accomplishments of women in the U.S.''

Mr. Speaker, the stories of women tell the story of our nation's history, and they deserve to be enshrined for future generations to learn and celebrate. I'm so pleased that my colleagues CAROLYN MALONEY and MARSHA BLACKBURN have introduced this important legislation to start the process of creating a museum where the achievements and lives of women are chronicled and celebrated.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Women's History Commission Act, HR. 863, introduced by my esteemed colleague from New York, Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY.

Representative MALONEY has worked diligently to get this important bill to the floor, and I thank her for her tremendous efforts.

H.R. 863 would establish a commission to report recommendations to the President and Congress concerning the establishment of a National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC.

The National Women's History Museum Commission would be at no additional cost to the taxpayer, as the commission is entirely paid for without the use of federal funds.

The Museum's mission would be to educate, inspire, empower, and shape the future by integrating women's distinctive history into the culture of the United States.

All too often, women's history is largely missing from textbooks, memorials, and museum exhibits.

Of the 210 statues in the United States Capitol, only nine are of female leaders.

Less than five percent of the 2,400 national historic landmarks chronicle women's achievement.

The museums and memorials in our nation's capital demonstrate what we value.

This bill would provide women, who comprise 53% of our population, a long overdue home on our National Mall honoring their many contributions that are the very backbone of our country.

This effort is about bringing together women and remembering those women that came before us, who persevered and changed the course of history, and on whose shoulders we stand today.

These unique experiences, perspectives, and historic accomplishments deserve recognition in our nation's capital.

It is time for the women of our nation to be recognized with this landmark.

H.R. 863 is a critical step in advancing the National Women's History Museum by providing us with a blueprint of steps to take in order to finally tell the story of more than half of our country's population.

Let us honor our nation's foremothers and inspire present and future generations of women leaders.

I urge all Members of the House to vote in favor of this bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 863, the National Women's History Museum Commission Act. Legislation to establish such a museum passed by voice vote in the 113th Congress but the privately-funded museum lacks a home.

While women's accomplishments have helped to build this country, historical contributions are missing from museums, textbooks, and memorials. This legislation would allow for

a commission to study the creation and make proposals for the building of the National Women's History Museum. At no cost to the taxpayer and without using any federal funds, the museum would help to tell the inspiring stories of the important women that came before us.

Celebrating and recognizing women in history is necessary at a time when roughly ten percent of historical references are related to women. The legislation on the floor is not only bipartisan, it has the support of many male and female Members of Congress.

Please join me in supporting H.R. 863, the National Women's History Museum Commission Act by passing the legislation today.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 863, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, sponsored by Rep. CAROLYN MALONEY of New York. While Natural Resources is the primary committee, the legislation was referred to the Committee on House Administration as an additional referral because H.R. 863 suggests that the Commission study whether or not such a museum, if created, should be part of the Smithsonian Institution. Our committee discussed that issue at a hearing before we filed our report in the House.

I want to draw attention to an issue which was not addressed in amendments to this legislation by either committee—the proper structure of the Commission. The bill would create an 8-member commission, but previous commissions of this type to study whether museums should become part of the Smithsonian proposed a larger group, 23 members. The larger number seems more practical for ensuring a variety of opinions and providing sufficient personnel to be available to do the Commission's work. There is likely to be significant interest by well-qualified persons to serve on the commission. Additionally, the bill only provides for appointments by the bipartisan, bicameral congressional leadership of each chamber of Congress, but not by the president. The recent commissions to study the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is now under construction on the Mall, and the National Museum of the American Latino, which is now awaiting a hearing in the House Administration Committee, had presidential appointees. I believe this is a prerequisite for creating a truly national museum. When this legislation reaches the Senate, I hope that the other body will make appropriate adjustments to achieve this goal.

I include the Additional Views submitted by the Democratic members of the Committee on House Administration as part of our committee report, H. Rept. 113 09411, Part 1, filed in the House on April 10, 2014:

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

We strongly support the ''Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013'', to recognize the role and achievements of the women of America. H.R. 863, the bill introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney of New York to authorize the commission, was ordered reported unanimously by the Committee on House Administration on April 2, 2014. The primary committee to which the legislation was referred, Natural Resources, is expected to report the legislation shortly.

The principal interest of our Committee is in whether such a museum should become part of the Smithsonian Institution. The commission created by H.R. 863 is directed to study pros and cons of a potential Smithsonian affiliation, and that issue was also discussed during testimony at our earlier hearing on this legislation. A Smithsonian museum would be subject to direction by that Institution's Board of Regents and its governance and management structure. Two other recent national commissions were authorized by Congress and both recommended that the Smithsonian structure be used for the museums they were studying: the National Museum of African American History and Culture, currently under construction on the National Mall and scheduled to open in less than two years; and the National Museum of the American Latino, whose commission's report submitted in 2011 is likely to receive a hearing soon in the Committee on House Administration.

An alternative recommendation by the commission might be for a National Women's History Museum to exist as an independent entity, with its own governing board. In either case, whether as a Smithsonian museum or independent, H.R. 863 anticipates that the museum will receive private donations but no government funding.

In reporting H.R. 863, our Committee took no position on the governance issue, but we have ample experience in evaluating the Smithsonian's capabilities in building and managing the large number of museums currently under its control, and so we kept that option in the bill. The commission should exercise its best judgment in determining what would work best for this specific museum within the expected budgetary constraints, and Congress would review those recommendations in formulating later legislation to actually create a museum.

One issue of concern to us relates to the size and composition of the eight-member congressionally-appointed commission proposed to be established in H.R. 863, and the absence of any presidential appointees. In order to have a true national museum, participation by the president is important in order to give the commission the status and credibility, as well as the variety of members, necessary to perform its tasks and to help raise the necessary private funds when that time comes. Both the African American Museum commission and the American Latino Museum commission had seven presidential appointees out of 23 members, with the majority appointed by the congressional leadership.

There are no partisan issues concerning this legislation. The commission needs to be seen as the national commitment that it is, rather than be limited as a creature of the legislative branch.

An amendment had been drafted by the Democratic staff, which the House parliamentarian confirmed was within the jurisdiction of the House Administration Committee to take up, to establish presidential appointees in H.R. 863. Ranking Member Brady alluded to the issue in his opening statement. But the amendment was withheld during our markup at Chairman Miller's request. The Committee on Natural Resources may consider the issue in their role as the primary committee, at their own markup, and we will continue to focus attention on the issue during preparation of a final text of the bill for action on the House floor.

ROBERT A. BRADY.
ZOE LOFGREN.
JUAN VARGAS.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 863, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 83

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on June 8, 2014, to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 83, which authorizes the use of Emancipation Hall on June 8 to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha, a legendary figure in the State of Hawaii.

Commemorating the life and legacy of King Kamehameha is an opportunity

for the Hawaiian people to celebrate their very, very rich history and culture, not just amongst themselves, but with the entire world.

Such a celebration is fitting to take place in our Nation's Capitol, where Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians alike can learn about this extraordinary ruler.

On June 11, the people of Hawaii will celebrate the annual Kamehameha Day, commemorating the life of Kamehameha the Great who, between 1795 and 1810, unified the islands into the Kingdom of Hawaii. The resolution before us today will authorize the use of this space for the celebration of his life and great accomplishments.

History, Mr. Speaker, documents King Kamehameha as a fierce warrior who fought for unity and independence. Many people of his time and for centuries later have placed a high regard on King Kamehameha for ruling with fairness and compassion. He also opened up Hawaii to the rest of the world through his leadership and encouragement of trade and peaceful activity.

He is actually remembered for his law, which is known as the Law of the Splintered Paddle, which specifically protects civilians in wartime and is a model for human rights around the world today.

So it is more than fitting that the statute of King Kamehameha, which was added to the National Statuary Hall collection by Hawaii in 1969, is now prominently displayed in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center.

I thank the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) for introducing this concurrent resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, aloha. I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 83, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER), who I had the pleasure and honor of serving with on the House Homeland Security Committee, for her strong support of this resolution and her recognition of the legacy and the history of King Kamehameha in Hawaii and the lessons that we have all learned and that continue to remain relevant to the people's work that we do here every day.

Your support and recognition of this means a lot to me personally, but also to the people of my great home State of Hawaii, and I also have to mention that my mother is from your home State of Michigan, so I appreciate your home as well.

I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 83, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

Kamehameha was also known as Kamehameha the Great. He was a skilled and intelligent military leader, monarch, and statesman. He established his reputation and dynasty by uniting all of Hawaii under one rule, thereby bringing and ensuring peace to the islands and protection to his people during a time of Western colonialism.

He was born in a small town called North Kohala in my district on the island of Hawaii around 1758, descending from the royal families of Hawaii and Maui.

As a young man, he distinguished himself as a talented warrior and military strategist. By 1795, Kamehameha had conquered the islands of Maui, Lanai, Kahoolawe, Molokai, and Oahu. He later acquired Kauai and Niihau through a treaty in 1810, uniting all of Hawaii under his control and creating a kingdom recognized and respected around the world.

As king, Kamehameha focused on governing Hawaii in a manner that perpetuated the native Hawaiian culture while also integrating foreign influences. He appointed governors for each island, made laws for the protection of all, planted taro, built houses and irrigation ditches, restored heiau, and promoted international trade.

Prominent European Otto von Kotzebue wrote:

> The king is a man of great wisdom and tries to give his people anything he considers useful. He wishes to increase the happiness and not the wants of his people.

These words are as relevant back then as they are today.

One of Kamehameha's enduring legacies is the Kanawai Mamalahoe, or Law of the Splintered Paddle, which serves as a model for human rights policies on noncombatants during wartime.

It was created as a result of a military expedition in which Kamehameha was violently struck by a fisherman trying to protect his family. Chastened by this experience, Kamehameha declared:

> Let every elderly person, woman, and child lie by the roadside in safety.

This law, which provided for the safety of civilians, is estimated to have saved thousands of lives during Kamehameha's military campaigns. It became the very first written law of the Kingdom of Hawaii and remains in the Hawaii State Constitution to this very day.

In 1871, Kamehameha Day was established to celebrate and honor one of Hawaii's greatest leaders. Today, it is observed as a State holiday, attracting tourists from around the world, filled with parades and lei draping at the statues that exist in his honor.

One of these statutes is very proudly displayed here in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center. Kamehameha is depicted with a spear in his left hand, as a reminder that he brought wars to an end. His right hand is extended with open palm as a gesture of the aloha spirit.

For the last 43 years, we have celebrated Kamehameha Day here in our Nation's Capital. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 83 to authorize the use of Emancipation Hall as we continue this tradition in celebrating the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

□ 1515

Mr. Speaker, just in closing, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 83 so that we can continue this tradition and remember and honor and apply the legacy and history of one of Hawaii's greatest leaders.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would just close by again thanking my colleague from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) for introducing this resolution. It was our great privilege to serve together on the House Homeland Security Committee. I was somewhat sorry, but glad at the same time, for her to now be a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

I also want to thank her for her service to our country in the military before she came to Congress. It was interesting for me listening to your comments about this great king and this great leader of the great people of Hawaii.

And so certainly, Mr. Speaker, I would urge all of our colleagues to support the concurrent resolution as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 83, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor's Center for the lei draping ceremony on June 8, 2014 to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha the Great. For more than forty years, the Hawai'i Congressional delegation and the Hawai'i State Society have hosted a lei draping ceremony which coincides with the celebration of King Kamehameha Day in the State of Hawai'i on June 11th.

King Kamehameha the Great, also known as King Kamehameha the first, was born in North Kohala on the island of Hawai'i and grew to become one of the most powerful figures in Hawaiian history. He was a superior warrior and was the only man in the history of the Hawaiian people to unite the Islands after nearly a decade of warfare.

According to Hawaiian legend, on the day King Kamehameha was born, a new star appeared in the heavens, signaling the birth of a great chief. At the time of his birth, the Hawaiian Islands were in a state of chaos, with rival chiefs constantly at odds with each other. King Kamehameha utilized western advisors and technology, such as muskets and cannons, to aid him in combat during his quest to unify the Hawaiian Islands. In 1810, King Kamehameha fulfilled his goal of uniting the Kingdom with the surrender of the Chief from Kauai.

With his forward thinking and vision for Hawai'i, Kamehameha ensured that the newly united Hawaiian Kingdom would not crumble after his death by establishing a uniform legal system and promoting a fruitful trade with

Western powers. He is noted for Kanawai Mamalahoe, or the Law of the Splintered Paddle. It is said that when King Kamehameha led a raid, his foot got caught in between two rocks. A couple of local fishermen, who were fearful of the warrior, not realizing that it was the great king, hit Kamehameha with a paddle on the head, so hard that it splintered into thousand pieces. King Kamehameha survived the incident and those same fishermen were brought to him for punishment. However, to their surprise, the King did not seek revenge for the incident but rather blamed himself and declared that every innocent, unarmed man, woman and child would be protected during wartime. The Law of the Splintered Paddle has become the basis for a number of humanitarian laws of war and was the first written law in the Kingdom of Hawai'i. This reflects King Kamehameha's devotion to protecting the weak during times of war and his belief that every human life was precious beyond comprehension.

King Kamehameha was also steadfast in preserving the traditional Hawaiian cultural beliefs and practices. He was a strong follower of the Hawaiian religion and deeply valued the long standing kapu system, the laws and regulations of ancient Hawai'i.

Without King Kamehameha and the unification of the Hawaiian Islands, Hawai'i would have been torn apart by competing western interests. The Kingdom of Hawai'i, with a united front, was able to resist western colonialism until the overthrow in 1893. For the people of Hawai'i, the reign of King Kamehameha, celebrated on June 11th, represents a time of great prosperity and peace in Hawaiian history. It serves as a reminder of the greatness in the Hawaiian people and the everlasting respect for the King who united Hawai'i while remaining true to the traditions and beliefs that have guided the people for hundreds of years and many more to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 83.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 568, by the yeas and nays;

Adopting House Resolution 568, if ordered;

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 569, by the yeas and nays;

Adopting House Resolution 569, if ordered; and

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 863.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE REPORT 113–415 AND AN ACCOMPANYING RESOLUTION, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 565, APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 568) relating to the consideration of House Report 113–415 and an accompanying resolution, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 565) calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 223, nays 192, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 197]

YEAS—223

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—192

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.

Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—16

Bass
Clark (MA)
Coble
Crawford
Davis, Rodney
Duffy
Gingrey (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Hinojosa
Joyce
Kingston
Lowey
Miller, Gary
Pelosi
Rush
Schwartz

□ 1542

Messrs. NADLER, CROWLEY, and CUELLAR changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. KING of New York changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 197 I was unavoidably detained. A meeting with constituents went longer than expected. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 224, noes 187, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 198]

AYES—224

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—187

Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—20

Bilirakis
Broun (GA)
Clark (MA)
Coble
Connolly
Crawford
Duffy
Gabbard
Gingrey (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Hinojosa
Kingston
Miller, Gary
Moran
Pelosi
Rogers (AL)
Rush
Schrader
Schwartz
Waxman

□ 1548

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4438, AMERICAN RESEARCH AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 569) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4438) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 191, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 199]

YEAS—225

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler

Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—191

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Clark (MA)
Coble
Cole
Crawford
Duffy
Foster
Gingrey (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Hinojosa
Kingston
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Pelosi
Rush
Schwartz

□ 1554

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 7th I missed one recorded vote. I would like to indicate how I would have voted had I been present. On rollcall No. 199, I would have voted "no."

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 230, noes 188, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 200]

AYES—230

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—188

Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel

Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

Clark (MA)
Coble
Crawford
Duffy
Gingrey (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Hinojosa
Hurt
Kingston
Miller, Gary
Pelosi
Rush
Schwartz

□ 1601

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 200, on agreeing to the resolution on H. Res. 569. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 863) to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 383, nays 33, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 201]

YEAS—383

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—33

Amash
Bachmann
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
Campbell
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Huelskamp
Jones
Lamborn
Lankford
Long
Lucas
Marchant
Massie
McClintock
Meadows
Mica
Neugebauer
Nunnelee
Olson
Pompeo
Scott, Austin
Shuster
Stockman
Stutzman
Weber (TX)
Yoho

NOT VOTING—15

Clark (MA)
Coble
Crawford
Duffy
Gingrey (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Himes
Hinojosa
Kingston
Miller, Gary
Palazzo
Pelosi
Rangel
Rush
Schwartz

□ 1612

Messrs. ADERHOLT and HUDSON changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on May 7, 2014, I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 863, rollcall vote 201. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

WITHDRAWAL OF RUSSIA AS BENEFICIARY UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113–107)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)), I am providing notice of my intent to withdraw the designation of Russia as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program.

Sections 501(1) and (4) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461(1) and (4)), provide that, in affording duty-free treatment under the GSP, the President shall have due regard for, among other factors, the effect such action will have on furthering the economic development of a beneficiary developing country through the expansion of its exports and the extent of the beneficiary developing country's

competitiveness with respect to eligible articles.

Section 502(c) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(c)) provides that, in determining whether to designate any country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP, the President shall take into account various factors, including the country's level of economic development, the country's per capita gross national product, the living standards of its inhabitants, and any other economic factors he deems appropriate.

Having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to withdraw Russia's designation as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program because Russia is sufficiently advanced in economic development and improved in trade competitiveness that continued preferential treatment under the GSP is not warranted. I intend to issue a proclamation withdrawing Russia's designation consistent with section 502(f)(2) of the 1974 Act.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 7, 2014.*

□ 1615

RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE FIND LOIS G. LERNER IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I call up the report (H. Rept. 113–415) to accompany the resolution recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

The Clerk read the title of the report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AMODEI). Pursuant to House Resolution 568, the report is considered read.

The text of the report is as follows:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, having considered this Report, report favorably thereon and recommend that the Report be approved.

The form of the resolution that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform would recommend to the House of Representatives for citing Lois G. Lerner, former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, for contempt of Congress pursuant to this report is as follows:

Resolved, That because Lois G. Lerner, former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, offered a voluntary statement in testimony before the Committee, was found by the Committee to have waived her Fifth Amendment Privilege, was informed of the Committee's decision of waiver, and continued to refuse to testify before the Committee, Ms. Lerner shall be found to be in contempt of Congress for failure to comply with a congressional subpoena.

Resolved, That pursuant to 2 U.S.C. §§ 192 and 194, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall certify the report of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, detailing the refusal of Ms. Lerner to testify before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as directed by subpoena, to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, to the end that Ms. Lerner be proceeded against in the manner and form provided by law.

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House shall otherwise take all appropriate action to enforce the subpoena.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lois G. Lerner has refused to comply with a congressional subpoena for testimony before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform relating to her role in the Internal Revenue Service's treatment of certain applicants for tax-exempt status. Her testimony is vital to the Committee's investigation into this matter.

Ms. Lerner offered a voluntary statement in her appearance before the Committee. The Committee subsequently determined that she waived her Fifth Amendment privilege in making this statement, and it informed Ms. Lerner of its decision. Still, Ms. Lerner continued to refuse to testify before the Committee.

Accordingly, the Chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee recommends that the House find Ms. Lerner in contempt for her failure to comply with the subpoena issued to her.

II. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

An important corollary to the powers expressly granted to Congress by the Constitution is the responsibility to perform rigorous oversight of the Executive Branch. The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized this Congressional power and responsibility on numerous occasions. For example, in *McGrain* v. *Daugherty*, the Court held:

[T]he power of inquiry—with process to enforce it—is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function. . . . A legislative body cannot legislate wisely or effectively in the absence of information respecting the conditions which the legislation is intended to affect or change, and where the legislative body does not itself possess the requisite information—which not infrequently is true—recourse must be had to others who do possess it.''[1]

Further, in *Watkins* v. *United States*, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote for the majority: ''The power of Congress to conduct investigations is inherent in the legislative process. That power is broad.''[2]

Further, both the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (P.L. 79–601), which directed House and Senate Committees to ''exercise continuous watchfulness'' over Executive Branch programs under their jurisdiction, and the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 (P.L. 91–510), which authorized committees to ''review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, and execution'' of laws, codify the powers of Congress.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is a standing committee of the House of Representatives, duly established pursuant to the rules of the House of Representatives, which are adopted pursuant to the Rulemaking Clause of the U.S. Constitution.[3] House Rule X grants to the Committee broad jurisdiction over federal ''[g]overnment management'' and reform, including the ''[o]verall economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities,'' the ''[f]ederal civil service,'' and ''[r]eorganizations in the executive branch of the Government.''[4] House Rule X further grants the Committee particularly broad oversight jurisdiction, including authority to ''conduct investigations of any matter without regard to clause 1, 2, 3, or this clause [of House Rule X] conferring jurisdiction over the matter to another standing committee.''[5] The rules direct the Committee to make available ''the findings and recommendations of the committee . . . to any other standing committee having jurisdiction over the matter involved.''[6]

House Rule XI specifically authorizes the Committee to ''require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents as it considers necessary.''[7] The rule further provides that the ''power to authorize and issue subpoenas'' may be delegated to the Committee chairman.[8] The subpoena discussed in this report was issued pursuant to this authority.

The Committee has undertaken its investigation into the IRS's inappropriate treatment of conservative tax-exempt organizations pursuant to the authority delegated to it under the House Rules, including as described above.

The oversight and legislative purposes of the investigation at issue here, described more fully immediately below, include (1) to evaluate decisions made by the Internal Revenue Service regarding the inappropriate treatment of conservative applicants for tax-exempt status; and (2) to assess, based on the findings of the investigation, whether the conduct uncovered may warrant additions or modifications to federal law, including, but not limited to, a possible restructuring of the Internal Revenue Service and the IRS Oversight Board.

III. BACKGROUND ON THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION

In February 2012, the Committee received reports that the Internal Revenue Service inappropriately scrutinized certain applicants for 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status. Since that time, the Committee has reviewed nearly 500,000 pages of documents obtained from (i) the Department of the Treasury, including particular component entities, the IRS, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), and the IRS Oversight Board, (ii) former and current IRS employees, and (iii) other sources. In addition, the Committee has conducted 33 transcribed interviews of current and former IRS officials, ranging from front-line employees in the IRS's Cincinnati office to the former Commissioner of the IRS.

Documents and testimony reveal that the IRS targeted conservative-aligned applicants for tax-exempt status by scrutinizing them in a manner distinct—and more intrusive—than other applicants. Critical questions remain regarding the extent of this targeting, and how and why the IRS acted—and persisted in acting—in this manner.

A. IRS TARGETING OF TEA PARTY TAX-EXEMPT APPLICATIONS

In late February 2010, a screener in the IRS's Cincinnati office identified a 501(c)(4) application connected with the Tea Party. Due to ''media attention'' surrounding the Tea Party, the application was elevated to the Exempt Organizations Technical Unit in Washington, D.C.[9] When officials in the Cincinnati office discovered several similar applications in March 2010, the Washington, D.C. office asked for two ''test'' applications, and ordered the Cincinnati employees to ''hold'' the remainder of the applications.[10] A

manager in the Cincinnati office asked his screeners to develop criteria for identifying other Tea Party applications so that the applications would not ''go into the general inventory.'' [11] By early April 2010, Cincinnati screeners began to identify and hold any applications meeting certain criteria. Applications that met the criteria were removed from the general inventory and assigned to a special group.

In late spring 2010, an individual recognized as an expert in 501(c)(4) applications in the Washington office was assigned to work on the test applications. The expert issued letters to the test applicants asking for additional information or clarification about information provided in their applications.[12] Meanwhile, through the summer and into fall 2010, applications from other conservative-aligned groups idled. As the Cincinnati office awaited guidance from Washington regarding those applications, a backlog developed. By fall 2010, the backlog of applications that had stalled in the Cincinnati office had grown to 60.

On February 1, 2011, Lois G. Lerner, who served as Director of Exempt Organizations (EO) at IRS from 2006 to 2013,[13] wrote an e-mail to Michael Seto, the manager of the Technical Office within the Exempt Organizations business division. The EO Technical Office was staffed by approximately 40 IRS lawyers who offered advice to IRS agents across the country. Ms. Lerner wrote, ''Tea Party Matter very dangerous'' and ordered the Office of Chief Counsel to get involved.[14] Ms. Lerner advocated for pulling the cases out of the Cincinnati office entirely. She advised Seto that ''Cincy should probably NOT have these cases.'' [15] Seto testified to the Committee that Ms. Lerner ordered a ''multi-tier'' review for the test applications, a process that involved her senior technical advisor and the Office of Chief Counsel.[16]

On July 5, 2011, Ms. Lerner became aware that the backlog of Tea Party applications pending in Cincinnati had swelled to ''over 100.'' [17] Ms. Lerner also learned of the specific criteria that were used to screen the cases that were caught in the backlog.[18] She believed that the term ''Tea Party''—which was a term that triggered additional scrutiny under the criteria developed by IRS personnel—was ''pejorative.'' [19] Ms. Lerner ordered her staff to adjust the criteria.[20] She also directed the Technical Unit to conduct a ''triage'' of the backlogged applications and to develop a guide sheet to assist agents in Cincinnati with processing the cases.[21]

In November 2011, the draft guide sheet for processing the backlogged applications was complete.[22] By this point, there were 160–170 pending applications in the backlog.[23] After the Cincinnati office received the guide sheet from Washington, officials there began to process the applications in January 2012. IRS employees drafted questions for the applicant organizations designed to solicit information mandated by the guide sheet. The questions asked for information about the applicant organizations' donors, among other things.[24]

By early 2012, questions about the IRS's treatment of these backlogged applications had attracted public attention. Staff from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform met with Ms. Lerner in February 2012 regarding the IRS's process for evaluating tax-exempt applications.[25] Committee staff then met with TIGTA representatives on March 8, 2012.[26] Shortly thereafter, TIGTA began an audit of the IRS's process for evaluating tax-exempt applications.

In late February 2012, after Ms. Lerner briefed Committee staff, Steven Miller, then the IRS Deputy Commissioner, requested a meeting with her to discuss these applications. She informed him of the backlog of applications and that the IRS had asked applicant organizations about donor information.[27] Miller relayed this information to IRS Commissioner Douglas Schulman.[28] On March 23, 2012, Miller convened a meeting of his senior staff to discuss these applications. Miller launched an internal review of potential inappropriate treatment of Tea Party 501(c)(4) applications ''to find out why the cases were there and what was going on.'' [29]

The internal IRS review took place in April 2012. Miller realized there was a problem and that the application backlog needed to be addressed.[30] IRS officials designed a new system to process the backlog, and Miller received weekly updates on the progress of the backlog throughout the summer 2012.[31]

In May 2013, in advance of the release of TIGTA's audit report on the IRS's process for evaluating applications for tax-exempt status, the IRS sought to acknowledge publicly that certain tax-exempt applications had been inappropriately targeted.[32] On May 10, 2013, at an event sponsored by the American Bar Association, Ms. Lerner responded to a question she had planted with a member of the audience prior to the event. A veteran tax lawyer asked, ''Lois, a few months ago there were some concerns about the IRS's review of 501(c)(4) organizations, of applications from tea party organizations. I was just wondering if you could provide an update.'' [33] In response, Ms. Lerner stated:

So our line people in Cincinnati who handled the applications did what we call centralization of these cases. They centralized work on these in one particular group. . . . However, in these cases, the way they did the centralization was not so fine. Instead of referring to the cases as advocacy cases, they actually used case names on this list. They used names like Tea Party or Patriots and they selected cases simply because the applications had those names in the title. That was wrong, that was absolutely incorrect, insensitive, and inappropriate—that's not how we go about selecting cases for further review. We don't select for review because they have a particular name.[34]

Ms. Lerner's statement during the ABA panel, entitled ''News from the IRS and Treasury,'' was the first public acknowledgement that the IRS had inappropriately scrutinized the applications of conservative-aligned groups. Within days, the President and the Attorney General expressed serious concerns about the IRS's actions. The Attorney General announced a Justice Department investigation.[35]

B. Lois Lerner's Testimony Is Critical to the Committee's Investigation

Lois Lerner's testimony is critical to the Committee's investigation. Without her testimony, the full extent of the IRS's targeting of Tea Party applications cannot be known, and the Committee will be unable to fully complete its work.

Ms. Lerner was, during the relevant time period, the Director of the Exempt Organizations business division of the IRS, where the targeting of these applications occurred. The Exempt Organizations business division contains the two IRS units that were responsible for executing the targeting program: the Exempt Organizations Determinations Unit in Cincinnati, and the Exempt Organizations Technical Unit in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Lerner has not provided the Committee with any testimony since the release of the TIGTA audit in May 2013. Although the Committee staff has conducted transcribed interviews of dozens of IRS officials in Cincinnati and Washington, D.C., the Committee will never be able to understand the IRS's actions fully without her testimony. She has unique, first-hand knowledge of how, and why, the IRS scrutinized applications for tax-exempt status from certain conservative-aligned groups.

The IRS sent letters to 501(c)(4) application organizations, signed by Ms. Lerner, that included questions about the organizations' donors. These letters went to applicant organizations that had met certain criteria. As noted, Ms. Lerner later described the selection of these applicant organizations as ''wrong, [] absolutely incorrect, insensitive, and inappropriate.'' [36]

Documents and testimony from other witnesses show Ms. Lerner's testimony is critical to the Committee's investigation. She was at the epicenter of the targeting program. As the Director of the Exempt Organizations business division, she interacted with a wide array of IRS personnel, from low-level managers all the way up to the Deputy Commissioner. Only Ms. Lerner can resolve conflicting testimony about why the IRS delayed 501(c)(4) applications, and why the agency asked the applicant organizations inappropriate and invasive questions. Only she can answer important outstanding questions that are key to the Committee's investigation.

IV. LOIS LERNER'S REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH THE COMMITTEE'S SUBPOENA FOR TESTIMONY AT THE MAY 22, 2013 HEARING

On May 14, 2013, Chairman Issa sent a letter to Ms. Lerner inviting her to testify at a hearing on May 22, 2013, about the IRS's handling of certain applications for tax-exempt status.[37] The letter requested that she ''please contact the Committee by May 17, 2013,'' to confirm her attendance.[38] Ms. Lerner, through her attorney, confirmed that she would appear at the hearing.[39] Her attorney subsequently indicated that she would not answer questions during the hearing, and that she would invoke her Fifth Amendment rights.[40]

Because Ms. Lerner would not testify voluntarily at the May 22, 2013 hearing and because her testimony was critical to the Committee's investigation, Chairman Issa authorized a subpoena to compel the testimony. The subpoena was issued on May 20, 2013, and served on her the same day. Ms. Lerner's attorney accepted service on her behalf.[41]

A. Correspondence Leading Up to the Hearing

On May 20, 2013, Ms. Lerner's attorney sent a letter to Chairman Issa stating that she would be invoking her Fifth Amendment right not to answer any questions at the hearing. The letter stated, in relevant part:

You have requested that our client, Lois Lerner, appear at a public hearing on May 22, 2013, to testify regarding the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration's (''TIGTA'') report on the Internal Revenue Service's (''IRS'') processing of applications for tax-exempt status. As you know, the Department of Justice has launched a criminal investigation into the matters addressed in the TIGTA report, and your letter to Ms. Lerner dated May 14, 2013, alleges that she 'provided false or misleading information on four separate occasions last year in response to' the Committee's questions about the IRS's processing of applications for tax-exempt status. Accordingly, we are writing to

inform you that, upon our advice, Ms. Lerner will exercise her constitutional right not to answer any questions related to the matters addressed in the TIGTA report or to the written and oral exchanges that she had with the Committee in 2012 regarding the IRS's processing of applications for tax-exempt status.

She has not committed any crimes or made any misrepresentation but under the circumstances she has no choice but to take this course. As the Supreme Court has ''emphasized,'' one of the Fifth Amendment's ''basic functions . . . is to protect *innocent* [individuals].'' *Ohio* v. *Reiner*, 532 U.S. 17, 21 (2001) (quoting *Grunewald* v. *United States,* 353 U.S. 391, 421 (1957)).

Because Ms. Lerner is invoking her constitutional privilege, we respectfully request that you excuse her from appearing at the hearing. . . . Because Ms. Lerner will exercise her right not to answer questions related to the matters discussed in the TIGTA report or to her prior exchanges with the Committee, requiring her to appear at the hearing merely to assert her Fifth Amendment privilege would have no purpose other than to embarrass or burden her.[42]

The following day, after issuing the subpoena to compel Ms. Lerner to appear before the Committee, Chairman Issa responded to her attorney. Chairman Issa stated, in relevant part:

I write to advise you that the subpoena you accepted on Ms. Lerner's behalf remains in effect. The subpoena compels Ms. Lerner to appear before the Committee on May 22, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

According to your May 20, 2013, letter, 'requiring [Ms. Lerner] to appear at the hearing merely to assert her Fifth Amendment privilege would have no purpose other than to embarrass or burden her.' That is not correct. As Director, Exempt Organizations, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, of the Internal Revenue Service, Ms. Lerner is uniquely qualified to answer questions about the issues raised in the aforementioned TIGTA report. The Committee invited her to appear with the expectation that her testimony will advance the Committee's investigation, which seeks information about the IRS's questionable practices in processing and approving applications for 501(c)(4) tax exempt status. *The Committee requires Ms. Lerner's appearance because of, among other reasons, the possibility that she will waive or choose not to assert the privilege as to at least certain questions of interest to the Committee;* the possibility that the Committee will immunize her testimony pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §6005; and the possibility that the Committee will agree to hear her testimony in executive session.[43]

B. Lois Lerner's Opening Statement

Chairman Issa's letter to Ms. Lerner's attorney on May 22, 2013 raised the possibility that she would waive or choose not to assert her privilege as to at least certain questions of interest to the Committee.[44] In fact, that is exactly what happened. At the hearing, Ms. Lerner made a voluntary opening statement, of which she had provided the Committee no advance notice, notwithstanding Committee rules requiring that she do so.[45] She stated, after swearing an oath to tell ''the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth'':

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Lois Lerner, and I'm the Director of Exempt Organizations at the Internal Revenue Service.

I have been a government employee for over 34 years. I initially practiced law at the Department of Justice and later at the Federal Election Commission. In 2001, I became—I moved to the IRS to work in the Exempt Organizations office, and in 2006, I was promoted to be the Director of that office.

Exempt Organizations oversees about 1.6 million tax-exempt organizations and processes over 60,000 applications for tax exemption every year. As Director I'm responsible for about 900 employees nationwide, and administer a budget of almost $100 million. My professional career has been devoted to fulfilling responsibilities of the agencies for which I have worked, and I am very proud of the work that I have done in government.

On May 14th, the Treasury inspector general released a report finding that the Exempt Organizations field office in Cincinnati, Ohio, used inappropriate criteria to identify for further review applications for organizations that planned to engage in political activity which may mean that they did not qualify for tax exemption. On that same day, the Department of Justice launched an investigation into the matters described in the inspector general's report. In addition, members of this committee have accused me of providing false information when I responded to questions about the IRS processing of applications for tax exemption.

I have not done anything wrong. I have not broken any laws. I have not violated any IRS rules or regulations, and I have not provided false information to this or any other congressional committee.

And while I would very much like to answer the Committee's questions today, I've been advised by my counsel to assert my constitutional right not to testify or answer questions related to the subject matter of this hearing. After very careful consideration, I have decided to follow my counsel's advice and not testify or answer any of the questions today.

Because I'm asserting my right not to testify, I know that some people will assume that I've done something wrong. I have not. One of the basic functions of the Fifth Amendment is to protect innocent individuals, and that is the protection I'm invoking today. Thank you.[46]

After Ms. Lerner made this voluntary, self-selected opening statement—which included a proclamation that she had done nothing wrong and broken no laws, Chairman Issa explained that he believed she had waived her right to assert a Fifth Amendment privilege and asked her to reconsider her position on testifying.[47] In response, she stated:

I will not answer any questions or testify about the subject matter of this Committee's meeting.[48]

Upon Ms. Lerner's refusal to answer any questions, Congressman Trey Gowdy made a statement from the dais. He said:

Mr. Issa, Mr. Cummings just said we should run this like a courtroom, and I agree with him. She just testified. She just waived her Fifth Amendment right to privilege. *You don't get to tell your side of the story and then not be subjected to cross examination. That's not the way it works.* She waived her right of Fifth Amendment privilege by issuing an opening statement. *She ought to stay in here and answer our questions.*[49]

Shortly after Congressman Gowdy's statement, Chairman Issa excused Ms. Lerner from the panel and reserved the option to recall her as a witness at a later date. Specifically, Chairman Issa stated that she was excused ''subject to recall after we seek specific counsel on the questions of whether or not the constitutional right of the Fifth Amendment has been properly waived.'' [50]

Rather than adjourning the hearing on May 22, 2013, the Chairman recessed it, in order to reconvene at a later date after a thorough analysis of Ms. Lerner's actions. He did so to avoid ''mak[ing] a quick or uninformed decision'' regarding what had transpired.[51]

C. The Committee Resolved That Lois Lerner Waived Her Fifth Amendment Privilege

On June 28, 2013, Chairman Issa convened a Committee business meeting to allow the Committee to determine whether Ms. Lerner had in fact waived her Fifth Amendment privilege. After reviewing during the intervening five weeks legal analysis provided by the Office of General Counsel, arguments presented by Ms. Lerner's counsel, and other relevant legal precedent, Chairman Issa concluded that Ms. Lerner waived her constitutional privilege when she made a voluntary opening statement that involved several specific denials of various allegations.[52] Chairman Issa stated:

Having now considered the facts and arguments, I believe Lois Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privileges. She did so when she chose to make a voluntary opening statement. Ms. Lerner's opening statement referenced the Treasury IG report, and the Department of Justice investigation . . . and the assertions that she had previously provided false information to the committee. She made four specific denials. Those denials are at the core of the committee's investigation in this matter. She stated that she had not done anything wrong, not broken any laws, not violated any IRS rules or regulations, and not provided false information to this or any other congressional committee regarding areas about which committee members would have liked to ask her questions. Indeed, committee members are still interested in hearing from her. Her statement covers almost the entire range of questions we wanted to ask when the hearing began on May 22.[53]

After a lengthy debate, the Committee approved a resolution, by a 22–17 vote, which stated as follows:

[T]he Committee on Oversight and Government Reform determines that the voluntary statement offered by Ms. Lerner constituted a waiver of her Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination as to all questions within the subject matter of the Committee hearing that began on May 22, 2013, including questions relating to (i) Ms. Lerner's knowledge of any targeting by the Internal Revenue Service of particular groups seeking tax exempt status, and (ii) questions relating to any facts or information that would support or refute her assertions that, in that regard, ''she has not done anything wrong,'' ''not broken any laws,'' ''not violated any IRS rules or regulations,'' and/or ''not provided false information to this or any other congressional committee.'' [54]

D. Lois Lerner Continued To Defy the Committee's Subpoena

Following the Committee's resolution that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privilege, Chairman Issa recalled her to testify before the Committee. On February 25, 2014, Chairman Issa sent a letter to Ms. Lerner's attorney advising him that the May 22, 2013 hearing would reconvene on March 5, 2014.[55] The letter also advised that the subpoena that compelled her to appear on May 22, 2013 remained in effect.[56] The letter stated, in relevant part:

Ms. Lerner's testimony remains critical to the Committee's investigation . . . . Because

Ms. Lerner's testimony will advance the Committee's investigation, the Committee is recalling her to a continuation of the May 22, 2013, hearing, on March 5, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The subpoena you accepted on Ms. Lerner's behalf remains in effect. In light of this fact, and because the Committee explicitly rejected her Fifth Amendment privilege claim, I expect her to provide answers when the hearing reconvenes on March 5.[57]

The next day, Ms. Lerner's attorney responded to Chairman Issa. In a letter, he wrote:

I write in response to your letter of yesterday. I was surprised to receive it. I met with the majority staff of the Committee on January 24, 2014, at their request. At the meeting, I advised them that Ms. Lerner would continue to assert her Constitutional rights not to testify if she were recalled. . . . We understand that the Committee voted that she had waived her rights. . . . We therefore request that the Committee not require Ms. Lerner to attend a hearing solely for the purpose of once again invoking her rights.[58]

Because of the possibility that she would choose to answer some or all of the Committee's questions, Chairman Issa required Ms. Lerner to appear in person on March 5, 2014. When the May 22, 2013, hearing, entitled ''The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs,'' was reconvened, Chairman Issa noted that the Committee might recommend that the House hold Ms. Lerner in contempt if she continued to refuse to answer questions, based on the fact that the Committee had resolved that she had waived her Fifth Amendment privilege. He stated:

At a business meeting on June 28, 2013, the Committee approved a resolution rejecting Ms. Lerner's claim of Fifth Amendment privilege based on her waiver at the May 22, 2013, hearing.

After that vote, having made the determination that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights, the Committee recalled her to appear today to answer questions pursuant to rules. The Committee voted and found that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights by making a statement on May 22, 2013, and additionally, by affirming documents after making a statement of Fifth Amendment rights.

If Ms. Lerner continues to refuse to answer questions from our Members while she's under subpoena, the Committee may proceed to consider whether she should be held in contempt.[59]

Despite the fact that Ms. Lerner was compelled by a duly issued subpoena and Chairman Issa had warned her of the possibility of contempt proceedings, and despite the Committee's resolution that she waived her Fifth Amendment privilege, Ms. Lerner continued to assert her Fifth Amendment privilege, and refused to answer any questions posed by Members of the Committee.

Specifically, Ms. Lerner asserted her Fifth Amendment privilege on eight separate occasions at the hearing. In response to questions from Chairman Issa, she stated:

Q. On October 10—on October—in October 2010, you told a Duke University group, and I quote, 'The Supreme Court dealt a huge blow overturning a 100-year-old precedent that basically corporations couldn't give directly to political campaigns. And everyone is up in arms because they don't like it. The Federal Election Commission can't do anything about it. They want the IRS to fix the problem.' Ms. Lerner, what exactly 'wanted to fix the problem caused by Citizens United,' what exactly does that mean?

A. My counsel has advised me that I have not——

Q. Would you please turn the mic on?

A. Sorry. I don't know how. My counsel has advised me that I have not waived my constitutional rights under the Fifth Amendment, and on his advice, I will decline to answer any question on the subject matter of this hearing.

Q. So, you are not going to tell us who wanted to fix the problem caused by Citizens United?

A. On the advice of my counsel, I respectfully exercise my Fifth Amendment right and decline to answer that question.

Q. Ms. Lerner, in February 2011, you emailed your colleagues in the IRS the following: 'Tea Party matter, very dangerous. This could be the vehicle to go to court on the issue of whether Citizens United overturning the ban on corporate spending applies to tax-exempt rules. Counsel and Judy Kindell need to be on this one, please. Cincy should probably NOT,' all in caps, 'have these cases.' What did you mean by 'Cincy should not have these cases'?

A. On the advice of my counsel, I respectfully exercise my Fifth Amendment right and decline to answer the question.

Q. Ms. Lerner, why would you say Tea Party cases were very dangerous?

A. On the advice of my counsel, I respectfully exercise my Fifth Amendment right and decline to answer that question.

Q. Ms. Lerner, in September 2010, you emailed your subordinates about initiating a, parenthesis, (c)(4) project and wrote, 'We need to be cautious so that it isn't a per se political project.' Why were you worried about this being perceived as a political project?

A. On the advice of my counsel, I respectfully exercise my Fifth Amendment right and decline to answer that question.

Q. Ms. Lerner, Mike Seto, manager of EO Technical in Washington, testified that you ordered Tea Party cases to undergo a multi-tier review. He testified, and I quote, 'She sent me email saying that when these cases need to go through'—I say again—'she sent me email saying that when these cases need to go through multi-tier review and they will eventually have to go to Ms. Kindell and the Chief Counsel's Office.' Why did you order Tea Party cases to undergo a multi-tier review?

A. On the advice of my counsel, I respectfully exercise my Fifth Amendment right and decline to answer that question.

Q. Ms. Lerner, in June 2011, you requested that Holly Paz obtain a copy of the tax-exempt application filed by Crossroads GPS so that your senior technical advisor, Judy Kindell, could review it and summarize the issues for you. Ms. Lerner, why did you want to personally order that they pull Crossroads GPS, Karl Rove's organization's application?

A. On the advice of my counsel, I respectfully exercise my Fifth Amendment right and decline to answer that question.

Q. Ms. Lerner, in June 2012, you were part of an email exchange that appeared to be about writing new regulations on political speech for 501(c)(4) groups, and in parenthesis, your quote, ''off plan'' in 2013. Ms. Lerner, what does ''off plan'' mean?

A. On the advice of my counsel, I respectfully exercise my Fifth Amendment right and decline to answer that question.

Q. Ms. Lerner, in February of 2014, President Obama stated that there was not a smidgeon of corruption in the IRS targeting. Ms. Lerner, do you believe that there is not a smidgeon of corruption in the IRS targeting of conservatives?

A. On the advice of my counsel, I respectfully exercise my Fifth Amendment right and decline to answer that question.

Q. Ms. Lerner, on Saturday, our committee's general counsel sent an email to your attorney saying, ''I understand that Ms. Lerner is willing to testify and she is requesting a 1 week delay. In talking—in talking to the chairman''—excuse me—''in talking to the chairman, wanted to make sure that was right.'' Your lawyer, in response to that question, gave a one word email response, ''yes.'' Are you still seeking a 1 week delay in order to testify?

A. On the advice of my counsel, I respectfully exercise my Fifth Amendment right and decline to answer that question.[60]

The hearing was subsequently adjourned and Ms. Lerner was excused from the hearing room.

E. Legal Precedent Strongly Supports the Committee's Position To Proceed With Holding Lois Lerner in Contempt

After Ms. Lerner's appearance before the Committee on March 5, 2014, her lawyer convened a press conference at which he apparently revealed that she had sat for an interview with Department of Justice prosecutors and TIGTA staff within the past six months.[61] According to reports, Ms. Lerner's lawyer described that interview as not under oath[62] and unconditional, i.e., provided under no grant of immunity.[63] Revelation of this interview calls into question the basis of Ms. Lerner's assertion of the Fifth Amendment privilege in the first place, her waiver of any such privilege notwithstanding.

Despite that fact, and the balance of the record, Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings questioned the Committee's ability to proceed with a contempt citation for Ms. Lerner. On March 12, 2014, he sent a letter to Speaker Boehner arguing that the House of Representatives is barred ''from successfully pursuing contempt proceedings against former IRS official Lois Lerner.''[64] The Ranking Member's position was based on an allegedly ''independent legal analysis'' provided by his lawyer, Stanley M. Brand, and his ''Legislative Consultant,'' Morton Rosenberg.[65]

Brand and Rosenberg claimed that the prospect of judicial contempt proceedings against Ms. Lerner has been compromised because, according to them, ''at no stage in this proceeding did the witness receive the requisite clear rejections of her constitutional objections and direct demands for answers nor was it made unequivocally certain that her failure to respond would result in criminal contempt prosecution.''[66] The Ranking Member subsequently issued a press release that described ''opinions from 25 legal experts across the country and the political spectrum''[67] regarding the Committee's interactions with Ms. Lerner. The opinions released by Ranking Member Cummings largely relied on the same case law and analysis that Rosenberg and Brand provided, and are contrary to the opinion of the House Office of General Counsel.[68] The Ranking Member and his lawyers and consultants are wrong on the facts and the law.

1. Ms. Lerner knew that the Committee had rejected her privilege objection and that, consequently, she risked contempt should she persist in refusing to answer the Committee's questions

At the March 5, 2014 proceeding, Chairman Issa specifically made Ms. Lerner and her

counsel aware of developments that had occurred since the Committee first convened the hearing (on May 22, 2013): ''These [developments] are important for the record and for Ms. Lerner to know and understand.'' [69]

Chairman Issa emphasized one particular development: ''At a business meeting on June 28, 2013, the committee approved a resolution **rejecting Ms. Lerner's claim of Fifth Amendment privilege** based on her waiver.'' [70] This, of course, was not news to Ms. Lerner or her counsel. The Committee had expressly notified her counsel of the Committee's rejection of her Fifth Amendment claim, both orally and in writing. For example, in a letter to Ms. Lerner's counsel on February 25, 2014, the Chairman wrote: ''[B]ecause the Committee explicitly **rejected [Lerner's] Fifth Amendment privilege claim,** I expect her to provide answers when the hearing reconvenes on March 5.'' [71] Moreover, the press widely reported the fact that the Committee had formally rejected Ms. Lerner's Fifth Amendment claim.[72]

Accordingly, it is facially unreasonable for Ranking Member Cummings and his lawyers and consultants to subsequently claim that ''at no stage in this proceeding did the witness receive the requisite clear rejections of her constitutional objections.'' [73]

The Committee's rejection of Ms. Lerner's privilege objection was not the only point that Chairman Issa emphasized before and during the March 5, 2014 proceeding. At the hearing, after several additional references to the Committee's determination that she had waived her privilege objection, the Chairman *expressly* warned her that she remained under subpoena,[74] and thus that, if she should persist in refusing to answer the Committee's questions, she risked contempt: ''If Ms. Lerner continues to refuse to answer questions from our Members while she is under a subpoena, the Committee may proceed to consider whether she should be held in contempt.'' [75]

Ranking Member Cummings and his lawyers and consultants state, repeatedly, that the Committee did not provide ''certainty for the witness and her counsel that a contempt prosecution was inevitable.'' [76] But, that is a certainty that no Member of the Committee can provide. From the Committee's perspective (and Ms. Lerner's), there is no guarantee that the Department of Justice will prosecute Ms. Lerner for her contumacious conduct, and there is no guarantee that the full House of Representatives will vote to hold her in contempt. In fact, there is no guarantee that the Committee will make such a recommendation. The collective votes of Members voting their consciences determine both a Committee recommendation and a full House vote on a contempt resolution. And, the Department of Justice, of course, is an agency of the Executive Branch of the federal government. All the Chairman can do is what he did: make abundantly clear to Ms. Lerner and her counsel that of which she already was aware, i.e., that if she chose not to answer the Committee's questions after the Committee's ruling that she had waived her privilege objection (exactly the choice that she ultimately made), she would risk contempt.

2. The Law does not require magic words

The Ranking Member and his lawyers and consultants also misunderstand the law. Contrary to their insistence, the courts do not require the invocation by the Committee of certain magic words. Rather, and sensibly, the courts have required only that congressional committees provide witnesses with a ''fair appraisal of the committee's ruling on an objection,'' thereby leaving the witness with a choice: comply with the relevant committee's demand for testimony, or risk contempt.[77]

The Ranking Member and his lawyers and consultants refer specifically to *Quinn* v. *United States* in support of their arguments. In that case, however, the Supreme Court held only that, because ''[a]t no time did the committee [at issue there] specifically overrule [the witness's] objection based on the Fifth Amendment,'' the witness ''was left to guess whether or not the committee had accepted his objection.'' [78] Here, of course, the Committee expressly rejected Ms. Lerner's objection, and specifically notified Ms. Lerner and her counsel of the same. She was left to guess at nothing.

The Ranking Member and his lawyers' and consultants' reliance on *Quinn* is odd for at least two additional reasons. First, in that case, the Supreme Court expressly noted that the congressional committee's failure to rule on the witness's objection mattered because it left the witness without ''a clear-cut choice . . . between answering the question and **risking** prosecution for contempt.'' [79] In other words, the Supreme Court expressly rejected the Ranking Member's view that the Chairman should do the impossible by pronouncing on whether prosecution is ''inevitable.'' [80] The Supreme Court required that the Committee do no more than what it did: advise Ms. Lerner that her objection had been overruled and thus that she risked contempt.

Second, *Quinn* expressly rejects the Ranking Member's insistence on the talismanic incantation by the Committee of certain magic words. The Supreme Court wrote that ''the committee is not required to resort to any fixed verbal formula to indicate its disposition of the objection. So long as the witness is not forced to guess the committee's ruling, he has no cause to complain.'' [81]

The other cases that the Ranking Member and his lawyers and consultants cite state the same law, and thus serve to confirm the propriety of the Committee's actions. In *Emspak* v. *United States*, the Supreme Court—just as in *Quinn*, and unlike here—noted that the congressional committee had failed to ''overrule petitioner's objection based on the Fifth Amendment'' and thus failed to provide the witness a fair opportunity to choose between answering the relevant question and ''risking prosecution for contempt.'' [82] And in *Bart* v. *United States*, the Supreme Court pointedly distinguished the circumstances there from those here. The Court wrote: ''Because of the consistent failure to advise the witness of the committee's position as to his objections, petitioner was left to speculate about the risk of possible prosecution for contempt; he was not given a clear choice between standing on his objection and compliance with a committee ruling.'' [83]

V. CONCLUSION

For all these reasons, and others, Rosenberg's opinion that ''the requisite legal foundation for a criminal contempt of Congress prosecution [against Ms. Lerner] . . . ha[s] not been met and that such a proceeding against [her] under 2 U.S.C. [§] 19[2], if attempted, will be dismissed'' is wrong.[84] There is no constitutional impediment to (i) the Committee approving a resolution recommending that the full House hold Ms. Lerner in contempt of Congress; (ii) the full House approving a resolution holding Ms. Lerner in contempt of Congress; (iii) if such resolutions are approved, the Speaker certifying the matter to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. §194; and (iv) a grand jury indicting, and the United States Attorney prosecuting, Ms. Lerner under 2 U.S.C. §192.

At this point, it is clear Ms. Lerner will not comply with the Committee's subpoena for testimony. On May 20, 2013, Chairman Issa issued the subpoena to compel Ms. Lerner's testimony. On May 22, 2013, Ms. Lerner gave an opening statement and then refused to answer any of the Committee's questions and asserted her Fifth Amendment privilege. On June 28, 2013, the Committee voted that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privilege. Chairman Issa subsequently recalled her to answer the Committee's questions. When the May 22, 2013 hearing reconvened nine months later, on March 5, 2014, she again refused to answer any of the Committee's questions and invoked the Fifth Amendment.

In short, Ms. Lerner has refused to provide testimony in response to the Committee's duly issued subpoena.

VI. RULES REQUIREMENTS

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments were offered.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On April 10, 2014, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform met in open session with a quorum present to consider a report of contempt against Lois G. Lerner, former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, for failure to comply with a Congressional subpoena. The Committee approved the Report by a roll call vote of 21–12 and ordered the Report reported favorably to the House.

ROLL CALL VOTES

The following recorded votes were taken during consideration of the contempt Report:

The Report was favorably reported to the House, a quorum being present, by a vote of 23 Yeas to 17 Nays.

Voting Yea: Issa, Mica, Turner, McHenry, Jordan, Chaffetz, Walberg, Lankford, Amash, Gosar, Meehan, DesJarlais, Gowdy, Farenthold, Hastings, Lummis, Massie, Collins, Meadows, Bentivolio, DeSantis.

Voting Nay: Cummings, Maloney, Clay, Lynch, Cooper, Connolly, Speier, Cartwright, Duckworth, Welch, Horsford, Lujan Grisham.

APPLICATION OF LAW TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 102(b)(3) of Public Law 104–1 requires a description of the application of this bill to the legislative branch where the bill relates to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services and accommodations. The Report recommends that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. As such, the Report does not relate to employment or access to public services and accommodations.

STATEMENT OF OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII and clause (2)(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the descriptive portions of this Report.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that pursuant to

clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Report will assist the House of Representatives in considering whether to cite Lois G. Lerner for contempt for failing to comply with a valid congressional subpoena.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

No provision of the Report establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTED RULE MAKINGS

The Report does not direct the completion of any specific rule makings within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 551.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

The Committee finds the authority for this Report in article 1, section 1 of the Constitution.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT

The Committee finds that the Report does not establish or authorize the establishment of an advisory committee within the definition of 5 U.S.C. App., Section 5(b).

EARMARK IDENTIFICATION

The Report does not include any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

UNFUNDED MANDATE STATEMENT, COMMITTEE ESTIMATE, BUDGET AUTHORITY AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

The Committee finds that clauses 3(c)(2), 3(c)(3), and 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and section 423 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act (as amended by Section 101(a)(2) of the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act, P.L. 104–4) are inapplicable to this Report. Therefore, the Committee did not request or receive a cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office and makes no findings as to the budgetary impacts of this Report or costs incurred to carry out the report.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL AS REPORTED

This Report makes no changes in any existing federal statute.

ENDNOTES

1. *McGrain* v. *Daugherty*, 273 U.S. 135, 174 (1927).

2. *Watkins* v. *United States*, 354 U.S. 178, 1887 (1957).

3. U.S. CONST., art I. §5, clause 2.

4. House Rule X, clause (1)(n).

5. House Rule X, clause (4)(c)(2).

6. *Id*.

7. House Rule XI, clause (2)(m)(1)(B).

8. House Rule XI, clause 2(m)(3)(A)(1).

9. E-mail from Cindy Thomas, Manager, Exempt Organizations Determinations, IRS, to Holly Paz, Manager, Exempt Organizations Technical Unit, IRS (Feb. 25, 2010) [IRSR 428451].

10. Transcribed Interview of Elizabeth Hofacre, Revenue Agent, Exempt Orgs. Determinations Unit, IRS (May 31, 2013).

11. Transcribed Interview of John Shafer, Group Manager, Exempt Orgs. Determinations Unit, IRS (June 6, 2013).

12. IRS, Timeline for the 3 exemption applications that were referred to EOT from EOD. [IRSR 58346–49]

13. *See The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform*, 113th Cong. 22 (May 22, 2013) (H. Rpt. 113–33) (statement of Lois Lerner, Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS) (emphasis added).

14. E-mail from Lois Lerner, Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS to Michael Seto, Manager, Exempt Orgs. Technical Unit, IRS (Feb. 1, 2011) [IRSR 161810].

15. *Id*.

16. Transcribed Interview of Michael Seto, Manager, Exempt Orgs. Technical Unit, IRS (July 11, 2013) [hereinafter Seto Interview].

17. Transcribed Interview of Justin Lowe, Technical Advisor to the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Gov't Entities Division, IRS (July 23, 2013).

18. *Id*.

19. Transcribed Interview of Holly Paz, Director, Exempt Orgs., Rulings and Agreements, IRS (May 21, 2013).

20. Id.

21. Seto Interview, *supra* note 6.

22. E-mail from Michael Seto, Manager, Exempt Orgs. Technical Unit, IRS, to Cindy Thomas, Manager, Exempt Orgs. Determinations Unit, IRS (Nov. 6, 2011) [IRSR 69902].

23. Transcribed Interview of Stephen Daejin Seok, Group Manager, Exempt Orgs. Determinations Unit, IRS (June 19, 2013).

24. *Id*.

25. Briefing by Lois Lerner, Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS, to H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform Staff (Feb. 24, 2012).

26. Treasury Inspector Gen. for Tax Admin., What is the timeline for TIGTA's involvement with this tax-exempt issue? (provided to the Committee May 2013).

27. Transcribed Interview of Steven Miller, Deputy Commissioner, IRS (Nov. 13, 2013) [hereinafter Miller Interview].

28. *Id*.

29. *Id*.

30. *Id*.

31. *Id*.

32. E-mail from Nicole Flax, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Commissioner, IRS, to Lois Lerner, Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS (Apr. 23, 2013) [IRSR 189013]; Miller Interview, *supra* note 16; Transcribed Interview of Sharon Light, Senior Technical Advisor to the Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS (Sept. 5, 2013); E-mail from Nicole Flax, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Commissioner, IRS, to Adewale Adeyemo, Dept. of the Treasury (Apr. 22, 2013) [IRSR 466707].

33. Eric Lach, *IRS Official's Admission Baffled Audience at Tax Panel*, TALKING POINTS MEMO, May 14, 2013.

34. Rick Hasen, *Transcript of Lois Lerner's Remarks at Tax Meeting Sparking IRS Controversy*, ELECTION LAW BLOG (May 11, 2013, 7:37 a.m.), http://electionlawblog.org/?p=50160.

35. *Holder launches probe into IRS targeting of Tea Party groups,* FOXNEWS.COM, May 14, 2013.

36. Rick Hasen, *Transcript of Lois Lerner's Remarks at Tax Meeting Sparking IRS Controversy*, ELECTION LAW BLOG (May 11, 2013, 7:37 AM), http://electionlawblog.org/?p=50160.

37. Letter from Hon. Darrell E. Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to Lois Lerner, Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS (May 14, 2013) (letter inviting Lerner to testify at May 22, 2013 hearing).

38. *Id*.

39. E-mail from William W. Taylor, III, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, to H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform Majority Staff (May 17, 2013).

40. Letter from William W. Taylor, III, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, to Hon. Darrell E. Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (May 20, 2013).

41. E-mail from William W. Taylor, III, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, to H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform Majority Staff (May 20, 2013).

42. Letter from William W. Taylor, III, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, to Hon. Darrell E. Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (May 20, 2013).

43. Letter from Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform to William W. Taylor, III, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP (May 21, 2013) (emphasis added).

44. *Id*.

45. Rule 9(f), Rules of the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, 113th Cong., *available at* http://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/OGR-Committee-Rules-113th-Congress.pdf (last visited April 7, 2014).

46. *The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform,* 113th Cong. 22 (May 22, 2013) (H. Rpt. 113–33) (statement of Lois Lerner, Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS) (emphasis added).

47. *Id*.

48. *Id*.

49. *Id*. (emphasis added).

50. *Id*. at 24.

51. *Business Meeting of the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform,* 113th Cong. 4 (June 28, 2013).

52. *Id*.

53. *Id*.

54. Resolution of the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (June 28, 2013), *available at* http://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Resolution-of-the-Committee-on-Oversight-and-Government-Reform-6-28-131.pdf.

55. Letter from Hon. Darrell E. Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform to William W. Taylor, III, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP (Feb. 25, 2014).

56. *Id*.

57. *Id*.

58. Letter from William W. Taylor, III, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, to Hon. Darrell E. Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (Feb. 26, 2014).

59. *The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform,* 113th Cong. (Mar. 5, 2014).

60. *Id*.

61. John D. McKinnon, Former *IRS Official Lerner Gave Interview to DOJ*, WALL ST. J., Mar. 6, 2014, http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/03/06/former-irs-official-lerner-gave-interview-to-doj/.

62. Patrick Howley, *Oversight lawmaker: Holding Lois Lerner in Contempt Is 'Where We're Moving,'* DAILY CALLER, Mar. 6, 2014, http://dailycaller.com/2014/03/06/oversight-lawmaker-holding-lois-lerner-in-contempt-the-right-thing-to-do/.

63. McKinnon, *supra* note 61.

64. Letter from Hon. Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to Hon. John Boehner, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives (Mar. 12, 2014), at 1[hereinafter Boehner Letter], attaching Memorandum from Morton Rosenberg, Legislative Consultant, to Hon. Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (Mar. 12, 2014) [hereinafter Rosenberg Memo].

65. Boehner Letter at 1, Attachment at 1; Statement of Stanley M. Brand, *The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell*, MSNBC, Mar. 12, 2014, available at http://www.msnbc.com/the-last-word/watch/the-fatal-error-of-issas-irs-blowup-193652803735 (last visited Mar. 14, 2014).

66. Rosenberg Memo at 3.

67. Press Release, Hon. Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform (Mar. 26, 2014), available at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/press-releases/twenty-five-independent-legal-experts-now-agree-that-issa-botched-contempt/ (last visited Mar. 27, 2014).

68. Memorandum, *Lois Lerner and the Rosenberg Memorandum*, Office of General Counsel, United States House of Representatives (Mar. 25, 2014), *available at* http://oversight.house.gov/release/house-counsel-oversight-committee-can-hold-lerner-contempt/ (last visited Apr. 4, 2014).

69. The *IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform*, 113th Cong. (Mar. 5, 2014), Tr. at 3.

70. *Id.* at 4 (emphasis added).

71. Letter from Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to William W. Taylor, III, Esq., Zuckerman Spaeder LLP (Feb. 25, 2014), at 2 (emphasis added).

72. *See, e.g., House panel finds IRS official waived Fifth Amendment right, can be forced to testify in targeting probe*, FOXNEWS.COM, June 28, 2013, *available at* http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/06/28/republican-led-house-panel-challenges-irs-worker-who-took-fifth-amendment/ (last visited Mar. 14, 2014).

73. Boehner Letter, at 1; Rosenberg Memo at 3.

74. The subpoena to Lerner ''commanded'' her ''to be and appear'' before the Committee and ''to testify.'' Subpoena, Issued by Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to Lois G. Lerner (May 17, 2013) (emphasis in original).

75. *The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform*, 113th Cong. (Mar. 5, 2014), Tr. at 5.

76. *Id.;* Rosenberg Memo at 3–4 (Committee did not make ''unequivocally certain'' that Lerner's ''failure to respond would result in [a] criminal contempt prosecution''); *id.* at 2 (Chairman did not pronounce that ''refusal to respond *would result*'' in a criminal contempt prosecution'') (emphasis added).

77. *Quinn* v. *United States*, 349 U.S. 155, 170 (1955).

78. *Id.* at 166.

79. *Id.* (emphasis added).

80. Boehner Letter, Attachment at 4.

81. 349 U.S. at 170 (emphasis added).

82. 349 U.S. at 190, 202 (1955).

83. 349 U.S. at 219, 223 (1955); *id.* at 222 (stating issue presented as: ''whether petitioner was apprised of the committee's disposition of his objections'').

84. Rosenberg Memo at 4.

VII. ADDITIONAL VIEWS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
DARRELL ISSA, CHAIRMAN

LOIS LERNER'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE IRS TARGETING OF TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS

STAFF REPORT
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
113TH CONGRESS
MARCH 11, 2014

I. Table of Contents

II. Executive Summary

In February 2012, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform began investigating allegations that the Internal Revenue Service inappropriately scrutinized certain applicants seeking tax-exempt status. Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code permits incorporation of organizations that meet certain criteria and focus on advancing "social welfare" goals.[1] With a 501(c)(4) designation, such organizations are not subject to federal income tax. Donations to these organizations are not tax deductible. Consistent with the Constitutionally protected right to free speech, these organizations – commonly referred to as "501(c)(4)s" – may engage in campaign-related activities provided that these activities do not comprise a majority of the organizations' efforts.[2]

On May 12, 2013, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) released a report that found that the Exempt Organizations (EO) division of the IRS inappropriately targeted "Tea Party" and other conservative applicants for tax-exempt status and subjected them to heightened scrutiny.[3] This additional scrutiny resulted in extended delays that, in most cases, sidelined applicants during the 2012 election cycle, in spite of their Constitutional right to participate. Meanwhile, the majority of liberal and left-leaning 501(c)(4) applicants won approval.[4]

Documents and information obtained by the Committee since the release of the TIGTA report show that Lois G. Lerner, the now-retired Director of IRS Exempt Organizations (EO), was extensively involved in targeting conservative-oriented tax-exempt applicants for inappropriate scrutiny. This report details her role in the targeting of conservative-oriented organizations, which would later result in some level of increased scrutiny of applicants from across the political spectrum. It also outlines her obstruction of the Committee's investigation.

Prior to joining the IRS, Lerner was the Associate General Counsel and Head of the Enforcement Office at the Federal Elections Commission (FEC).[5] During her tenure at the FEC, she also engaged in questionable tactics to target conservative groups seeking to expand their political involvement, often subjecting them to heightened scrutiny.[6] Her political ideology was evident to her FEC colleagues. She brazenly subjected Republican groups to rigorous investigations. Similar Democratic groups did not receive the same scrutiny.[7]

The Committee's investigation of Lerner's role in the IRS's targeting of tax-exempt organizations found that she led efforts to scrutinize conservative groups while working to

---

[1] I.R.C. § 501(c)(4).
[2] I.R.C. § 501(c)(4); Treas. Reg. § 1.501(c)(4)-1(a)(2).
[3] TREASURY INSPECTOR GEN. FOR TAX ADMIN., INAPPROPRIATE CRITERIA WERE USED TO IDENTIFY TAX-EXEMPT APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW (May 14, 2013).
[4] Gregory Korte, *IRS Approved Liberal Groups while Tea Party in Limbo*, USA Today, May 15, 2013.
[5] Eliana Johnson, *Lois Lerner at the FEC*, NAT'L REVIEW (May 23, 2013) [hereinafter *Lois Lerner at the FEC*].
[6] *Id.*
[7] *Id.*; Rebekah Metzler, *Lois Lerner: Career Gov't Employee Under Fire*, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REP. (May 30, 2013), *available at* http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/05/30/lois-lerner-career-government-employee-under-fire (last accessed Jan. 14, 2014).

maintain a veneer of objective enforcement. Following the Supreme Court's 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the IRS faced pressure from voices on the left to heighten scrutiny of applicants for tax-exempt status. IRS EO employees in Cincinnati identified the first Tea Party applicants and promptly forwarded these applications to IRS headquarters in Washington, D.C. for further guidance. Officials in Washington, D.C. directed IRS employees in Cincinnati to isolate Tea Party applicants even though the IRS had not developed a process for approving their applications.

While IRS employees were screening applications, documents show that Lerner and other senior officials contemplated concerns about the "hugely influential Koch brothers," and that Lerner advised her IRS colleagues that her unit should "do a c4 project next year" focusing on existing organizations.[8] Lerner even showed her recognition that such an effort would approach dangerous ground and would have to be engineered as not a "*per se* political project."[9] Underscoring a political bias against the lawful activity of such groups, Lerner referenced the political pressure on the IRS to "fix the problem" of 501(c)(4) groups engaging in political speech at an event sponsored by Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy.[10]

Lerner not only proposed ways for the IRS to scrutinize groups with 501(c)(4) status, but also helped implement and manage hurdles that hindered and delayed the approval of groups applying for 501(c)(4) status. In early 2011, Lerner directed the manager of the IRS's EO Technical Unit to subject Tea Party cases to a "multi-tier review" system.[11] She characterized these Tea Party cases as "very dangerous," and believed that the Chief Counsel's office should "be in on" the review process.[12] Lerner was extensively involved in handling the Tea Party cases—from directing the review process to receiving periodic status updates.[13] Other IRS employees would later testify that the level of scrutiny Lerner ordered for the Tea Party cases was unprecedented.[14]

Eventually, Lerner became uncomfortable with the burgeoning number of conservative organizations facing immensely heightened scrutiny from a purportedly apolitical agency. Consistent with her past concerns that scrutiny could not be "*per se* political," she ordered the implementation of a new screening method. Without doing anything to inform applicants that they had been subject to inappropriate treatment, this sleight of hand added a level of deniability for the IRS that officials would eventually use to dismiss accusations of political motivations – she broadened the spectrum of groups that would be scrutinized going forward.

---

[8] E-mail from Paul Streckfus to Paul Streckfus (Sept. 15, 2010) (EO Tax Journal 2010-130); E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Cheryl Chasin et al., IRS (Sept. 15, 2010). [IRSR 191032-33].

[9] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Cheryl Chasin et al., IRS (Sept. 16, 2010). [IRSR 191030]

[10] John Sexton, *Lois Lerner Discusses Political Pressure on the IRS in 2010*, BREITBART.COM, Aug. 6, 2013.

[11] Transcribed Interview of Michael Seto, IRS, in Wash., D.C., at 34 (July 11, 2013).

[12] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Michael Seto, IRS (Feb. 1, 2011). [IRSR 161810-11]

[13] Justin Lowe, IRS, Increase in (c)(3)/(c)(4) Advocacy Org. Applications (June 27, 2011). [IRSR 2735]; E-mail from Judith Kindell, IRS, to Lois Lerner, IRS (July 18, 2012). [IRSR 179406]

[14] *See, e.g.*, Transcribed interview of Carter Hull, IRS, in Wash., D.C. (June 14, 2013); Transcribed interview of Elizabeth Hofacre, IRS, in Wash., D.C. (May 31, 2013).

When Congress asked Lerner about a shift in criteria, she flatly denied it along with allegations about disparate treatment.[15] Even as targeting continued, Lerner engaged in a surreptitious discussion about an "off-plan" effort to restrict the right of existing 501(c)(4) applicants to participate in the political process through new regulations made outside established protocols for disclosing new regulatory action.[16] E-mails obtained by the Committee show she and other seemingly like-minded IRS employees even discussed how, if an aggrieved Tea Party applicant were to file suit, the IRS might get the chance to showcase the scrutiny it had applied to conservative applicants.[17] IRS officials seemed to envision a potential lawsuit as an expedient vehicle for bypassing federal laws that protect the anonymity of applicants denied tax exempt status.[18] Lerner surmised that Tea Party groups would indeed opt for litigation because, in her mind, they were "itching for a Constitutional challenge."[19]

Through e-mails, documents, and the testimony of other IRS officials, the Committee has learned a great deal about Lois Lerner's role in the IRS targeting scandal since the Committee first issued a subpoena for her testimony. She was keenly aware of acute political pressure to crack down on conservative-leaning organizations. Not only did she seek to convey her agreement with this sentiment publicly, she went so far as to engage in a wholly inappropriate effort to circumvent federal prohibitions in order to publicize her efforts to crack down on a particular Tea Party applicant. She created unprecedented roadblocks for Tea Party organizations, worked surreptitiously to advance new Obama Administration regulations that curtail the activities of existing 501(c)(4) organizations – all the while attempting to maintain an appearance that her efforts did not appear, in her own words, "*per se* political."

Lerner's testimony remains critical to the Committee's investigation. E-mails dated shortly before the public disclosure of the targeting scandal show Lerner engaging with higher ranking officials behind the scenes in an attempt to spin the imminent release of the TIGTA report.[20] Documents and testimony provided by the IRS point to her as the instigator of the IRS's efforts to crack down on 501(c)(4) organizations and the singularly most relevant official in the IRS targeting scandal. Her unwillingness to testify deprives Congress the opportunity to have her explain her conduct, hear her response to personal criticisms levied by her IRS coworkers, and provide vital context regarding the actions of other IRS officials. In a recent interview, President Obama broadly asserted that there is not even a "smidgeon of corruption" in the IRS targeting scandal.[21] If this is true, Lois Lerner should be willing to return to Congress to testify about her actions. The public needs a full accounting of what occurred and who was involved. Through its investigation, the Committee seeks to ensure that government officials are never in a position to abuse the public trust by depriving Americans of their Constitutional right to participate in our democracy, regardless of their political beliefs. This is the only way to restore confidence in the IRS.

---

[15] Briefing by IRS staff to Committee staff (Feb. 24, 2012); *see* Letter from Darrell Issa & Jim Jordan, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to Lois Lerner, IRS (May 14, 2013).
[16] E-mail from Ruth Madrigal, Dep't of the Treasury, to Victoria Judson et al., IRS (June 14, 2012). [IRSR 305906]
[17] E-mail from Nancy Marks, IRS, to Lois Lerner, Holly Paz, & David Fish, IRS (Mar. 29, 2013). [IRSR 190611]
[18] *Id.*
[19] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Nancy Marks, Holly Paz, & David Fish, IRS (Apr. 1. 2013). [IRSR 190611]
[20] *See, e.g.*, E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Michelle Eldridge et al., IRS (Apr. 23, 2013). [IRSR 196295]; E-mail from Nikole Flax, IRS, to Lois Lerner, IRS (Apr. 23, 2013). [IRSR 189013]
[21] *"Not even a smidgeon of corruption": Obama downplays IRS, other scandals*, FOX NEWS, Feb. 3, 2014.

III. Background: IRS Targeting and Lois Lerner's Involvement

In February 2012, the Committee received complaints from several congressional offices alleging that the IRS was delaying the approval of conservative-oriented organizations for tax-exempt status. On February 17, 2012, Committee staff requested a briefing from the IRS about this matter. On February 24, 2012, Lerner and other IRS officials provided the Committee staff with an informal briefing. The Committee continued to receive complaints of disparate treatment by the IRS EO office, and the matter continued to garner media attention.[22] On March 27, 2012, the Oversight and Government Reform Committee sent Lerner a joint letter requesting information about development letters that the IRS sent several applicants for tax-exempt status. In response, Lerner participated in a briefing with Committee staff on April 4, 2012. She also sent two letters to the Committee, dated April 26, 2012, and May 4, 2012, in response to the Committee's March 27, 2012 letter. Lerner's responses largely focused on rules, regulations, and IRS processes for evaluating applications for tax-exempt status. In the course of responding to the Committee's request for information, Lerner made several false statements, which are discussed below in greater detail.

A. Lerner's False Statements to the Committee

During the February 24, 2012, briefing, Committee staff asked Lerner whether the criteria for evaluating tax-exempt applications had changed at any point. Lerner responded that the criteria had not changed. In fact, they had. According to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), in late June 2011, Lerner directed that the criteria used to identify applications be changed.[23] **This was the first time Lerner made a false or misleading statement during the Committee's investigation.**

On March 1, 2012, the Committee requested that TIGTA begin investigating the IRS process for evaluating tax-exempt applications. Committee staff and TIGTA met on March 8, 2012 to discuss the scope of TIGTA's investigation. TIGTA's investigation commenced immediately and proceeded concurrently with the Committee's investigation.

During another briefing on April 4, 2012, Lerner told Committee staff that the information the IRS was requesting in follow-up letters to conservative-leaning groups—which, in some cases, included a complete list of donors and their respective contributions—was not out

[22] *See, e.g.*, Janie Lorber, *IRS Oversight Reignites Tea Party Ire: Agency's Already Controversial Role is in Dispute After Questionnaires Sent to Conservative Groups*, ROLL CALL, Mar. 8, 2012, *available at* http://www.rollcall.com/issues/57_106/IRS-Oversight-Reignites-Tea-Party-Ire-212969-1.html; Susan Jones, *IRS Accused of 'Intimidation Campaign' Against Tea Party Groups*, CNSNEWS.COM, Mar. 7, 2012, http://cnsnews.com/news/article/irs-accused-intimidation-campaign-against-tea-party-groups; Perry Chiaramonte, *Numerous Tea Party Chapters Claim IRS Attempts to Sabotage Nonprofit Status*, FOX NEWS, Feb. 28, 2012, http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/02/28/numerous-tea-party-chapters-claim-irs-attempting-to-sabotage-non-profit-status/.

[23] Briefing by IRS staff to Committee staff (May 13, 2013); Treasury Inspector Gen. for Tax Admin., *Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review* (May 2013) (2013-10-053), at 7, *available at* http://www.treasury.gov/tigta/auditreports/2013reports/201310053fr.pdf [hereinafter TIGTA Audit Rpt.].

of the ordinary. Moreover, on April 26, 2012, in Lerner's first written response to the Committee's request for information, Lerner wrote that the follow-up letters to conservative applicants were "in the ordinary course of the application process to obtain the information as the IRS deems it necessary to make a determination whether the organization meets the legal requirements for tax-exempt status."[24]

In fact, the scope of the information that EO requested from conservative groups was extraordinary. At a briefing on May 13, 2013, IRS officials, including Nikole Flax, the IRS Commissioner's Chief of Staff, could not identify any other instance in the agency's history in which the IRS asked groups for a complete list of donors with corresponding amounts. **These marked the second and third times Lerner made a false or misleading statement during the Committee's investigation.**

On May 4, 2012, in her second written response to the Committee, Lerner justified the extraordinary requests for additional information from conservative applicants for tax-exempt status.[25] Among other things, Lerner stated, "the requests for information . . . are not beyond the scope of Form 1024 [the application for recognition under section 501(c)(4)]."[26]

According to TIGTA, however, at some point in May 2012, the IRS identified seven types of information, including requests for donor information, which it had inappropriately requested from conservative groups. In fact, according to the TIGTA report, Lerner had received a list of these unprecedented questions on April 25, 2012—more than one week before she sent a response letter to the Committee defending the additional scrutiny applied by EO to certain applicants. **Lerner's statement about the information requests was the fourth time she made a false or misleading statement during the Committee's investigation.**

During the May 10, 2013, American Bar Association (ABA) tax conference, Lerner revealed, through a question she planted with an audience member,[27] that the IRS knew that certain conservative groups had in fact been targeted for additional scrutiny.[28] She blamed the inappropriate actions of the IRS on "line people" in Cincinnati. She stated:

---

[24] Letter from Lois G. Lerner, Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS, to Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (Apr. 26, 2012).

[25] Letter from Lois G. Lerner, Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS, to Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (May 4, 2012).

[26] *Id.* at 1.

[27] *Hearing on the IRS Targeting Conservative Groups: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Ways & Means*, 113th Cong. (2013) (question and answer with Rep. Nunes); Bernie Becker, *Question that Revealed IRS Scandal was Planted, Chief Admits*, THE HILL, May 17, 2013, *available at* http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/domestic-taxes/150878-question-that-revealed-irs-scandal-was-planted-chief-admits; Abby Phillip, *IRS Planted Question About Tax Exempt Groups*, ABC NEWS, May 17, 2013, http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2013/05/irs-planted-question-about-tax-exempt-groups/.

[28] John D. McKinnon & Corey Boles, *IRS Apologizes for Scrutiny of Conservative Groups*, WALL ST. J., May 10, 2013, *available at* http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887323744604578474983310370360; Jonathan Weisman, *IRS Apologizes to Tea Party Groups Over Audits of Applications for Tax Exemption*, N.Y. TIMES, May 10, 2013; Abram Brown, *IRS, to Tea Party: Sorry We Targeted You & Your Tax Status*, FORBES, May 10, 2013, *available at* http://www.forbes.com/sites/abrambrown/2013/05/10/irs-to-tea-party-were-sorry-we-targeted-your-taxes/.

> So our line people in Cincinnati who handled the applications did what we call centralization of these cases. They centralized work on these in one particular group. . . . However, in these cases, the way they did the centralization was not so fine. Instead of referring to the cases as advocacy cases, they actually used case names on this list. They used names like Tea Party or Patriots and they selected cases simply because the applications had those names in the title. **That was wrong, that was absolutely incorrect, insensitive, and inappropriate — that's not how we go about selecting cases for further review. We don't select for review because they have a particular name.**[29]

This revelation occurred two days after members of the House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee on May 8, 2013, had asked Lerner for an update on the IRS's internal investigation into allegations of improper targeting at a hearing.[30] During the hearing, she declined to answer and directed Members to questionnaires on the IRS website. Lerner's failure to disclose relevant information to the House Ways and Means Committee—opting instead to leak the damaging information during an obscure conference—was the first in a series of attempts to obstruct the congressional investigation into targeting of conservative groups.

B. The Events of May 14, 2013

Three significant events occurred on May 14, 2013. First, TIGTA released its final audit report, finding that the IRS used inappropriate criteria and politicized the process to evaluate organizations for 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status.[31] Specifically, TIGTA found that beginning in early 2010, the IRS used inappropriate criteria to target certain groups based on their names and political positions.[32] According to the report, "ineffective management" allowed the development and use of inappropriate criteria for more than 18 months.[33] The IRS's actions also resulted in "substantial delays in processing certain applications."[34] TIGTA found that the IRS delayed beginning work on a majority of targeted cases for 13 months.[35] The IRS also sent follow-up requests for additional information to targeted organizations. During its audit, TIGTA "determined [these follow-up requests] to be unnecessary for 98 (58 percent) of 170 organizations" that received the requests.[36]

Second, the Department of Justice announced that it had launched an FBI investigation into potential criminal violations in connection with the targeting of conservative tax-exempt

---

[29] Rick Hasen, *Transcript of Lois Lerner's Remarks at Tax Meeting Sparking IRS Controversy*, ELECTION LAW BLOG (May 11, 2013, 7:37AM) http://electionlawblog.org/?p=50160 (emphasis added).
[30] *Hearing on the Oversight of Tax-Exempt Orgs.: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Ways & Means, Subcomm. on Oversight*, 113th Cong. (2013).
[31] TIGTA Audit Rpt., *supra* note 23.
[32] *Id.* at 6.
[33] *Id.* at 12.
[34] *Id.* at 5.
[35] *Id.* at 14.
[36] *Id.* at 18.

organizations.[37] Despite this announcement, FBI Director Robert Mueller was unable to provide even the most basic facts about the status of the FBI's investigation when he testified before Congress on June 13, 2013.[38] He testified a month after the Attorney General announced the FBI's investigation, calling the matter "outrageous and unacceptable."[39] Chairman Issa and Chairman Jordan wrote to incoming FBI Director James B. Comey on September 6, 2013, with questions about the Bureau's progress in undertaking its investigation into the findings of the May 14, 2013, TIGTA targeting report.[40] While the FBI responded to the Committee's request on October 31, 2013, it failed to produce any documents in response to the Committee's request and has refused to provide briefings on related issues. Chairman Issa and Chairman Jordan wrote to Director Comey again on December 2, requesting documents and information relating to the Bureau's response to the Committee's September 6 letter.[41] To date, the Bureau has responded with scant information, leaving open the possibility the Committee will have to explore other options to compel DOJ into providing the materials requested.[42]

Third, Chairman Issa and Chairman Jordan sent a letter to Lerner outlining each instance that she provided false or misleading information to the Committee. The letter also pointed out Lerner's failure to be candid and forthright regarding the IRS's internal review and subsequent findings related to targeting of conservative-oriented organizations. The Chairmen's letter stated:

> Moreover, despite repeated questions from the Committee over a year ago and despite your intimate knowledge of the situation, you failed to inform the Committee of IRS's plan, developed in early 2010, to single out conservative groups and how that plan changed over time. You also failed to inform the Committee that IRS launched its own internal review of this matter in late March 2012, or that the internal review was completed on May 3, 2012, finding significant problems in the review process and a substantial bias against conservative groups. At no point did you or anyone else at IRS inform Congress of the results of these findings.[43]

---

[37] *Transcript: Holder on IRS, AP, Civil Liberties, Boston*, WALL STREET J. BLOG (May 14, 2013, 4:51PM), http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/05/14/transcript-holder-on-irs-ap-civil-liberties-boston/; Rachel Weiner, *Holder Has Ordered IRS Investigation*, WASH. POST, May 14, 2013, *available at* http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/05/14/holder-has-ordered-irs-investigation/ [hereinafter Weiner].

[38] *Hearing on the Federal Bureau of Investigation: Hearing before the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 113th Cong. (2013) (question and answer with Rep. Jordan).

[39] Weiner, *supra* note 37.

[40] Letter from Hon. Darrell E. Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, & Hon. Jim Jordan, Chairman, Subcomm. on Econ. Growth, Job Creation & Reg. Affairs, to Hon. James B. Comey, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Sept. 6, 2013).

[41] Letter from Hon. Darrell E. Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, & Hon. Jim Jordan, Chairman, Subcomm. on Econ. Growth, Job Creation & Reg. Affairs, to Hon. James B. Comey, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Dec. 2, 2013).

[42] *See id.* at 3.

[43] Letter from Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, & Hon. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Subcomm. on Econ. Growth, Job Creation, & Regulatory Affairs, to Lois G. Lerner, Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS (May 14, 2013).

The letter requested additional documents and communications between Lerner and her colleagues, and urged the IRS and Lerner to cooperate with the Committee's efforts to uncover the extent of the targeting of conservative groups. Lerner did not cooperate.

II. Lerner's Failed Assertion of her Fifth Amendment Privilege

In advance of a May 22, 2013 hearing regarding TIGTA's report, the Committee formally invited Lerner to testify. Other witnesses invited to appear were Neal S. Wolin, Deputy Treasury Secretary, Douglas Shulman, former IRS Commissioner, and J. Russell George, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Wolin, Schulman, and George all agreed to appear voluntarily. Lerner's testimony was necessary to understand the rationale for and extent of the IRS's practice of targeting certain tax-exempt groups for heightened scrutiny. By then, it was well known that Lerner had extensive knowledge of the scheme to target conservative groups. In addition to the fact that she was director of the Exempt Organizations Division, the Committee believed, as set forth above, that Lerner made numerous misrepresentations of fact related to the targeting program. The Committee's hearing intended to answer important questions and set the record straight about the IRS's handling of tax-exempt applications.

However, prior to the hearing, Lerner's attorney informed Committee staff that she would assert her Fifth Amendment privilege[44]—a refusal to appear before the Committee voluntarily to answer questions. As a result, the Chairman issued a subpoena on May 17, 2013, to compel her testimony at the Committee hearing on May 22, 2013. On May 20, 2013, William Taylor III, representing Lerner, sent the Chairman a letter advising that Lerner intended to invoke her Fifth Amendment privilege against self incrimination.[45] For this reason, Taylor requested that Lerner be excused from appearing.[46] On May 21, 2013, the Chairman responded to Taylor's letter, informing him that her attendance at the hearing was necessary due to "the possibility that [Lerner] will waive or choose not to assert the privilege as to at least certain questions of interest to the Committee."[47] The subpoena that compelled her appearance remained in place.[48]

A. Lerner Gave a Voluntary Statement at the May 22, 2013 Hearing

On May 22, 2013, Lerner appeared with the other invited witnesses. The events that followed are now well known. Rather than properly asserting her Fifth Amendment privilege, Lerner, in the opinion of the Committee, the House General Counsel, and many legal scholars, waived her privilege by making a voluntary statement of innocence. Instead of remaining silent and declining to answer questions, with the exception of stating her name, Lerner read a lengthy statement professing her innocence:

[44] Letter from Mr. William W. Taylor, Partner, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, to Hon. Darrell E. Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (May 20, 2013).
[45] *Id.*
[46] *Id.*
[47] Letter from Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform to Mr. William W. Taylor, III, Zuckerman Spaeder, May 21, 2013.
[48] *Id.*

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Lois Lerner, and I'm the Director of Exempt Organizations at the Internal Revenue Service.

I have been a government employee for over 34 years. I initially practiced law at the Department of Justice and later at the Federal Election Commission. In 2001, I became — I moved to the IRS to work in the Exempt Organizations office, and in 2006, I was promoted to be the Director of that office.

* * *

On May 14th, the Treasury inspector general released a report finding that the Exempt Organizations field office in Cincinnati, Ohio, used inappropriate criteria to identify for further review applications for organizations that planned to engage in political activity which may mean that they did not qualify for tax exemption. On that same day, the Department of Justice launched an investigation into the matters described in the inspector general's report. In addition, members of this committee have accused me of providing false information when I responded to questions about the IRS processing of applications for tax exemption.

I have not done anything wrong. I have not broken any laws. I have not violated any IRS rules or regulations, and I have not provided false information to this or any other congressional committee.

And while I would very much like to answer the Committee's questions today, I've been advised by my counsel to assert my constitutional right not to testify or answer questions related to the subject matter of this hearing. After very careful consideration, I have decided to follow my counsel's advice and not testify or answer any of the questions today.

Because I'm asserting my right not to testify, I know that some people will assume that I've done something wrong. I have not. One of the basic functions of the Fifth Amendment is to protect innocent individuals, and that is the protection I'm invoking today. Thank you.[49]

B. Lerner Authenticated a Document during the Hearing

Prior to Lerner's statement, Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings sought to introduce into the record a document containing Lerner's responses to questions posed by TIGTA. After

[49] *Hearing on the IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs: Hearing before the* H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, 113th Cong. 22 (2013) (H. Rept. 113-33) (statement of Lois Lerner, Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS] [hereinafter May 22, 2013 IRS Hearing] (emphasis added).

her statement and at the request of the Chairman, Lerner reviewed and authenticated the document offered into the record by the Ranking Member.[50] In response to questions from Chairman Issa, she stated:

> **Chairman Issa:** Ms. Lerner, earlier the ranking member made me aware of a response we have that is purported to come from you in regards to questions that the IG asked during his investigation. Can we have you authenticate simply the questions and answers previously given to the inspector general?
>
> **Ms. Lerner:** I don't know what that is. I would have to look at it.
>
> **Chairman Issa:** Okay. Would you please make it available to the witness?
>
> **Ms. Lerner:** This appears to be my response.
>
> **Chairman Issa:** So it's your testimony that as far as your recollection, that is your response?
>
> **Ms. Lerner:** That's correct.[51]

Next, the Chairman asked Lerner to reconsider her position on testifying and stated that he believed she had waived her Fifth Amendment privilege by giving an opening statement and authenticating a document.[52] Lerner responded: "I will not answer any questions or testify about the subject matter of this Committee's meeting."[53]

C. Representative Gowdy's Statement Regarding Lerner's Waiver

After Lerner refused to answer any questions, Representative Trey Gowdy sought recognition at the hearing. He stated:

> Mr. Issa, Mr. Cummings just said we should run this like a courtroom, and I agree with him. She just testified. She just waived her Fifth Amendment right to privilege. You don't get to tell your side of the story and then not be subjected to cross examination. That's not the way it works. She waived her right of Fifth Amendment privilege by issuing an opening statement. She ought to stay in here and answer our questions.[54]

---

[50] *Id.* at 23 (statement of Lois Lerner, Director, Exempt Orgs., IRS).
[51] *Id.*
[52] *Id.*
[53] *Id.*
[54] *Id.*

Shortly after Representative Gowdy's comments, Chairman Issa excused Lerner, reserving the option to recall her at a later date. Chairman Issa stated that Lerner was excused "subject to recall after we seek specific counsel on the questions of whether or not the constitutional right of the Fifth Amendment has been properly waived."[55] Rather than adjourning the hearing on May 22, 2013, the Chairman recessed it, in order to reconvene at a later date after a thorough analysis of Lerner's actions.

D. Committee Business Meeting to Vote on Whether Lerner Waived Her Fifth Amendment Privilege

On June 28, 2013, the Chairman convened a business meeting to allow the Committee to vote on whether Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privilege. The Chairman made clear that he recessed the May 22, 2013 hearing so as not to "make a quick or uninformed decision."[56] He took more than five weeks to review the circumstances, facts, and legal arguments related to Lerner's voluntary statements.[57] The Chairman reviewed advice from the Office of General Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives, arguments presented by Lerner's counsel, and the relevant legal precedent.[58] After much deliberation, he determined that Lerner waived her constitutional privilege when she made a voluntary opening statement that involved several specific denials of various allegations.[59] Chairman Issa stated:

> **Having now considered the facts and arguments, I believe Lois Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privileges. She did so when she chose to make a voluntary opening statement.** Ms. Lerner's opening statement referenced the Treasury IG report, and the Department of Justice investigation, and the assertions she previously had provided -- sorry -- and the assertions that she had previously provided false information to the committee. **She made four specific denials.** Those denials are at the core of the committee's investigation in this matter. She stated that she had not done anything wrong, not broken any laws, not violated any IRS rules or regulations, and not provided false information to this or any other congressional committee regarding areas about which committee members would have liked to ask her questions. Indeed, committee members are still interested in hearing from her. Her statement covers almost the entire range of questions we wanted to ask when the hearing began on May 22.[60]

Lerner's counsel disagreed with the Chairman's assessment that his client waived her constitutional privilege.[61] In a letter dated May 30, 2013, Lerner's counsel argued that she had

---

[55] *Id.* at 24.
[56] Business Meeting, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (June 28, 2013).
[57] *Id.*
[58] *Id.* at 5.
[59] *Id.*
[60] *Id.* (emphasis added)
[61] Letter from William W. Taylor, III, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, to Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (May 30, 2013) [hereinafter May 30, 2013 Letter].

not waived the privilege.[62] Specifically, he argued that a witness compelled to appear and answer questions does not waive her Fifth Amendment privilege by giving testimony proclaiming her innocence.[63] He cited the example of *Isaacs v. United States*, in which a witness subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury testified that he was not guilty of any crime while at the same time invoking his Fifth Amendment privilege.[64] The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit rejected the government's waiver argument, holding that the witness's "claim of innocence . . . did not preclude him from relying upon his Constitutional privilege."[65]

Lerner's lawyer further argued that the law is no different for witnesses who proclaim their innocence before a congressional committee.[66] In *United States v. Haag,* a witness subpoenaed to appear before a Senate committee investigating links to the Communist Party testified that she had "never engaged in espionage," but invoked her Fifth Amendment privilege in declining to answer questions related to her alleged involvement with the Communist Party.[67] The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia held that the witness did not waive her Fifth Amendment privilege.[68] In *United States v. Costello,* a witness subpoenaed to appear before a Senate committee investigating his involvement in a major crime syndicate testified that he had "always upheld the Constitution and the laws" and provided testimony on his assets, but invoked his Fifth Amendment privilege in declining to answer questions related to his net worth and indebtedness.[69] The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit held that the witness did not waive his constitutional privilege.[70]

The cases cited by Lerner's lawyer do not apply to the facts in this matter. The Fifth Amendment provides that "[n]o person . . . shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself."[71] By choosing to give an opening statement, Lerner cannot then claim the Fifth Amendment privilege to avoid answering questions on the subject matter contained in that statement.[72] It is well established that a witness "may not testify voluntarily about a subject and then invoke the privilege against self-incrimination when questioned about the details."[73] In such a case, "[t]he privilege is waived for the matters to which the witness testifies. . . ."[74]

Furthermore, a witness may waive the privilege by voluntarily giving exculpatory testimony. In *Brown v. United States*, for example, the Supreme Court held that "a denial of any activities that might provide a basis for prosecution" waived the privilege.[75] The Court

---

[62] *Id.*
[63] *Id.*
[64] 256 F.2d 654, 656 (8th Cir. 1958).
[65] *Id.* at 661.
[66] May 30, 2013 Letter, *supra* note 61.
[67] 142 F. Supp. 667-669 (D.D.C. 1956).
[68] *Id.* at 671-72.
[69] 198 F.2d 200, 202 (2d Cir. 1952).
[70] *Id.* at 202-03.
[71] U.S. CONST., amend. V.
[72] *See Brown v. United States*, 356 U.S. 148 (1958).
[73] *Mitchell v. United States*, 526 U.S. 314, 321 (1999) ("A witness may not pick and choose what aspects of a particular subject to discuss without casting doubt on the trustworthiness of the statements and diminishing the integrity of the factual inquiry.").
[74] *Id.*
[75] *Brown*, 356 U.S. at 154-55.

analogized the situation to one in which a criminal defendant takes the stand and testifies on his own behalf, and then attempts to invoke the Fifth Amendment on cross-examination.[76]

Even though the Committee's subpoena compelled her to appear at the hearing, Lerner made an entirely voluntary statement. She denied breaking any laws, she denied breaking any IRS rules, she denied providing false information to Congress—in fact, she denied any wrongdoing whatsoever. Then she refused to answer questions posed by the Committee Members and exited the hearing.

On the morning of June 28, 2013, the Committee convened a business meeting to consider a resolution finding that Lois Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination when she made a voluntary opening statement at the Committee's May 22, 2013, hearing entitled "The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs."[77] After lengthy debate, the Committee approved the resolution by a vote of 22 ayes to 17 nays.[78]

E. Lois Lerner Continues to Defy the Committee's Subpoena

Following the Committee's resolution that Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privilege, Chairman Issa recalled her to testify before the Committee. On February 25, 2014, Chairman Issa sent a letter to Lerner's attorney advising him that the May 22, 2013 hearing would reconvene on March 5, 2014.[79] The letter also advised that the subpoena that compelled Lerner to appear on May 22, 2013 remained in effect.[80]

Because of the possibility that she would choose to answer some or all of the Committee's questions, Chairman Issa required Lerner to appear in person on March 5, 2014. When the May 22, 2013 hearing, entitled "The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs," was reconvened, Chairman Issa noted that the Committee might hold Lois Lerner in contempt of Congress if she continued to refuse to answer questions, based on the fact that the Committee had resolved that Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privilege.

Despite the fact that Lerner was compelled by a duly issued subpoena and had been warned by Chairman Issa of the possibility of contempt proceedings, and despite the Committee having previously voted that she waived her Fifth Amendment privilege, Lerner continued to assert her Fifth Amendment privilege, and refused to answer any questions posed by Members of the Committee. Chairman Issa subsequently adjourned the hearing and excused Lerner from the hearing room. At that point, it was clear Lerner would not comply with the Committee's subpoena for testimony.

---

[76] *Id.*
[77] Business Meeting, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (June 28, 2013).
[78] *Id.* at 65-66.
[79] Letter from Hon. Darrell E. Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. On Oversight & Gov't Reform to William W. Taylor III, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP (Feb. 25, 2014).
[80] *Id.*

Following Lerner's appearance before the Committee on March 5, 2014, her lawyer revealed during a press conference that she had sat for an interview with Department of Justice prosecutors and TIGTA staff within the past six months.[81] According to the lawyer, the interview was unconditional and not under oath, and prosecutors did not grant her immunity.[82] This interview weakens the credibility of her assertion of the Fifth Amendment privilege before the Committee. More broadly, it calls into question the basis for the assertion in the first place.

III. Lerner's Testimony Is Critical to the Committee's Investigation

Prior to Lerner's attempted assertion of her Fifth Amendment privilege, the Committee believed her testimony would advance the investigation of the targeting of tax-exempt conservative-oriented organizations. The following facts supported the Committee's assessment of the probative value of Lerner's testimony:

- **Lerner was head of the IRS Exempt Organization's division, where the targeting of conservative groups occurred.** She managed the two IRS divisions most involved with the targeting – the EO Determinations Unit in Cincinnati and the EO Technical Unit in Washington, D.C.

- **Lerner has not provided any testimony since the release of TIGTA's audit.** Committee staff have conducted transcribed interviews of numerous IRS officials in Cincinnati and Washington. Without testimony from Lois Lerner, however, the Committee will never be able to fully understand the IRS's actions. Lerner has unique, first-hand knowledge of how and why the IRS decided to scrutinize conservative applicants.

- **Acting Commissioner Daniel Werfel did not interview Lerner as part of his ongoing internal review.** In finding no intentional wrongdoing associated with the targeting of conservative groups, Werfel never spoke to Lois Lerner. Furthermore, Werfel lacks the power to require Lerner to provide answers.

- **Lerner's signature appears on harassing letters the IRS sent to targeted groups.** As part of the "development" of the cases, the IRS sent harassing letters to the targeted organizations, asking intrusive questions consistent with guidance from senior IRS officials in Washington. Letters sent under Lois Lerner's signature included inappropriate questions, including requests for donor information.

- **Lerner appears to have edited the TIGTA report.** According to documents provided by the IRS, Lerner was the custodian of a draft version of the TIGTA report that contained tracked changes and written edits that became part of the final report.

[81] John D. McKinnon, *Former IRS Official Lerner Gave Interview to DOJ*, WALL ST. J., Mar. 6, 2014, http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/03/06/former-irs-official-lerner-gave-interview-to-doj/.
[82] *Id.*

In addition, many of Lerner's voluntary statements from May 22, 2013, have been refuted by evidence obtained by the Committee. Contrary to her statement that she did not do "anything wrong," the Committee knows that Lerner was intrinsically involved in the IRS's inappropriate treatment of tax-exempt applicants. Contrary to Lerner's plea that she has not "violated any IRS rules or regulations," the Committee has learned that Lerner transmitted sensitive taxpayer information to her non-official e-mail account in breach of IRS rules. Contrary to Lerner's statement that she has not provided "false information to this or any other congressional committee," the Committee has confirmed that Lerner made four false and misleading statements about the IRS's screening criteria and information requests for tax-exempt applicants.

In the months following the May 22, 2013 hearing, and after the receipt of additional documents from IRS, it is clear that Lerner's testimony is *essential* to understanding the truth regarding the targeting of certain groups. Subsequent to Lois Lerner's Fifth Amendment waiver during a hearing before the Committee on May 22, 2013, Committee staff learned through both additional transcribed interviews and review of additional documents that she had a greater involvement in targeting tax-exempt organizations than was previously understood.

A. Lerner's Post-Citizens United Rhetoric

After the Supreme Court decided the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* case, holding that government of restrictions of corporations and associations' expenditures on political activities was unconstitutional,[83] the IRS faced mounting pressure from the public to heighten scrutiny of applications for tax-exempt status. IRS officials in Washington played a key role in the disparate treatment of conservative groups. E-mails obtained by the Committee show that senior-level IRS officials in Washington, including Lerner, were well aware of the pressure the agency faced, and actively sought to scrutinize applications from certain conservative-leaning groups in response to public pressure.

On the same day of the *Citizens United* decision, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs warned that Americans "should be worried that special interest groups that have already clouded the legislative process are soon going to get involved in an even more active way in doing the same thing in electing men and women to serve in Congress."[84] On January 23, 2010, President Obama proclaimed that the *Citizens United* "ruling strikes at our democracy itself" and "opens the floodgates for an unlimited amount of special interest money into our democracy."[85] Less than a week later, the President publicly criticized the decision during his State of the Union address. The President declared:

> With all due deference to separation of powers, last week the Supreme Court reversed a century of law that I believe will open the floodgates for special interests – including foreign corporations – to spend without limit

[83] *Citizens United v. Federal Election Comm.*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010).
[84] The White House, Briefing by White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs and PERAB Chief Economist Austan Goolsbee (Jan. 21, 2010).
[85] The White House, Weekly Address: President Obama Vows to Continue Standing Up to the Special Interest on Behalf of the American People (Jan. 23, 2010).

> in our elections. I don't think American elections should be bankrolled by America's most powerful interests, or worse by foreign entities. They should be decided by the American people.[86]

Over the next several months, the President continued his public tirade against the decision, so-called "secret money" in politics, and the emergence of conservative grassroots groups. In a July 2010 White House Rose Garden speech, the President proclaimed:

> Because of the Supreme Court's decision earlier this year in the *Citizens United* case, big corporations . . . can buy millions of dollars worth of TV ads – and worst of all, they don't even have to reveal who's actually paying for the ads. . . . These shadow groups are already forming and building war chests of tens of millions of dollars to influence the fall elections.[87]

During an August 2010 campaign event, the President declared:

> Right now all around this country there are groups with harmless-sounding names like Americans for Prosperity, who are running millions of dollars of ads against Democratic candidates all across the country. And they don't have to say who exactly the Americans for Prosperity are. You don't know if it's a foreign-controlled corporation. You don't know if it's a big oil company, or a big bank. You don't know if it's a insurance [*sic*] company that wants to see some of the provisions in health reform repealed because it's good for their bottom line, even if it's not good for the American people.[88]

Similarly, while speaking at a September 2010 campaign event, the President stated:

> Right now, all across this country, special interests are running millions of dollars of attack ads against Democratic candidates. And the reason for this is last year's Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United*, which basically says that special interests can gather up millions of dollars – they are now allowed to spend as much as they want without limit, and they don't have to ever reveal who's paying for these ads.[89]

These public statements criticizing conservative-leaning organizations in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* opinion affected how the IRS identified and evaluated applications. In September 2010, *EO Tax Journal* published an article critical of certain tax-exempt organizations which purportedly engaged in political activity.[90] The article—published several months after the *Citizens United* opinion and during the President's tirade against the

---

[86] The White House, Remarks by the President in the State of the Union Address (Jan. 27, 2010).
[87] The White House, Remarks by the President on the DISCLOSE ACT (July 26, 2010).
[88] The White House, Remarks by the President at a DNC Finance Event in Austin, Texas (Aug. 9, 2010).
[89] The White House, Remarks by the President at Finance Reception for Congressman Sestak (Sept. 20, 2010).
[90] E-mail from Paul Streckfus to Paul Streckfus (Sept. 15, 2010) (EO Tax Journal 2010-130) [IRSR 191032-33].

decision—argued that tax-exempt groups, which participate in the political process, are abusing their status.[91] Lerner sent the article to several IRS officials, including her senior advisor, Judy Kindell. Lerner stated "I'm really thinking we need to do a c4 project next year."[92]

Kindell agreed with Lerner that the IRS should focus special attention on certain tax-exempt groups.[93] Kindell conveyed her belief that tax-exempt groups participating in political activities should not qualify as 501(c)(4) groups.[94] Lerner agreed with her senior advisor, explaining in response that those tax-exempt groups which support political activity should be subject to scrutiny from the IRS.[95] Lerner wrote:[96]

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 1:51 PM
To: Kindell Judith E; Chasin Cheryl D; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue; Kall Jason C; Downing Nanette M
Subject: RE: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

I'm not saying this is correct--but there is a perception out there that that is what is happening. My guess is most who conduct political activity never pay the tax on the activity and we surely should be looking at that. Wouldn't that be a surprising turn of events. My object is not to look for political activity--more to see whether self-declared c4s are really acting like c4s. Then we'll move on to c5,c6,c7--it will fill up the work plan forever!

Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations

Soon thereafter, Cheryl Chasin, an IRS official within the Exempt Organizations division, replied to Lerner with the names of several organizations which, in Chasin's opinion, were engaging in political activity.[97] In turn, Lerner replied that the IRS officials "need to have a plan" to handle the applications from certain tax-exempt groups.[98] Lerner wrote "We need to be cautious so it isn't a *per se* political project."[99]

---

[91] *Id.*
[92] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Cheryl Chasin et al., IRS (Sept. 15, 2010). [IRSR 191032-33].
[93] E-mail from Judith Kindell, IRS, to Lois Lerner, Cheryl Chasin, & Laurice Ghougasian, IRS (Sept. 15, 2010) [IRSR 191032].
[94] *Id.*
[95] *Id.*
[96] *Id.*
[97] E-mail from Cheryl Chasin, IRS, to Lois Lerner, Judith Kindell, & Laurice Ghougasian, IRS (Sept. 15, 2010). [IRSR 191030]
[98] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Cheryl Chasin, Judith Kindell, & Laurice Ghougasian, IRS (Sept. 16, 2010). [IRSR 191030]
[99] *Id.*

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2010 9:58 AM
To: Chasin Cheryl D; Kindell Judith E; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue; Kall Jason C; Downing Nanette M
Subject: Re: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

Ok guys. We need to have a plan. We need to be cautious so it isn't a per se political project. More a c4 project that will look at levels of lobbying and pol. activity along with exempt activity. Cheryl- I assume none of those came in with a 1024? Lois G. Lerner----------

In addition to her e-mails critical of applications from certain groups, Lerner publicly criticized the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* opinion.[100] On October 19, 2010, Lerner spoke at an event sponsored by Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. At the event, Lerner referenced the political pressure the IRS faced to "fix the problem" of 501(c)(4) groups engaging in political activity.[101] She stated:

> What happened last year was the Supreme Court – the law kept getting chipped away, chipped away in the federal election arena. The Supreme Court dealt a huge blow, overturning a 100-year old precedent that basically corporations couldn't give directly to political campaigns. And everyone is up in arms because they don't like it. The Federal Election Commission can't do anything about it.
>
> **They want the IRS to fix the problem**. The IRS laws are not set up to fix the problem: (c)(4)s can do straight political activity. They can go out and pay for an ad that says, "Vote for Joe Blow." That's something they can do as long as their primary activity is their (c)(4) activity, which is social welfare.
>
> So everybody is screaming at us right now: 'Fix it now before the election. Can't you see how much these people are spending?' I won't know until I look at their 990s next year whether they have done more than their primary activity as political or not. So I can't do anything right now.[102]

Lerner reiterated her views to TIGTA investigators:

> The *Citizens United* decision allows corporations to spend freely on elections. Last year, there was a lot of press on 501(c)(4)s being used to funnel money on elections and the IRS was urged to do something about it.[103]

[100] *Citizens United v. Federal Election Comm.*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010).
[101] John Sexton, *Lois Lerner Discusses Political Pressure on the IRS in 2010*, BREITBART.COM, Aug. 6, 2013.
[102] *See* "Lois Lerner Discusses Political Pressure on IRS in 2010," www.youtube.com (last visited Feb. 28, 2013) (transcription by authors).
[103] Treasury Inspector General for Tax Admin., Memo of Contact (Apr. 5, 2012).

Lerner openly shared her opinion that the Executive Branch needed to take steps to undermine the Supreme Court's decision. Her view was abundantly clear in many instances, including in one when Sharon Light, another senior advisor to Lerner, e-mailed Lerner an article about allegations that unknown conservative donors were influencing U.S. Senate races.[104] The article explained how outside money was making it increasingly difficult for Democrats to remain in the majority in the Senate.[105] Lerner replied: "Perhaps the FEC will save the day."[106]

In May 2011, Lerner again commented about her disdain for the *Citizens United* decision.[107] In her view, the decision had a major effect on election laws and, more broadly, the Constitution and democracy going forward.[108] She stated, "The constitutional issue is the big *Citizens United* issue. I'm guessing no one wants that going forward."[109]

From:	Lerner Lois G
Sent:	Tuesday, May 17, 2011 10:37 AM
To:	Urban Joseph J
Subject:	Re: BNA - IRS Answers Few Questions Regarding Audits Of Donors Giving to Section 501(c)(4) Groups

The constitutional issue is the big Citizens United issue. I'm guessing no one wants that going forward Lois G. Lerner-------

IRS officials, including Lerner, were acutely aware of criticisms of the political activities of conservative-leaning tax-exempt groups through electronic publications.[110] In October 2011, *EO Tax Journal* published a report regarding a letter sent by a group called "Democracy 21" to then-IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman and Lerner.[111] The letter called on the IRS to investigate certain conservative-leaning tax-exempt groups.[112] The IRS Deputy Division Counsel for the Tax Exempt Entities Division, Janine Cook, sent, via e-mail, the report and letter to the Division Counsel, Victoria Judson, calling the matter a "very hot button issue floating around."[113]

On several occasions, Lerner received articles from her colleagues that focused on discussions about conservative-leaning groups' political involvement. In March 2012, Cook e-mailed Lerner another *EO Tax Journal* article.[114] The article discussed congressional investigations and the IRS's treatment of tax-exempt applicants.[115] In response, Lerner stated, "we're going to get creamed."[116]

---

[104] Peter Overby, *Democrats Say Anonymous Donors Unfairly Influencing Senate Races*, NAT'L PUBLIC RADIO, July 10, 2012.
[105] *Id.*
[106] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Sharon Light, IRS (July 10, 2010). [IRS 179093]
[107] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Joseph Urban, IRS (May 17, 2011). [IRSR 196471]
[108] *Id.*
[109] *Id.*
[110] *See, e.g.*, e-mail from Monice Rosenbaum, IRS, to Kenneth Griffin, IRS (Sept. 30, 2010). [IRSR 15430]
[111] E-mail from Paul Streckfus to Paul Streckfus (Oct. 3, 2011) (EO Tax Journal 2011-163) [IRSR 191032-33].
[112] *Id.*
[113] E-mail from Janine Cook, IRS, to Victoria Judson, IRS (Oct. 10, 2011). [IRSR 15433]
[114] E-mail from Janine Cook, IRS, to Lois Lerner, IRS (Mar. 2, 2012). [IRSR 56965]
[115] *Id.*
[116] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Janine Cook, IRS (Mar. 2, 2012). [IRSR 56965]

From:	Lerner Lois G <Lois.G.Lerner@irs.gov>
Sent:	Friday, March 02, 2012 9:20 AM
To:	Cook Janine
Subject:	RE: Advocacy orgs

If only you could help--we're going to get creamed being able to provide the guidance piece ASAP will be the best--thanks

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

In June 2012, Roberta Zarin, Director of the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Communication and Liaison, forwarded an e-mail to Lerner and her senior advisor, Judy Kindell, about an article published by *Mother Jones* entitled "How Dark-Money Groups Sneak by the Taxman."[117] The article specifically named several conservative-leaning groups, including the American Action Network, Crossroads GPS, Americans for Prosperity, FreedomWorks and Citizens United, and commented negatively on specific methods conservative-leaning groups have purportedly used to influence the political process.[118]

The *Mother Jones* article caught Lerner's attention. She forwarded the article to the Director of Examinations, Nanette Downing.[119]

From:	Lerner Lois G
Sent:	Wednesday, June 13, 2012 12:48 PM
To:	Downing Nanette M
Subject:	FW: Mother Jones on (c)(4)s

6103

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

Lerner's e-mail contained confidential tax return information, which was redacted pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 6103, meaning that Lerner referenced a particular tax-exempt group in connection with the article.[120]

Not long after, in October 2012, Justin Lowe, a tax law specialist, alerted Lerner to yet another article critical of anonymous money allegedly donated to conservative-leaning groups.[121] The article, published by *Politico*, criticized the IRS's inability to restrain corporate money

[117] E-mail from Roberta Zarin, IRS, to Lois Lerner, Joseph Urban, Judith Kindell, Moises Medina, Joseph Grant, Sarah Hall Ingram, Melaney Partner, Holly Paz, David Fish, & Nancy Marks, IRS (June 13, 2012). [IRSR 177479]
[118] Gavin Aronsen, *How Dark-Money Groups Sneak by the Taxman*, MOTHER JONES, June 13, 2012, *available at* http://www.motherjones.com/mojo/2012/06/dark-money-501c4-irs-social-welfare.
[119] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Nanette Downing, IRS (June 13, 2012). [IRSR 177479]
[120] *Id.*
[121] E-mail from Justin Lowe, IRS, to Roberta Zarin, Lois Lerner, Holly Paz, & Melaney Partner, IRS (Oct. 17, 2012). [IRSR 180728]

donated to conservative-leaning groups.[122] Lerner's response showed that she believed Congress ought to change the law to prohibit such activity.[123] She wrote, "I never understand why they don't go after Congress to change the law."[124]

From:	Lerner Lois G
Sent:	Wednesday, October 17, 2012 9:28 AM
To:	Lowe Justin; Zarin Roberta B; Paz Holly O; Partner Melaney J
Subject:	RE: Politico Article on the IRS, Disclosure, and (c)(4)s

I never understand why they don't go after Congress to change the law!

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

In the spring of 2013, the IRS was again facing mounting pressure from congressional leaders – largely on the Democratic side of the aisle – to crack down on certain organizations engaged in political activity. An official with the IRS Criminal Investigations Division testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism at a hearing on campaign speech.[125] An e-mail discussion between Lerner and other IRS officials demonstrates that IRS officials believed that the purpose of the hearing was to discuss the extent to which certain tax-exempt organizations were participating in political activities.[126] In an e-mail to several top IRS officials, including Nikole Flax, the Chief of Staff to former Acting Commissioner Steve Miller, Lerner stated that the pressure from certain congressional leaders was completely focused on certain 501(c)(4) organizations.[127] She stated in part: "[D]on't be fooled about how this is being articulated—it is ALL about 501(c)(4) orgs and political activity."[128]

She also explained that her previous boss at the Federal Election Commission, Larry Noble, was now working as the President of Americans for Campaign Reform to "shut these [501(c)(4)s] down."[129]

Lerner's public statements, comments to TIGTA investigators, and candid e-mails to colleagues show that she was aware that Senate Democrats and certain Administration officials were not only aware of, but actively opposed to, the political activities of conservative-oriented groups. Further, she was well aware of the drumbeat that the IRS should crack down on applications from certain tax-exempt groups engaging in political activity.

---

[122] Kenneth Vogel & Tarini Parti, *The IRS's 'Feeble' Grip on Political Cash*, POLITICO, Oct. 15, 2012.
[123] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Justin Lowe, Roberta Zarin, Holly Paz, & Melaney Partner, IRS (Oct. 17, 2012). [IRSR 180728]
[124] *Id.*
[125] *Hearing on the Current Issues in Campaign Finance Law Enforcement: Hearing before the S. Comm. on the Judiciary, Subcomm. on Crime & Terrorism*, 113th Cong. (2013).
[126] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Nikole Flax, Suzanne Sinno, Catherine Barre, Scott Landes, Amy Amato, & Jennifer Vozne, IRS (Mar. 27, 2013) [IRSR 188329]
[127] *Id.*
[128] *Id.*
[129] *Id.*

B. Lerner's Involvement in the Delay and Scrutiny of Tea Party Applicants

Lerner, along with several senior officials, subjected applications from conservative leaning groups to heightened scrutiny. She established a "multi-tier review" system, which resulted in long delays for certain applications.[130] Furthermore, according to testimony from Carter Hull, a tax law specialist who retired in the summer of 2013, the IRS still has not approved certain applications.[131]

1. "Multi-Tier Review" System

Lerner and her senior advisors closely monitored and actively assisted in evaluating Tea Party cases. In April 2010, Steve Grodnitzky, then-acting manager of EO Technical Group in Washington, directed subordinates to prepare "sensitive case reports" for the Tea Party cases.[132] These reports summarized the status and progress of the Tea Party test cases, and were eventually presented to Lerner and her senior advisors.

In early 2011, Lerner directed Michael Seto, manager of EO Technical, to place the Tea Party cases through a "multi-tier review."[133] He testified that Lerner "sent [him an] e-mail saying that when these cases need to go through multi-tier review and they will eventually have to go to [Judy Kindell, Lerner's senior technical advisor] and the Chief Counsel's office."[134]

In February 2011, Lerner sent an e-mail to her staff advising them that cases involving Tea Party applicants were "very dangerous," and something "Counsel and Judy Kindell need to be in on."[135] Further, Lerner explained that "Cincy should probably NOT have these cases."[136] Holly Paz, Director of the Office of Rulings and Agreements, also wrote to Lerner stating that "He [Carter Hull] reviews info from TPs [taxpayers] correspondence to TPs etc. No decisions are going out of Cincy until we go all the way through the process with the c3 and c4 cases here."[137]

In a transcribed interview with Committee staff, Carter Hull testified that during the winter of 2010-2011, Lerner's senior advisor told him the Chief Counsel's office would need to review the Tea Party applications.[138] This review process was an unusual departure from standard procedure.[139] He told Committee staff that during his 48 years with the IRS, he never

---

[130] Transcribed Interview of Michael Seto, IRS, in Wash., D.C., at 34 (July 11, 2013).
[131] Transcribed Interview of Carter Hull, IRS, in Wash., D.C., at 53 (June 14, 2013).
[132] Email from Steven Grodnitzky, IRS, to Ronald J. Shoemaker & Cindy M. Thomas, IRS (Apr. 5, 2010). [Muthert 6]
[133] Transcribed Interview of Michael Seto, IRS, in Wash., D.C., at 34 (July 11, 2013).
[134] *Id.*
[135] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Michael Seto, IRS (Feb. 1, 2011). [IRSR 161810-11]
[136] *Id.*
[137] *Id.*
[138] Transcribed Interview of Carter Hull, IRS, at 44-45 (June 14, 2013).
[139] *Id.*

previously sent a case to Lerner's senior advisor and did not remember ever sending a case to the Chief Counsel for review.[140]

In April 2011, Lerner's senior advisor, Kindell, wrote to Lerner and Holly Paz explaining that she instructed tax law specialists Carter Hull and Elizabeth Kastenberg to coordinate with the Chief Counsel's office to work through two specific Tea Party cases.[141] Kindell thought it would be beneficial to request that all Tea Party cases be sent to Washington. She stated "there are a number of other (c)(3) and (c)(4) applications of orgs related to the Tea Party that are currently in Cincinnati. Apparently the plan had been to send one of each to DC to develop a position to be applied to others."[142]

From: Kindell Judith E
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 10:16 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Paz Holly O
Cc: Light Sharon P; Letourneau Diane L; Neuhart Paige
Subject: sensitive (c)(3) and (c)(4) applications

I just spoke with Chip Hull and Elizabeth Kastenberg about two cases they have that are related to the Tea Party - one a (c)(3) application and the other a (c)(4) application. I recommended that they develop the private benefit argument further and that they coordinate with Counsel. They also mentioned that there are a number of other (c)(3) and (c)(4) applications of orgs related to the Tea Party that are currently in Cincinnati. Apparently the plan had been to send one of each to DC to develop a position to be applied to the others. Given the sensitivity of the issue and the need (I believe) to coordinate with Counsel, I think it would be beneficial to have the other cases worked in DC as well. I understand that there may be TAS inquiries on some of the cases.

In response, Holly Paz expressed her reservations about sending all of the Tea Party cases to Washington.[143] She explained that because of the IRS's considerable responsibilities in overseeing the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, as well as the approximately 40 Tea Party cases that were already pending, she was doubtful Washington would be able to handle all of the cases.[144]

2. Lerner's Briefing on the "Advocacy Cases"

During the summer of 2011, Lerner ordered her subordinates to reclassify the Tea Party cases as "advocacy cases."[145] She told subordinates she ordered this reclassification because she thought the term "Tea Party" was "just too pejorative."[146] Consistent with her earlier concern that scrutiny could not be "*per se* political," she also ordered the implementation of a new screening method. This change occurred without informing applicants selected for enhanced scrutiny that they had been selected through inappropriate criteria. This sleight-of-hand change

[140] *Id.* at 44, 47.
[141] E-mail from Judith Kindell, IRS, to Lois Lerner & Holly Paz, IRS (Apr. 7, 2011). [IRSR 69898]
[142] *Id.*
[143] E-mail from Holly Paz, IRS, to Judith Kindell & Lois Lerner, IRS (Apr. 7, 2011). [IRSR 69898]
[144] *Id.*
[145] Transcribed Interview of Carter Hull, IRS, in Wash., D.C., at 132 (June 14, 2013).
[146] *Id.*

added a level of deniability for the IRS, which officials would eventually use to dismiss accusations of political motivations.

According to testimony from Cindy Thomas, the IRS official in charge of the Cincinnati office, Lerner "cares about power and that it's important to her maybe to be more involved with what's going on politically and to me we should be focusing on working the determinations cases . . . and it shouldn't matter what type of organization it is."[147]

In June 2011, Holly Paz contacted Cindy Thomas regarding the Tea Party cases.[148] Paz explained that Lerner wanted a briefing on the cases.[149]

From: Paz Holly O
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 2:21 PM
To: Thomas Cindy M
Cc: Melahn Brenda
Subject: group of cases

re: Tea Party cases

Two things re: these cases:

1. Can you please send me a copy of the Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies (EIN 27-2753378) application? Lois wants Judy to take a look at it so she can summarize the issues for Lois.

2. What criteria are being used to label a case a "Tea Party case"? We want to think about whether those criteria are resulting in over-inclusion.

Lois wants a briefing on these cases. We'll take the lead but would like you to participate. We're aiming for the week of 6/27.

Thanks!

Holly

In late June 2011, Justin Lowe, a tax law specialist with EO Technical, prepared a briefing paper for Lerner summarizing the test cases sent from Cincinnati.[150] The paper described the groups as "organizations [that] are advocating on issues related to government spending, taxes, and similar matters."[151] The paper listed several criteria, which were used to identify Tea Party cases, including the phrases "Tea Party," "Patriots," or "9/12 Project" or "[s]tatements in the case file [that] criticize how the country is being run."[152]

[147] Transcribed Interview of Lucinda Thomas, IRS, in Wash., D.C., at 212 (June 28, 2013).
[148] E-mail from Holly Paz, IRS, to Cindy Thomas, IRS (June 1, 2011). [IRSR 69915]
[149] *Id.*
[150] Justin Lowe, IRS, Increase in (c)(3)/(c)(4) Advocacy Org. Applications (June 27, 2011). [IRSR 2735]
[151] *Id.*
[152] *Id.*

The briefing paper prepared for Lerner further stated that the applicant for 501(c)(4) status "stated it will conduct advocacy and political campaign intervention, but political campaign intervention will account for 20% or less of activities. A proposed favorable letter has been sent to Counsel for review."[153] Although the applicant planned to engage in minimal campaign activities, the IRS did not immediately approve the application. Despite the fact that Hull recommended the application for approval, as of June 2013, the application was still pending.[154]

In July 2011, Holly Paz wrote to an attorney in the IRS Chief Counsel's office expressing her reluctance to approve the Tea Party applications and noting Lerner's involvement in handling the cases. She wrote: "Lois would like to discuss our planned approach for dealing with these cases. We suspect we will have to approve the majority of the c4 applications."[155]

In August 2011, the Chief Counsel's office held a meeting with Carter Hull, Lerner's senior advisor, and other Washington officials to discuss the test cases.[156] For the next few months, however, these test cases were still pending. Later, the Chief Counsel's office told Hull that the office required updated information to evaluate the applications.[157] The request for updated information was unusual since the applications had been up-to-date as of a few months earlier.[158] In addition, the Chief Counsel's office discussed the possibility of creating a template letter for all Tea Party applications, including those which had remained in Cincinnati.[159] Hull testified that the template letter plan was impractical since each application was different.[160]

3. The IRS's Internal Review

Despite Lerner's substantial involvement in delaying the approval of Tea Party applications, IRS leadership excluded Lerner from an internal review of allegations of inappropriate treatment of the Tea Party applications.[161] Steve Miller, then-Deputy Commissioner, testified during a transcribed interview that he asked Nan Marks, a veteran IRS official, to conduct the review because he wanted someone independent to examine the allegations.[162] Lerner contacted Miller, expressing her confusion and a lack of direction on the IRS's review. She asked, "What are your expectations as to who is implementing the plan?"[163]

---

[153] *Id.*
[154] Transcribed Interview of Carter Hull, IRS, in Wash., D.C., at 53 (June 14, 2013).
[155] E-mail from Holly Paz, IRS, to Janine Cook, IRS (July 19, 2011). [IRSR 14372-73]
[156] Transcribed Interview of Carter Hull, IRS, in Wash., D.C., at 47-49 (June 14, 2013).
[157] *Id.* at 50-51.
[158] *Id.*
[159] *Id.* at 51-52.
[160] *Id.* at 50-51.
[161] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Steven Miller, IRS (May 2, 2012). [IRSR 198685]
[162] Transcribed interview of Steven Miller, IRS, in Wash., D.C., at 32-33 (Nov. 13, 2013).
[163] *Id.*

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 9:40 AM
To: Miller Steven T
Subject: A Question

I'm wondering if you might be able to give me a better sense of your expectations regarding roles and responsibilities for the c4 matters. I understand you have asked Nan to take a deep look at the what is going on and make recommendations. I'm fine with that. Then there was the discussion yesterday about how we plan to approach the issues going forward. That is where the confusion lies. What are your expectations as to who is implementing the plan?
Prior to that meeting, unbeknownst to me, Cathy had made comments regarding the guidance—which Nan knew about. Nan then directed one of my staff to meet with Cathy and start moving in a new direction. The staff person came to me and I talked to Nan, suggesting before we moved, we needed to hear from you, which is where we are now.
We're all on good terms and we all want to do the best, but I fear that unless there's a better understanding of roles, we may step on each others toes without intending to.
Your thoughts please. Thanks
Lois G. Lerner

Director of Exempt Organizations

Once Marks's internal review confirmed that the IRS had inappropriately treated conservative applications, Lerner was personally involved in the aftermath. Echoing Lerner's

early 2011 orders to create a multi-layer review system for the Tea Party cases, Seto, manager of EO Technical, explained in June 2012 the new procedures for certain cases with "advocacy issues."[164] Seto advised staff that reviewers required the approval of senior managers, including Seto himself, before approving any cases with "advocacy issues."[165]

From: Seto Michael C
Sent: Wednesday,

June 20, 2012 2:11 PM
To: McNaughton Mackenzie P; Salins Mary J;

Shoemaker Ronald J; Lieber Theodore R
Cc: Grodnitzky Steven; Megosh

Andy; Giuliano Matthew L; Fish David L; Paz Holly O
Subject:

Additional procedures on cases with advocacy issues - before issuing any

favorable or initial denial ruling

Please

inform the reviewers and staff in your groups that before issuing any

favorable or initial denial rulings on any cases with advocacy issues, the

reviewers must notify me and you via e-mail and get our

approval. No favorable or initial denial rulings can be issued

without your and my approval. The e-mail notification includes the

name of the case, and a synopsis of facts and denial rationale. I may

require a short briefing depending on the facts and circumstances of the

particular case.

If you have any

questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Mike

[164] E-mail from Michael Seto, IRS, to Mackenzie McNaughton, Mary Salins, Ronald Shoemaker, & Theodore Lieber, IRS (June 20, 2012). [IRSR 199229]
[165] *Id.*

These new procedures again delayed applications because reviewers were unable to issue any rulings on their own. Paz forwarded the e-mail to Lerner, ensuring Lerner was aware of the additional review procedures.[166]

Lerner's e-mails show she was well-aware that IRS officials had set aside numerous Tea Party cases for further review.[167] In July 2012, her senior advisor, Judy Kindell, explained what percentage of both (c)(3) and (c)(4) cases officials had set aside.[168] Kindell estimated that half of the (c)(3) applicants and three-quarters of the (c)(4) applicants appeared to be conservative leaning "based solely on the name."[169] Kindell also noted that the number of conservative-leaning applications set aside was much larger than that of applications set aside for liberal or progressive groups.[170]

From: Kindell Judith E
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 10:54 AM
To: Lerner Lois G
Cc: Light Sharon P
Subject: Bucketed cases

Of the 84 (c)(3)

cases, slightly over half appear to be conservative leaning groups based solely

on the name. The remainder do not obviously lean to either side of the

political spectrum.

Of the 199 (c)(4)

cases, approximately 3/4 appear to be conservative leaning while fewer than 10

appear to be liberal/progressive leaning groups based solely on the name.

The remainder do not obviously lean to either side of the political

spectrum.

The multi-tier review process in Washington and requests for additional information sent to applicants led to the delay of the test cases as well as other Tea Party applications pending in Cincinnati. The Chief Counsel's office also directed Lerner's staff to request additional information from Tea Party applicants, including information about political activities leading up to the 2010 election. In fact, it appears the IRS never resolved the test applications.[171]

---

[166] E-mail from Holly Paz, IRS, to Lois Lerner, IRS (June 20, 2012). [IRSR 199229]
[167] E-mail from Judith Kindell, IRS, to Lois Lerner, IRS (July 18, 2012). [IRSR 179406]
[168] *Id.*
[169] *Id.*
[170] *Id.*
[171] *See* Transcribed Interview of Carter Hull, IRS, at 53 (June 14, 2013).

C. Lerner's Involvement in Regulating 501(c)(4) groups "off-plan"

According to information available to the Committee, the IRS and the Treasury Department considered regulating political speech of § 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations well before 2013.[172] The IRS and Treasury Department worked on these regulations in secret without noticing its work on the IRS's Priority Guidance Plan. Lois Lerner played a role in the this "off-plan" regulation of § 501(c)(4) organizations.

In June 2012, Ruth Madrigal of the Treasury Department's Office of Tax Policy wrote to Lerner and other IRS leaders about potential § 501(c)(4) regulations. She wrote: "Don't know who in your organization is keeping tabs on c4s, but since we mentioned potentially addressing them (off-plan) in 2013, I've got my radar up and this seemed interesting."[173] Madrigal forwarded a short article about a court decision with "potentially major ramifications for politically active section 501(c)(4) organizations."[174]

From:	Ruth.Madrigal[redacted]
Sent:	Thursday, June 14, 2012 3:10 PM
To:	Judson Victoria A; Cook Janine; Lerner Lois G; Marks Nancy J
Subject:	501(c)(4)s - From the Nonprofit Law Prof Blog

Don't know who in your organizations is keeping tabs on c4s, but since we mentioned potentially addressing them (off-plan) in 2013, I've got my radar up and this seemed interesting...

In a transcribed interview with Committee staff, Madrigal discussed her e-mail. She explained that the Department worked with Lerner and her IRS colleagues to develop the § 501(c)(4) regulation "off-plan." She testified:

> Q And ma'am, you wrote, "potentially addressing them." Do you know what you meant by, quote, "potentially addressing them?"
>
> A Well, at this time, we would have gotten the request to do guidance of general applicability relating to (c)(4)s. And while I can't – I don't know exactly what was in my mind at the time I wrote this, the "them" seems to refer back to the (c)(4)s. And the communications between our offices would have had to do with guidance of general applicability.
>
> Q So, sitting here today, you take the phrase, "potentially addressing them" to mean issuing guidance of general applicability of 501(c)(4)s?

---

[172] *See* Letter from Darrell Issa & Jim Jordan, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to John Koskinen, IRS (Feb. 4, 2014).
[173] E-mail from Ruth Madrigal, Dep't of the Treasury, to Victoria Judson et al., IRS (June 14, 2012). [IRSR 305906]
[174] *Id.*

A I don't know exactly what was in my head at the time when I wrote this, but to the extent that my office collaborates with the IRS, it's on guidance of general applicability.

Q And the recipients of this email, Ms. Judson and Ms. Cook are in the Chief Counsel's Office, is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q And Ms. Lerner and Ms. Marks are from the Commissioner side of the IRS?

A At the time of this email, I believe that Nan Marks was on the Commissioner's side, and Ms. Lerner would have been as well, yes.

Q So those are the two entities involved in rulemaking process or the guidance process for tax exempt organizations, is that right?

A Correct.

***

Q What did the term "off plan" mean in your email?

A Again, I don't have a recollection of doing – of writing this email at the time. I can't say with certainty what was meant at the time.

Q Sitting here today, what do you take the term "off plan" to mean?

A Generally speaking, off plan would refer to guidance that is not on – or the plan that is mentioned there would refer to the priority guidance plan. And so off plan would be not on the priority guidance plan.

Q And had you had discussions with the IRS about issuing guidance on 501(c)(4)s that was not placed on the priority guidance plan?

A In 2012, we – yes, in 2012, there were conversations between my office, Office of Tax Policy, and the IRS regarding guidance relating to qualifications for tax exemption under (c)(4).

Q And this guidance was in response to requests from outside parties to issue guidance?

> A Yes. Generally speaking, our priority guidance plan process starts with – includes gathering suggestions from the public and evaluating suggestions from the public regarding guidance, potential guidance topics, and by this point, to the best of my recollection, we had had requests to do guidance on this topic.[175]

Similarly, IRS attorney Janine Cook explained in a transcribed interview how the IRS and Treasury Department develop a regulation "off-plan." She testified that "it's a coined term, the term means the idea of spending some resources on working it, getting legal issues together, things like that, but not listing it on the published plan as an item we are working. That's what the term off plan means."[176] In a separate transcribed interview, IRS Division Counsel Victoria Judson explained that the IRS develops regulations "off-plan" when it seeks to "stop behavior that we feel is inappropriate under the tax law." She testified:

> We also have items we work on that are off-plan, and there are reasons we don't want to solicit comments. For example, if they might relate to a desire to stop behavior that we feel is inappropriate under the tax law, we might not want to publicize that we are working on that before we come out with the guidance.[177]

Information available to the Committee indicates that Lerner played some role in the IRS's and the Treasury Department's secret "off-plan" work to regulate § 501(c)(4) groups. Because the Committee has not obtained Lerner's testimony, it is unclear as to the nature and extent of her role in this "off-plan" regulatory work.

D. IRS Discussions about Regulatory Reform

In 2012, the IRS received letters from Members of Congress and certain public interest groups about regulatory reform for 501(c)(4) groups. The letters asked the IRS to change the regulations regarding how much political activity is permissible. As IRS officials were contemplating the possibility of changing the level of permissible political activity for 501(c)(4) groups, the press picked up their discussions. After learning that the press was aware of the discussions, Nikole Flax, the Chief of Staff to then-Acting Commissioner Steve Miller, instructed IRS officials that she wanted to delay sending any responses, and that all response letters would require her approval.[178] Flax alerted Lerner that the letters "created a ton of issues including from Treasury and [the] timing [is] not ideal."[179] In response, Lerner wrote to Flax, explaining that she thought all the attention was "stupid."[180]

---

[175] Transcribed interview of Ruth Madrigal, U.S. Dep't of the Treasury, in Wash., D.C. (Feb. 3, 2014).
[176] Transcribed interview of Janine Cook, IRS, in Wash., D.C. (Aug. 23, 2013).
[177] Transcribed interview of Victoria Ann Judson, IRS, in Wash., D.C. (Aug. 29, 2013).
[178] E-mail from Nikole Flax, IRS, to Lois Lerner, Holly Paz, Andy Megosh, Nalee Park, & Joseph Urban, IRS (July 24, 2012). [IRSR 179666]
[179] E-mail from Nikole Flax, IRS, to Lois Lerner, IRS (July 24, 2012). [IRSR 179666]
[180] *Id.*

From:	Lerner Lois G
Sent:	Tuesday, July 24, 2012 10:36 AM
To:	Flax Nikole C
Subject:	Re: c4 letters

That is why I told them every letter had to go thru you. Don't know why this didn't, but have now told all involved, I hope! Sorry for all the noise. It is just stupid, but not welcome, I'm sure.
Lois G. Lerner----------

Lerner instructed IRS officials that Nikole Flax, one of the agency's most senior officials, would have to approve all response letters to Members of Congress and public interest groups regarding regulatory reform for 501(c)(4) groups.[181] She advised staff that "NO responses related to c4 stuff go out without an affirmative message, in writing from Nikole."[182]

From:	Lerner Lois G
Sent:	Tuesday, July 24, 2012 10:40 AM
To:	Paz Holly O; Megosh Andy; Fish David L; Park Nalee; Williams Melinda G
Cc:	Flax Nikole C
Subject:	C4

I know you all have received messages independently, but I wanted all to hear same message at same time. Regardless whether language has previously been approved, NO responses related to c4 stuff go out without an affirmative message, in writing from Nikole. Thanks Lois G. Lerner---------- Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

E. Lerner's Reckless Handling Section 6103 Information

According to e-mails obtained by the Committee, Lerner recklessly treated taxpayer information covered by 26 U.S.C. § 6103.[183] Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 generally prohibits the disclosure of "tax returns" and other "tax return information" outside the IRS. In February 2010, Lerner sent an e-mail to William Powers, a Federal Election Commission attorney, which contained confidential taxpayer information according to the IRS.[184]

[181] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Holly Paz, Andy Megosh, David Fish, Nalee Park, & Melinda Williams, IRS (July 24, 2012). [IRSR 179669]
[182] *Id.*
[183] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to William Powers, Fed. Election Comm'n (Feb. 3, 2010, 11:25AM). [IRSR 123142]
[184] *Id.*

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 11:25 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Fish David L
Subject: Your request

Per your request, we have checked our records and there are no additional filings at this time. [redacted] Hope that helps.

Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations

In addition, Lerner received confidential taxpayer information on her non-official e-mail account.[185] Her receipt of confidential taxpayer information on an unsecure, non-IRS computer system and e-mail account poses a substantial risk to the security of the taxpayer information. Her willingness to handle this information on a non-official e-mail account highlights her disregard for confidential taxpayer information. It also suggests a fundamental lack of respect for the organizations applying to the IRS for tax-exempt status.

From: Biss Meghan R
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2013 11:07 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Lerner Lois G; [redacted] Lerner's Non-official E-mail Address
Subject: Summary of Application

Lois:

Attached is a summary of the entire application from [redacted] REDACTED It includes the information from their initial 1023, our development letter, and their May 3 response. In it, I also point out situations where the revenue rulings they cite aren't exactly on point. Additionally, where they reference other [redacted] REDACTED I included the information we have on those [redacted] from internet research.

As a note, the [redacted] REDACTED may be an issue for the community foundation that made the payments. The [redacted] REDACTED [redacted] But we won't know anything for sure until their 2012 Form 990 is filed.

Also, this article re [redacted] REDACTED is interesting:
[redacted] REDACTED

After you have had a chance to look over this document, we can have a discussion about it and any questions prior to your meeting with Steve.

Thanks,

Meghan

Lerner's messages contained private tax return information, redacted pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 6103 when the IRS reviewed the e-mails prior to production to the Committee.[186] Section 6103 is in place to prevent federal workers from disclosing confidential taxpayer

[185] E-mail from Meghan Biss, IRS, to Lois Lerner, IRS (May 4, 2013, 11:07 AM). [Lerner-ORG 1607]
[186] *Id.*

information.[187] Tax returns and return information, which meet the statutory definitions, must remain confidential.[188] Lerner's e-mails containing confidential return information therefore represent a disregard for the protections of the statute and present very serious privacy concerns. These reckless disclosures of such sensitive information also raise questions of whether they were isolated events.

F. The Aftermath of the IRS's Scrutiny of Tea Party Groups

As congressional committees and TIGTA began to examine more closely the IRS's treatment of applications from certain Tea Party groups, top officials within the agency were reluctant to disclose information. After Steve Miller, then Acting Commissioner of the IRS, testified at a House Committee on Ways and Means hearing in July 2012, Lerner stated in an e-mail a sense of relief that the hearing was more "boring" than anticipated.[189]

When Lerner learned about TIGTA's audit regarding the Tax Exempt Entities Division's treatment of applications from certain groups, she accepted the fact that the Division would be subject to a critical analysis from TIGTA officials.[190] Despite TIGTA and congressional scrutiny, Lerner's approach to the applications did not change. Documents show that, Lerner, along with several other IRS officials, were somehow emboldened and believed it was necessary to make their efforts known publicly, albeit not necessarily in a truthful manner. Specifically, they contemplated ways to make their denial of a 501(c)(4) group's application public knowledge.[191] The officials contemplated using the court system to do so.[192]

1. Lerner's Opinion Regarding Congressional Oversight

In July 2012, Lerner received an e-mail from Steve Miller soon after he testified at a House Ways and Means Committee hearing on charitable organizations.[193] Miller thanked Lerner and other IRS officials in Washington for their assistance in preparing for the hearing. In response, Lerner conveyed her relief that the hearing was less interesting than it could have been.[194] Because the Committee has not been able to speak with Lerner, it is uncertain what she meant by this e-mail.

---

[187] 26 U.S.C. § 6103 (2012).
[188] *Id.*
[189] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Steven Miller, IRS (July 25, 2012). [IRSR 179767]
[190] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Richard Daly, Sarah Hall Ingram, Dawn Marx, Joseph Urban, Nancy Marks, Holly Paz, & David Fish, IRS (June 25, 2012). [IRSR 178166]
[191] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Nancy Marks, Holly Paz, & David Fish, IRS (Apr. 1. 2013). [IRSR 190611]
[192] *Id.*
[193] E-mail from Steven Miller, IRS, to Justin Lowe, Joseph Urban, Christine Mistr, Nikole Flax, Catherine Barre, William Norton, Virginia Richardson, Richard Daly, Lois Lerner, & Holly Paz, IRS (July 25, 2012) [IRSR 179767]
[194] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Steven Miller, IRS (July 25, 2012). [IRSR 179767]

From:	Lerner Lois G
Sent:	Wednesday, July 25, 2012 7:47 PM
To:	Miller Steven T
Subject:	Re: thank you

Glad it turned out to be far more boring than it might have. Happy to be able to help.
Lois G. Lerner

The Committee has sent numerous letters to the IRS requesting documents and information relating to the scrutiny of Tea Party applications. The IRS has often been evasive in its responses, and the Committee has encountered great difficulty in obtaining the agency's cooperation in conducting its investigation. In one instance in 2012, the Committee sent a letter to the IRS requesting information about the agency's treatment of Tea Party groups. Documents obtained by the Committee demonstrate that was Lerner not only aware of the letter, but also reviewed the request, and approved the written response sent to the Committee.[195]

[195] Action Routing Sheet, IRS (Apr. 25, 2012). [IRSR 14425]

Action Routing Sheet Issa/Jordan

Request for Signature of	e-trak Control Number	Due date
Lois G. Lerner	2012-30672	04/25/2012

Subject

EO response to The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending.

Reviewing Office	Support Staff Initial / Date	Reviewer Initial / Date	Comment
NaLee Park	4/25/12		
Dawn Marx	4/25/12		
Lois Lerner		4/25/12	

Summary

Prepared By	Phone number	Office Location / Building	Return to
Dawn Marx	202-283-8861		

Form 14074 (Rev. 9-2010) Catalog Number 53167M publish.no.irs.gov Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

This IRS routing sheet, documenting which IRS offices reviewed and approved the letter, clearly shows Lerner's awareness of the Committee's investigation into the targeting of Tea Party-like groups. Still, Lerner failed to take the investigation seriously and was not forthright with the Committee. Instead, Lerner engaged in a pattern of concealment and making light of this serious misconduct by the IRS.

2. Tax Exempt Entities Division's Contacts with TIGTA

In January 2013, a TIGTA official contacted Holly Paz to inquire about an e-mail regarding Tea Party cases.[196] The official explained that during a recent briefing, he had mentioned TIGTA was seeking an e-mail from May 2010, which called for Tea Party applications to receive additional review.[197]

From: Paterson Troy D TIGTA [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 8:51 AM
To: Paz Holly O
Subject: E-Mail Retention Question

Holly,

Good morning.

During a recent briefing, I mentioned that we do not have the original e-mail from May 2010 stating that "Tea Party" applications should be forwarded to a specific group for additional review. After thinking it through, I was wondering about the IRS's retention or backup policy regarding e-mails. Do you know who I could contact to find out if this e-mail may have been retained?

Troy

Lerner was aware of the request for the May 2010 Tea Party e-mail because Paz replied to the TIGTA official and copied Lerner on the response.[198] Paz wrote that she could not provide any assistance in retrieving the e-mail, but rather the Chief Counsel's office needed to handle the request.[199]

From:	Paz Holly O
Sent:	Thursday, January 31, 2013 4:15 AM
To:	Paterson Troy D TIGTA
Cc:	Lerner Lois G
Subject:	RE: E-Mail Retention Question

Troy,

I'm sorry we won't get to see you today. We have reached out to determine the appropriate contact regarding your question below and have been told that, if this data request is part of e-Discovery, the coordination needs to go through Chief Counsel. The person to contact regarding e-Discovery requests is Glenn Melcher. His email address is [redacted] and his phone number is [redacted]

Holly

[196] E-mail from Troy Paterson, IRS, to Holly Paz, IRS (Jan. 24, 2013). [IRSR 202641]
[197] *Id.*
[198] E-mail from Holly Paz, IRS, to Troy Paterson, Treasury Inspector Gen. for Tax Admin. (Jan. 31, 2013). [IRSR 202641]
[199] *Id.*

The e-mails above show Lerner and her colleagues unnecessarily delayed TIGTA's audit. Rather than simply providing the documents and information requested by TIGTA, Paz, who reported to Lerner directly, instructed TIGTA to go through the Chief Counsel's office for certain information.

3. Lerner Anticipates Issues with TIGTA Audit

Lerner anticipated blowback from TIGTA over the disparate treatment of certain applications for tax-exempt status. In June 2012, Lerner received an e-mail from Richard Daly, a technical executive assistant to the Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division Commissioner, informing her that TIGTA would be investigating how the tax-exempt division handles applications from § 501(c)(4) groups.[200]

[200] E-mail from Richard Daly, IRS, to Sarah Hall Ingram, Lois Lerner, & Dawn Marx, IRS (June 22, 2012). [IRSR 178167].

From: Daly Richard M
Sent: Friday,

June 22, 2012 5:10 PM
To: Ingram Sarah H; Lerner Lois G; Marx Dawn R;
Urban Joseph J; Marks Nancy J
Subject: FW: 201210022 Engagement

Letter
Importance: High

TIGTA is going to look at how we deal with the

applications from (c)(4)s. Among other things they will look at our

consistency, and whether we had a reasonable basis for asking for information

from the applicants. The engagement letter bears a close

reading. To my mind, it has a more skeptical tone than

usual.

Among the documents they want to look at are the

following:

All

documents and correspondence (including e-mail) concerning the Exempt

Organizations function's response to and decision-making process for addressing

the increase in applications for tax-exempt status from organizations involving

potential political advocacy issues.

TIGTA expects to issue its report in the spring.

Daly recommended a "close reading" of TIGTA's engagement letter, noting that it had a "more skeptical tone than usual."[201]

Lerner accepted the fact that TIGTA would scrutinize the tax-exempt division. In reply, she stated, in part: "It is what it is . . . we will get dinged."[202]

[201] *Id.*
[202] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Richard Daly, Sarah Hall Ingram, Dawn Marx, Joseph Urban, Nancy Marks, Holly Paz, & David Fish, IRS (June 25, 2012). [IRSR 178166]

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 5:00 PM
To: Daly Richard M; Ingram Sarah H; Marx Dawn R; Urban Joseph J; Marks Nancy J
Cc: Paz Holly O; Fish David L
Subject: RE: 201210022 Engagement Letter

It is what it is. Although the original story isn't as pretty as we'd like, once we learned this were off track, we have done what we can to change the process, better educate our staff and move the cases. So, we will get dinged, but we took steps before the "dinging" to make things better and we have written procedures. So, it is what what it is.

Lois G.

Lerner

Director of Exempt Organizations

4. Lerner Contemplates Retirement

By January 28, 2013, Lerner was considering retirement from the IRS.[203] She wrote to benefits specialist Richard Klein to request reports regarding the benefits she could expect to receive upon retirement.[204]

From: Klein Richard T
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 6:23 AM
To: Lerner Lois G
Subject: personnel info
Importance: Low

Here are your reports you requested.....set your sick leave at 1360 for the first report and bumped it up to 1700 for the second.....redeposit amount and hi three used are shown on the bottom right.....call or email if you need any thing else please.

This e-mail and any attachments contain information intended solely for the use of the named recipient(s). This e-mail may contain privileged communications not suitable for forwarding to others. If you believe you have received this e-mail in error, please notify me immediately and permanently delete the e-mail, any attachments, and all copies thereof from any drives or storage media and destroy any printouts of the e-mail or attachments

Richard T. Klein
Benefits Specialist

[203] E-mail from Richard Klein, IRS, to Lois Lerner, IRS (Jan. 28, 2013). [IRSR 202597]
[204] *Id.*

The reports Klein sent prompted several questions from Lerner, including an estimate of the amount in benefits she would receive if she retired in October 2013:[205]

From:	Lerner Lois G
Sent:	Monday, January 28, 2013 10:06 AM
To:	Klein Richard T
Subject:	RE: personnel info

OK--questions already. I see at the bottom what my CSRS repayment amount would be should I decide to repay. It looks like the calculation at the tops assumes I am repaying--is that correct? Can I see what the numbers look like if I decide not to repay? Also, how do I go about repaying, if I choose to? Where would I find that information? Would you mind running a calculation for a retirement date of October 1, 2013? Also, the definition of monthly social security offset seems to say that at age 62(which I am) my monthly annuity will be offset by social security even if I don't apply. First--what the heck does that mean? Second, I don't see an offset on the chart--please explain. Thank you.

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

5. The IRS's Plans to Make an Application Denial Public

IRS officials in Washington wanted to publicize the fact that the IRS had closely scrutinized applications from Tea Party groups. The officials wanted to make the denial of one specific Tea Party group's application public knowledge. At the end of March 2013, Lerner had a discussion with other IRS officials about how they could inform the public about the application denial.[206] IRS officials discussed the possibility of bringing the case through the court system, rather than an administrative hearing, to ensure that the denial became public.[207] Lerner assumed these groups would opt for litigation because, in her mind, they were "itching for a Constitutional challenge."[208]

G. Lerner's Role in Downplaying the IRS's Scrutiny of Tea Party Applications

In the spring of 2013, senior IRS officials prepared a plan to acknowledge publicly yet downplay the scrutiny given to Tea Party applications. Although Lerner spoke on the subject at an ABA event in May 2013, the IRS had originally planned to have Lerner comment on it at a Georgetown University Law Center conference in April. Lerner e-mailed several of her

[205] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Richard Klein, IRS (Jan. 28, 2013). [IRSR 202597]
[206] E-mail from Nancy Marks, IRS, to Lois Lerner, Holly Paz, & David Fish, IRS (Mar. 29, 2013). [IRSR 190611]
[207] *Id.*
[208] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Nancy Marks, Holly Paz, & David Fish, IRS (Apr. 1. 2013). [IRSR 190611]

colleagues about the Georgetown speaking engagement, noting that she might add "remarks that are being discussed at a higher level."[209]

To:	Eldridge Michelle L; Zarin Roberta B; Lemons Terry L; Burke Anthony
Cc:	Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject:	RE: Georgetown

I will now be speaking somewhere between 11-11:30 depending on when previous speaker finishes. I amy or may not be adding some remarks that are being discussed at a higher level. If approved, I have not been told whether those remarks will be in the written speech, or I will simply give them orally. There amy be a desire to get the speech up ASAP if the new proposed language is added to the draft--these are Nikole questions. Right now, though, we're simple on hold.

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

Contemporaneously, Nikole Flax sent Lerner a draft set of remarks on 501(c)(4) activity.[210] The remarks stated in part:

> Here's where a problem occurred. In centralizing the cases in Cincinnati, my review team placed too much reliance on the particular name of an organization; in this case, relying on names in organization titles like 'tea party' or 'patriot,' rather than looking deeper into the facts to determine the level of activity under c4 guidelines. Our Inspector General is looking at this situation, but I believe and the IRS leadership team believe[s] this to be an error – not a political vendetta.[211]

Although Lerner did not acknowledge the extra scrutiny given to Tea Party applications at the Georgetown conference, the officials in the Acting Commissioner's office made plans to have her speak on the subject at an ABA event using a question planted with an audience member. In May 2013, Flax contacted Lerner to inquire about the topic of her remarks at the event.[212] Flax's inquiry demonstrates that senior IRS officials were seeking a venue for Lerner to speak about the Tea Party scrutiny in order to downplay and gloss over the issue.[213] At the ABA event on May 10, 2013, Lerner did so.

[209] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Michelle Eldridge, Roberta Zarin, Terry Lemons, & Anthony Burke, IRS (Apr. 23, 2013). [IRSR 196295]
[210] E-mail from Nikole Flax, IRS, to Lois Lerner, IRS (Apr. 23, 2013). [IRSR 189013]
[211] Preliminary Draft, Recent Section 501(c)(4) Activity, IRS (Apr. 22, 2013). [IRSR 189014]
[212] E-mail from Nikole Flax, IRS, to Lois Lerner, IRS (May 3, 2013). [IRSR 189445]
[213] *Id.*

H. Lerner's Management Style

During transcribed interviews with Committee staff, several IRS officials testified that Lerner is a bad manager who is "unpredictable"[214] and "emotional."[215] On October 22, 2013, during a transcribed interview, Nikole Flax, the former IRS Acting Commissioner's Chief of Staff, discussed the July 2012 House Ways and Means Committee hearing on tax-exempt issues.[216] Steve Miller, then-Deputy Commissioner of the IRS, testified at the hearing. Lerner did not.[217] Committee staff asked Flax why the IRS did not choose Lerner as a witness.[218] Flax testified:

> Q And you said before that [Acting Commissioner of Tax Exempt and Government Entities Joseph] Grant wasn't the best witness at the hearing. Was there any discussion about having Ms. Lerner as a witness for that hearing?
>
> A No.
>
> Q Why not?
>
> A **Lois is unpredictable. She's emotional.** I have trouble talking negative about someone. I think in terms of a hearing witness, she was not the ideal selection.[219]

Further, during an interview with Cindy Thomas, the IRS official in charge of the Cincinnati office, Thomas stated that when she became aware of Lerner's comments about the IRS's treatment of Tea Party applications at the ABA event, she was extremely upset. Thomas wrote Lerner an e-mail on May 10, 2013, with "Low Level workers thrown under the Bus" in the subject line.[220] Thomas excoriated Lerner, noting that through Lerner's remarks, **"Cincinnati wasn't publicly 'thrown under the bus' (but) instead was hit by a convoy of Mack trucks."**[221] Thomas explained Lerner's statements at the event were "derogatory" to lower level employees working determinations cases.[222] She testified:

> Q And what was your reaction to hearing the news?
>
> A I was really, really mad.
>
> Q Why?

---

[214] Transcribed Interview of Nikole Flax, IRS, at 153 (Oct. 22, 2013).
[215] *Id.*
[216] *Id.*
[217] *Id.*
[218] *Id.*
[219] *Id.* (emphasis added).
[220] E-mail from Cindy M. Thomas to Lois G. Lerner, et al. (May 10, 2013). [IRSR 366782]
[221] *Id.* (emphasis added).
[222] Transcribed Interview of Lucinda Thomas, IRS, at 210 (June 28, 2013).

A **I feel as though Cincinnati employees and EO Determinations was basically thrown under a bus and that the Washington office wasn't taking any responsibility for knowing about these applications, having been involved in them and being the ones to basically delay processing of the cases.**[223]

Although Thomas admitted that the Cincinnati office made mistakes in handling tax-exempt applications, she explained that IRS officials in Washington were primarily responsible for the delay.[224] She stated: **[Y]es, there were mistakes made by folks in Cincinnati as well [as] D.C. but the D.C. office is the one who delayed the processing of the cases."**[225]

While Thomas found Lerner's reference to the culpability of lower level workers for the delay of the applications during her talk at the ABA event was upsetting and misguided, Thomas also stated in part: **"It's not the first time that she has used derogatory comments about the employees working determination cases and she has done it before."**[226]

Thomas testified that Lerner's statements about lower level employees in Cincinnati were just one example of offensive remarks she often made to other IRS employees. She explained that Lerner "referred to us as backwater before."[227] Thomas also noted the impact of Lerner's comments on employee morale. She stated in part: "[I]t's frustrating like how am I supposed to keep them motivated when our so-called leader is referring to people in that direction."[228] Thomas also stated: "She also makes comments like, well, you're not a lawyer."[229]

Lerner's comments reflect a startling attitude toward her subordinates. As the director of the Exempt Organizations Division, she was a powerful figure at IRS headquarters in Washington. It is evident from testimony that Lerner brazenly shifted blame to lower level employees for delaying the Tea Party applications. Instead of taking responsibility for the major role she played in the delay, she found fault with others, diminishing employee morale in the process.

I. Lerner's Use of Unofficial E-mail

As the Committee has continued to investigate Lerner's involvement in targeting Tea Party groups, Committee staff has also learned that she improperly used a non-official e-mail account to conduct official business. On several occasions, Lerner sent documents related to her official duties from her official IRS e-mail account to an msn.com e-mail account labeled "Lois Home."

---

[223] *Id.* (emphasis added).
[224] *Id.* at 211.
[225] *Id.*
[226] *Id.* at 210 (emphasis added).
[227] *Id.* at 213.
[228] *Id.*
[229] *Id.*

Lerner's use of a non-official e-mail account to conduct official business not only implicates federal records requirements, but also frustrates congressional oversight obligations. Use of a non-official e-mail account raises the concern that official government e-mail archiving systems did not capture the records, as defined by the Federal Records Act.[230] Further, it creates difficulty for the agency when responding to Freedom of Information Act, congressional subpoenas, or litigation requests.

IV. Conclusion

Since Lois Lerner first publicly acknowledged the IRS's inappropriate treatment of conservative tax-exempt applicants during an American Bar Association speech on May 10, 2013, substantial debate has ensued over the nature of the IRS misconduct. While bureaucratic bumbling played an undeniable role in some delays and inappropriate treatment, questions have persisted. Could someone with a political agenda – or under instructions – and a sophisticated understanding of the IRS cause a partisan delay for organizations seeking to promote social welfare and exercise their Constitutionally guaranteed First Amendment right to participate in the political process?

From her days at the Federal Election Commission, Lerner's left-leaning politics were known and recognized.[231] Even at a supposedly apolitical agency like the IRS, her views should not have been an obstacle to fair and impartial judgment that would impair her job performance. But amidst a scandal in which her agency deprived Americans of their Constitutional rights, a relevant question is whether the actions she took in her job improperly reflected her political beliefs. Congressional investigators found evidence that this occurred.

Lerner's views on the *Citizens United* Supreme Court ruling, which struck down certain restrictions on election-related activities, showed a keen awareness of arguments that the Court's decision would be detrimental to Democratic Party candidates. As she explained in her own words to her agency's Inspector General:

> The *Citizens United* decision allows corporations to spend freely on elections. Last year, there was a lot of press on 501(c)(4)s being used to funnel money on elections and the IRS was urged to do something about it.[232]

When a colleague sent her an article about allegations that unknown conservative donors were influencing U.S. Senate races, she responded hopefully: "Perhaps the FEC will save the day."[233]

Evidence indicates Lerner and her Exempt Organizations unit took a three pronged approach to "do something about it" to "fix the problem" of nonprofit political speech:

[230] 44 U.S.C. § 3101.
[231] *Lois Lerner at the FEC*, *supra* note 5.
[232] Treasury Inspector Gen. for Tax Admin, Memo of Contact (Apr. 5, 2012) (memorandum of contact with Lois Lerner).
[233] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Sharon Light, IRS (July 10, 2010). [IRS 179093]

1) Scrutiny of new applicants for tax-exempt status (which began as Tea Party targeting);

2) Plans to scrutinize organizations, like those supported by the "Koch Brothers," that were already acting as 501(c)(4) organizations; and

3) "[O]ff plan" efforts to write new rules cracking down on political activity to replace those that had been in place since 1959.

Even without her full testimony, and despite the fact that the IRS has still not turned over many of her e-mails, a political agenda to crack down on tax-exempt organizations comes into focus. Lerner believed the political participation of tax-exempt organizations harmed Democratic candidates, she believed something needed to be done, and she directed action from her unit at the IRS. Compounding the egregiousness of the inappropriate actions, Lerner's own e-mails showed recognition that she would need to be "cautious" so it would not be a "*per se* political project."[234] She was involved in an "off-plan" effort to write new regulations in a manner that intentionally sought to undermine an existing framework for transparency.[235]

Most damning of all, even when she found that the actions of subordinates had not adhered to a standard that could be defended as not "*per se* political," instead of immediately reporting this conduct to victims and appropriate authorities, Lerner engaged in efforts to cover it up. She falsely denied to Congress that criteria for scrutiny had changed and that disparate treatment had occurred. The actions she took to broaden scrutiny to non-conservative applicants were consistent with efforts to create plausible deniability for what had happened – a defense that the Administration and its most hardcore supporters have repeated once unified outrage eroded over one of the most divisive controversies in American politics today.

Bureaucratic bumbling and IRS employees who sincerely believed they were following the directions of superiors did occur. Even when Lerner directed what employees would characterize as "unprecedented" levels of scrutiny for Tea Party cases, they did not attribute this direction to a partisan agenda. Ironically, the bureaucratic bumbling that seems to have been behind many inappropriate requests for information from applicants and a screening criterion that could never pass as not "*per se* political" may have had a silver lining. Without it, Lois Lerner's agenda to scrutinize tax-exempt organizations that exercised their First Amendment rights might not have ever been exposed.

The Committee continues to offer Lois Lerner the opportunity to testify. Many questions remain, including the identities of others at the IRS and elsewhere who may have known about key events and decisions she undertook. Americans, and particularly those Americans who faced mistreatment at the hands of the IRS, deserve the full documented truth that both Lois Lerner and the IRS have withheld from them.

---

[234] E-mail from Lois Lerner, IRS, to Cheryl Chasin et al., IRS (Sept. 16, 2010). [IRSR 191030]

[235] *See* E-mail from Ruth Madrigal, Dep't of the Treasury, to Victoria Judson et al., IRS (June 14, 2012). [IRSR 305906]

To: Eldridge Michelle L; Zarin Roberta B; Lemons Terry L; Burke Anthony
Cc: Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: RE: Georgetown

I will now be speaking somewhere between 11-11:30 depending on when previous speaker finishes. I amy or may not be adding some remarks that are being discussed at a higher level. If approved, I have not been told whether those remarks will be in the written speech, or I will simply give them orally. There amy be a desire to get the speech up ASAP if the new proposed language is added to the draft--these are Nikole questions. Right now, though, we're simple on hold.

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Eldridge Michelle L
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 9:55 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Zarin Roberta B; Lemons Terry L; Burke Anthony
Cc: Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: RE: Georgetown

I'm sorry--I've lost track. What time is your speech? Given timing of other stuff that day--we may be looking at posting both in the afternoon. I'm sure this will continue to be discussed...as I hear more details, I will pass it along. Please let me know what you are hearing as well. Thanks. --Michelle

---

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 6:49 PM
To: Zarin Roberta B; Lemons Terry L; Eldridge Michelle L; Burke Anthony
Cc: Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: RE: Georgetown
Importance: High

Hmm--I was thinking the speech would go up right after I speak and the report would go up later in the afternoon. Will that work?

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Zarin Roberta B
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 1:32 PM
To: Lemons Terry L; Eldridge Michelle L; Burke Anthony
Cc: Lerner Lois G; Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: RE: Georgetown

Thanks, but Melaney deserves credit for that one! We are planning to post Lois' speech, along with the report, Thursday afternoon

Bobby Zarin, Director
Communications and Liaison
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
[redacted]

From: Lemons Terry L
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 1:10 PM
To: Zarin Roberta B; Eldridge Michelle L; Burke Anthony
Cc: Lerner Lois G; Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: RE: Georgetown

Bobby – good catch on the news release. Think we should try doing a short one since we did the interim one. Think text should track what we did before (below.) Anthony Burke will be reaching out to you. Think we need text by mid-day Tuesday so we can get through clearance channels on third floor and Treasury.

Also possible we may post text of Thursday speech on IRS.gov.

Thanks.

From: Zarin Roberta B
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 11:09 AM
To: Lemons Terry L; Eldridge Michelle L
Cc: Lerner Lois G; Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: FW: Georgetown

Fun for the week:

Do you know if we have language Lois can use re: the furlough? (see below.) I'm sure other IRS speakers are facing the same issue.

Also, as you know, she'll be announcing that the College and University Report that afternoon. We never discussed a press release (you did one for the interim report), and it may be too late now, but should it be considered?

Bobby Zarin, Director
Communications and Liaison
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
[redacted]

From: Flax Nikole C
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2013 11:44 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Lemons Terry L
Cc: Grant Joseph H; Zarin Roberta B
Subject: Re: Georgetown

We will pull something together - can you let me know when/if you are open later today to discuss other topics?

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2013 11:37 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Flax Nikole C; Lemons Terry L
Cc: Grant Joseph H; Zarin Roberta B
Subject: Georgetown

We have numerous speakers over 2 days at the conference, starting on Wed. I am sure we will be asked about the furloughs. There is already press out there on the NTEU issue, so I don't

think we can avoid saying something. I'm thinking it would be best for me to lead off with some statement at the beginning before I get into my formal written speech to respond before the question comes. That way, all that follow me can either say exactly what I say or refer the questioner back to my earlier remarks. Otherwise I fear we may have someone get nervous and say more than we planned. Does that sound like a plan? If so, can we get parameters of what my statement should look like? Sorry, but this isn't one we can skate by. Thanks

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Rosenbaum Monice L
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2010 10:18 AM
To: Griffin Kenneth M
Subject: FW: EO Tax Journal 2010-139

Ken,
You may already be a subscriber to Mr. Streckfus's journal, but below is his brief summary of the DC Bar lunch meeting. He hopes a transcript will be available soon. Monice

---

From: paul streckfus [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2010 11:07 AM
To: paul streckfus
Subject: EO Tax Journal 2010-139

From the Desk of Paul Streckfus,
Editor, EO Tax Journal

Email Update 2010-139 (Thursday, September 30, 2010)

Two events occurred yesterday at about the same time. One was the release of a letter (reprinted below) by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Max Baucus. The other was a panel discussion titled "Political Activities of Exempt Organizations This Election Cycle" sponsored by the D.C. Bar, from which I hope to have a transcript in the near future.

After reading Senator Baucus' letter and accompanying news release, my sense is that Senator Baucus should have been at the D.C. Bar discussion since he is concerned that political campaigns and individuals are manipulating 501(c)(4), (5), and (6) organizations to advance their own political agenda, and he wants the IRS to look into this situation.

At the D.C. Bar discussion, Marc Owens of Caplin & Drysdale, Washington, explained that there is little that the IRS can do on a current, real-time basis to regulate (c)(4)s for two reasons. First, a new (c)(4) does not have to apply for recognition of exemption. Second, a new (c)(4) formed this year would not have to file a Form 990 until next year at the earliest and the IRS would probably not do a substantive review of the filed Form 990 until 2012 at the earliest. By then, Owens joked, the winners are in office, and the losers are in another career.

At the same time that the IRS can do little to regulate new (c)(4)s, it is not even looking at existing (c)(4)s. According to Owens, the IRS has little interest in regulating exempt organizations beyond (c)(3)s. The IRS has "effectively abandoned the field" at a time of heightened political activity by all exempt organizations, including (c)(3)s. Owens added that "we seem to have a haphazard IRS enforcement system now breaking down completely." This results in a corrosive effect on the integrity of exempt organizations in general and a stimulus to evasion of their responsibilities by organizations and their tax advisors.

Karl Sandstrom of Perkins Coie, Washington, was equally negative. According to Sandstrom, the IRS is "a poor vehicle to regulate political activity," in that this is not their focus or interest. In defense of the IRS, he did say Congress was also guilty in foisting upon the IRS regulation of political activity, using section 527 as an example. At the same time, Sandstrom did not see an active IRS as an answer to current concerns. Section 501(c)(4) organizations are just the current vehicle *du jour*. If (c)(4)s are shut down, Sandstrom said many other vehicles remain.

My guess: I doubt if we'll see much of Owens' and Sandstrom's views in the IRS' report to Senator Baucus and the Finance Committee.

* * * * * * * * *

Senate Committee on Finance News Release

For Immediate Release
September 29, 2010

Contact: Scott Mulhauser/Erin Shields
[redacted]

Baucus Calls On IRS to Investigate Use of Tax-Exempt Groups for Political Activity

Finance Chairman works to ensure special interests don't use tax-exempt groups to influence communities, spend secret donations

Washington, DC – Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) today sent a letter to IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman requesting an investigation into the use of tax-exempt groups for political advocacy. Baucus asked for the investigation after recent media reports uncovered instances of political activity by nonprofit organizations secretly backed by individuals advancing personal interests and organizations supporting political campaigns. Under the tax code, political campaign activity cannot be the main purpose of a tax-exempt organization and limits exist on political campaign activities in which these organizations can participate. Tax-exempt organizations also cannot serve private interests. Baucus expressed serious concern that if political groups are able to take advantage of tax-exempt organizations, these groups could curtail transparency in America's elections because nonprofit organizations do not have to disclose any information regarding their donors.

"Political campaigns and powerful individuals should not be able to use tax-exempt organizations as political pawns to serve their own special interests. The tax exemption given to nonprofit organizations comes with a responsibility to serve the public interest and Congress has an obligation to exercise the vigorous oversight necessary to ensure they do," said Baucus. "When political campaigns and individuals manipulate tax-exempt organizations to advance their own political agenda, they are able to raise and spend money without disclosing a dime, deceive the public and manipulate the entire political system. Special interests hiding behind the cloak of independent nonprofits threatens the transparency our democracy deserves and does a disservice to fair, honest and open elections."

Baucus asked Shulman to review major 501(c)(4), (c)(5) and (c)(6) organizations involved in political campaign activity. He asked the Commissioner to determine if these organizations are operating for the organization's intended tax exempt purpose, to ensure that political activity is not the organization's primary activity and to determine if they are acting as conduits for major donors advancing their own private interests regarding legislation or political campaigns, or are providing major donors with excess benefits. Baucus instructed Shulman to produce a report for the Committee on the agency's findings as quickly as possible. Baucus' full letter to Commissioner Shulman follows here.

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Douglas H. Shulman
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20224

Via Electronic Transmission

Dear Commissioner Shulman:

The Senate Finance Committee has jurisdiction over revenue matters, and the Committee is responsible for conducting oversight of the administration of the federal tax system, including matters involving tax-exempt organizations. The Committee has focused extensively over the past decade on whether tax-exempt groups have been used for lobbying or other financial or political gain.

The central question examined by the Committee has been whether certain charitable or social welfare organizations qualify for the tax-exempt status provided under the Internal Revenue Code.

Recent media reports on various 501(c)(4) organizations engaged in political activity have raised serious questions about whether such organizations are operating in compliance with the Internal Revenue Code.

The law requires that political campaign activity by a 501(c)(4), (c)(5) or (c)(6) entity must not be the primary purpose of the organization.

If it is determined the primary purpose of the 501(c)(4), (c)(5) and (c)(6) organization is political campaign activity the tax exemption for that nonprofit can be terminated.

Even if political campaign activity is not the primary purpose of a 501(c)(4), (c)(5), and (c)(6) organization, it must notify its members of the portion of dues paid due to political activity or pay a proxy tax under Section 6033(e).

Also, tax-exempt organizations and their donors must not engage in private inurement or excess benefit transactions. These rules prevent private individuals or groups from using tax-exempt organizations to benefit their private interests or to profit from the tax-exempt organization's activities.

A September 23 New York Times article entitled "Hidden Under a Tax-Exempt Cloak, Private Dollars Flow" described the activities of the organization Americans for Job Security. An Alaska Public Office Commission investigation revealed that AJS, organized as an entity to promote social welfare under 501(c)(6), fought development in Alaska at the behest of a "local financier who paid for most of the referendum campaign." The Commission report said that "Americans for Job Security has no other purpose other than to cover money trails all over the country." The article also noted that "membership dues and assessments ... plunged to zero before rising to $12.2 million for the presidential race."

A September 16 Time Magazine article examined the activities of Washington D.C. based 501(c)(4) groups planning a "$300 million ... spending blitz" in the 2010 elections. The article describes a group transforming itself into a nonprofit under 501(c)(4) of the tax code, ensuring that they would not have to "publically disclose any information about its donors."

These media reports raise a basic question: Is the tax code being used to eliminate transparency in the funding of our elections -- elections that are the constitutional bedrock of our democracy? They also raise concerns about whether the tax benefits of nonprofits are being used to advance private interests.

With hundreds of millions of dollars being spent in election contests by tax-exempt entities, it is time to take a fresh look at current practices and how they comport with the Internal Revenue Code's rules for nonprofits.

I request that you and your agency survey major 501(c)(4), (c)(5) and (c)(6) organizations involved in political campaign activity to examine whether they are operated for the organization's intended tax-exempt purpose and to ensure that political campaign activity is not the organization's primary activity. Specifically you should examine if these political activities reach a primary purpose level -- the standard imposed by the federal tax code -- and if they do not, whether the organization is complying with the notice or proxy tax requirements of Section 6033(e). I also request that you or your agency survey major 501(c)(4), (c)(5), and (c)(6) organizations to determine whether they are acting as conduits for major donors advancing their own private interests regarding legislation or political campaigns, or are providing major donors with excess benefits.

Possible violation of tax laws should be identified as you conduct this study.

Please report back to the Finance Committee as soon as possible with your findings and recommended actions regarding this matter.

Based on your report I plan to ask the Committee to open its own investigation and/or to take appropriate legislative action.

Sincerely,

Max Baucus, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Action Routing Sheet

Issa/Jordan

Request for Signature of	e-trak Control Number	Due date
Lois G. Lerner	2012 [redacted]	04/25/2012

Subject

EO response to The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending.

Reviewing Office	Support Staff Initial / Date	Reviewer Initial / Date	Comment
NaLee Park	4/25/12		
Dawn Marx	4/25/12		
Lois Lerner		4/25/12	

Summary

Prepared By	Phone number	Office Location / Building	Return to
Dawn Marx	[redacted]		

Form **14074** (Rev. 9-2010) Catalog Number 53167M publish.no.irs.gov Department of the Treasury - **Internal Revenue Service**

Appendix 7

IRSR0000014425

3. Educate the public through advocacy/legislative activities to make America a better place to live.
4. Statements in the case file that are critical of the how the country is being run.

John Shafer
Group Manager
SE:T:EO:RA:D:1:7838
[redacted]

From: Thomas Cindy M
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2011 12:46 AM
To: Shafer John H
Cc: Esrig Bonnie A; Bowling Steven F
Subject: Tea Party Cases - NEED CRITERIA
Importance: High

John,

Could you send me an email that includes the criteria screeners use to label a case as a "tea party case?" BOLO spreadsheet includes the following:

Organizations involved with the Tea Party movement applying for exemption under 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4).

Do the applications specify/state "tea party?" If not, how do we know applicant is involved with the tea party movement?

I need to forward to Holly per her request below. Thanks.

From: Melahn Brenda
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 3:08 PM
To: Paz Holly O; Thomas Cindy M
Subject: RE: group of cases

Holly - we will UPS a copy of the case in #1 below to your attention tomorrow. It should be there Monday. I'm sure Cindy will respond to #2.

Brenda

From: Paz Holly O
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 2:21 PM
To: Thomas Cindy M

Cc: Melahn Brenda
Subject: group of cases

re: Tea Party cases

Two things re: these cases:

1. Can you please send me a copy of the Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies ([redacted]) application? Lois wants Judy to take a look at it so she can summarize the issues for Lois.

2. What criteria are being used to label a case a "Tea Party case"? We want to think about whether those criteria are resulting in over-inclusion.

Lois wants a briefing on these cases. We'll take the lead but would like you to participate. We're aiming for the week of 6/27.

Thanks!

Holly

From: Paz Holly O
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 10:33 AM
To: Seto Michael C
Subject: FW: sensitive (c)(3) and (c)(4) applications
FYI

From: Paz Holly O
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 10:26 AM
To: Kindell Judith E; Lerner Lois G
Cc: Light Sharon P; Letourneau Diane L; Neuhart Paige
Subject: RE: sensitive (c)(3) and (c)(4) applications

The last information I have is that there are approx. 40 Tea Party cases in Determs. With so many EOT and Guidance folks tied up with ACA (cases and Guidance) and the possibility looming that we may have to work reinstatement cases up here to prevent a backlog in Determs, I have serious reservations about our ability to work all of the Tea Party cases out of this office.

From: Kindell Judith E
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 10:16 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Paz Holly O
Cc: Light Sharon P; Letourneau Diane L; Neuhart Paige
Subject: sensitive (c)(3) and (c)(4) applications

I just spoke with Chip Hull and Elizabeth Kastenberg about two cases they have that are related to the Tea Party - one a (c)(3) application and the other a (c)(4) application. I recommended that they develop the private benefit argument further and that they coordinate with Counsel. They also mentioned that there are a number of other (c)(3) and (c)(4) applications of orgs related to the Tea Party that are currently in Cincinnati. Apparently the plan had been to send one of each to DC to develop a position to be applied to the others. Given the sensitivity of the issue and the need (I believe) to coordinate with Counsel, I think it would be beneficial to have the other cases worked in DC as well. I understand that there may be TAS inquiries on some of the cases.

From: Lerner Lois G <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 9:20 AM
To: Cook Janine
Subject: RE: Advocacy orgs

If only you could help--we're going to get creamed being able to provide the guidance piece ASAP will be the best--thanks

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Cook Janine [[redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 8:58 AM
To: Lerner Lois G
Subject: FW: Advocacy orgs

Fun all around. (Streckfus email today). We're working diligently on reviewing the advocacy guide. Let us know if you want our assistance on anything else.

---

1 - House Oversight Chairman Seeks Additional Information from the IRS on Tax-Exempt Sector Compliance, as Reports of IRS Questioning Grassroots Political Groups Raises New Concerns

March 1, 2012

Honorable Douglas H. Shulman
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Shulman:

On October 6, 2011, I wrote to you requesting information about the status of various IRS compliance efforts involving the tax-exempt sector and issues related to audits of tax-exempt organizations [for this letter, see email update 2011-166]. While awaiting a complete response to that letter, I have since heard the IRS has been questioning new tax-exempt applicants, including grassroots political entities such as Tea Party groups, about their operations and donors [for background, see email update 2012-38]. In addition to the unanswered questions from my October 6, 2011, letter, I have additional questions relating to the IRS' oversight of applications for tax exemption for new organizations.

In particular, I am seeking additional information as it relates to the IRS review of new applications for section 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) tax-exempt status, including answers to the questions detailed below. Please provide your responses no later than March 15, 2012.

1. How many new tax-exempt organizations has the IRS recognized each year since 2008?

2. How many new applications for 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) tax-exempt status have been received by the IRS since 2008? Provide a breakdown by year and type of organization.

3. What is the IRS process for reviewing each tax-exempt status application? Is this process the same for entities applying for section 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) tax-exempt status? Please describe the process for both section 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) applications in detail.

4. Your preliminary response in my October 6, 2011, letter stated that, "if the application is substantially complete, the IRS may retain the application and request additional information as needed." How does the IRS determine that an application for tax-exempt status is "substantially complete?" Please provide guidelines or any other materials used in this process.

5. Does the IRS have standard procedures or forms it uses to "request additional information as needed" from applicants seeking tax-exempt status? Please provide any forms and related materials used.

6. Does the IRS select applications for "follow-up" on an automated basis or is there an office or individual responsible for selecting incomplete applications? Please explain and provide details on any automated system used for these purposes. If decisions are made on an individual basis, please provide the guidelines and any related materials used.

7. How many tax-exempt applications since 2008 have been selected for "follow-up"? How many entities selected for follow-up were granted tax-exempt status?

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact *** or *** at [redacted].

Sincerely,

/s/ Charles Boustany, Jr., MD
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
Committee on Ways and Means
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

IRS Battling Tea Party Groups Over Tax-Exempt Status
By Alan Fram, *Huff Post Politics*, March 1, 2012

WASHINGTON -- The Internal Revenue Service is embroiled in battles with tea party and other conservative groups who claim the government is purposely frustrating their attempts to gain tax-exempt status. The fight features instances in which the IRS has asked for voluminous details about the groups' postings on social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook, information on donors and key members' relatives, and copies of all literature they have distributed to their members, according to documents provided by some organizations.

While refusing to comment on specific cases, IRS officials said they are merely trying to gather enough information to decide whether groups qualify for the tax exemption. Most organizations are applying under section 501(c)(4) of the federal tax code, which grants tax-exempt status to certain groups as long as they are not primarily involved in activity that could influence an election, a determination that is up to the IRS. The tax agency would seem a natural target for tea party groups, which espouse smaller and less intrusive government and lower taxes. Yet over the years, the IRS has periodically been accused of political vendettas by liberals and conservatives alike, usually without merit, tax experts say.

The latest dispute comes early in an election year in which the IRS is under pressure to monitor tax-exempt groups -- like the Republican-leaning Crossroads GPS and Democratic-leaning Priorities USA -- which can shovel unlimited amounts of money to allies to influence campaigns, even while not being required to disclose their donors.

Conservatives say dozens of groups around the country have recently had similar experiences with the IRS and say its information demands are intrusive and politically motivated. They complain that the sheer size and detail of material the agency wants is designed to prevent them from achieving the tax designations they seek. "It's intimidation," said Tom Zawistowski, president of the Ohio Liberty Council, a coalition of tea party groups in the state. "Stop doing what you're doing, or we'll make your life miserable."

Authorities on the laws governing tax-exempt organizations expressed surprise at some of the IRS's requests, such as the volume of detail it is seeking and the identity of donors. But they said it is the agency's job to learn what it can to help decide whether tax-exempt status is warranted. "These tea party groups, a lot of their material makes them look and sound like a political party," said Marcus S. Owens, a lawyer who advises tax-exempt organizations and who spent a decade heading the IRS division that oversees such groups. "I think the IRS is trying to get behind the rhetoric and figure out whether they are, at their core, a political party," or a group that would qualify for tax-exempt status.

The tea party was first widely emblazoned on the public's mind for their noisy opposition to President Barack Obama's health care overhaul at congressional town hall meetings in the summer of 2009. Support from its activist members has since helped nominate and elect conservative candidates around the country, though group leaders say they are chiefly educational organizations.

They say they mostly do things like invite guests to discuss issues and teach members about the Constitution and how to request government documents under the Freedom of Information Act. Some say they occasionally endorse candidates and seek to register voters. "We're doing nothing more than what the average citizen does in getting involved," said Phil Rapp, executive director of the Richmond Tea Party in Virginia. "We're not supporting candidates; we are supporting what we see as the issues."

One group, the Kentucky 9/12 Project, said it applied for tax-exempt status in December 2010. After getting a prompt IRS acknowledgement of its application, the organization heard nothing until it got an IRS letter two weeks ago requesting more information, said the project's director, Eric Wilson. That letter, which Wilson provided to the AP, asked 30 questions, many with multiple parts, and gave the group until March 6 to respond.

Information requested included "details regarding all of your activity on Facebook and Twitter" and whether top officials' relatives serve in other organizations or plan to run for elective office. The IRS also sought the political affiliation of every person who has provided the group with educational services and minutes of every board meeting "since your creation."

"This is a modern-day witch hunt," said Wilson, whose 9/12 group and others around the country were inspired by conservative activist Glenn Beck. Other conservative organizations described similar experiences.

A January IRS letter to the Richmond Tea Party requests the names of donors, the amounts each contributed and details on how the funds were used. The Ohio Liberty Council received an IRS letter last month seeking the credentials of speakers at the group's public events. In a February letter, the IRS asked the Waco Tea Party of Texas whether its officials have a "close relationship" with any candidates for office or political parties, and was asked for events they plan this year. "The crystal ball I was issued can't predict the future," and future events will depend on factors like what Congress does this year, said Toby Marie Walker, president of the Waco group.

The IRS provided a five-paragraph written response to a reporter's questions about its actions. It noted that the tax code allows tax-exempt status to "social welfare" groups, which are supposed to promote the common good of the community. Groups can engage in some political activities "so long as, in the aggregate, these non-exempt activities are not its primary activities," the IRS statement said. "Career civil servants make all decisions on exemption applications in a fair, impartial manner and do so without regard to political affiliation or ideology," the agency said.

There were 139,000 groups in the U.S. with 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status in 2010, the latest year of available IRS data. More than 1,700 organizations applied for that designation in 2010 while over 1,400 were approved. Such volume means it might take months for the IRS to assign applications to agents, said Lloyd Hitoshi Mayer, a Notre Dame law professor who specializes in election and tax law.

Ever since a 2010 Supreme Court decision allowing outside groups to spend unlimited funds in elections, such organizations have been under scrutiny. Two nonpartisan campaign finance watchdogs called on the IRS last fall to strip some large groups of tax-exempt status, claiming they engage in so much political activity that they don't qualify for the designation. Last month, seven Democratic senators asked the IRS to investigate whether some groups were improperly using tax-exempt status -- they didn't name any organizations -- because those groups are "improperly engaged in a substantial or even a predominant amount of campaign activity."

From: Ruth.Madrigal[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 3:10 PM
To: Judson Victoria A; Cook Janine; Lerner Lois G; Marks Nancy J
Subject: 501(c)(4)s - From the Nonprofit Law Prof Blog

Don't know who in your organizations is keeping tabs on c4s, but since we mentioned potentially addressing them (off-plan) in 2013, I've got my radar up and this seemed interesting...

Bad News for Political 501(c)(4)s: 4th Circuit Upholds "Major Purpose" Test for Political Committees
In a case with potentially major ramifications for politically active section 501(c)(4) organizations, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit has upheld the Federal Election Commission's "major purpose" test for determining whether an organization is a political committee or PAC and so subject to extensive disclosure requirements. As described in the opinion, under the major purpose test "the Commission
first considers a group's political activities, such as spending on a particular electoral or issue-advocacy campaign, and then it evaluates an organization's 'major purpose,' as revealed by that group's public statements, fundraising appeals, government filings, and organizational documents" (citations omitted). The FEC's summary of the litigation details the challenge made in this case:

A group or association that crosses the $1,000 contribution or expenditure threshold will only be deemed a political committee if its "major purpose" is to engage in federal campaign activity. [The plaintiff] claims that the FEC set forth an enforcement policy regarding PAC status in a policy statement and that this enforcement policy is "based on an ad hoc, case-by-case, analysis of vague and impermissible factors applied to undefined facts derived through broad-ranging, intrusive, and burdensome investigations . . . that, in themselves, can often shut down an organization, without adequate bright lines to protect issue advocacy in this core First Amendment area." [The plaintiff] asks the court to find this "enforcement policy" unconstitutionally vague and overbroad and in excess of the FEC's statutory authority.

In a unanimous opinion, the court concluded that the FEC's current major purpose test is "a sensible approach to determining whether an organization qualifies for PAC status. And more importantly the Commission's multi-factor major-purpose test is consistent with Supreme Court precedent and does not unlawfully deter protected speech." In doing so, the court chose to apply the less stringent "exacting scrutiny" standard instead of the "strict scrutiny" standard because, in the wake of Citizens United, political committee status only imposes disclosure and organizational requirements but no other restrictions. While the plaintiff here (The Real Truth About Abortion, Inc., formerly known as The Real Truth About Obama, Inc.) is a section 527 organization for federal tax purposes, the same test would apply to other types of politically active organizations, including section 501(c)(4) entities.

Hat Tip: Election Law Blog

LHM

M. Ruth M. Madrigal
Office of Tax Policy
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20220

[redacted](direct)
[redacted]

Increase in (c)(3)/(c)(4) Advocacy Org. Applications

Background:

- EOD Screening has identified an increase in the number of (c)(3) and (c)(4) applications where organizations are advocating on issues related to government spending, taxes and similar matters. Often there is possible political intervention or excessive lobbying.

- EOD Screening identified this type of case as an emerging issue and began sending cases to a specific group if they meet any of the following criteria:
  - "Tea Party," "Patriots" or "9/12 Project" is referenced in the case file
  - Issues include government spending, government debt or taxes
  - Education of the public by advocacy/lobbying to "make America a better place to live"
  - Statements in the case file criticize how the country is being run

- Over 100 cases have been identified so far, a mix of (c)(3)s and (c)(4)s. Before this was identified as an emerging issue, two (c)(4) applications were approved.

- Two sample cases were transferred to EOT, a (c)(3) and a (c)(4).
  - The (c)(4) stated it will conduct advocacy and political intervention, but political intervention will be 20% or less of activities. A proposed favorable letter has been sent to Counsel for review.
  - The (c)(3) stated it will conduct "insubstantial" political intervention and it has ties to politically active (c)(4)s and 527s. A proposed denial is being revised by TLS to incorporate the org.'s response to the most recent development letter.

- EOT is assisting EOD by providing technical advice (limited review of application files and editing of development letters).

EOD Request:

- EOD requests guidance in working these cases in order to promote uniform handling and resolution of issues.

Options for Next Steps:

- Assign cases for full development to EOD agents experienced with cases involving possible political intervention. EOT provides guidance when EOD agents have specific questions.

- EOT composes a list of issues or political/lobbying indicators to look for when investigating potential political intervention and excessive lobbying, such as reviewing website content, getting copies of educational and fundraising materials, and close scrutiny of expenditures.

- Establish a formal process similar to that used in healthcare screening where EOT reviews each application on TEDS and highlights issues for development.

- Transfer cases to EOT to be worked.

- Include pattern paragraphs on the political intervention restrictions in all favorable letters.

- Refer the organizations that were granted exemption to the ROO for follow-up.

Cautions:

- These cases and issues receive significant media and congressional attention.

- The determinations process is representational, therefore it is extremely difficult to establish that an organization will intervene in political campaigns at that stage.

From: Paz Holly O
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 4:15 AM
To: Paterson Troy D TIGTA
Cc: Lerner Lois G
Subject: RE: E-Mail Retention Question

Troy,

I'm sorry we won't get to see you today. We have reached out to determine the appropriate contact regarding your question below and have been told that, if this data request is part of e-Discovery, the coordination needs to go through Chief Counsel. The person to contact regarding e-Discovery requests is Glenn Melcher. His email address is [redacted] and his phone number is [redacted]

Holly

From: Paterson Troy D TIGTA [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 8:51 AM
To: Paz Holly O
Subject: E-Mail Retention Question

Holly,

Good morning.

During a recent briefing, I mentioned that we do not have the original e-mail from May 2010 stating that "Tea Party" applications should be forwarded to a specific group for additional review. After thinking it through, I was wondering about the IRS's retention or backup policy regarding e-mails. Do you know who I could contact to find out if this e-mail may have been retained?

Troy
[redacted]

From: Paz Holly O
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 1:14 PM
To: Lerner Lois G
Subject: FW: Additional procedures on cases with advocacy issues - before issuing any favorable or initial denial ruling

FYI

From: Seto Michael C
Sent: Wednesday,

June 20, 2012 2:11 PM
To: McNaughton Mackenzie P; Salins Mary J;

Shoemaker Ronald J; Lieber Theodore R
Cc: Grodnitzky Steven; Megosh

Andy; Giuliano Matthew L; Fish David L; Paz Holly O
Subject:

Additional procedures on cases with advocacy issues - before issuing any

favorable or initial denial ruling

Please

inform the reviewers and staff in your groups that before issuing any

favorable or initial denial rulings on any cases with advocacy issues, the

reviewers must notify me and you via e-mail and get our

approval. No favorable or initial denial rulings can be issued

without your and my approval. The e-mail notification includes the

name of the case, and a synopsis of facts and denial rationale. I may require a short briefing depending on the facts and circumstances of the particular case.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Mike

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 9:40 AM
To: Miller Steven T
Subject: A Question

I'm wondering if

you might be able to give me a better sense of your expectations regarding roles

and responsibilities for the c4 matters. I understand you have asked Nan

to take a deep look at the what is going on and make recommendations. I'm

fine with that. Then there was the discussion yesterday about how we plan

to approach the issues going forward. That is where the confusion

lies. What are your expectations as to who is implementing the

plan?

Prior to that

meeting, unbeknownst to me, Cathy had made comments regarding the

guidance--which Nan knew about. Nan then directed one of my staff to meet

with Cathy and start moving in a new direction. The staff person came to

me and I talked to Nan, suggesting before we moved, we needed to hear from you,

which is where we are now.

We're all on good

terms and we all want to do the best, but I fear that unless there's a better

understanding of roles, we may step on each others toes without intending to.

Your thoughts please. Thanks

Lois G. Lerner

Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 10:37 AM
To: Urban Joseph J
Subject: Re: BNA - IRS Answers Few Questions Regarding Audits Of Donors Giving to Section 501(c)(4) Groups

The constitutional issue is the big Citizens United issue. I'm guessing no one wants that going forward Lois G. Lerner-------
---------- Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

------Original Message------
From: Joseph Urban
To: Lois Call in Number
Subject: RE: BNA - IRS Answers Few Questions Regarding Audits Of Donors Giving to Section 501(c)(4) Groups
Sent: May 17, 2011 10:39 AM

The Counsel function with jurisdiction over the gift tax, Passthroughs and Special Industries, is going to have to come up with a legal position on what type of transfers of money or property to a section 501(c)(4) organization are subject to the gift tax. There is also a constitutional angle that has been raised - whether imposing the tax on a contribution for political purposes is an infringement on donors' First Amendment free speech rights, as well as an attack on section 501(c)(4) organizations engaged in permissible political activities. The PS&I lawyers have called a meeting for Friday with their boss, and perhaps other higher-ups in Counsel. Judy, Justin and I are going. Susan Brown and Don Spellman will be there from TE/GE Counsel, as will Nan Marks. There are some tough issues for the gift tax people to work through, and I am sure they will be running their conclusions past the Chief Counsel, if not Treasury. It would certainly be an interesting result if a self-interested earmarked donation to a (c)(4) for a political campaign would not subject to the gift tax, but a donation for the selfless general support of a (c)(4)s public interest work would be.
Stay tuned.

-----Original Message-----
From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 10:04 AM
To: Urban Joseph J
Subject: Re: BNA - IRS Answers Few Questions Regarding Audits Of Donors Giving to Section 501(c)(4) Groups

So. What's your take on where this will go? Reminds me of Marv's staff draft on governance

Lois G. Lerner----------

------Original Message Truncated------

To: Eldridge Michelle L; Zarin Roberta B; Lemons Terry L; Burke Anthony
Cc: Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: RE: Georgetown

I will now be speaking somewhere between 11-11:30 depending on when previous speaker finishes. I amy or may not be adding some remarks that are being discussed at a higher level. If approved, I have not been told whether those remarks will be in the written speech, or I will simply give them orally. There amy be a desire to get the speech up ASAP if the new proposed language is added to the draft--these are Nikole questions. Right now, though, we're simple on hold.

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Eldridge Michelle L
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 9:55 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Zarin Roberta B; Lemons Terry L; Burke Anthony
Cc: Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: RE: Georgetown

I'm sorry--I've lost track. What time is your speech? Given timing of other stuff that day--we may be looking at posting both in the afternoon. I'm sure this will continue to be discussed...as I hear more details, I will pass it along. Please let me know what you are hearing as well. Thanks. --Michelle

---

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 6:49 PM
To: Zarin Roberta B; Lemons Terry L; Eldridge Michelle L; Burke Anthony
Cc: Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: RE: Georgetown
Importance: High

Hmm--I was thinking the speech would go up right after I speak and the report would go up later in the afternoon. Will that work?

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Zarin Roberta B
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 1:32 PM
To: Lemons Terry L; Eldridge Michelle L; Burke Anthony
Cc: Lerner Lois G; Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: RE: Georgetown

Thanks, but Melaney deserves credit for that one! We are planning to post Lois' speech, along with the report, Thursday afternoon

Bobby Zarin, Director
Communications and Liaison
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
[redacted]

From: Lemons Terry L
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 1:10 PM
To: Zarin Roberta B; Eldridge Michelle L; Burke Anthony
Cc: Lerner Lois G; Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: RE: Georgetown

Bobby – good catch on the news release. Think we should try doing a short one since we did the interim one. Think text should track what we did before (below.) Anthony Burke will be reaching out to you. Think we need text by mid-day Tuesday so we can get through clearance channels on third floor and Treasury.

Also possible we may post text of Thursday speech on IRS.gov.

Thanks.

From: Zarin Roberta B
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 11:09 AM
To: Lemons Terry L; Eldridge Michelle L
Cc: Lerner Lois G; Partner Melaney J; Marx Dawn R
Subject: FW: Georgetown

Fun for the week:

Do you know if we have language Lois can use re: the furlough? (see below.) I'm sure other IRS speakers are facing the same issue.

Also, as you know, she'll be announcing that the College and University Report that afternoon. We never discussed a press release (you did one for the interim report), and it may be too late now, but should it be considered?

Bobby Zarin, Director
Communications and Liaison
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
[redacted]

From: Flax Nikole C
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2013 11:44 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Lemons Terry L
Cc: Grant Joseph H; Zarin Roberta B
Subject: Re: Georgetown

We will pull something together - can you let me know when/if you are open later today to discuss other topics?

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2013 11:37 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Flax Nikole C; Lemons Terry L
Cc: Grant Joseph H; Zarin Roberta B
Subject: Georgetown

We have numerous speakers over 2 days at the conference, starting on Wed. I am sure we will be asked about the furloughs. There is already press out there on the NTEU issue, so I don't

think we can avoid saying something. I'm thinking it would be best for me to lead off with some statement at the beginning before I get into my formal written speech to respond before the question comes. That way, all that follow me can either say exactly what I say or refer the questioner back to my earlier remarks. Otherwise I fear we may have someone get nervous and say more than we planned. Does that sound like a plan? If so, can we get parameters of what my statement should look like? Sorry, but this isn't one we can skate by. Thanks

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Kall Jason C
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 9:09 PM
To: Lerner Lois G
Cc: Ghougasian Laurice A; Fish David L; Paz Holly O; Downing Nanette M
Subject: Workplan and background on how we started the self declarer project

Lois,

I found the string of e-mails that started us down the path of what has become the c-4, 5, 6 self declarer project. Our curiosity was not from looking at the 990 but rather data on c-4 self declarers.

Jason Kall
Manager, EO Compliance Strategies and Critical Initiatives
[redacted]

From: Chasin Cheryl D
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2010 8:59 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Kindell Judith E; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue; Kall Jason C; Downing Nanette M
Subject: RE: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

That's correct. These are all status 36 organizations, which means no application was filed.

Cheryl Chasin
[redacted]

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2010 9:58 AM
To: Chasin Cheryl D; Kindell Judith E; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue; Kall Jason C; Downing Nanette M
Subject: Re: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

Ok guys. We need to have a plan. We need to be cautious so it isn't a per se political project. More a c4 project that will look at levels of lobbying and pol. activity along with exempt activity. Cheryl- I assume none of those came in with a 1024?
Lois G. Lerner----------
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Chasin Cheryl D
To: Lerner Lois G; Kindell Judith E; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue; Kall Jason C; Downing Nanette M
Sent: Wed Sep 15 14:54:38 2010
Subject: RE: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

It's definitely happening. Here are a few organizations (501(c)(4), status 36) that sure sound to me like they are engaging in political activity:

I've also found (so far) 94 homeowners and condominium associations, a VEBA, and legal defense funds set up to benefit specific individuals.

Cheryl Chasin
[redacted]

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 1:51 PM
To: Kindell Judith E; Chasin Cheryl D; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue; Kall Jason C; Downing Nanette M
Subject: RE: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

I'm not saying this is correct--but there is a perception out there that that is what is happening. My guess is most who conduct political activity never pay the tax on the activity and we surely should be looking at that. Wouldn't that be a surprising turn of events. My object is not to look for political activity--more to see whether self-declared c4s are really acting like c4s. Then we'll move on to c5,c6,c7--it will fill up the work plan forever!

Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations

From: Kindell Judith E
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 1:03 PM
To: Lerner Lois G; Chasin Cheryl D; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue
Subject: RE: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

My big concern is the statement "some (c)(4)s are being set up to engage in political activity" - if they are being set up to engage in political campaign activity they are not (c)(4)s. I think that Cindy's people are keeping an eye out for (c)(4)s set up to influence political campaigns, but we might want to remind them. I also agree that it is about time to start looking at some of those organizations that file Form 990 without applying for recognition -whether or not they are involved in politics.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 12:27 PM

To: Chasin Cheryl D; Ghougasian Laurice A; Kindell Judith E
Cc: Lehman Sue
Subject: FW: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

Not sure you guys get this directly. I'm really thinking we do need a c4 project next year

Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations

From: paul streckfus [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 12:20 PM
To: paul streckfus
Subject: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

From the Desk of Paul Streckfus,
Editor, EO Tax Journal

Email Update 2010-130 (Wednesday, September 15, 2010)

Yesterday, I asked, "Is 501(c)(4) Status Being Abused?" I can hardly keep up with the questions and comments this query has generated. As noted yesterday, some (c)(4)s are being set up to engage in political activity, and donors like them because they remain anonymous. Some commenters are saying, "Why should we care?", others say these organizations come and go with such rapidity that the IRS would be wasting its time to track them down, others say (c)(3) filing requirements should be imposed on (c)(4)s, and so it goes.

Former IRSer Conrad Rosenberg seems to be taking a leave them alone view:

"I have come, sadly, to the conclusion that attempts at revocation of these blatantly political organizations accomplish little, if anything, other than perhaps a bit of *in terrorem* effect on some other (usually much smaller) organizations that may be contemplating similar behavior. The big ones are like balloons -- squeeze them in one place, and they just pop out somewhere else, largely unscathed and undaunted. The government expends enormous effort to win one of these cases (on very rare occasion), with little real-world consequence. The skein of interlocking 'educational' organizations woven by the fabulously rich and hugely influential Koch brothers to foster their own financial interests by political means ought to be Exhibit One. Their creations operate with complete impunity, and I doubt that potential revocation of tax exemption enters into their calculations at all. That's particularly true where deductibility of contributions, as with (c)(4)s, is not an issue. Bust one, if you dare, and they'll just finance another with a different name. I feel for the IRS's dilemma, especially in this wildly polarized election year."

A number of individuals said the requirements for (c)(4)s to file the Form 1024 or the Form 990 are a bit of a muddle. My understanding is that (c)(4)s need not file a Form 1024, but generally the IRS won't accept a Form 990 without a Form 1024 being filed. The result is that attorneys can create new (c)(4)s every year to exist for a short time and never file a 1024 or 990. However, the IRS can claim the organization is subject to tax (assuming it becomes aware of its existence) and then the organization must prove it is exempt (by essentially filing the information required by Form 1024 and maybe 990). Not being sure of the correctness of my understanding, I went to the only person who may know more about EO tax law than Bruce Hopkins, and got this response from Marc Owens:

"You are sort of close. It's not quite accurate to state that a (c)(4) 'need not file a Form 1024.' A (c)(4) is not subject to IRC 508, hence it is not required to file an application for tax-exempt status within a particular period of time after its formation. Such an organization is subject, however, to Treas. Reg. Section 1.501(a)-1(a)(2) and (3) which set forth the general requirement that in order to be exempt, an organization must file an application, but for which no particular time period is specified. Once a would-be (c)(4) is formed and it has completed one fiscal year of life, and assuming that it had revenue during the fiscal year, it is required to file a tax return.

"There is no exemption from the return filing requirement for would-be (c)(4)s and failing to file anything is flirting with serious issues. Obviously, few, if any, organizations elect to file a Form 1120 and so file a Form 990 as an alternative and because it comports with the intended tax-exempt status. When such a Form 990 arrives in Ogden, it goes 'unpostable,' i.e., there is no pre-existing master file account to which to 'post' receipt of the return.

"Master file accounts for tax exempts are created by Cincinnati when an application is filed, hence no prior application, no master file account and no place for Ogden to record receipt of the subsequent 990. Such unpostable returns are kicked out of the processing system and sent to a resolution unit that analyzes the problem (there are many reasons a return might be unpostable, such as a typo in an EIN). The processing unit might create a 'dummy' master file account to which to post the return, it might correspond with the filing organization to ascertain the correct return to be filed, or it might refer the matter to TE/GE where it would be assigned to an agent to analyze, essentially instigating the process you describe."

My query today: So where are we? Should the IRS ignore the whole mess? Or should the IRS be concerned with the integrity of the tax exemption system?

I think the IRS needs to keep track of new (c)(4)s as they appear. I'm assuming most political ads identify who is bringing them to you. That's true of the ones I've seen. When the IRS can not identify on its master file a new organization engaged in politicking, it should send a letter of inquiry, saying "Who are you? What is your claimed tax status?" In other words, what I'm saying is that the IRS needs to be more pro-active, and not await the filing of a Form 1024 or 990. I recognize that most of these (c)(4)s may have little income if they spend what they take in, but the EO function has never been about generating revenue. If (c)(4) status is being abused, the IRS needs to take action. If the IRS does not have the tools to get at the problems, then we need for Congress to step in and strengthen the filing requirements.

My biggest concern is that these political (c)(4)s are operating in tandem with (c)(3)s so that donors can claim 170 deductions. Here the IRS needs to have an aggressive audit program in coordination with the Income Tax Division so that 170 deductions are disallowed if a (c)(3) is being used as a conduit to a (c)(4).

I've probably raised new issues, and I've said nothing about section 527. Anyone who wants to fill in some of the blanks, please do so.

From: Marks Nancy J
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 12:16 PM
To: Lerner Lois G; Paz Holly O; Fish David L
Subject: Re: HMMMM?

Well we'd all like to see some good solid light of day court resolution so hope so

---

Sent using BlackBerry

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 12:34 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Marks Nancy J; Paz Holly O; Fish David L
Subject: RE: HMMMM?

It's the one that will be next that is "the one."

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Marks Nancy J
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 12:21 PM
To: Lerner Lois G; Paz Holly O; Fish David L
Subject: Re: HMMMM?

Some not all would be my guess

Sent using BlackBerry

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 09:55 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Marks Nancy J; Paz Holly O; Fish David L
Subject: Re: HMMMM?

Sorry. These guys are itching for a Constitutional challenge. Not you father's EO
Lois G. Lerner----------
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Marks Nancy J
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2013 05:55 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Lerner Lois G; Paz Holly O; Fish David L
Subject: Re: HMMMM?

I guess I'd never assume that. Court is an expensive crap shoot with the potential for a public record the org might not want. This changes the odds some not sure it is a lot (unless most have no liability)

Sent using BlackBerry

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2013 05:43 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Marks Nancy J; Paz Holly O; Fish David L
Subject: RE: HMMMM?

When we were talking, we were thinking they would all want to go to court--so we figured, why not get there sooner and save Appeals some time--they will be dying with these cases. We were thinking c3 rules. As to taxes owed--if IRS hasn't assessed, it's hard to get to court without paying yourself and making a claim

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Marks Nancy J
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2013 5:37 PM
To: Lerner Lois G; Paz Holly O; Fish David L
Subject: RE: HMMMM?

I may be missing something. Designating them would not guarantee litigation because no one can force the taxpayer into court but assuming they have some tax liability resulting from the loss of exempt status litigation is certainly possible and the designation would have cut off appeals time right? (I'll admit I have not looked at designation procedures in some time). I agree release of denials is unlikely to create a public record because of redaction; there will probably be some record arising from taxpayers self disclosing but that issue is no different here than in many places.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2013 5:16 PM
To: Marks Nancy J; Paz Holly O; Fish David L
Subject: HMMMM?

I was talking to Tom Miller about the redaction process in an effort to give Nikole a feel for how long it takes form a proposed denial to something being public with regard to the denial--a long time. As we talked I had been thinking of ways to shorten things up--such as designating the case for litigation and cutting out the Appeals time. It occurred to me though, that these are c4s, not c3s, so they have no right to go to court unless they owe tax. Without an exam, we can't tell whether they owe tax, and once we deny them, we don't have any ability to examine them--they are on the other side of the IRS. If they want to go to court, I guess they could file and pay taxes for previous years and then claim a refund(maybe?)

Bottom line, am I right that designating a c4 for court doesn't work and that we probably won't see any of these denials publicly other than the redacted copies of the denials when the process is complete? That really won't be helpful as I'm guessing many of these will have to be redacted so heavily that they won't have much information left once that is done.

Am I correct?

Lois G. Lerner

Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2013 9:30 AM
To: Flax Nikole C
Subject: RE: Aba

It's just the plain vanilla "what's new from the IRS?" with Ruth and Janine---ordinarily, I'd give snippets of several topics--status of auto-rev, the 2 questionnaire projects, the interactive 1023--stuff we talked about at Georgetown. May 10, 9-10--immediately followed by me on a panel re C & U Report with Lorry Spitzer and someone else--maybe Suzie McDowell.

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

-----Original Message-----
From: Flax Nikole C
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2013 9:42 AM
To: Lerner Lois G
Subject: Aba

What time is your panel friday and what are the topics?

From: Flax Nikole C
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 11:59 AM
To: Lerner Lois G
Subject: FW: Draft remarks
Attachments: draft c4 comments 4-22-13.doc

see what you think.

Recent section 501(c)(4) activity
PRELIMINARY DRAFT 4-22-13

So I think it's important to bring up a matter that came up over the last year or so concerning our determination letter process, some section 501(c)(4) organizations and their political activity. Some of this has been discussed publicly already. But I thought it would make sense to do just a couple of minutes on what we did, what we didn't do, and where we are today on the grouping of advocacy organizations in our determination letter inventory.

I will start with a summary. As you know, the number of c4 applications increased significantly starting after 2010. In particular, we saw a large increase in the volume of applications from organizations that appeared to be engaged or planning to engage in advocacy activities. At that time, we did not have good enough procedures or guidance in place to effectively work these cases. We also have the factual difficulty of separating politics from education in these cases – it's not always clear. Complicating matters is the sensitivity of these cases. Before I get into more detail, let me say that the IRS should have done a better job of handling the review of the c4 applications. We made mistakes, for which we apologize. But these mistakes were not due to any political or partisan reason. They were made because of missteps in our process and insufficient sensitivity to the implications of some our decisions. We believe we have fixed these issues, and our entire team will do a much better job going forward in this area. And I want to stress that our team - all career civil servants – will continue to do their work in a fair, non-partisan manner.

So let me start again and provide more detail. Centralizing advocacy cases for review in the determination letter process made sense. Some of the ways we centralized did not make sense. But we have taken actions to fix the errors. What we did here, along with other mistakes that were made along the way, resulted in some cases being in inventory far longer than they should have.

Our front-line people in Cincinnati -- who do the reviews -- took steps to coordinate the handling of the uptick in cases to ensure consistency. We take this approach in areas where we want to promote consistency. Cases involving credit counseling are the best example of this sort of situation.

Here's where a problem occurred. In centralizing the cases in Cincinnati, my review team placed too much reliance on the particular name of an organization; in this case, relying on names in organization titles like "tea party" or "patriot," rather than looking deeper into the facts to determine the level of activity under the c4 guidelines. Our Inspector General is looking at this situation, but I believe and the IRS leadership team believe this to be an error -- not a political vendetta. The error was of a mistaken desire for too much efficiency on the applications without sufficient sensitivity to the situation.

We also made some errors in our development letters, asking for more than was needed. You may recall the publicity around donor lists. That resulted from insufficient

guidance being provided to our people working these cases. There was also an issue about whether we could do a guidesheet for these cases, an effort that took too long before we realized the diversity of the cases prevented success on such a document.

Now, we have remedied this situation -- both systemically for the IRS and for the taxpayers who were impacted. I think we have done a good job of turning the situation around to help prevent this from occurring again.

Let me walk you through the steps we have taken.

Systemically, decisions with respect to the centralized collection of cases must be made at a higher level. So what happened here will not happen again.

With respect to the specific c4 cases in inventory, we took a number of steps to move things along. First, we had a team review the cases to determine the necessary scope of our review. Now make no mistake, some need that review, some have or had endorsements in public materials, for example. But many did not.

We worked to move the inventory. We closed those cases that were clear and are working on those that are less certain.

With respect to what we agree may have been overbroad requests for information, we engaged in a process of an active back and forth with the taxpayer. With respect to donor names, we informed organizations that if they could provide information requested in an alternative manner, we would work with them. In cases in which the donor names were not used in making the determination, the donor information was expunged from the file.

We now have a process where each revenue agent assigned these cases works in coordination with a specific technical expert.

And we have made significant progress on these cases. Of the nearly 300 c4 advocacy cases, we have approved more than 120 to date. We have had more than 30 (?) withdrawals. And obviously some cases take longer than others depending on the issues raised, including the level of political activity compared with social welfare activity. Let me make another important point that shouldn't be lost in all of this. We remain committed to making sure that we properly review determinations where there are questions. We hope to wrap the remaining cases up relatively soon.

So I wanted to raise this situation today with you. You and I know the IRS does make mistakes. And I also think you agree that our track record shows that our decisions are based on the law – not political affiliation. When we do make mistakes, we need to acknowledge it and work toward a better result. We also need to put in place safeguards to ensure the errors do not happen again. I think we have tried to do that here.

These cases will help us, along with the self-declarer questionnaire, to better understand the state of play on political activities in today's environment, the gaps in

guidance, and where we need to head into the future.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 12:39 PM
To: Flax Nikole C; Sinno Suzanne; Barre Catherine M; Landes Scott S; Amato Amy; Vozne Jennifer L
Subject: RE: UPDATE - FW: Hearing

As I mentioned yesterday--there are several groups of folks from the FEC world that are pushing tax fraud prosecution for c4s who report they are not conducting political activity when they are(or these folks think they are). One is my ex-boss Larry Noble(former General Counsel at the FEC), who is now president of Americans for Campaign Reform. This is their latest push to shut these down. One IRS prosecution would make an impact and they wouldn't feel so comfortable doing the stuff.

So, don't be fooled about how this is being articulated--it is ALL about 501(c)(4) orgs and political activity

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Flax Nikole C
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 1:31 PM
To: Sinno Suzanne; Lerner Lois G; Barre Catherine M; Landes Scott S; Amato Amy; Vozne Jennifer L
Subject: RE: UPDATE - FW: Hearing

thanks - this is helpful. Can we regroup internally before we get back to the Hill?

So sounds like their interest in 7206 is not 501c4 specific?

From: Sinno Suzanne
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 1:19 PM
To: Flax Nikole C; Lerner Lois G; Barre Catherine M; Landes Scott S; Amato Amy
Subject: UPDATE - FW: Hearing

I just spoke with Ayo. He told me that DOJ said the IRS does the initial investigations into violations of IRC section 7206 (fraud and false statements) and DOJ prosecutes IRS referrals. DOJ said they have not gotten any referrals from the IRS.

The Subcommittee is interested in an IRS witness to testify on:
- the process of an investigation before a case is turned over to DOJ
- how a determination is made
- how different elements of the offense are interpreted under IRC section 7206

Please let me know your thoughts.

Thanks,
Suzie

From: Sinno Suzanne
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 12:51 PM
To: Griffin, Ayo (Judiciary-Dem)
Subject: RE: Hearing

Ayo,

I do remember meeting with you on 501(c)(4)s last July and I hope you are well too.

Regarding the hearing, this is very short notice and I am not sure that we can properly prepare a witness in time and clear testimony. I will need to check with the subject matter experts and get back to you.

What would be most helpful is if you can tell me specifically what the Subcommittee wants the IRS to address, as we cannot comment on any specific cases/taxpayers. Are there questions that DOJ cannot answer that you want the IRS to answer instead?

Feel free to call me directly at [redacted] if you would like to discuss over the phone

Thank you,
Suzie

Suzanne R. Sinno, J.D., LL.M. (Tax)
Legislative Counsel
Office of Legislative Affairs
Internal Revenue Service
[redacted]
[redacted](fax)
[redacted]

From: Griffin, Ayo (Judiciary-Dem) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 7:44 PM
To: Sinno Suzanne
Subject: Hearing

Hi Suzanne,

I hope you're well. You may recall we met last summer during a couple of very helpful IRS briefings that you put together for staff for several Senators relating to political spending by 501(c)(4) groups.

I wanted to get in touch because Sen. Whitehouse is convening a hearing in the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism on criminal enforcement of campaign finance law on April 9, which I think you may have already have heard about from Bill Erb at DoJ. One of the topics actually involves enforcement of tax law. Specifically, Sen. Whitehouse is interested in the investigation and prosecution of material false statements to the IRS regarding political activity by 501(c)(4) groups on forms 990 and 1024 under 26 U.S.C. § 7206.

Sen. Whitehouse would like to invite an IRS witness to testify on these issues. Could you please let me know if it would be possible for you to provide a witness?

I sincerely apologize for the late notice. We had been hoping that a DoJ witness could discuss all of the topics that Sen. Whitehouse was interested in covering at this hearing, but we were recently informed that they would not be able to speak about enforcement of § 7206 in this context.

I have attached an official invitation in case you require one two weeks prior to the hearing date (as DoJ does).

Perhaps we can discuss all of this on the phone tomorrow if you have time.

Thanks very much,

Ayo

Ayo Griffin
Counsel
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
[redacted]

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 9:28 AM
To: Lowe Justin; Zarin Roberta B; Paz Holly O; Partner Melaney J
Subject: RE: Politico Article on the IRS, Disclosure, and (c)(4)s

I never understand why they don't go after Congress to change the law!

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Lowe Justin
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 10:21 AM
To: Zarin Roberta B; Lerner Lois G; Paz Holly O; Partner Melaney J
Subject: Politico Article on the IRS, Disclosure, and (c)(4)s

A fairly critical article from Politico on Monday, touching on (c)(4)s, responses to information requests, and application processing: http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1012/82387.html

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2012 7:47 PM
To: Miller Steven T
Subject: Re: thank you

Glad it turned out to be far more boring than it might have. Happy to be able to help.
Lois G. Lerner----------
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Miller Steven T
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2012 11:16 AM
To: Lowe Justin; Urban Joseph J; Mistr Christine R; Flax Nikole C; Barre Catherine M; Norton William G Jr; Richardson Virginia G; Daly Richard M; Lerner Lois G; Paz Holly O
Subject: thank you

For all the help on

the hearing. Please thank others who were involved in what I know was a

time consuming effort to quench my thirst for details.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 10:40 AM
To: Paz Holly O; Megosh Andy; Fish David L; Park Nalee; Williams Melinda G
Cc: Flax Nikole C
Subject: C4

I know you all have received messages independently, but I wanted all to hear same message at same time. Regardless whether language has previously been approved, NO responses related to c4 stuff go out without an affirmative message, in writing from Nikole. Thanks Lois G. Lerner---------- Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 10:36 AM
To: Flax Nikole C
Subject: Re: c4 letters

That is why I told them every letter had to go thru you. Don't know why this didn't, but have now told all involved, I hope! Sorry for all the noise. It is just stupid, but not welcome, I'm sure.
Lois G. Lerner----------
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Flax Nikole C
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 11:13 AM
To: Lerner Lois G
Subject: RE: c4 letters

I know it is the same language, but this one has created a ton of issues including from Treasury and timing not ideal.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 11:07 AM
To: Flax Nikole C
Subject: Re: c4 letters

Sorry for that. I previously told the$m everything on c4 had to go to you first for approval.
Lois G. Lerner----------
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Flax Nikole C
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 10:08 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Paz Holly O; Megosh Andy; Park Nalee; Urban Joseph J
Subject: c4 letters

We need to hold up on sending any more responses to any public/congressional letters until we all talk. Thanks

From: Kindell Judith E
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 10:54 AM
To: Lerner Lois G
Cc: Light Sharon P
Subject: Bucketed cases

Of the 84 (c)(3)

cases, slightly over half appear to be conservative leaning groups based solely on the name. The remainder do not obviously lean to either side of the political spectrum.

Of the 199 (c)(4)

cases, approximately 3/4 appear to be conservative leaning while fewer than 10 appear to be liberal/progressive leaning groups based solely on the name. The remainder do not obviously lean to either side of the political spectrum.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:31 AM
To: Light Sharon P
Subject: Re: this morning on NPR

Perhaps the FEC will save the day
Lois G. Lerner
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Light Sharon P
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 08:44 AM
To: Paz Holly O; Lerner Lois G
Subject: this morning on NPR

Democrats Say Anonymous Donors Unfairly Influencing Senate Races

Karen Bleier /AFP/Getty Images

In Senate races, Democrats are fighting to preserve their thin majority. Their party campaign committee wants the Federal Election Commission to crack down on some of the Republicans' wealthiest allies — outside money groups that are using anonymous contributions to finance a multimillion-dollar onslaught of attack ads.

At the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Director Matt Canter says the pro-Republican groups aren't playing by the rules. The committee plans to file a complaint with the FEC accusing a trio of "social welfare" groups of actually being political committees, abusing the rules to hide the identities of their donors.

"These are organizations that are allowing right-wing billionaires and corporations to essentially get special treatment," says Canter.

Democrats don't have high-roller groups like these. Canter says that while ordinary donors in politics have to disclose their contributions, "these right-wing billionaires and corporations that are likely behind the ads that these organizations are running don't have to adhere to any of those laws."

The complaint cites Crossroads GPS, co-founded by Republican strategist Karl Rove; Americans For Prosperity, supported by the billionaire industrialists David and Charles Koch; and 60 Plus, which bills itself as the senior citizens' conservative alternative to AARP.

The three groups have all told the IRS they are social welfare organizations, just like thousands of local civic groups and definitely not political committees.

Canter said they've collectively spent about $22 million attacking Democrats in Senate races this cycle.

The Obama campaign filed a similar complaint against Crossroads GPS last month. Watchdog groups have also repeatedly complained to the FEC and IRS.

At Crossroads GPS, spokesman Jonathan Collegio said their ads talk about things like unemployment and government overspending. "Those are all issues and advertising that's protected by the First Amendment, and it would ... be de facto censorship for the government to stop that type of advocacy from taking place," says Collegio.

And on Fox News recently, Rove said the Crossroads organization is prepared to defend itself and its donors' anonymity.

"We have some of the best lawyers in the country, both on the tax side and on the political side, political election law, to make certain that we never get close to the line that would push us into making GPS a political group as opposed to a social welfare organization," says Rove.

But it's possible that the legal ground may be shifting slowly beneath the social welfare organizations.

They've been a political vehicle of choice for big donors who want to stay private, especially as the Supreme Court loosened the rules for unlimited money.

But last month, a federal appeals court in Richmond, Va., said the FEC has the power to tell a social welfare organization that it's advertising like a political committee and it has to play by those rules.

Campaign finance lawyer Larry Noble used to be the FEC's chief counsel. He says that court ruling won't put anyone out of business this year.

"But it will have a chilling effect on these groups of billionaire-raised contributions, because it will call into question whether or not they're really going to be able to keep their donors confidential," says Noble.

The first obstacle to that kind of enforcement is the FEC itself, a place where controversial issues routinely end in a partisan deadlock.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 5:00 PM
To: Daly Richard M; Ingram Sarah H; Marx Dawn R; Urban Joseph J; Marks Nancy J
Cc: Paz Holly O; Fish David L
Subject: RE: 201210022 Engagement Letter

It is what it is. Although the original story isn't as pretty as we'd like, once we learned this were off track, we have done what we can to change the process, better educate our staff and move the cases. So, we will get dinged, but we took steps before the "dinging" to make things better and we have written procedures. So, it is what what it is.

Lois G.

Lerner

Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Daly Richard M
Sent: Friday,

June 22, 2012 5:10 PM
To: Ingram Sarah H; Lerner Lois G; Marx Dawn R;

Urban Joseph J; Marks Nancy J
Subject: FW: 201210022 Engagement

Letter
Importance: High

TIGTA is going to look at how we deal with the

applications from (c)(4)s. Among other things they will look at our

consistency, and whether we had a reasonable basis for asking for information

from the applicants. The engagement letter bears a close

reading. To my mind, it has a more skeptical tone than

usual.

Among the documents they want to look at are the

following:

- All

documents and correspondence (including e-mail) concerning the Exempt Organizations function's response to and decision-making process for addressing the increase in applications for tax-exempt status from organizations involving potential political advocacy issues.

TIGTA expects to issue its report in the spring.

From: Rutstein Joel S
Sent: Friday,

June 22, 2012 3:01 PM
To: Daly Richard M
Subject: FW:

201210022 Engagement Letter
Importance: High

Mike, please see below and attached. Given that

TIGTA sent this to Joseph Grant and cc'ed Lois and Moises, do you still need me

to circulate this under a cover memo and distribute it to all my liaisons

including you? Thanks, Joel

Joel S. Rutstein, Esq.

Program Manager,

GAO/TIGTA Audits

Legislation and

Reports Branch

Office of

Legislative Affairs

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(fax)

Email: [redacted]

Web: http://irweb.irs.gov/AboutIRS/bu/cl/la/laqt/default.aspx

---

From: Price Emma W TIGTA

[redacted]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:56

PM
To: Grant Joseph H
Cc: Davis Jonathan M (Wash DC); Miller

Steven T; Medina Moises C; Lerner Lois G; Rutstein Joel S; Holmgren R David

TIGTA; Denton Murray B TIGTA; Coleman Amy L TIGTA; McKenney Michael E TIGTA;

Stephens Dorothy A TIGTA
Subject: 201210022 Engagement

Letter
Importance: High

FYI – Engagement Letter – *Consistency in Identifying and*

Reviewing Applications for Tax-Exempt Status Involving Political Advocacy

Issues.

Thanks,

Emma Price

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 12:48 PM
To: Downing Nanette M
Subject: FW: Mother Jones on (c)(4)s

[redacted]

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Zarin Roberta B
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 8:34 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Urban Joseph J; Kindell Judith E; Medina Moises C; Grant Joseph H; Ingram Sarah H; Partner Melaney J; Paz Holly O; Fish David L; Marks Nancy J
Cc: Marx Dawn R
Subject: FW: Mother Jones on (c)(4)s

very interesting reading.

Bobby Zarin, Director
Communications and Liaison
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
[redacted]

From: Burke Anthony
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 7:35 AM
To: Zarin Roberta B
Cc: Lemons Terry L
Subject: Mother Jones on (c)(4)s

I don't think we'll include this in the clips, but I thought you might be interested:

Mother Jones

How Dark-Money Groups Sneak By the Taxman

Gavin Aronsen

June 13, 2012

Here at Mother Jones we talk about "dark money" to broadly describe the flood of unlimited spending behind this year's election. But the truly dark money in 2012 is being raised and spent by tax-exempt groups that aren't required to disclose their financial backers even as they funnel anonymous cash to super-PACs and run election ads.

By Internal Revenue Service rules, these 501(c)(4)s exist as nonpartisan "social welfare" organizations. They can engage in political activity so long as that's not their primary purpose, but skirt that rule by running issue-based "electioneering communications" that can mention candidates so long as they don't directly tell you to vote for or against them (wink, wink), or by giving grants to other politically active 501(c)(4)s. (Super-PACs, on the other hand, can spend all their money endorsing or attacking candidates, but must disclose their donors.)

Some overtly partisan dark-money groups are better at dancing around these rules than others. Last month, the IRS stripped an organization called Emerge America of its 501(c)(4) status. As it informed the group, which explicitly works to elect Democratic women, "You are not operated primarily to promote social welfare because your activities are conducted primarily for the benefit of a political party and a private group of individuals, rather than the community as a whole." Sure enough, Emerge America's mission statement on its 2010 tax form made no attempt to hide this fact: "By providing women across America with a top-notch training and a powerful, political network, we are getting more Democrats into office and changing the leadership-and politics-of America." D'oh!

Emerge America certainly isn't the only 501(c)(4) to walk the line between promoting social welfare and promoting a political party. It just wasn't savvy or subtle enough to not get busted. Other dark-money groups tend to describe their missions in broad terms that are unlikely to raise an auditor's eyebrows. But how they spend their money suggests their actual agendas. A few examples:

American Action Network

What it is: Conservative dark-money group cofounded by former Sen. Norm Coleman (R-Minn.).

Mission statement (as stated on tax forms): "The American Action Network is a 501(c)(4) 'action tank' that will create, encourage, and promote center-right policies based on the principles of freedom, limited government, American exceptionalism, and strong national policy."

How it walks the line: AAN spent $20 million in the 2010 election cycle targeting Democrats, including producing ads that were pulled from local airwaves for making "unsubstantiated" claims, but $15 million of that went toward issue ads. Last week, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington claimed that from July 2009 through June 2011 AAN spent 66.8 percent of its budget on political activity, an apparent violation of its tax-exempt status. CREW is calling for an investigation, suggesting that "significant financial penalties might prod AAN to learn the math."

Crossroads GPS

What it is: The 501(c)(4) of Karl Rove's American Crossroads super-PAC

Mission statement: "Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies is a non-profit public policy advocacy organization that is dedicated to educating, equipping, and engaging American citizens to take action on important economic and legislative issues that will shape our nation's future. The vision of Crossroads GPS is to empower private citizens to determine the direction of government policymaking rather than being the disenfranchised victims of it. Through issue research, public communications, events with policymakers, and outreach to interested citizens, Crossroads GPS seeks to elevate understanding of consequential national policy issues, and to build grassroots support for legislative and policy changes that promote private sector economic growth, reduce needless government regulations, impose stronger financial discipline and accountability on government, and strengthen America's national security."

How it walks the line: The campaign-finance reform group Democracy 21 has called Crossroad GPS' tax-exempt status a "farce," pointing to $10 million anonymously donated to finance GPS' anti-Obama ads. Likewise, the Campaign Legal Center wants the IRS to audit GPS. According to its tax filings, between June 2010 and December 2011 GPS spent $17.1 million on "direct political spending"-just 15 percent of its total spending. Yet it also spent another 42 percent of its total spending, or $27.1 million, on "grassroots issue advocacy," which included issue ads.

Americans for Prosperity

What it is: Dark-money group of the Americans for Prosperity Foundation (which was founded by David Koch).

Mission statement: "Educate U.S. citizens about the impact of sound economic policy on the nation's economy and social structure, and mobilize citizens to be involved in fiscal matters."

How it walks the line: Since 2010, Americans for Prosperity has officially spent about $1.4 million on election ads. However, the group's 2010 tax filing shows that $11.2 million of its $24 million in expenses went toward "communications, ads, [and] media." In May, an anonymous donor gave AFP $6.1 million to spend on an issue ad attacking the president's energy policy. Just before Wisconsin's recent recall election, AFP sponsored a bus tour to rally conservative voters. But its state director said the tour had nothing to do the recall: "We're not dealing with any candidates, political parties, or ongoing races. We're just educating folks on the importance of [Gov. Scott Walker's] reforms."

FreedomWorks

What it is: Dark-money arm of former House Majority Leader Dick Armey's Tea Party-aligned super-PAC of the same name

Mission statement: "Public policy, advocacy, and educational organization that focuses on fiscal on economic issues."

How it walks the line: FreedomWorks' 501(c)(4) hasn't spent any money on electioneering this election, but it has funneled $1.7 million into its super-PAC, which has spent $2.4 million supporting Republican campaigns. FreedomWorks has focused its past efforts on organizing anti-Obama Tea Party protests and encouraging conservatives to disrupt Democratic town hall meetings to protest the party's health care and renewable energy policies.

Citizens United

What it is: Conservative nonprofit that sued the Federal Election Commission in 2008, resulting in the Supreme Court's infamous Citizens United ruling.

Mission statement: "Citizens United is dedicated to restoring our government to citizens [sic] control. Through a combination of education, advocacy, and grass roots organization, the organization seeks to reassert the traditional American values of limited government, freedom of enterprises, strong families, and national sovereignty and security. The organization's goal is to restore the founding fathers [sic] vision of a free nation, guided by honesty, common sense, and goodwill of its citizens."

How it walks the line: Since its formation in 1988, the nonprofit has released 19 right-wing political documentaries, including films narrated by Newt Gingrich and Mike Huckabee, a rebuttal to Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11, and a pro-Ronald Reagan production (plus the upcoming Occupy Unmasked). On its 2010 tax filing, Citizens United reported spending more than half of its $15.2 million budget on "publications and film" and "advertising and promotion."

From: Seto Michael C
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:39 PM
To: Lieber Theodore R; Salins Mary J; Seto Michael C; Shoemaker Ronald J; Smith Danny D
Subject: FW: SCR Table for Jan. 2011 & SCR items
Attachments: SCR table Jan 2011.doc; SCR Jan 2011 [redacted] MD.doc; SCR Jan 2011 [redacted] MD.doc; SCR Jan 2011 [redacted] MD.doc; SCR Jan 2011 [redacted].doc; SCR Jan 2011 [redacted] MD.doc; SCR Jan 2011 Newspaper Cases Update MD.DOC; SCR Jan 2011 [redacted] MD.DOC; SCR Jan 2011 Medical Marijuana.doc; SCR Jan 2011 Mortgage Foreclosure.doc; SCR Jan 2011 Foreign Lobby Cases.doc; SCR Jan 2011 [redacted].doc; SCR Jan 2011 [redacted].doc

Below is Lois' and Holly's directions on certain technical areas, such as newspapers, health care case, etc. Please do not allow any cases to go out before we have brief Lois and Holly.

Attached is the SCR table and the SCRs. The SCRs that went to Mike Daly ends with "MD." I will forward the other SCRs that didn't went Mike as fyi.

These reports are for your eyes only . . . not to be distributed.

Thanks,

Mike

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:17 AM
To: Paz Holly O; Seto Michael C
Cc: Trilli Darla J; Douglas Akaisha; Letourneau Diane L; Kindell Judith E; Light Sharon P
Subject: RE: SCR Table for Jan. 2011

Thanks--even if we go with a 4 on the Tea Party cases, they may want to argue they should be 3s, so it would be great if we can get there without saying the only reason they don't get a 3 is political activity.

I'll get with Nan Marks on the [redacted] piece.

I'm just antsy on the churchy stuff--Judy--thoughts on whether we should go to Counsel early on this--seems to me we may want to answer all questions they may have earlier rather than later, but I may be being too touchy. I'll defer to you and Judy.

[redacted]--I thought the elevated to TEGE Commish related to whether we ever had--that's why I asked. Perhaps the block is wrong--maybe what we need is some notation that the issue is one we would elevate?

I hear you about you and Mike keeping track, but I would like a running history. that's the only way I can speak to what we're doing and progress in a larger way. Plus we've learned from Exam--if they know I'm looking, they don't want to have to explain--so they

move things along. the 'clean" sheet doesn't give me any sense unless I go back to previous SCRs.

I've added Sharon so she can see what kinds of things I'm interested in.

Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations

From: Paz Holly O
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:02 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Seto Michael C
Cc: Trilli Darla J; Douglas Akaisha; Letourneau Diane L; Kindell Judith E
Subject: RE: SCR Table for Jan. 2011

Tea Party - Cases in Determs are being supervised by Chip Hull at each step - he reviews info from TPs, correspondence to TPs, etc. No decisions are going out of Cincy until we go all the way through the process with the c3 and c4 cases here. I believe the c4 will be ready to go over to Judy soon.

HMO case ([redacted]) - When you say to push for the next Counsel meeting, with whom in Counsel are you referring? The plan had been for Sarah to meet with Wilkins and Nan on this. We think this has not happened but have not heard directly (unless Sarah has responded to your recent email on this case). I don't know that we at this level can drive that meeting.

[redacted]-I will reach out to Phil to see if Nan has seen it. She was involved in the past but I don't know about recently.

On [redacted] (religious order), proposed denials typically do not go to Counsel. Proposed denial goes out, we have conference, then final adverse goes to Counsel before that goes out. We can alter that in this case and brief you after we have Counsel's thoughts.

[redacted] was not elevated at Mike Daly's direction. He had us elevate it twice after the litigation commenced but said not to continue after that unless we are changing course on the application front and going forward with processing it.

[redacted] - Our general criteria as to whether or not to elevate an SCR to Sarah/Joseph and on up is to only elevate when there has been action. [redacted] was elevated this month because it was just received. We will now begin to review the 1023 but won't have anything to report for sometime. We will elevate again once we have staked out a position and are seeking executive concurrence.

We (Mike and I) keep track of whether estimated completion dates are being moved by means of a track changes version of the spread sheet. When next steps are not reflected as met by the estimated time, we follow up with the appropriate managers or Counsel to determine the cause for the delay and agree on a due date.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 6:28 PM
To: Seto Michael C
Cc: Paz Holly O; Trilli Darla J; Douglas Akaisha; Letourneau Diane L; Kindell Judith E
Subject: RE: SCR Table for Jan. 2011

Thanks--a couple comments

1. Tea Party Matter very dangerous. This could be the vehicle to go to court on the issue of whether Citizen's United overturning the ban on corporate spending applies to tax exempt rules. Counsel and Judy Kindell need to be in on this one please needs to be in this. Cincy should probably NOT have these cases--Holly please see what exactly they have please.

2. We need to push for the next Counsel meeting re: the HMO case Justin has. Reach out and see if we can set it up.

3. [redacted]--has that gone to Nan Marks? It says Counsel, but we'll need her on board. In all cases where it says Counsel, I need to know at what level please.

4. I assume the proposed denial of the religious or will go to Counsel before it goes out and I will be briefed?

5. I think no should be yes on the elevated to TEGE Commissioner slot for the Jon Waddel case that's in litigation--she is well aware.

6. Case involving healthcare reconciliation Act needs to be briefed up to my level please.
7. SAME WITH THE NEWSPAPER CASES--NO GOING OUT WITHOUT BRIEFING UP PLEASE.

8. The 3 cases involving [redacted] should be briefed up also.

9. [redacted] case--why "yes-for this month only" in TEGE Commissioner block?

Also, please make sure estimated due dates and next step dates are after the date you send these. On a couple of these I can't tell whether stuff happened recently or not.

Question--if you have an estimated due date and the person doesn't make it, how is that reflected? My concern is that when Exam first did these, they just changed the date so we always looked current, rather than providing a history of what occurred. perhaps it would help to sit down with me and Sue Lehman--she helped develop the report they now use.

From: Seto Michael C
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:33 PM
To: Lerner Lois G
Cc: Paz Holly O; Trilli Darla J; Douglas Akaisha; Letourneau Diane L
Subject: SCR Table for Jan. 2011

Here is the Jan. SCR summary.

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Flax Nikole C
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:26 PM
To: Lerner Lois G
Subject: RE: 501c4 response for AP

please hold off. Steve had some suggestions on that. I am in a meeting, but can get back to you soon.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Flax Nikole C; Eldridge Michelle L; Miller Steven T; Lemons Terry L; Davis Jonathan M (Wash DC); Keith Frank; Lemons Terry L
Cc: Burke Anthony; Patterson Dean J
Subject: RE: 501c4 response for AP

Thanks--I want to use it to respond to the Congressional/TAS inquiry so I will-

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Flax Nikole C
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:01 PM
To: Eldridge Michelle L; Lerner Lois G; Miller Steven T; Lemons Terry L; Davis Jonathan M (Wash DC); Keith Frank; Lemons Terry L
Cc: Burke Anthony; Patterson Dean J
Subject: RE: 501c4 response for AP

The change is fine, but I don't think we need to update the response just for the one addition. Just include it next time we use it.

From: Eldridge Michelle L
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 1:22 PM
To: Lerner Lois G; Miller Steven T; Lemons Terry L; Davis Jonathan M (Wash DC); Flax Nikole C; Keith Frank; Lemons Terry L
Cc: Burke Anthony; Patterson Dean J
Subject: RE: 501c4 response for AP

Yes--I think that is better. Works for us if it works for you. Thanks --Michelle

---

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 12:29 PM
To: Eldridge Michelle L; Miller Steven T; Lemons Terry L; Davis Jonathan M (Wash DC); Flax Nikole C; Keith Frank; Lemons Terry L
Cc: Burke Anthony; Patterson Dean J
Subject: RE: 501c4 response for AP

I think the point Steve was trying to make is--it doesn't harm you that we take a long time. You don't get that unless you add the red language.. I don't think the rest of the paragraph does go to this. Is says you can hold yourself out if you meet all the requirements. If you aren't sure you do meet them, you may want the IRS letter. would you be more comfortable if we say:

While the application is pending, the organization must file a Form 990, like any other tax-exempt organization, and is otherwise able to operate.

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Eldridge Michelle L
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 12:23 PM
To: Lerner Lois G; Miller Steven T; Lemons Terry L; Davis Jonathan M (Wash DC); Flax Nikole C; Keith Frank; Lemons Terry L
Cc: Burke Anthony; Patterson Dean J
Subject: RE: 501c4 response for AP

Any chance that we can delete the language at the end -- and just say: While the application is pending, the organization must file a Form 990, like any other tax-exempt organization. I am concerned that the phrase "operate without material barrier" is a bit challenging for a statement. Given the context of the rest of the paragraph, I think the message gets across without it.

While the application is pending, the organization must file a Form 990, like any other tax-exempt organization, and is otherwise able to operate without material barrier.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 12:02 PM
To: Eldridge Michelle L; Miller Steven T; Lemons Terry L; Davis Jonathan M (Wash DC); Flax Nikole C; Keith Frank; Lemons Terry L
Subject: FW: 501c4 response for AP
Importance: High

Let me know if the addition (in bold red) does what you want. I'd like to share this with doc. on a Congressional coming in through TAS.

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Eldridge Michelle L
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 06:17 PM
To: Miller Steven T; Davis Jonathan M (Wash DC); Lerner Lois G; Grant Joseph H; Flax Nikole C; Keith Frank; Lemons Terry L; Zarin Roberta B

Subject: FW: 501c4 response for AP

OK--Here is final I'm using. Edits were incorporated. Thanks. --Michelle

By law, the IRS cannot discuss any specific taxpayer situation or case. Generally however, when determining whether an organization is eligible for tax-exempt status, including 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations, all the facts and circumstances of that specific organization must be considered to determine whether it is eligible for tax-exempt status. To be tax-exempt as a social welfare organization described in Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 501(c)(4), an organization must be primarily engaged in the promotion of social welfare.

The promotion of social welfare does not include any unrelated business activities or intervention in political campaigns on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. However, the law allows a section 501(c)(4) social welfare organization to engage in some political activities and some business activities, so long as, in the aggregate, these non-exempt activities are not its primary activities. Even where the non-exempt activities are not the primary activities, they may be taxed. Unrelated business income may be subject to tax under section 511-514, and expenditures for political activities may be subject to tax under section 527(f). For further information regarding political campaign intervention by section 501 (c) organizations, see Election Year Issues, Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities of IRC 501(c)(4), (c)(5), and (c)(6) Organizations, and Revenue Ruling 2004-6.

Unlike 501(c)(3) organizations, 501(c)(4) organizations are not required to apply to the IRS for recognition of their tax-exempt status. Organizations may self-declare and if they meet the statutory and regulatory requirements they will be treated as tax-exempt. If they do want reliance on an IRS determination of their status, they can file an application for exemption. **While the application is pending, the organization must file a Form 990, like any other tax-exempt organization, and is otherwise able to operate without material barrier.**

In cases where an application for exemption under 501 (c)(4) present issues that require further development before a determination can be made, the IRS engages in a back and forth dialogue with the applicant. For example, if an application appears to indicate that the organization has engaged in political activities or may engage in political activities, the IRS will request additional information about those activities to determine whether they, in fact, constitute political activity. If so, the IRS will look at the rest of the organization's activities to determine whether the primary activities are social welfare activities or whether they are non-exempt activities. In order to make this determination, the IRS must build an administrative record of the case. That record could include answers to questions, copies of documents, copies of web pages and any other relevant information.

Career civil servants make all decisions on exemption applications in a fair, impartial manner and do so without regard to political party affiliation or ideology.

From: Cook Janine
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 3:06 PM
To: Spellmann Don R
Cc: Griffin Kenneth M
Subject: RE: Advocacy orgs

Categories: NUUU

T hanks Don. Can you get updates on these 2 cases just so we know where we are on them before we meet with Lois and Holly? Thanks

---

From: Spellmann Don R
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 4:05 PM
To: Cook Janine
Subject: RE: Advocacy orgs

I believe Amy (with Ken and David) have the 2 cases, [redacted 6103] and [redacted 6103].

From: Cook Janine
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 3:53 PM
To: Paz Holly O
Cc: Marks Nancy J; Spellmann Don R
Subject: RE: Advocacy orgs

Thanks Holly. Do you know who in counsel has the one (c)(4) below? (Or if you give me TP name, I'll check on our end).

From: Paz Holly O [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 10:25 AM
To: Cook Janine
Cc: Marks Nancy J
Subject: RE: Advocacy orgs

Below is some background on what we are seeing:

Background:

- EOD Screening has identified an increase in the number of (c)(3) and (c)(4) applications where organizations are advocating on issues related to government spending, taxes and similar matters. Often there is possible political intervention or excessive lobbying.
- Over 100 cases have been identified so far, a mix of (c)(3)s and (c)(4)s. Before this was identified as an emerging issue, two (c)(4) applications were approved.

· Two sample cases were transferred to EOT, a (c)(3) and a (c)(4).
· The (c)(4) stated it will conduct advocacy and political intervention, but political intervention will be 20% or less of activities. A proposed favorable letter has been sent to Counsel for review.

1 The (c)(3) stated it will conduct "insubstantial" political intervention and it has ties to politically active (c)(4)s and 527s. A proposed denial is being revised by TLS to incorporate the org.'s response to the most recent development letter.

Lois would like to discuss our planned approach for dealing with these cases. We suspect we will have to approve the majority of the c4 applications. Given the volume of applications and the fact that this is not a new issue (just an increase in frequency of the issue), we plan to EO Determinations work the cases. However, we plan to have EO Technical compose some informal guidance re: development of these cases (e.g., review websites, check to see whether org is registered with FEC, get representations re: the amount of political activity, etc.). EO Technical will also designate point people for Determs to consult with questions. We will also refer these organizations to the Review of operations for follow-up in a later year.

From: Cook Janine [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 3:08 PM
To: Paz Holly O
Subject: Advocacy orgs

Holly,

Do you have any additional background for meeting next week with Lois and Nan about increase in exemption requests from advocacy orgs? Thanks!

Janine

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 11:25 AM
To: [redacted]@fec.gov'
Cc: Fish David L
Subject: Your request

Per your request, we have checked our records and there are no additional filings at this time. [redacted] Hope that helps.

Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations

From: Thomas Cindy M
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 12:26 PM
To: Muthert Gary A
Cc: Shafer John H; Camarillo Sharon L; Shoemaker Ronald J; Grodnitzky Steven
Subject: Tea Party Cases -- ACTION
Importance: High

Gary,

Since you are acting for John and I believe the tea party cases are being held in your group, would you be able to gather information, as requested in the email below, and provide it to Ron Shoemaker so that EO Technical can prepare a Sensitive Case Report for these cases? Thanks in advance.

From: Grodnitzky Steven
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 12:14 PM
To: Thomas Cindy M
Cc: Shoemaker Ronald J; Shafer John H
Subject: RE: two cases

Cindy,

Information would be the number of cases and the code sections in which they filed under. Also, if there is anything that makes one stand out over the other, like a high profile Board member, etc.., then that would be helpful. Really thinking about possible media attention on a particular case. Just want to make sure that Lois and Rob are aware that there are other cases out there, etc.....

I think once the cases are assigned here in EOT and we have drafted a development letter, we should coordinate with you guys so that you can at least start developing them. However, we would still need to let Rob know before we resolve any of these cases as this is a potential high media area and we are including them on an SCR.

Ron-- once you assign the cases and we have drafted a development letter, please let me know so that we can coordinate with Cindy's folks.

Thanks.

Steve

From: Thomas Cindy M
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 11:59 AM
To: Grodnitzky Steven
Cc: Shoemaker Ronald J; Shafer John H
Subject: RE: two cases

What information would you like? We are "holding" the cases pending guidance from EO Technical because Holly Paz didn't want all of the cases sent to D.C.

From: Grodnitzky Steven
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 11:56 AM
To: Shoemaker Ronald J; Thomas Cindy M
Subject: RE: two cases

Thanks. Can you assign the cases to one person and start an SCR for this month on the cases? Also, need to coordinate with Cincy as they have a number of Tea Party cases as well.

Cindy -- Could someone provide information on the Tea Party cases in Cincy to Ron so that he can include in the SCR each month? Thanks.

From: Shoemaker Ronald J
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 11:30 AM
To: Elliot-Moore Donna; Grodnitzky Steven
Subject: RE: two cases

One is a c4 and one is a c3.

From: Elliot-Moore Donna
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2010 8:38 AM
To: Grodnitzky Steven; Shoemaker Ronald J
Subject: RE: two cases

The Tea Party movement is covered in the Post almost daily. I expect to see more applications.

From: Grodnitzky Steven
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2010 4:04 PM
To: Elliot-Moore Donna; Shoemaker Ronald J
Subject: RE: two cases

These are high profile cases as they deal with the Tea Party so there may be media attention. May need to do an SCR on them.

From: Elliot-Moore Donna
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2010 7:43 AM
To: Grodnitzky Steven; Shoemaker Ronald J
Subject: RE: two cases

I looked briefly and it looks more educational but with a republican slant obviously. Since they're applying under (c)(4) they may qualify.

From: Grodnitzky Steven
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 5:30 PM
To: Elliot-Moore Donna; Shoemaker Ronald J
Subject: RE: two cases

Thanks. Just want to be clear -- what are the specific activities of these organizations? Are they engaging in political activities, education, or what?

Ron -- can you let me know who is getting these cases?

From: Elliot-Moore Donna
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 10:30 AM
To: Grodnitzky Steven
Subject: two cases

Steve:

From: Thomas Cindy M
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2013 12:59 PM
To: Lerner Lois G
Cc: Paz Holly O
Subject: Low-Level Workers thrown under the Bus

As you can imagine, employees and managers in EO Determinations are furious. I've been receiving comments about the use of your words from all parts of TEGE and from IRS employees outside of TEGE (as far away as Seattle, WA).

I wasn't at the conference and obviously don't know what was stated and what wasn't. I realize that sometimes words are taken out of context. However, based on what is in print in the articles, it appears as though all the blame is being placed on Cincinnati. Joseph Grant and others who came to Cincinnati last year specially told the **low-level workers** in Cincinnati that no one would be "thrown under the bus." Based on the articles, Cincinnati wasn't publicly "thrown under the bus" instead was hit by a convoy of mack trucks.

Was it also communicated at that conference in Washington that the **low-level workers** in Cincinnati asked the Washington Office for assistance and the Washington Office took no action to provide guidance to the **low-level workers?**

One of the **low-level workers** in Cincinnati received a voice mail message this morning from the POA for one of his advocacy cases asking if the status would be changing per "Lois Lerner's comments." What would you like for us to tell the POA?

How am I supposed to keep the **low-level workers** motivated when the public believes they are nothing more than **low-level** and now will have no respect for how they are working cases? The attitude/morale of employees is the lowest it has ever been. We have employees leaving for the day and making comments to managers that "this low-level worker is leaving for the day." Other employees are making sarcastic comments about not being thrown under the bus. And still other employees are upset about how their family and friends are going to react to these comments and how it portrays the quality of their work.

The past year and a half has been miserable enough because of all of the auto revocation issues and the lack of insight from Executives to see a need for strategic planning that included having anyone from EO Determinations involved in the upfront planning of this work. Now, our leader is publicly referring to employees who are the ones producing all of this work with fewer resources than ever as **low-level workers!**

If reference to **low-level workers** wasn't made and/or blame wasn't placed on Cincinnati, please let me know ASAP and indicate what exactly was stated so that I can communicate that message to employees.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/irs-apologizes-for-inappropriately-targeting-conservative-political-groups-in-2012-election/2013/05/10/5afef7b8-b980-11e2-b568-b9121fbac6d9_story.html?wpisrc=al_comboNF_p

http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/05/10/irs-apology-conservative-groups-2012-election/2149931/

http://www.wlwt.com/news/local-news/cincinnati/irs-cincinnati-workers-singled-out-conservative-groups-for-review/-/13549970/20986270/-/xpuaez/-/index.html

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 10:06 AM
To: Klein Richard T
Subject: RE: personnel info

OK--questions already. I see at the bottom what my CSRS repayment amount would be should I decide to repay. It looks like the calculation at the tops assumes I am repaying--is that correct? Can I see what the numbers look like if I decide not to repay? Also, how do I go about repaying, if I choose to? Where would I find that information? Would you mind running a calculation for a retirement date of October 1, 2013? Also, the definition of monthly social security offset seems to say that at age 62(which I am) my monthly annuity will be offset by social security even if I don't apply. First--what the heck does that mean? Second, I don't see an offset on the chart--please explain. Thank you.

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Klein Richard T
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 6:23 AM
To: Lerner Lois G
Subject: personnel info
Importance: Low

Here are your reports you requested.....set your sick leave at 1360 for the first report and bumped it up to 1700 for the second.....redeposit amount and hi three used are shown on the bottom right.....call or email if you need any thing else please.

Richard T. Klein
Benefits Specialist
[redacted]

TOD 6:30 am to 3:15 EST

Address:
IRS Cincinnati BeST
[redacted]
Cincinnati, OH 45202

From: Cook Janine
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2011 2:58 PM
To: Judson Victoria (Vicki)
Subject: Letter illustrating 501(c)(4) issue and elections

Vicki, you have probably heard of this very hot button issue floating around.
I Wanted to share the recent letter to Commissioner and Lois, copied below. I haven't gotten it formally.

The only things pending here with us in counsel is being on standby to assist EO as they work through background of c4s and gift tax issue and general exempt status AND helping them come up with uniform questions/guidance for the determinations function in processing the uptick in c4 and c3 applications tied to election season.

Joe Urban in EO is key technician on these issues and I just checked in with him for updates and will let you know if any interesting developments
Sent by my Blackberry

From: paul streckfus [redacted]
To: paul streckfus [redacted]
Sent: Mon Oct 03 04:32:00 2011
Subject: EO Tax Journal 2011-163

From the Desk of Paul Streckfus, Editor, EO Tax Journal

Email Update 2011-163 (Monday, October 3, 2011)

1 - IRS Phone Numbers

Please toss last Thursday's list of IRS phone numbers for the enclosed list. A number of the Office of Chief Counsel phone numbers were incorrect, as that office has combined its two former EO branches into one. Now they all have the same phone number, so you can't possible dial the wrong number!

2 - Section 501(c)(4) Status of Groups Questioned

Will the persistence of Democracy 21 and the Campaign Legal Center pay off? (See their latest letter, reprinted *infra*.) Will the IRS even look at these suspect 501(c)(4) organizations? Did the regulations make a grievous error in redefining "exclusively" to mean "primarily"? (My answers: probably not, probably not, yes)

Rick Cohen, in *The Nonprofit Quarterly Newswire*, asks: "Do you think that Karl Rove is operating his organization Crossroads GPS 'primarily to further the common good and general welfare' rather than as a way to collect and spend money to help elect his favorite politicians? Do you believe that Bill Burton and the other former Obama aides who created Priorities USA are engaged only secondarily in political activities while its primary program is devoted to 'civic betterment and social improvements?' If so, are you up for buying a bridge that spans the East River in New York City between Brooklyn and Manhattan? ... Why are these organizations choosing to organize as 501(c)(4)s instead of as political organizations under section 527? The most likely explanation is because 527s have to disclose their donors, while 'social welfare' 501(c)(4)s, like 501(c)(3) public charities, can keep the sources of their money secret.... Do you think that Rove's Crossroads GPS has some sort of hidden social welfare purpose beyond what every sentient person knows is its first and foremost purpose: to elect candidates that Rove supports (and to oppose candidates Rove opposes)? The same goes for Burton's Priorities USA. The [Democracy 21] letter to the IRS isn't news. What is news is why the IRS and the Federal Elections Commission haven't been more diligent about going after these (c)(4)s that camouflage their intensely political activity behind some inchoate definition of 'social welfare.' The skilled nonprofit lawyers for these (c)(4)s will surely gin up some folderol about their social welfare activities. They'll say that they don't specifically endorse candidates. They'll work in some arcane calculation to show that their political activities are 'insubstantial' (defined as comprising no more than 49 percent of their activities).

Testimony of Michael Seto
Manager of EO Technical Unit
July 11, 2013

A. She sent me email saying that when these cases need to go through multi-tier review and they will eventually have to go to Miss Kindell and the chief counsel's office.

Q. Miss Lerner told you this in an email?

A. That's my recollection.

Testimony of Carter Hull
Tax Law Specialist in EO Technical Unit
June 14, 2013

Q. Have you ever sent a case to Ms. Kindell before?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. This is the only case you remember?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Correct?

A. This is the only case I remember sending directly to Judy.

Q. And did you send her the whole case file as well?

A. Yes.

***

Q. Did Ms. Kindell indicate to you whether she agreed with your recommendations?

A. She did not say whether she agreed or not. She said it should go to Chief Counsel.

Q. The IRS Chief Counsel?

A. The IRS Chief Counsel.

Testimony of Elizabeth Hofacre
Revenue Agent in EO Determinations Unit
May 31, 2013

Q. Okay. Do you always need to go through EO Technical to get assistance on how to draft these kind of letters?

A. No, it was demeaning.

Q. What do you mean by "demeaning"?

A. Well, I might be jumping ahead of myself, but essentially -- typically, no. As a grade 13, one of the criteria is to work independently and do research and make decisions based on your experience and education, whereas in this case, I had no autonomy at all through the process.

Q. So it was unusual for you to have to go through EO Technical to get these letters?

A. Exactly. I mean, exactly, because once he provided me with his letters I used his letters and his questions as a basis for my letters. I didn't cut and paste or cookie cut. So then once I developed my letters from the information in the application, I would email him the letters. And at the same time he instructed me to fax copies of the 1024 so he could review my letters to make sure that they were consistent with the 1024 application.

Q. Was that practice consistent with any other Emerging Issue?

A. I never have done that before or since then.

Q. So even for other Emerging Issues or difficult or challenging applications, you would still have discretion in terms of how to handle them?

A. Yes. Typically, yes.

Testimony of Carter Hull
Tax Law Specialist in EO Technical Unit
June 14, 2013

Q. Sir, as you sit here today, do you know the status of those two test cases?

A. Only from hearsay, sir.

Q. What do you know?

A. That the (c)(3) dropped, they decided they didn't want to go any further, and the (c)(4) is still open.

Q. Still open as far as today?

A. As far as I know. I do not know for certain.

Q. So for 3 years since they filed application?

A. Yes, sir.

Testimony of Carter Hull
Tax Law Specialist in EO Technical Unit
June 14, 2013

Q. What did you understand the meeting to be about when you were invited to the meeting?

A. The one thing I remember was Lois Lerner saying someone mentioned Tea Party, and she said no, we are not referring to Tea Parties anymore. They are all now advocacy organizations.

Q. Who called them Tea Party cases?

A. I'm not sure who mentioned Tea Party, but at that point Lois I remember breaking in and saying no, no, we don't refer to those as Tea Parties anymore. They are advocacy organizations.

Q. And what was her tone when saying that?

A. Very firm.

Q. Did she explain why she wanted to change the reference?

A. She said that the Tea Party was just too pejorative.

Q. So she felt the term Tea Party was a pejorative term?

A. Yes. Let me put it this way: I may be – the way she didn't say that's a pejorative term that should not be used. She said no, we will use advocacy organizations. But pejorative is more my word than hers.

Testimony of Lucinda Thomas
Manager of EO Determinations Unit
June 28, 2013

Q. Do you think Lois Lerner is a political person?

A. Is she apolitical person?

Q. A, space, political person?

A. I believe that she cares about power and that it's important to her maybe to be more involved with what's going on politically and to me we should be focusing on working the determination cases and closing the cases and it shouldn't matter what type of organization it is. We should be looking at the merits of that case. And it's my understanding that the Washington office has made comments like they would like for – Cincinnati is not as politically sensitive as they would like us to be, and frankly I think that maybe they need to be not so politically sensitive and focus on the cases that we have and working a case based on the merits of those cases.

Testimony of Carter Hull
Tax Law Specialist in EO Technical Unit
June 14, 2013

Q. Did you meet with Ms. Franklin about the cases?

A. We met after she had made her determinations.

Q. After she reviewed the case files?

A. Yes.

Q. And when was this meeting, do you recall?

A. No, I am not sure.

Q. Was it still in 2010?

A. Probably in 2011.

Q. Okay. At some point in 2011?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall if it was early 2011, mid-2011?

A. Early-mid.

Q. Okay.

***

A. Maybe in July.

Q. Of 2011.

A. Of 2011. July or August.

***

Q. Okay. And was this meeting just with you and Ms. Franklin?

A. No, there were other people present.

Q. Others in the counsel's office?

A. Two others from the counsel's office.

Q. Anyone else present?

A. Ms. Kastenberg was there. I believe Ms. Goehausen was there. I think there was another TLS there –

Q. I am sorry, another –

A. Another tax law specialist.

Q. Okay.

A. And I can't recall other people that may have been there.

Q. Lois Lerner?

A. I don't think Lois was there.

Q. Holly Paz?

A. I don't think Holly was there. I think Judy was there.

Q. Judy Kindell.

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall who the two others were from the Chief Counsel's office?

A. One was a manager of Ms. Franklin, and the other guy had been there for years and I keep forgetting his name. I don't know why.

have a block against his name. . . . Yes, he was there. There was another tax law specialist there, Justin Lowe.

Q. Justin Lowe. He is in EO Technical?

A. He was representing the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner.

Q. Who was at the time Mr. Miller?

A. I think it was Mr. Grant.

Q. Joseph Grant.

A. Yes.

Testimony of Carter Hull
Tax Law Specialist in EO Technical Unit
June 14, 2013

Q. Do you know how long the Chief Counsel's office had the case before it made its recommendation?

A. I am not sure of the timeframe at this point.

Q. Okay. Did they give you any feedback on these two cases?

A. Yes, they did.

Q. What did they say?

A. I needed more information. I needed more current information.

Q. What do you mean, more current information?

A. They had it for a while and the information wasn't as current as it should be. They wanted more current information.

Q. So because the cases had been going up this chain for the last year, they needed more current information?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And what does that mean practically for you?

A. That means that probably I should send out another development letter.

Q. A second development letter?

A. A second development letter. I think also at that time there was a discussion of having a template made up so that all the cases could be worked in the same manner. And my reviewer and I both said a template makes absolutely no difference because these organizations, all of them are different. A template would not work.

Q. You and Ms. Kastenberg agreed that a template wouldn't help?

A. But Mr. Justin Lowe said he would prepare it, along with Don Spellman and whoever else was from Chief Counsel. I never saw it.

Testimony of Steven Miller
Acting Commissioner
November 13, 2013

Q. So, sir, just to get the timeline right, you had a meeting with Ms. Lerner and her staff in or around February 2012?

A. One or more meetings.

Q. One or more meetings. Thank you. And then in mid-March you sit down with your staff and decide that something more needs to be done?

A. Wanted to find out why the cases were there and what was going on.

Q. And did you bat around ideas with your staff about how to find out that information?

A. Yeah, we talked about, okay, who should go out, and the suggestions were, you know, they could have been from the deputy's staff, they could have been from Joseph's staff, they could have been from Lois' staff, and how would we do that.

Q. I see. And who were the candidates to go out there and do the investigation?

A. Really, it came down to Nan Marks, who I had tremendous respect and comfort with. She was – she had been my lawyer in TEGE Counsel, and she knew the area well. She had a wonderful way with talking to people, and she was a natural. And she was out of Joseph's shop, and we thought that it should be outside of Lois' shop, and Nan was the perfect person to lead that.

Q. And, sir, why did you think it should be outside of Ms. Lerner's shop?

A. Just in terms of perception. I didn't think she would whitewash it, but I didn't want any thought that that could happen.

Q. So you wanted to have someone more independent –

A. Right.

Q. – to do the review?

A. Right.

Q. When you say you didn't want any thought that that would happen, who were you worried would think that it was –

A. It doesn't matter. It's just the way we operated.

Testimony of Ruth Madrigal
Attorney Advisor in Treasury Department
February 3, 2014

Q. And ma'am, you wrote, "potentially addressing them." Do you know what you meant by, quote, "potentially addressing them?"

A. Well, at this time, we would have gotten the request to do guidance of general applicability relating to (c)(4)s. And while I can't – I don't know exactly what was in my mind at the time I wrote this, the "them" seems to refer back to the (c)(4)s. And the communications between our offices would have had to do with guidance of general applicability.

Q. So, sitting here today, you take the phrase, "potentially addressing them" to mean issuing guidance of general applicability of 501(c)(4)s?

A. I don't know exactly what was in my head at the time when I wrote this, but to the extent that my office collaborates with the IRS, it's on guidance of general applicability.

Q. And the recipients of this email, Ms. Judson and Ms. Cook are in the Chief Counsel's Office, is that correct?

A. That's correct.

Q. And Ms. Lerner and Ms. Marks are from the Commissioner side of the IRS?

A. At the time of this email, I believe that Nan Marks was on the Commissioner's side, and Ms. Lerner would have been as well, yes.

Q. So those are the two entities involved in rulemaking process or the guidance process for tax exempt organizations, is that right?

A. Correct.

Q. Did you review this document in preparation for appearing here today?

A. I reviewed it briefly, yes.

Q. What did the term "off plan" mean in your email?

A. Again, I don't have a recollection of doing – of writing this email at the time. I can't say with certainty what was meant at the time.

Q. Sitting here today, what do you take the term "off plan" to mean?

A. Generally speaking, off plan would refer to guidance that is not on – or the plan that is mentioned there would refer to the priority guidance plan. And so off plan would be not on the priority guidance plan.

Q. And had you had discussions with the IRS about issuing guidance on 501(c)(4)s that was not placed on the priority guidance plan?

A. In 2012, we – yes, in 2012, there were conversations between my office, Office of Tax Policy, and the IRS regarding guidance relating to qualifications for tax exemption under (c)(4).

Q. And this guidance was in response to requests from outside parties to issue guidance?

A. Yes. Generally speaking, our priority guidance plan process starts with – includes gathering suggestions from the public and evaluating suggestions from the public regarding guidance, potential guidance topics, and by this point, to the best of my recollection, we had had requests to do guidance on this topic.

Testimony of Janine Cook
Deputy Division Counsel/Deputy Associate Chief Counsel
August 23, 2013

Q. I think part of my question comes to the fact that by reading the face of the email, it doesn't appear that it's actually an explicit email about having a conversation about it being on plan or off plan. It just looks like it's a conversation where someone says since we mentioned potentially addressing this, and then in parentheses off plan, because it at that time would have been off plan in 2013, I have got my radar up and look at this. Am I misunderstanding that? Is that accurate or –

A. I think in fairness, again, to understand the term, when it says off plan, it means working it. Working on it, but not listing it on the plan. It doesn't mean that we are not in a plan – you are looking at a timing question I think. That's not what the term means. The term – I mean it's a loose term, obviously, it's a coined term, the term means the idea of spending some resources on working it, getting legal issues together, things like that, but not listing it on the published plan as an item we are working. That's what the term off plan means. It's not a timing of the conversation.

Testimony of Victoria Ann Judson
Division Counsel/ Associate Chief Counsel
August 29, 2013

Q. You mentioned a little while ago the Treasury Department. Could you explain the relationship between your position and the Treasury Department?

A. I don't understand that question.

Q. I believe you mentioned that you work with Treasury on guidance, guidance projects?

A. Yes, we do.

Q. Could you explain how that working relationship –

A. Well, when we are working on guidance, first, there is often work at the beginning of each plan year to develop a guidance plan, in which you help decide what your priorities are and what projects you would like to work on during the year. Unfortunately, there is a lot more that we need to do than we can possibly accomplish in a year, so we try to prioritize and talk about what items would be useful to work on and most needed.

We also have items we work on that are off-plan, and there are reasons we don't want to solicit comments. For example, if they might relate to a desire to stop behavior that we feel is inappropriate under the tax law, we might not want to publicize that we are working on that before we come out with the guidance.

So we have a plan, and in developing that plan we will reach out to the field to see if there is guidance they think we need. We solicit comments from practitioners. We talk amongst ourselves and with Treasury. And then we have long lists and everyone goes through them and analyzes them, and then we have meetings to discuss which ones to have on. And often we have meetings with our colleagues at Treasury to do that and then come up with a guidance plan.

When we have items, we then formulate working groups to work on the guidance. And so then we will have staff attorneys from different offices, from the Treasury Department, from my office, with my team, and from people on the Commissioner's side, as well. And they will work together on the guidance. They will discuss issues, hypotheticals, how to structure it.

If they find questions that they think are particularly challenging or they need a call on how to go in their different directions, they will often formulate a briefing paper. Or, in the qualified plan area, we have a weekly time slot set for what we call large group. And in health care, we also have a large group meeting set. And so the staff can present those issues to the large group, often with papers identifying issues and calls that need to be made.

And then individuals, executives from the different areas, both Treasury, the Commissioner's side, and Chief Counsel, will all attend those meetings. We will discuss the issues, often hear a presentation from the working group, and talk about the issues, and decide on the calls or decide that we need more information or analysis, ask questions. So sometimes a decision will be made at that meeting, and sometimes a decision will be made for the working group to do more work and come back again at a subsequent meeting.

Testimony of Nikole Flax
Chief of Staff to Steven Miller
October 22, 2013

Q. And you said before that Mr. Grant wasn't the best witness for that hearing. Was there any discussion about having Ms. Lerner be a witness for that hearing?

A. No.

Q. Why not?

A. Lois is unpredictable. She's emotional. I have trouble talking negative about someone. I think in terms of a hearing witness, she's not the ideal selection.

Testimony of Lucinda Thomas
Manager of EO Determinations Unit
June 28, 2013

Q. And what was your reaction to hearing the news?

A. I was really, really mad.

Q. Why?

A. I feel as though Cincinnati employees and EO Determinations was basically thrown under a bus and that the Washington office wasn't taking any responsibility for knowing about these applications, having been involved in them and being the ones to basically delay processing of the cases.

Q. And that's why you took Ms. Lerner to say at that panel event?

A. When, well, my understanding was that she referred to Cincinnati employees as low level workers and that really makes me mad. It's not the first time that she has used derogatory comments about the employees working determination cases and she has done it before. It really makes me mad because the employees in Cincinnati – first of all we haven't gotten that many other, 2009 was our basic last year of hiring any revenue agents except for I believe it was 2012 we were given five revenue agents. And over 400 some thousand organizations have had their exemption revoked and we were given – have been given five revenue agents and we have received I think it's like over 40,000 applications coming in as a result of the audit revocation. There's no way five people are going to be able to handle that, and that's not to mention all of the employees that we've lost because of attrition.

Q. Sure.

A. So we are given no employees to work this. Our employees in EO Determinations are, they are so flexible in doing what is asked of them and working cases and being flexible and moving and doing whatever they're asked to do to try to get more cases closed with no

additional resources and not getting guidance. And it makes me really mad that she would refer to our employees as low level workers.

And also when the folks from D.C. have been in Cincinnati in April of 2012 and when the team met with our folks involved and they were basically reassured that there were mistakes that were made, yes, there were mistakes that were made by folks in Cincinnati as well D.C. but the D.C. office is the one who delayed the processing of the cases. And so they said we're a team, we're in this together. Nobody is going to be thrown under the bus because there were mistakes at all different angles. And then Joseph Grant had a town hall meeting on I believe it was May the 1st or May the 2nd with all of the determinations employees and then he met with a managers and again reassuring everybody that we're not, we're not using any scapegoats here, we're not throwing anybody under the bus, we're a team, there were mistakes made by a lot of different folks.

And then when this information came out on May the 10th, it's like, you weren't going to throw us under the bus?

Testimony of Lucinda Thomas
Manager of EO Determinations Unit
June 28, 2013

Q. And you said that this was not the first time that you had heard Ms. Lerner use derogatory terms to refer to Cincinnati employees, is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us about the other times that she referred to Cincinnati employees in a derogatory manner?

A. I know she referred to us as backwater before. I don't remember when that was. But it's like, there is information when she speaks, there is an individual who writes to EO Issues and puts information in an EO tax journal, it's like a daily release that comes out, and so all of our specialists have access to that. So when she goes out and speaks and then that information is sent through email to all of our employees then people in the office start getting all worked up over these comments.

And here I have employees trying to you know do what they can to help our operation to move forward, and I've got somebody referring to workers in that way when they're trying really hard to close cases, and it's frustrating like how am I supposed to keep them motivated when our so-called leader is referring to people in that direction.

She also makes comments like, well, you're not a lawyer. And excuse me, I'm not a lawyer but that doesn't mean that I don't have something to bring to the table. I know a lot more about IRS operations than she ever will. And just because I'm not a lawyer doesn't mean I'm any less of a person or not as good a worker.

COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

November 19, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Attention: Katy Rother

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to your letter dated September 30, 2013. You asked about our plans to evaluate our policy on IRS employee use of non-official email accounts to conduct official business. You also requested a briefing and asked for specific documents.

While the Privacy Act ordinarily protects from disclosure some of the information we are providing in this letter, we are providing you with the requested information under Title 5 of the United States Code section 552a(b)(9). This provision authorizes disclosures of Privacy Act protected information to either house of the Congress or a congressional committee or subcommittee acting under its oversight authority. The enclosed information covers the period of January 1, 2009, through present. Due to employee safety and security concerns, we would appreciate it if you would withhold employee names and, for sensitive positions, position descriptions, if you distribute this information further. We are happy to work with your staff on appropriate redactions if you decide to distribute the information.

Regarding the use of email accounts, the IRS prohibits using non-official email accounts for any government or official purposes (See relevant portions of the enclosed Internal Revenue Manual (IRM) 10.8.1 and 1.10.3, Enclosure 1a and 1b). We teach and reinforce this policy in new employee orientation, core training classes, annual mandatory briefings for managers and employees, and continual service wide communications (see Enclosures 1e, 1f, 1g, 1h for policies and training information). We do not permit IRS officials to send taxpayer information to their personal email addresses. **An IRS employee should not send taxpayer information to his or her personal email address in any form, including redacted.**

IRS employees use their agency email accounts to transmit sensitive but unclassified (SBU) and they use the IRS Secure Messaging (SM) system to encrypt such emails.

(See IRM 11.3.1.14.2, Enclosure 1c). SBU information includes taxpayer data, Privacy Act protected information, some law enforcement information, and other information protected by statute or regulation.

If an employee violates the policy prohibiting the use of non-official email accounts for any government or official purpose, the penalty ranges from a written reprimand to a 5-day suspension on first offense and up to removal depending on prior offenses. (See *IRS Manager's Guide to Penalty Determinations: Failure to observe written regulations, orders, rules, or IRS procedures* and *Misuse/abuse/loss or damage to government property or vehicle,* Enclosure 1d). We identified three past disciplinary actions involving employee misuse of personal email to conduct official business. (See Enclosures 2a, 2b, and 2c.)

You also discuss use of non-official email accounts by four senior IRS officials. The IRS Accountability Review Board, charged with determining potential personnel action based on employee conduct, continues to research potential misuse of personal email by those still employed at the IRS.

The IRS is working diligently to respond to requests for documents for your ongoing investigation. As we have come across official documents sent to non-official email accounts, we have produced them to you and will continue to do so. Additionally, we are happy to arrange a briefing on this subject if you have further questions.

I hope this information is helpful. I am also writing Congressman Jordan. If you have any questions, please contact me, or a member of your staff may contact Scott Landes, Acting Director, Legislative Affairs, at (202) 622-3720.

Sincerely,

Daniel I. Werfel
Acting Commissioner

Enclosures (11)

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Darrell Issa (CA-49), Chairman

Debunking the Myth that the IRS Targeted Progressives: How the IRS and Congressional Democrats Misled America about Disparate Treatment

Staff Report
113th Congress

April 7, 2014

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

In the immediate aftermath of Lois Lerner's public apology for the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants, President Obama and congressional Democrats quickly denounced the IRS misconduct.[1] But later, some of the same voices that initially decried the targeting changed their tune. Less than a month after the wrongdoing was exposed, prominent Democrats declared the "case is solved" and, later, the whole incident to be a "phony scandal."[2] As recently as February 2014, the President explained away the targeting as the result of "bone-headed" decisions by employees of an IRS "local office" without "even a smidgeon of corruption."[3]

To support this false narrative, the Administration and congressional Democrats have seized upon the notion that the IRS's targeting was not just limited to conservative applicants. Time and again, they have claimed that the IRS targeted liberal- and progressive-oriented groups as well – and that, therefore, there was no political animus to the IRS's actions.[4] These Democratic claims are flat-out wrong and have no basis in any thorough examination of the facts. Yet, the Administration's chief defenders continue to make these assertions in a concerted effort to deflect and distract from the truth about the IRS's targeting of tax-exempt applicants.

The Committee's investigation demonstrates that the IRS engaged in disparate treatment of conservative-oriented tax-exempt applicants. Documents produced to the Committee show that initial applications transferred from Cincinnati to Washington were filed by Tea Party groups. Other documents and testimony show that the initial criteria used to identify and hold Tea Party applications captured conservative organizations. After the criteria were broadened in July 2012 to be cosmetically neutral, material provided to the Committee indicates that the IRS still intended to target only conservative applications.

A central plank in the Democratic argument is the claim that liberal-leaning groups were identified on versions of the IRS's "Be on the Look Out" (BOLO) lists.[5] This claim ignores significant differences in the placement of the conservative and liberal entries on the BOLO lists

---

[1] *See, e.g.*, The White House, Statement by the President (May 15, 2013) (calling the IRS targeting "inexcusable"); *"The IRS: Targeting Americans for their Political Beliefs": Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't*, 113th Cong. (2013) (statement of Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings) ("The inspector general has called the action by IRS employees in Cincinnati, quote, "inappropriate," unquote, but after reading the IG's report, I think it goes well beyond that. I believe that there was gross incompetence and mismanagement in how the IRS determined which organizations qualified for tax-exempt status."); Press Release, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Pelosi Statement on Reports of Inappropriate Activities at the IRS (May 13, 2013) ("While we look forward to reviewing the Inspector General's report this week, it is clear that the actions taken by some at the IRS must be condemned. Those who engaged in this behavior were wrong and must be held accountable for their actions.").

[2] *State of the Union with Candy Crowley* (CNN television broadcast June 9, 2013) (interview with Rep. Elijah E. Cummings); *Fox News Sunday* (Fox News television broadcast July 28, 2013) (interview with Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew).

[3] *"Not even a smidgeon of corruption": Obama downplays IRS, other scandals*, FOX NEWS, Feb. 3, 2014.

[4] *See, e.g.*, Lauren French & Rachael Bade, *Democratic Memo: IRS Targeting Was Not Political*, POLITICO, July 17, 2013.

[5] *See Hearing on the Status of IRS Review of Taxpayer Targeting Practices: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Ways & Means*, 113th Cong. (2013).

and how the IRS used the BOLO lists in practice. The Democratic claims are further undercut by testimony from IRS employees who told the Committee that liberal groups were not subject to the same systematic scrutiny and delay as conservative organizations.[6]

The IRS's independent watchdog, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), confirms that the IRS treated conservative applicants differently from liberal groups. The inspector general, J. Russell George, wrote that while TIGTA found indications that the IRS had improperly identified Tea Party groups, it "did not find evidence that the criteria [Democrats] identified, labeled 'Progressives,' were used by the IRS to select potential political cases during the 2010 to 2012 timeframe we audited."[7] He concluded that TIGTA "found no indication in any of these other materials that 'Progressives' was a term used to refer cases for scrutiny for political campaign intervention."[8]

An analysis performed by the House Committee on Ways and Means buttresses the Committee's findings of disparate treatment. The Ways and Means Committee's review of the confidential tax-exempt applications proves that the IRS systematically targeted conservative organizations. Although a small number of progressive and liberal groups were caught up in the application backlog, the Ways and Means Committee's review shows that the backlog was 83 percent conservative and only 10 percent were liberal-oriented.[9] Moreover, the IRS approved 70 percent of the liberal-leaning groups and only 45 percent of the conservative groups.[10] The IRS approved every group with the word "progressive" in its name.[11]

In addition, other publicly available information supports the analysis of the Ways and Means Committee. In September 2013, *USA Today* published an independent analysis of a list of about 160 applications in the IRS backlog.[12] This analysis showed that 80 percent of the applications in the backlog were filed by conservative groups while less than seven percent were filed by liberal groups.[13] A separate assessment from *USA Today* in May 2013 showed that for 27 months beginning in February 2010, the IRS did not approve a single tax-exempt application filed by a Tea Party group.[14] During that same period, the IRS approved "perhaps dozens of applications from similar liberal and progressive groups."[15]

The IRS, over many years, has undoubtedly scrutinized organizations that embrace different political views for varying reasons – in many cases, a just and neutral criteria may have

---

[6] *See, e.g.*, Transcribed interview of Carter Hull, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 14, 2013); Transcribed interview of Stephen Daejin Seok, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 19, 2013); Transcribed interview of Lucinda Thomas, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 28, 2013).
[7] Letter from J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector Gen. for Tax Admin., to Sander M. Levin, H. Comm. on Ways & Means (June 26, 2013).
[8] *Id.*
[9] *Hearing on the Internal Revenue Service's Exempt Organizations Division Post-TIGTA Audit: Hearing before the Subcomm. on Oversight of the H. Comm. on Ways & Means*, 113th Con. (2013) (opening statement of Chairman Charles Boustany) [hereinafter "Ways and Means Committee September 18th Hearing"].
[10] *Id.*
[11] *Id.*
[12] *See* Gregory Korte, *IRS List Reveals Concerns over Tea Party 'Propaganda,'* USA TODAY, Sept. 18, 2013.
[13] *Id.*
[14] Gregory Korte, *IRS Approved Liberal Groups while Tea Party in Limbo*, USA TODAY, May 15, 2013.
[15] *Id.*

been fairly utilized. This includes the time period when Tea Party organizations were systematically screened for enhanced and inappropriate scrutiny. But the concept of *targeting*, when defined as a systematic effort to select applicants for scrutiny simply because their applications reflected the organizations' political views, only applied to Tea Party and similar conservative organizations. While use of term "targeting" in the IRS scandal may not always follow this definition, the reality remains that there is simply no evidence that any liberal or progressive group received enhanced scrutiny because its application reflected the organization's political views.

For months, the Administration and congressional Democrats have attempted to downplay the IRS's misconduct. First, the Administration sought to minimize the fallout by preemptively acknowledging the misconduct in response to a planted question at an obscure Friday morning tax-law conference. When that strategy failed, the Administration shifted to blaming "rogue agents" and "line-level" employees for the targeting. When those assertions proved false, congressional Democrats baselessly attacked the character and integrity of the inspector general. Their attempt to allege bipartisan targeting is just another effort to distract from the fact that the Obama IRS systematically targeted and delayed conservative tax-exempt applicants.

Findings

- The IRS treated Tea Party applications distinctly different from other tax-exempt applications.

- The IRS selectively prioritized and produced documents to the Committee to support misleading claims about bipartisan targeting.

- Democratic Members of Congress, including Ranking Member Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member Sander Levin, and Representative Gerry Connolly, made misleading claims that the IRS targeted liberal-oriented groups based on documents selectively produced by the IRS.

- The IRS's "test" cases transferred from Cincinnati to Washington were exclusively filed by Tea Party applicants: the Prescott Tea Party, the American Junto, and the Albuquerque Tea Party.

- The IRS's initial screening criteria captured exclusively Tea Party applications.

- Even after Lois Lerner broadened the screening criteria to maintain a veneer of objectivity, the IRS still sought to target and scrutinize Tea Party applications.

- The IRS targeting captured predominantly conservative-oriented applications for tax-exempt status.

- Myth: IRS "Be on the Lookout" (BOLO) entries for liberal groups meant that the IRS targeted liberal and progressive groups. Fact: Only Tea Party groups on the BOLO list experienced systematic scrutiny and delay.

- Myth: The IRS targeted "progressive" groups in a similar manner to Tea Party applicants. Fact: The IRS treated "progressive" groups differently than Tea Party applicants. Only seven applications in the IRS backlog contained the word "progressive," all of which were approved by the IRS. The IRS processed progressive applications like any other tax-exempt application.

- Myth: The IRS targeted ACORN successor groups in a similar manner to Tea Party applicants. Fact: The IRS treated ACORN successor groups differently than Tea Party applicants. ACORN successor groups were not subject to a "sensitive case report" or reviewed by the IRS Chief Counsel's office. The central issue for the ACORN successor groups was whether the groups were legitimate new entities or part of an "abusive" scheme to continue an old entity under a new name.

- Myth: The IRS targeted Emerge affiliate groups in a similar manner to Tea Party applicants. Fact: The IRS treated Emerge affiliate groups differently than Tea Party

applicants. Emerge applications were not subjected to secondary screening like the Tea Party cases. The central issue in the Emerge applications was private benefit, not political speech.

- Myth: The IRS targeted Occupy groups in a similar manner to Tea Party applicants. Fact: The IRS treated Occupy groups differently than Tea Party applicants. No applications in the IRS backlog contained the words "Occupy." IRS employees testified that they were not even aware of an Occupy entry on the BOLO list.

Coordinated and misleading Democratic claims of bipartisan IRS targeting

As the IRS targeting scandal grew, the Administration and congressional Democrats began peddling the allegation that the IRS targeting was not just limited to conservative tax-exempt application, but that the IRS had targeted liberal-leaning groups as well. These assertions kick-started when Acting IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel told reporters that IRS "Be on the Look Out" lists included entries for liberal-oriented groups. Congressional Democrats seized upon his announcement and immediately began feeding the false narrative that liberal groups received the same systematic scrutiny and delay as conservative applicants. In the ensuing months, the IRS even reconsidered its previous redactions to provide congressional Democrats with additional fodder to support their assertions. Although TIGTA and others have rebuffed the Democratic argument, senior members of the Administration and in Congress continue this coordinated narrative that the IRS targeting was broader than conservative applicants.

The IRS acknowledges that portions of its BOLO lists included liberal-oriented entries

On June 24, 2013, Acting IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel asserted during a conference call with reporters that the IRS's misconduct was broader than just conservative applicants.[16] Werfel told reporters that "[t]here was a wide-ranging set of categories and cases that spanned a broad spectrum."[17] Although Mr. Werfel refused to discuss details about the "inappropriate criteria that was [*sic*] in use," the IRS produced to Congress hundreds of pages of self-selected documents that supported his assertion.[18] The IRS prioritized producing these documents over other material, producing them when the Committee had received less than 2,000 total pages of IRS material. Congressional Democrats had no qualms in putting these self-selected documents to use.

Virtually simultaneous with Mr. Werfel's conference call, Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee trumpeted the assertion that the IRS targeted liberal groups similarly to conservative organizations.[19] Ranking Member Sander Levin (D-MI) released several versions of the IRS BOLO list.[20] Because these versions included an entry labeled "progressives," Ranking Member Levin alleged that "[t]he [TIGTA] audit served as the basis and impetus for a wide range of Congressional investigations and **this new information shows that the**

---

[16] *See* Alan Fram, *Documents show IRS also screened liberal groups*, ASSOC. PRESS, June 24, 2013.
[17] *Id.*
[18] *See* Letter from Leonard Oursler, Internal Revenue Serv., to Darrell Edward Issa, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (June 24, 2013).
[19] Press Release, H. Comm. on Ways & Means Democrats, New IRS Information Shows "Progressives" Included on BOLO Screening List (June 24, 2013).
[20] *Id.*

foundation of those investigations is flawed in a fundamental way."[21] (emphasis added). These documents would initiate a sustained campaign designed to falsely allege that the IRS engaged in bipartisan targeting.

Ways and Means Committee Democrats allege bipartisan IRS targeting

During a hearing of the Ways and Means Committee on June 27, 2013, Democrats continued to spin this false narrative, arguing that liberal groups were mistreated similarly to conservative groups. Ranking Member Levin proclaimed during his opening statement:

> This week we learned for the first time the three key items, one, the screening list used by the IRS included the term "progressives." Two, progressive groups were among the 298 applications that TIGTA reviewed in their audit and received heightened scrutiny. And, three, the inspector general did not research how the term "progressives" was added to the screening list or how those cases were handled by a different group of specialists in the IRS. The failure of the I.G.'s audit to acknowledge these facts is a fundamental flaw in the foundation of the investigation and the public's perception of this issue.[22]

Other Democratic Members picked up this thread. While questioning the hearing's only witness, Acting IRS Commissioner Werfel, Representative Charlie Rangel (D-NY) raised the specter of bipartisan targeting. He stated:

> Mr. RANGEL: You said there's diversity in the BOLO lists. And you admit that conservative groups were on the BOLO list. Why is it that we don't know whether or not there were progressive groups on the BOLO list?
>
> Mr. WERFEL: Well, we do know that – that the word "progressive" did appear on a set of BOLO lists. We do know that. When I was articulating the point about diversity, I was trying to capture that the types of political organizations that are on these BOLO lists are wide ranging. But they do include progressives.[23]

Similarly, Representative Joseph Crowley (D-NY) alleged that the IRS mistreated progressive groups identically to Tea Party groups. He said:

> As the weeks have gone on, we have seen that there is a culture of intimidation, but not from the White House, but rather from my Republican colleagues. **We know for a fact that there has been targeting of both tea party and**

---

[21] *Id.*

[22] *Hearing on the Status of IRS Review of Taxpayer Targeting Practices: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Ways & Means*, 113th Cong. (2013) (statement of Ranking Member Sander Levin).

[23] *Id.* (question and answer with Representative Charlie Rangel).

progressive groups by the IRS. . . . Then, as we see, the progressive groups were targeted side by side with their tea party counterpart groups.[24] (emphasis added).

Acting IRS Commissioner volunteers to testify at the Oversight Committee's July 17, 2013 subcommittee hearing

On July 17, 2013, the Oversight Committee convened a joint subcommittee hearing on ObamaCare security concerns, featuring witnesses from the federal agencies involved in the law's implementation.[25] The Chairmen invited Sarah Hall Ingram, the Director of the IRS ObamaCare office, to testify.[26] Prior to the hearing, however, Acting IRS Commissioner Werfel personally intervened and volunteered himself to testify as the IRS witness in Ms. Ingram's place. Committee Democrats used Mr. Werfel's appearance as an opportunity to continue pushing their false narrative of bipartisan IRS targeting.

During the hearing, Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD) used the majority of his five-minute period to question Mr. Werfel not on the subject matter of the hearing, but rather on the IRS's treatment of liberal tax-exempt applicants. They engaged in the following exchange:

Mr. CUMMINGS. I would like to ask you about the ongoing investigation into the treatment of Tea Party applicants for tax exempt status. During our interviews, we have been told by more than one IRS employee that there were progressive or left-leaning groups that received treatment similar to the Tea Party applicants. As part of your internal review, have you identified non-Tea Party groups that received similar treatment?

Mr. WERFEL. Yes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. We were told that one category of applicants had their applications denied by the IRS after a 3-year review; is that right?

Mr. WERFEL. Yes, that's my understanding that there is a group or seven groups that had that experience, yes.[27]

---

[24] *Id.* (question and answer with Representative Joseph Crowley).

[25] *"Evaluating Privacy, Security, and Fraud Concerns with ObamaCare's Information Sharing Apparatus": J. Hearing before the Subcomm. on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements of the H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform and the Subcomm. on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies of the H. Comm. on Homeland Security*, 113th Cong. (2013) [hereinafter "July 17th Hearing"].

[26] *See* Letter from James Lankford, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, & Patrick Meehan, H. Comm. on Homeland Security, to Sarah Hall Ingram, Internal Revenue Serv. (July 10, 2013).

[27] July 17th Hearing, *supra* note 25.

It is certain that Ranking Member Cummings would not have had the opportunity to ask these questions had Ms. Ingram testified as originally requested.

The circumstances of Mr. Werfel's statements are striking. He volunteered to replace the undisputed IRS expert on ObamaCare at a hearing focusing on ObamaCare security, after being at the IRS for less than two months. He volunteered to testify at a subcommittee the day before the Committee convened a hearing that would feature testimony about the IRS's targeting of conservative applicants. By all indications, Mr. Werfel's testimony allowed congressional Democrats to continue to perpetuate the myth of bipartisan IRS targeting.

Democrats attack the Inspector General during the Oversight Committee's July 18, 2013 hearing

Unsurprisingly, Democrats on the Oversight Committee highlighted Mr. Werfel's assertions as their main narrative during a Committee hearing on the IRS targeting the following day. During his opening statement, Ranking Member Cummings criticized Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration J. Russell George, accusing him of ignoring liberal groups targeted by the IRS.[28] Ranking Member Cummings stated:

> I also want to ask the Inspector General why he was unaware of documents we have now obtained showing that the IRS employees were also instructed to screen for progressive applicants and why his office did not look into the treatment of left-leaning organizations, such as Occupy groups. I want to know how he plans to address these new documents. Again, we represent conservative groups on both sides of the aisle, and progressives and others, and so all of them must be treated fairly.[29]

Representative Danny Davis (D-IL) utilized Mr. Werfel's testimony from the day before to also criticize the inspector general. Representative Davis said:

> **Yesterday, the principal deputy commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, Danny Werfel, testified before this committee that progressive groups received treatment from the IRS that was similar to Tea Party groups when they applied for tax exempt status**. In fact, Congressman Sandy Levin, who is the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, explained these similarities in more detail. He said the IRS took years to resolve these cases, just like the Tea Party cases. And he said the IRS, one, screened for these groups, transferred them to the Exempt Organizations Technical Unit, made them the subject of a sensitive case report, and had them reviewed by the Office of Chief Counsel. According to the information provided to the Committee on Ways and Means, some of these progressive groups actually had their applications denied

---

[28] *"The IRS's Systematic Delay and Scrutiny of Tea Party Applications": Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform*, 113th Cong. (2013) (statement of Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings) [hereinafter "July 18th Hearing"].
[29] *Id.*

> after a 3-year wait, and the resolution of these cases happened during the time period that the inspector general reviewed for its audit.[30] (emphasis added).

Inspector General George testified at the hearing to defend his work and debunk Democratic myths of bipartisan targeting. Committee Democrats took the opportunity to harshly interrogate Mr. George, using Mr. Werfel's testimony. Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA) said to him:

> Well, so I want to make sure—you're under oath, again—it is your testimony today, as it was in May, but let's limit it to today, that at the time you testified here in May you had absolutely no knowledge of the fact that in any screening, BOLOs or otherwise, the words "Progressive," "Democrat," "MoveOn," never came up. You were only looking at "Tea Party" and conservative-related labels. You were unaware of any flag that could be seen as a progressive—the progressive side of things.[31]

Similarly, Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA) told Mr. George:

> Now, that seems completely skewed, Mr. George, if you are indeed an unbiased, impartial watch dog. It's as if you only want to find emails about Tea Party cases. These search terms do not include any progressive or liberal or left-leaning terms at all. Why didn't you search for the term "progressive"? It was specifically mentioned in the same BOLO that listed Tea Party groups.[32]

Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) said:

> How in the world did you get to the point that you only looked at Tea Party when liberals and progressives and Occupy Wall Street and conservatives are just as active, if not more active, and would certainly be under consideration. That is just common plain sense. And I think that some of your statements have not been—it defies—it defies logic, it defies belief that you would so limit your statements and write to Mr. Levin and write to Mr. Connolly that of course no one was looking at any other area.[33]

Armed with self-selected IRS documents and Mr. Werfel's testimony, congressional Democrats vehemently attacked TIGTA in an attempt to undercut its findings that the IRS had targeted conservative tax-exempt applicants. Their *ad hominen* attacks on an independent inspector general sought to distract and deflect from the real misconduct perpetrated by the IRS.

---

[30] *Id.* (question and answer with Representative Danny Davis).
[31] *Id.* (question and answer with Representative Gerry Connolly).
[32] *Id.* (question and answer with Representative Jackie Speier).
[33] *Id.* (question and answer with Representative Carolyn Maloney).

The IRS reinterprets legal protections for taxpayer information to bolster Democratic allegations

The IRS was not an unwilling participant in spinning this false narrative. Section 6103 of federal tax law protects confidential taxpayer information from public dissemination.[34] Under the tax code, however, the IRS may release confidential taxpayer information to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.[35] The IRS cited this provision of law to withhold vital details about the targeting scandal from the American public. The prohibition did not stop the IRS from releasing information helpful to its cause.

In August 2013, the IRS suddenly reversed its interpretation of the law. In a letter to Ways and Means Ranking Member Levin – who already had access to confidential taxpayer information – Acting IRS Commissioner Werfel wrote: "Consistent with our continuing efforts to provide your Committee and the public with as much information as possible regarding the Service's treatment of tax exempt advocacy organizations, we are re-releasing certain redacted documents that had been previously provided to your Committee."[36] Mr. Werfel explained the reversal as the result of "our continuing review of the documents" and "a thorough section 6103 analysis."[37] The reinterpretation allowed the IRS to release information related to "ACORN Successors" and "Emerge" groups.[38]

Congressional Democrats embraced the IRS's sudden reversal. Releasing new IRS documents, Ranking Member Levin and Ranking Member Cummings issued a joint press release announcing that "**new information from the IRS that provides further evidence that progressive groups were singled out for scrutiny in the same manner as conservative groups**."[39] (emphasis added). Ranking Member Levin proclaimed: "These new documents make it clear the IRS scrutiny of the political activity of 501(c)(4) organizations covered a broad spectrum of political ideology and was not politically motivated."[40] Ranking Member Cummings similarly intoned: "This new information should put a nail in the coffin of the Republican claims that the IRS's actions were politically motivated or were targeted at only one side of the political spectrum."[41]

The IRS's sudden reinterpretation of section 6103 allowed congressional Democrats to continue their assault on the truth. Again using documents self-selected by the IRS, these defenders of the Administration carried on their rhetorical campaign to convince Americans that the IRS treated liberal applicants identically to Tea Party applicants.

---

[34] I.R.C. § 6103.
[35] *Id.* § 6103(f).
[36] Letter from Daniel I. Werfel, Internal Revenue Serv., to Sander Levin, H. Comm. on Ways & Means (Aug. 19, 2013), *available at* http://democrats.waysandmeans.house.gov/sites/democrats.waysandmeans.house.gov/files/IRS%20Letter%20to%20Levin%20August%2019%2C%202013.pdf.
[37] *Id.*
[38] *Id.*
[39] Press Release, H. Comm. on Ways and Means Democrats & H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform Democrats, New Documents Highlight IRS Scrutiny of Progressive Groups (Aug. 20, 2013).
[40] *Id.*
[41] *Id.*

Recent Democratic efforts to perpetuate the myth of bipartisan IRS targeting

Democratic efforts to spin the IRS targeting continue through the present. On January 29, 2014, Senator Chris Coons raised the allegation while questioning Attorney General Eric Holder about the Administration's investigation into the IRS's targeting. Senator Coons stated:

> Well, thank you, Mr. Attorney General. I -- I join a number of colleagues in urging and hoping that the investigation into IRS actions is done in a balanced and professional and appropriate way. And I assume it is, unless demonstrated otherwise. **And what I've heard is that there were progressive groups, as well as tea party groups, that were perhaps allegedly on the receiving end of reviews of the 501(c)(3) applications**. And it's my expectation that we'll hear more in an appropriate and timely way about the conduct of this investigation.[42] (emphasis added).

On February 3, 2014, during his daily briefing, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney echoed the Democratic line that the IRS targeted liberal groups in the same manner in which it targeted conservative groups. In defending the President's comments about "not even a smidgeon of corruption," Mr. Carney said:

> Q Jay, in the President's interview with Bill O'Reilly last night, he said that there was "not even a smidgen of corruption," regarding the IRS targeting conservative groups. Did the President misspeak?
>
> A No, he didn't. But I can cite – I think have about 20 different news organizations that cite the variety of ways that that was established, including by the independent IG, who testified in May and, as his report said, that **he found no evidence that anyone outside of the IRS had any involvement in the inappropriate targeting of conservative – or progressive, for that matter – groups in their applications for tax-exempt status**. So, again, I think that this is something –[43] (emphasis added).

During debate on the House floor on H.R. 3865, the Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act of 2014, Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Levin spoke in opposition to the bill. He said:

> On a day when the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Camp, is unveiling a tax measure that requires serious bipartisanship to be successful, we are here on the floor considering a totally political bill in an attempt to resurrect an alleged scandal that never existed. . . . **And what have we learned? That**

[42] *"Oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice": Hearing before the S. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 113th Cong. (2014) (question and answer with Senator Chris Coons).
[43] The White House, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 2/3/14, http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2014/02/03/press-briefing#transcript.

> **both progressive and conservative groups were inappropriately screened out by name and not by activity.**[44] (emphasis added).

As recently as early March 2014, Democrats have been spreading the myth that liberal-oriented groups were targeted in the same manner as conservative organizations. Appearing on *The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell*, Representative Gerry Connolly continued the Democratic allegations of bipartisan targeting. Representative Connolly said:

> You know, that's true, but I think we need to back up. This is not an honest inquiry. This is a Star Chamber operation. **This is cherry picking information, deliberately colluding with a Republican idea in the IRS to make sure the investigation is solely about tea party and conservative groups even though we know that the tilt is included progressive titles as well as conservative titles and that they were equally stringent.** It was a foolish thing to do. And it's wrong, but it was not just targeted at conservatives. But Darrell Issa wants to make sure that information does not get out.[45] (emphasis added).

The Democratic myth of bipartisan IRS targeting simply will not die. Working hand in hand with the Obama Administration's IRS, congressional Democrats vigorously asserted that the IRS mistreated liberal tax-exempt applicants in a manner identical to Tea Party groups. The IRS – the very same agency under fire for its actions – assisted these efforts by producing self-selected documents and volunteering helpful information. The result has been a fundamental misunderstanding of the truth about the IRS's targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants.

The Truth: The IRS engaged in disparate treatment of conservative applicants

Contrary to Democratic claims, substantial documentary and testimonial evidence shows that the IRS systematically engaged in disparate treatment of conservative tax-exempt applicants. The Committee's investigation shows that the initial applications sent to the Washington as "test" cases were all filed by Tea Party-affiliated groups. The IRS screening criteria used to identify and separate additional applications also initially captured exclusively Tea Party organizations. Even after the criteria were changed, documents show the IRS intended to identify and separate Tea Party applications for review.

No matter how hard the Administration and congressional Democrats try to spin the facts about the IRS targeting, it remains clear that the IRS treated conservative tax-exempt applicants differently. As detailed below, the IRS treated Tea Party and other conservative tax-exempt applicants unlike liberal or progressive applicants.

---

[44] Press Release, H. Comm. on Ways & Means Democrats, Levin Floor Statement on H.R. 3865 (Feb. 26, 2014).
[45] *The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell* (MSNBC television broadcast Mar. 5, 2014) (interview with Representative Gerry Connolly).

The Committee's evidence shows the IRS sought to identify and scrutinize Tea Party applications

To date, the Committee has reviewed over 400,000 pages of documents produced by the IRS, TIGTA, the IRS Oversight Board, and others. The Committee has conducted transcribed interviews of 33 IRS employees, totaling over 217 hours. From this exhaustive undertaking, one fundamental finding is certain: the IRS sought to identify and scrutinize Tea Party applications separate and apart from any other tax-exempt applications, including liberal or progressive applications.

The initial "test" cases were exclusively Tea Party applications

From documents produced by the IRS, the Committee is aware that the initial test cases transferred to Washington in spring 2010 to be developed as templates were applications filed by Tea Party-affiliated organizations. According to one document entitled "Timeline for the 3 exemption applications that were referred to [EO Technical] from [EO Determinations]," the Washington office received the 501(c)(3) application filed by the Prescott Tea Party, LLC on April 2, 2010.[46] The same day, the Washington office received the 501(c)(4) application filed by the Albuquerque Tea Party, Inc.[47] After Prescott Tea Party did not respond to an IRS information request, the IRS closed the application "FTE" or "failure to establish." The Washington office asked for a new 501(c)(3) application, and it received the application filed by American Junto, Inc., on June 30, 2010.[48]

Testimony provided by veteran IRS tax law specialist Carter Hull, who was assigned to work the test cases in Washington, confirms that they were exclusively Tea Party applications. He testified:

> Q Now, sir, in this period, roughly March of 2010, was there a time when someone in the IRS told you that you would be assigned to work on two Tea Party cases?
>
> A Yes.
>
> ***
>
> Q Do you recall when precisely you were told that you would be assigned two Tea Party cases?
>
> A When precisely, no.
>
> Q Sometime in –

[46] Internal Revenue Serv., Timeline from the 3 exemption applications that were referred to EOT from EOD. [IRSR 58346-49]
[47] *Id.*
[48] *Id.*

A Sometime in the area, but I did get, they were assigned to me in April.

***

Q Okay, and just to be clear, April of 2010?

A Yes.

***

Q And sir, were they cases 501(c)(3)s, or 501(c)(4)s?

A One was a 501(c)(3), and one was a 501(c)(4).

Q So one of each?

A One of each.

Q What, to your knowledge, was it intentional that you were sent one of each?

A Yes.

Q Why was that?

A I'm not sure exactly why. I can only make assumptions, but those are the two areas that usually had political possibilities.

***

Q The point of my question was, no one ever explained to you that you were to understand and work these cases for the purpose of working similar cases in the future?

***

A All right, I -- I was given -- they were going to be test cases to find out how we approached (c)(4), and (c)(3) with regards to political activities.

***

Q Mr. Hull, before we broke, you were talking about these two cases being test cases, is that right? Do you recall that?

A I realized that there were other cases. I had no idea how many, but there were other cases. And they were trying to find out how we should approach these organizations, and how we should handle them.

***

Q And when you say these organizations, you mean Tea Party organizations?

A The two organizations that I had.[49]

Hull's testimony also confirms that the Washington IRS office requested a similar 501(c)(3) application to replace the Prescott Tea Party's application. He testified:

Q Did you send out letters to both organizations the 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4)?

A I did.

Q Did you get responses from both organizations?

A I got response from only one organization.

Q Which one?

A The (c)(4).

Q (C)(4). What did you do with the case that did not respond?

A I tried to contact them to find out whether they were going to submit anything.

Q By telephone?

A By telephone. And I never got a reply.

Q Then what did you do with the case?

A I closed it, failure to establish.

***

Q So at this time, when the (c)(3) became the FTE, did you begin to work only on the (c)(4)?

[49] Transcribed interview of Carter Hull, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 14, 2013).

A I notified my supervisor that I would need another (c)(3) if they wanted me to work one of each.

***

Q How did you phrase the request to Ms. Hofacre? Was it -- were you asking for another (c)(3) Tea Party application?

A I was asking for another (c)(3) application in the lines of the first one that she had sent up. I'm not sure if I asked her for a particular organization or a particular type of organization. I needed a (c)(3) that was maybe involved in political activities.

Q And the first (c)(3), it was a Tea Party application?

A Yes, it was.[50]

[50] Transcribed interview of Carter Hull, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 14, 2013).

Fig. 1: IRS Timeline of Tea Party "test" cases[51]

A. Timeline for the 3 exemption applications that were referred to EOT from EOD

1. Prescott Tea Party, LLC	2. American Junto, Inc.	3. Albuquerque Tea Party, Inc.
The Applicant sought exemption under §501(c)(3) formed to educate the public on current political issues, constitutional rights, fiscal responsibility, and support for a limited government. It planned to undertake this educational activity through rallies, protests, educational videos and through its website. The organization also intended to engage in legislative activities. The case was closed FTE on May 26, 2010.	The organization applied for exemption under §501(c)(3), stating it was formed to educate voters on current social and political issues, the political process, limited government, and free enterprise. It also indicated it would be involved in political campaign intervention and legislative activities. The case was closed FTE on January 4, 2012.	The organization applied for exemption under §501(c)(4) as a social welfare organization for purposes of issue advocacy and education. A proposed adverse is being prepared on the basis that the organization's primary activity is political campaign intervention supporting candidates associated with a certain political faction, its educational activities are partisan in nature, and its activities are intended to benefit candidates associated with a specific political faction as opposed to benefiting the community as a whole.
Timeline: **2009** • **11/09/2009** → Application received by EOD. • **12/18/2009** → Case assigned to EOD specialist. **2010** • **3/08/2010** → **Date the case was referred to EOT.** Case pulled from EOD files to send to EOT for review. • **3/11/2010** → EOD prepared a memo to transfer the case to EOT as part of EOT's review of some of the "advocacy organization" cases being received in EOD. • **4/02/2010** → Case assigned to EOT. • **4/14/2010** → 1st development letter mailed to Taxpayer (Response due by 5/06/2010). • **5/26/2010** → Case closed FTE (90-day suspense date ended on 8/26/2010).	**Timeline:** **2010** • **2/11/2010** → Application was received by EOD. • **4/11/2010** → Case assigned to a specialist in EOD. • **4/25/2010** → EOD emailed EOT (Manager Steve Grodnitzky) regarding who EOD should contact for help on "advocacy organization" cases being held in screening. • **5/25/2010** → EOT requested a §501(c)(3) "advocacy organization" case be transferred from EOD to replace Prescott Tea Party, LLC, a §501(c)(3) advocacy organization applicant that had been closed FTE. • **6/25/2010** → Memo proposing to transfer the case to EOT was prepared by EOD specialist. • **6/30/2010** → **Date the case was referred to EOT.** • **7/7/2010** → 1st development letter sent (Response due by 7/28/2010). • **7/28/2010** → EOT received Taxpayer's response to 1st development letter.	**Timeline:** **2010** • **1/4/2010** → Application was received by EOD. • **2/22/2010** → Case assigned to EOD specialist. • **3/11/2010** → EOD prepared memo to transfer the case to EOT as part of EOT's help reviewing the "advocacy organization" cases received in EOD. • **4/02/2010** → Case assigned to EOT. • **4/21/2010** → 1st development letter sent (Response due by 5/12/2010). • **4/29/2010** → Taxpayer requested extension for time to respond to 1st development letter. TLS granted extension until 6/11/2010. • **6/8/2010** → EOT received the Taxpayer's response to 1st development letter.

[51] Internal Revenue Serv., Timeline from the 3 exemption applications that were referred to EOT from EOD. [IRSR 58346-49]

The initial screening criteria captured exclusively Tea Party applications

Documents and testimony provided to the Committee show that the IRS's initial screening criteria captured only conservative organizations. According to a briefing paper prepared for Exempt Organizations Director Lois Lerner in July 2011, the IRS identified applications and held them if they met any of the following criteria:

- "Tea Party," "Patriots" or "9/12 Project" is referenced in the case file
- Issues include government spending, government debt or taxes
- Education of the public by advocacy/lobbying to "make America a better place to live"
- Statements in the case file criticize how the country is being run.[52]

Based on these criteria, which skew toward conservative ideologies, the IRS sent applications to a specific group in Cincinnati.

Fig. 2: IRS Briefing Document Prepared for Lois Lerner[53]

Background:

- EOD Screening has identified an increase in the number of (c)(3) and (c)(4) applications where organizations are advocating on issues related to government spending, taxes and similar matters. Often there is possible political intervention or excessive lobbying.
- EOD Screening identified this type of case as an emerging issue and began sending cases to a specific group if they meet any of the following criteria:
  - "Tea Party," "Patriots" or "9/12 Project" is referenced in the case file
  - Issues include government spending, government debt or taxes
  - Education of the public by advocacy/lobbying to "make America a better place to live"
  - Statements in the case file criticize how the country is being run

Testimony presented by the two Cincinnati employees shows that the initial applications in the growing IRS backlog were exclusive Tea Party applications. Elizabeth Hofacre, who oversaw the cases from April 2010 to October 2010, testified during her transcribed interview that "we were looking at Tea Parties." She testified:

> Q And you mentioned the Tea Party cases. Do you have an understanding of whether the Tea Party cases were part of that grouping of organizations with political activity, or were they separate?
>
> A That was the group of political cases.
>
> Q So why do you call them Tea Parties if it includes more than –

[52] Justin Lowe, Internal Revenue Serv., Increase in (c)(3)/(c)(4) Advocacy Org. Applications (2011). [IRSR 2735]
[53] *Id.*

A Well, at that time that's all they were. That's all that we were -- that's how we were classifying them.

Q In 2010, you were classifying any organization that had political activity as a Tea Party?

A No, it's the latter. I mean, we were looking at Tea Parties. I mean, political is too broad.

Q What do you mean when you say political is too broad?

A No, because when -- what do you mean by "political"?

Q Political activity -- if an application has an indication of political activity in it.

A I mean, I was tasked with Tea Party, so that's all I'm aware of. So I wasn't tasked with political in general.

Q Was there somebody who was tasked with political in general?

A Not that I'm aware of.[54] (emphasis added).

During the Committee's July 2013 hearing about the IRS's systematic scrutiny of Tea Party applications, Hofacre specifically rejected claims that liberal-oriented groups were part of the IRS backlog. She testified:

Mr. MICA. Okay, the beginning of 2010. And you—this wasn't a targeting by a group of your colleagues in Cincinnati that decided we're going to go after folks. And most of the cases you got, were they "Tea Party" or "Patriot" cases?

Ms. HOFACRE. Sir, they were all "Tea Party" or "Patriot" cases.

Mr. MICA. Were there progressive cases? How were they handled?

Ms. HOFACRE. **Sir, I was on this project until October of 2010, and I was only instructed to work "Tea Party"/ "Patriot"/"9/12" organizations.**[55] (emphasis added)

Ron Bell, who replaced Hofacre in overseeing the growing backlog of applications in Cincinnati, similarly testified during a transcribed interview that he only received Tea Party applications from October 2010 until July 2011. He testified:

[54] Transcribed interview of Elizabeth Hofacre, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (May 31, 2013).
[55] July 18th Hearing, *supra* note 28.

Q Okay. So at this point between October 2010 and July 2011, were all the Tea Party cases going to you?

A Correct.

Q And to your knowledge, during this same time period, was it only Tea Party cases that were being assigned to you or were there other advocacy cases that were part of this group?

***

A Does that include 9/12 and Patriot?

Q Yes, yes.

A Yes.

Q Okay. So it was just those type of cases, not other type of advocacy cases that maybe had a different -- a different political -- a liberal or progressive case?

A Correct.

***

Q Okay. And to your knowledge, when you were first assigned these cases in October 2010 and through July 2011, do you know what criteria the screening unit was using to identify the cases to send to you?

A Yes.

Q And what was that criteria?

A It was solicited on the Emerging Issues tab of the BOLO report.

Q And what did that say? What did that Emerging Issue tab on the BOLO say?

A In July 20 –

Q In October 2010 we'll start.

A I don't know exactly what it said, but it just -- Tea Party cases, 9/12, Patriot.

Q And do you recall how many cases you inherited from Ms. Hofacre?

A 50 to 100.

Q And were those only Tea Party-type cases as well?

A To the best of my knowledge.[56]

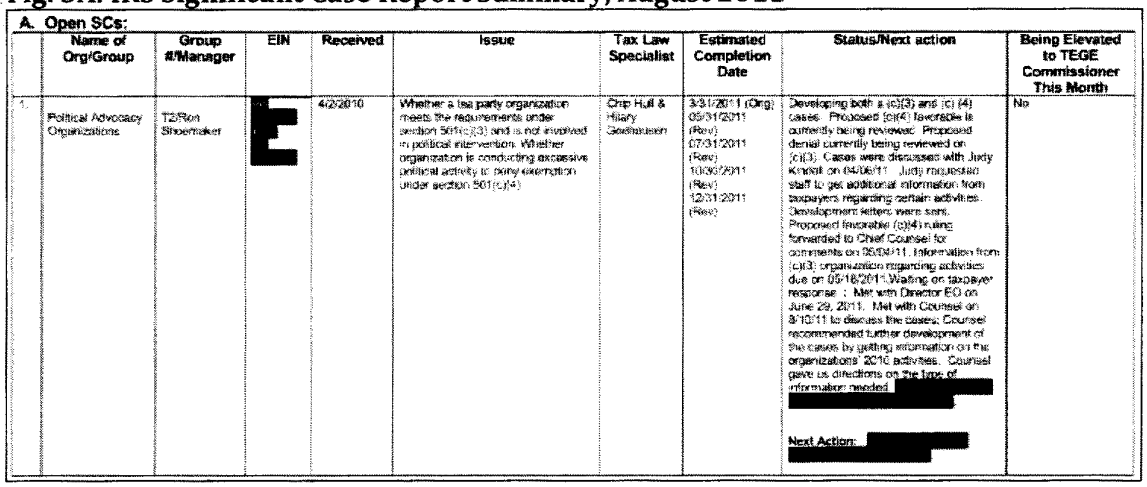
The IRS continued to target Tea Party groups after the BOLO criteria were broadened

From material produced to the Committee, it is apparent that Exempt Organizations Director Lois Lerner began orchestrating in late 2010 a "c4 project that will look at levels of lobbying and pol[itical] activity" of nonprofits, careful that the effort was not a "*per se* political project."[57] Consistent with this goal, Lerner ordered the implementation of new screening criteria for the Tea Party cases in summer 2011, broadening the BOLO language to "advocacy organizations." According to testimony received by the Committee, Lerner ordered the language changed from "Tea Party" because she viewed the term to be "too pejorative."[58] While avoiding *per se* political scrutiny, other documents obtained by the Committee suggest that Lerner's change was merely cosmetic. These documents show that the IRS still intended to target and scrutinize Tea Party applications, despite the facial changes to the BOLO criteria.

An internal "Significant Case Report" summary chart prepared in August 2011 illustrates that Lerner's change was merely cosmetic (figures 3A and 3B). While the name of entry was changed "political advocacy organizations," the description of the issue continued to reference the Tea Party movement.[59] The issue description read: "Whether a tea party organization meets the requirements under section 501(c)(3) and is not involved in political intervention. Whether organization is conducting excessive political activity to deny exemption under section 501(c)(4)."[60]

[56] Transcribed interview of Ronald Bell, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 13, 2013).
[57] E-mail from Lois Lerner, Internal Revenue Serv., to Cheryl Chasin et al., Internal Revenue Serv. (Sept. 16, 2010). [IRSR 191030]
[58] Transcribed interview of Carter Hull, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 14, 2013).
[59] Internal Revenue Serv., Significant Case Report (Aug. 31, 2011). [IRSR 151653]
[60] *Id.*

Fig. 3A: IRS Significant Case Report Summary, August 2011[61]



A. Open SCs:

	Name of Org/Group	Group #/Manager	EIN	Received	Issue	Tax Law Specialist	Estimated Completion Date	Status/Next action	Being Elevated to TEGE Commissioner This Month
1.	Political Advocacy Organizations	T2/Ron Shoemaker	[redacted]	4/2/2010	Whether a tea party organization meets the requirements under section 501(c)(3) and is not involved in political intervention. Whether organization is conducting excessive political activity to deny exemption under section 501(c)(4)	Chip Hull & Hilary Goehausen	3/31/2011 (Org) 05/31/2011 (Rev) 07/31/2011 (Rev) 10/03/2011 (Rev) 12/31/2011 (Rev)	Developing both a (c)(3) and (c) (4) cases. Proposed (c)(4) favorable is currently being reviewed. Proposed denial currently being reviewed on (c)(3). Cases were discussed with Judy Kindell on 04/06/11. Judy requested staff to get additional information from taxpayers regarding certain activities. Development letters were sent. Proposed favorable (c)(4) ruling forwarded to Chief Counsel for comments on 05/03/11. Information from (c)(3) organization regarding activities due on 05/16/2011.Waiting on taxpayer response . Met with Director EO on June 29, 2011. Met with Counsel on 8/10/11 to discuss the cases. Counsel recommended further development of the cases by getting information on the organizations' 2010 activities. Counsel gave us directions on the type of information needed [redacted] Next Action: [redacted]	No

Fig. 3B: IRS Significant Case Report Summary, August 2011 (enlarged)[62]

	Name of Org/Group	Group #/Manager	EIN	Received	Issue
1.	Political Advocacy Organizations	T2/Ron Shoemaker	[redacted]	4/2/2010	Whether a tea party organization meets the requirements under section 501(c)(3) and is not involved in political intervention. Whether organization is conducting excessive political activity to deny exemption under section 501(c)(4)

Likewise, in comparing the individual sensitive case report prepared for the Tea Party cases in June 2011 with the report prepared in September 2012, it is apparent that the BOLO criteria changed was superficial. The reports' issue summaries are nearly identical, except for replacing "Tea Party" with "advocacy organizations."[63] The June 2011 sensitive case report (figure 4A) identified the issue as: "The various 'tea party' organizations are separately organized, but appear to be a part of a national political movement that may be involved in political activities. The 'tea party' organizations are being followed closely in national newspapers (such as The Washington Post) almost on a regular basis."[64]

[61] *Id.*
[62] *Id.*
[63] *Compare* Internal Revenue Serv., Sensitive Case Report (June 17, 2011) [IRSR 151687-88], *with* Internal Revenue Serv., Sensitive Case Report (Sept. 18, 2012). [IRSR 150608-09]
[64] Internal Revenue Serv., Sensitive Case Report (June 17, 2011). [IRSR 151687-88]

Fig. 4A: IRS Sensitive Case Report for Tea Party cases, June 17, 2011[65]

CASE OR ISSUE SUMMARY:
The various "tea party" organizations are separately organized, but appear to be a part of a national political movement that may be involved in political activities. The "tea party" organizations are being followed closely in national newspapers (such as The Washington Post) almost on a regular basis. Cincinnati is holding three applications from organizations which have applied for recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Code as educational organizations and approximately twenty-two applications from organizations which have applied for recognition of exemption under section 501c)(4) as social welfare organizations. Two organizations that we believe may be "tea party" organizations already have been recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(4). EOT has not seen the case files, but are requesting copies of them. The issue is whether these organizations are involved in campaign intervention or, alternatively, in nonexempt political activity.

The September 2012 sensitive case report (figure 4B) identified the issue as: "These organizations are 'advocacy organizations,' and although are separately organized, they appear to be part of a larger national political movement that may be involved in political activities. These types of advocacy organizations are followed closely in national newspapers (such as The Washington Post) almost on a regular basis."[66]

Fig. 4B: IRS Sensitive Case Report for "Advocacy Organizations," Sept. 18, 2012[67]

CASE OR ISSUE SUMMARY:
These organizations are "advocacy organizations," and although are separately organized, they appear to be part of a larger national political movement that may be involved in political activities. These types of advocacy organizations are followed closely in national newspapers (such as The Washington Post) almost on a regular basis. Cincinnati has in its inventory a number of applications from these types of organizations that applied for recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Code as educational organizations and from organizations that applied for recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(4) as social welfare organizations.

Reading these items together, it is clear that although the BOLO language was changed to broader "political advocacy organizations," the IRS still intended to identify and single out Tea Party applications for scrutiny. Ron Bell testified that after the BOLO change in July 2011, he received more applications than just Tea Party cases. He testified:

Q And do you recall when that – when the BOLO was changed after – you said it was after the meeting [with Lerner], they changed the BOLO after the meeting, do you recall when?

A July.

Q Of 2011?

A Yes, sir.

[65] *Id.*
[66] Internal Revenue Serv., Sensitive Case Report (Sept. 18, 2012). [IRSR 150608-09]
[67] *Id.*

Q And you were going to say the BOLO became more, and then you were cut off. What were you going to say?

A It became more – they had more the advocacy, more organizations to the advocacy, like I mentioned about maybe a cat rescue that's advocating for let's not kill the cats that get picked up by the local government in whatever cities.[68]

Bell also stated that while he could not process the Tea Party applications because he was awaiting guidance from Washington, he could process the non-Tea Party applications. He testified:

Q Mr. Bell, in July 2011, when the BOLO was changed where they chose broad language, after that point, did you conduct secondary screening on any of the cases that were being held by you?

A You mean the cases that I inherited from Liz are the ones that had already been put into the whatever timeframe, Tea Party advocacy, slash advocacy?

Q Other type, yes.

A No, these were new ones coming in that someone thought that they perhaps should be in the advocacy, slash, Tea Party inventory.

Q Okay.

A They were assigned to Group 7822, and I reviewed them, and you know, maybe some were, but a vast majority was like outside the realm we were looking for.

Q And so they were like the . . . cat type cases you were discussing earlier?

A Yes.

***

Q After the July 2011 change to the BOLO, how long did you perform the secondary screening?

A Up until July 2012.

Q So, for a whole year?

A Yeah.

[68] Transcribed interview of Ronald Bell, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 13, 2013).

Q And you would look at the cases and see if they were not a Tea Party case, you would move that either to closing or to further development?

A Yeah, and then the BOLO changed about midway through that timeframe.

Q Okay.

A To make it where we put the note on there that we don't need the general advocacy.

Q And after the BOLO changed in January 2012, did that affect your secondary screening process?

A There was less cases to be reviewed.

Q Okay. **So during this whole year, the Tea Party cases remained on hold pending guidance from Washington while the other cases that you identified as non-Tea Party cases were moved to either closure or further development; is that right?**

A Correct.[69] (emphasis added).

The IRS's own retrospective review shows the targeted applications were predominantly conservative-oriented

In July 2012, Lerner asked her senior technical advisor, Judith Kindell, to conduct an assessment of the political affiliation of the applications in the IRS backlog. On July 18, Kindell reported back to Lerner that of all the 501(c)(4) applications, having been flagged for additional scrutiny, at least 75 percent were conservative, "while fewer than 10 [applications, or 5 percent] appear to be liberal/progressive leaning groups based solely on the name."[70] Of the 501(c)(3) applications, Kindell informed Lerner that "slightly over half appear to be conservative leaning groups based solely on the name."[71] Unlike Tea Party cases, the Oversight Committee's review has received no testimony from IRS employees that any progressive groups were scrutinized because of their organization's expressed political beliefs.

[69] *Id.*
[70] E-mail from Judith Kindell, Internal Revenue Serv., to Lois Lerner, Internal Revenue Serv. (July 18, 2012). [IRSR 179406]
[71] *Id.*

Fig. 5: E-mail from Judith Kindell to Lois Lerner, July 18, 2012[72]

From: Kindell Judith E
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 10:54 AM
To: Lerner Lois G
Cc: Light Sharon P
Subject: Bucketed cases

Of the 84 (c)(3)

cases, slightly over half appear to be conservative leaning groups based solely

on the name. The remainder do not obviously lean to either side of the

political spectrum.

Of the 199 (c)(4)

cases, approximately 3/4 appear to be conservative leaning while fewer than 10

appear to be liberal/progressive leaning groups based solely on the name.

The remainder do not obviously lean to either side of the political

spectrum.

Documents and testimony obtained by the Committee demonstrate that the IRS sought to identify and scrutinize Tea Party applications. For fifteen months beginning in February 2010, the IRS systematically identified, separated, and delayed Tea Party applications – and only Tea Party applications. Even after the IRS broadened the screening criteria in the summer of 2011, internal documents confirm that that agency continued to target Tea Party groups.

The IRS treated Tea Party applications differently from other applications

Evidence obtained by the Committee in the course of its investigation proves that the IRS handled conservative applications distinctly from other tax-exempt applications. In February 2011, Lerner directed Michael Seto, the manager of Exempt Organizations Technical Unit, to put the Tea Party test cases through a "multi-tier" review.[73] Lerner wrote to Seto: "This could be the vehicle to go to court on the issue of whether Citizen's [*sic*] United overturning ban on corporate

[72] *Id.*
[73] Transcribed interview of Michael Seto, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (July 11, 2013).

spending applies to tax exempt rule. Counsel and Judy Kindell need to be in on this one please."[74]

Carter Hull, an IRS specialist with almost 50 years of experience, testified that this multi-tier level of review was unusual. He testified:

Q Have you ever sent a case to Ms. Kindell before?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q This is the only case you remember?

A Uh-huh.

Q Correct?

A This is the only case I remember sending directly to Judy.

***

Q Had you ever sent a case to the Chief Counsel's office before?

A I can't recall offhand.

Q You can't recall. So in your 48 years of experience with the IRS, you don't recall sending a case to Ms. Kindell or a case to IRS Chief Counsel's office?

A To Ms. Kindell, I don't recall ever sending a case before. To Chief Counsel, I am sure some cases went up there, but I can't give you those.

Q Sitting here today you don't remember?

A I don't remember.[75]

Similarly, Elizabeth Hofacre, the Cincinnati-based revenue agent initially assigned to develop cases, told the Committee during a July 2013 hearing that the involvement of Washington was "unusual."[76] She testified:

I never before had to send development letters that I had drafted to EO

[74] E-mail from Lois Lerner, Internal Revenue Serv., to Michael Seto, Internal Revenue Serv. (Feb. 1, 2011). [IRSR 161810]
[75] Transcribed interview of Carter Hull, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 14, 2013).
[76] *"The IRS's Systematic Delay and Scrutiny of Tea Party Applications": Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform*, 113th Cong. (2013) (statement of Elizabeth Hofacre).

Technical for review, and I never before had to send copies of applications and responses that were assigned to me to EO Technical for review. I was frustrated because of what I perceived as micromanagement with respect to these applications.[77]

Hofacre's successor on the cases, Ron Bell, also told the Committee that it was "unusual" to have to wait on Washington to move forward with an application.[78] He testified:

Q So did you see something different in these Tea Party cases applying for 501(c)(4) status that was different from other organizations that had political activity, political engagement applying for 501(c)(4) status in the past?

A I'm not sure if I understand that.

Q I guess what I'm getting at is you said you had seen previous applications from an organization applying for 501(c)(4) status that had some level of political engagement, and these Tea Party groups are also applying for 501(c)(4) status and they have some level of political engagement. Was there any difference in your mind between the Tea Party groups and the other groups that you'd seen in your experience at the IRS?

A No.

Q So, do you think that Tea Party groups are treated the same as these other groups from your previous experience?

A No.

***

Q In your experience, was there anything different about the way that the Tea Party 501(c)(4) cases were treated that was as opposed to the previous 501(c)(4) applications that had some level of political engagement?

A Yes.

Q And what was different?

A Well, they were segregated. They seemed to have been more scrutinized. I hadn't interacted with EO technical [in] Washington on cases really before.

Q You had not?

---

[77] *Id.*

[78] Transcribed interview of Ronald Bell, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 13, 2013).

A Well, not a whole group of cases.[79]

Another Cincinnati employee, Stephen Seok, testified that the type of activities that the conservative applicants conducted made them different from other similar applications he had worked in the past. He testified:

Q And to your knowledge, the cases that you worked on, was there anything different or novel about the activities of the Tea Party cases compared to other (c)(4) cases you had seen before?

***

A **Normal (c)(4) cases we must develop the concept of social welfare, such as the community newspapers, or the poor, that types. These organizations mostly concentrate on their activities on the limiting government, limiting government role, or reducing government size, or paying less tax. I think it[']s different from the other social welfare organizations which are (c)(4).**

***

Q **So the difference between the applications that you just described, the applications for folks that wanted to limit government, limit the role of government, the difference between those applications and the (c)(4) applications with political activity that you had worked in the past, was the nature of their ideology, or perspective, is that right?**

A **Yeah, I think that's a fair statement**. But still, previously, I could work, I could work this type of organization, applied as a (c)(4), that's possible, though. Not exactly Tea Party, or 9-12, but dealing with the political ideology, that's possible, yes.

Q **So you may have in the past worked on applications from (c)(4), applicants seeking (c)(4) status that expressed a concern in ideology, but those applications were not treated or processed the same way that the Tea Party cases that we have been talking about today were processed, is that right?**

A **Right**. Because that [was] way before these – these organizations were put together. So that's way before. If I worked those cases, way before this list is on.[80] (emphases added).

---

[79] *Id.*

[80] Transcribed interview of Stephen Daejin Seok, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 19, 2013).

This evidence shows that the IRS treated conservative-oriented Tea Party applications differently from other tax-exempt applications, including those filed by liberal-oriented organizations. Testimony indicates that the IRS instituted new procedures and different hurdles for the review of Tea Party applications. What would otherwise be a routine review of an application became unprecedented scrutiny and delays for these Tea Party groups.

Myth versus fact: How Democrats' claims of bipartisan targeting are not supported by the evidence

In light of the evidence available to the Committee and under close examination, each Democratic argument fails. Despite their claims that liberal-leaning groups were targeted in the same manner as conservative applicants, the facts do not bear out their assertions. Instead, the Committee's investigation and public information shows the following:

- IRS BOLO entries for liberal groups and terms only appear on lists used for awareness and were never used as a litmus test for enhanced scrutiny;
- Some liberal-oriented organizations were identified for scrutiny because of objective, non-political concerns, but not because of their political beliefs;
- Substantially more conservative-leaning applicants than liberal-oriented applicants were caught in the IRS's backlog;
- The IRS treated Tea Party applicants differently from "progressive" groups;
- The IRS treated Tea Party applicants differently from ACORN successor groups;
- The IRS treated Tea Party applicants differently from Emerge affiliate groups; and
- The IRS treated Tea Party applicants differently from Occupy groups.

When carefully examined, these facts refute the myths perpetrated by congressional Democrats and the Administration that the IRS engaged in bipartisan targeting. The facts show, instead, that the IRS targeted Tea Party groups for systematic scrutiny and delay.

Perhaps most telling is the IRS's own actions. When Lois Lerner publicly apologized for the IRS's targeting of Tea Party applicants, she offered no such apology for its targeting of any liberal groups. When asked if the IRS had treated liberal groups inappropriately, Lerner responded: "I don't have any information on that."[81] This admission severely undercuts Democratic *ex post* allegations of bipartisan targeting.

BOLO entries for liberal groups and terms only appear on lists used for awareness and were never used as a litmus test for enhanced scrutiny

Congressional Democrats and some in the Administration claim that the IRS targeted liberal groups because some liberal-oriented organizations appeared on entries of the IRS BOLO

[81] Aaron Blake, *'I'm not good at math': The IRS's public relations disaster*, WASH. POST, May 10, 2013.

lists.[82] This claim is not supported by the facts. The presence of an organization or a group of organizations on the IRS BOLO list did not necessarily mean that the IRS targeted those groups. As the Ways and Means Committee phrased it, "being on a BOLO is different from being targeted and abused by the IRS."[83] A careful examination of the evidence demonstrates that only conservative groups on the IRS BOLO lists experienced systematic scrutiny and delay.

The Democratic falsehood rests on a fundamental misunderstanding of the structure of the BOLO list. The BOLO list was a comprehensive spreadsheet document with separate tabs designed for information intended for different uses. For example, the "Watch List" tab on the BOLO document was designed to notify screeners of potential applications that the IRS has not yet received.[84] The "TAG Issues" tab listed groups with potentially fraudulent applications. The "Emerging Issues" tab, contrarily, was designed to alert screeners to groups of applications that the IRS has *already received* and that presented special problems.[85] Therefore, whereas the Watch List tab noted hypothetical applications that could be received and TAG Issues tab noted fraudulent applications, the Emerging Issues tab highlighted non-fraudulent applications that the IRS was actively processing.

The Tea Party entry on the IRS BOLO appears on the "Emerging Issues" tab, meaning that the IRS had already received Tea Party applications. The liberal-oriented groups on the BOLO list appear on either the Watch List tab, meaning that the IRS was merely notifying its screeners of the potential for those groups to apply, or the TAG Issues tab, indicating a concern for fraud. In effect, then, whereas the appearance of Tea Party groups on the BOLO signifies the *actuality* of review and subsequent delay, the appearance of the liberal groups on the BOLO signifies either the *possibility* that some group may apply in the future or the potential for fraud in a group's application.

The differences in where the entries appear on the BOLO document manifests in the IRS's differential treatment of the groups. According to evidence known to the Committee, only Tea Party applications appearing on the Emerging Issues tab resulted in systematic scrutiny and delay. Although some liberal groups appeared on versions of the BOLO, their mere presence on the document did not result in systematic scrutiny and delay – contrary to Democratic claims of bipartisan IRS targeting.

The IRS identified some liberal-oriented groups due to objective, non-political concerns, but not because of their political beliefs

Where the IRS identified liberal-oriented groups for scrutiny, evidence shows that it did so for objective, non-political reasons and not because of the groups' political beliefs. For

---

[82] *See, e.g., Hearing on the Status of IRS Review of Taxpayer Targeting Practices: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Ways & Means*, 113th Cong. (2013); The White House, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 2/3/14, http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2014/02/03/press-briefing#transcript.

[83] H. Comm. on Ways & Means, Being on a BOLO is Different from Being Targeted and Abused by the IRS (June 24, 2013), http://waysandmeans.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=340314.

[84] Internal Revenue Serv., Heightened Awareness Issues. [IRSR 6655-72]

[85] *Id.*

instance, the IRS scrutinized Emerge America applications for conveying impermissible benefits to a private entity, which is prohibited for nonprofit groups.[86] The IRS scrutinized ACORN successor groups due to concerns that the organizations were engaged in an abusive scheme to rebrand themselves under a new name.[87] Likewise, the IRS included an entry for "progressive" on its BOLO list out of concern that the groups' partisan campaign activity "may not be appropriate" for 501(c)(3) status, under which there is an absolute prohibition on campaign intervention.[88] Unlike the Tea Party applications, which the IRS scrutinized for their social-welfare activities, the Committee has received no indication that the IRS systematically scrutinized liberal-oriented groups because of their political beliefs.

Substantially more conservative groups were caught in the IRS application backlog

Another familiar refrain from the Administration and congressional Democrats is that the IRS targeted liberal groups because left-wing groups were included in the IRS backlog along with conservative groups. Ways and Means Ranking Member Sander Levin (D-MI) alleged that the IRS engaged in bipartisan targeting because some "progressive groups were among the 298 applications that TIGTA reviewed in their audit and received heightened scrutiny."[89] Similarly, Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA) said that "the tilt . . . included progressive titles as well as conservative titles and that they were equally stringent."[90] These allegations are misleading. Several separate assessments of the IRS backlog prove that substantially more conservative groups than liberal groups were caught in the IRS backlog.

An internal IRS analysis conducted for Lois Lerner in July 2012 found that 75 percent of the 501(c)(4) applications in the backlog were conservative, "while fewer than 10 [applications] appear to be liberal/progressive leaning groups based solely on the name."[91] The same analysis found that "slightly over half [of the 501(c)(3) applications] appear to be conservative leaning groups based solely on the name."[92] A Ways and Means examination conducted in 2013 similar found that the backlog was overwhelmingly conservative: 83 percent conservative and only 10 percent liberal.[93]

In September 2013, *USA Today* independently analyzed a list of about 160 applications in the IRS backlog.[94] This review showed that conservative groups filed 80 percent of the

---

[86] Transcribed interview of Amy Franklin Giuliano, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (Aug. 9, 2013).
[87] Transcribed interview of Robert Choi, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (Aug. 21, 2013).
[88] *See, e .g.*, Internal Revenue Serv., Be on the Look Out List (Nov. 9, 2010). [IRS 1349-64]
[89] *Hearing on the Status of IRS Review of Taxpayer Targeting Practices: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Ways & Means*, 113th Cong. (2013) (statement of Ranking Member Sander Levin).
[90] *The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell* (MSNBC television broadcast Mar. 5, 2014) (interview with Representative Gerry Connolly).
[91] E-mail from Judith Kindell, Internal Revenue Serv., to Lois Lerner, Internal Revenue Serv. (July 18, 2012). [IRSR 179406]
[92] *Id.*
[93] Ways and Means Committee September 18th Hearing, *supra* note 9.
[94] *See* Gregory Korte, *IRS List Reveals Concerns over Tea Party 'Propaganda,'* USA TODAY, Sept. 18, 2013.

applications in the backlog while liberal groups filed less than seven percent.[95] An earlier analysis from *USA Today* in May 2013 showed that for 27 months beginning in February 2010, the IRS did not approve any tax-exempt applications filed by Tea Party groups.[96] During that same period, the IRS approved "perhaps dozens of applications from similar liberal and progressive groups."[97]

Testimony received by the Committee supports this conclusion. During a hearing of the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Regulatory Affairs, Jay Sekulow – a lawyer representing 41 groups targeted by the IRS – testified that substantially more conservative groups were targeted and that all liberal groups targeted eventually received approval.[98] In an exchange with Representative Matt Cartwright (D-PA), Sekulow testified:

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. And Mr. Sekulow, you were helpful with some statistics this morning, and I wanted to ask you about that. **You mentioned 104 conservative groups targeted. Was that the number?**

Mr. SEKULOW. This is from the report of the IRS dated through July 29th of 2013 – **104 conservative organizations in that report were targeted.**

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Thank you. **And then seven progressive targeted groups**?

Mr. SEKULOW. **Seven progressive targeted groups, all of which received their tax exemption.**

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Does it give the total number of applications? In other words, 104 conservative groups targeted. How many – how many applied? How many conservative groups applied?

Mr. SEKULOW. In the TIGTA report there was – I think the number was 283 that they had become part of the target. But actually, applications, a lot of the IRS justification for this, at least purportedly, was an increase in applications, and there was actually a decrease in the number.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Right. And does it give the number of progressive groups that applied for tax-exempt status?

---

[95] *Id.*
[96] Gregory Korte, *IRS Approved Liberal Groups while Tea Party in Limbo*, USA TODAY, May 15, 2013.
[97] *Id.*
[98] *"The IRS Targeting Investigation: What Is the Administration Doing?": Hearing before the Subcomm. on Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Regulatory Affairs of the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform*, 113th Cong. (2014) (question and answer with Rep. Matt Cartwright).

Mr. SEKULOW. No, the only report that has the progressive –

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. No, no?

Mr. SEKULOW. The one that I have just is the – the report I have in front of me is the one through the – which just has the seven.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. OK. All right, thank you.

MR. SEKULOW. None of those have been denied, though.[99] (emphases added).

Contrary to the Democratic claim that the IRS targeting of liberal groups was "equally stringent" to conservative groups,[100] the overwhelming majority of applications in the IRS backlog were filed by conservative-leaning organizations. This evidence further demonstrates that the IRS did not engage in bipartisan targeting.

The IRS treated Tea Party applicants differently than "progressive" groups

Democrats in Congress and the Administration argue that the IRS treated "progressive" groups in a manner similar to Tea Party applicants. Because the IRS BOLO list had an entry for "progressives," Democrats allege that "progressive groups were singled out for scrutiny in the same manner as conservative groups,"[101] and that "the progressive groups were targeted side by side with their tea party counterpart groups."[102] Again, the evidence available to the Committee does not support these Democratic assertions. Rather, the evidence clearly shows that the IRS did not subject "progressive" groups to the same type of systematic scrutiny and delay as conservative applicants.

Perhaps the most significant difference between the IRS's treatment of Tea Party applicants and "progressive" groups is reflected in the IRS BOLO lists. The Tea Party entry was located on the tab labeled, "Emerging Issues," meaning that the IRS was actively screening for similar cases.[103] The "progressive" entry, however, was located on a tab labeled "TAG historical," meaning that the IRS interest in those cases was dormant.[104] Cindy Thomas, the manager of the IRS Cincinnati office, explained this difference during a transcribed interview with Committee staff.[105] She told the Committee that unlike the systematic scrutiny given to the

[99] *Id.*
[100] *The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell* (MSNBC television broadcast Mar. 5, 2014) (interview with Representative Gerry Connolly).
[101] Press Release, H. Comm. on Ways and Means Democrats & H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform Democrats, New Documents Highlight IRS Scrutiny of Progressive Groups (Aug. 20, 2013).
[102] *Hearing on the Status of IRS Review of Taxpayer Targeting Practices: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Ways & Means*, 113th Cong. (2013) (question and answer with Representative Joseph Crowley).
[103] *See* Internal Revenue Serv., Heightened Awareness Issues. [IRSR 6655-72]
[104] *Id.*
[105] Transcribed interview of Lucinda Thomas, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (June 28, 2013).

conservative-oriented applications as a result of the BOLO, "progressive" cases were never automatically elevated to the Washington office as a whole. She testified:

Q Ms. Thomas, is this an example of the BOLO from looks like November 2010?

A I don't know if it was from November of 2010, but –

Q This is an example of the BOLO, though?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And, ma'am, under what has been labeled as tab 2, TAG Historical?

A Yes.

***

Q Let's turn to page 1354.

A Okay.

Q Do you see that, it says -- the entry says progressive?

A Yes.

Q This is under TAG Historical, is that right?

A Yes.

Q So this is an issue that hadn't come up for a while, is that right?

A Right.

Q And it doesn't note that these were referred anywhere, is that correct? What happened with these cases?

A This would have been on our group as – because of – remember I was saying it was consistency-type cases, so it's not necessarily a potential fraud or abuse or terrorist issue, but any cases that were dealing with these types of issues would have been worked by our TAG group.

Q **Okay. And were they worked any different from any other cases that EO Determinations had?**

A **No. They would have just been worked consistently by one group of agents.**

Q Okay. And were they cases sent to Washington?

A I'm not – I don't know.

Q Not that you are aware?

A I'm not aware of that.

Q As the head of the Cincinnati office you were never aware that these cases were sent to Washington?

A There could be cases that are transferred to the Washington office according to, like, our [Internal Revenue Manual] section. I mean, there's a lot of cases that are processed, and I don't know what happens to every one of them.

Q Sure. But these cases identified as progressive as a whole were never sent to Washington?

A Not as a whole.[106]

The difference in where the entries appeared in the BOLO list resulted in disparate treatment of Tea Party and "progressive" groups. Unlike the systematic scrutiny given to Tea Party applicants, "progressive" cases were never similarly scrutinized.

The House Ways and Means Committee, with statutory authority to review confidential taxpayer information, concluded that the IRS treated conservative tax-exempt applicants differently than "progressive" groups. The Ways and Means Committee's review found that while the IRS approved only 45 percent of conservative applicants, it approved 100 percent of groups with "progressive" in their name.[107] Likewise, Acting IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel testified before the Way and Means Committee:

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Werfel, isn't it true that 100 percent of tea party applications were flagged for extra scrutiny?

Mr. WERFEL. I think that – yes. The framework from the BOLO. It's my understanding, the way the process worked is if there's "tea party" in the application it was automatically moved into -- into this area of further review, yes.

---

[106] *Id.*

[107] *Hearing on the Internal Revenue Service's Exempt Organizations Division Post-TIGTA Audit: Hearing before the Subcomm. on Oversight of the H. Comm. on Ways & Means*, 113th Con. (2013) (opening statement of Chairman Boustany).

Mr. REICHERT. OK, and you – you know how many progressive groups were flagged?

Mr. WERFEL. I do not have that number.

Mr. REICHERT. I do.

Mr. WERFEL. OK.

Mr. REICHERT. Our investigation shows that there were seven flagged. Do you know how many were approved?

Mr. WERFEL. I do not have that number at my fingertips.

Mr. REICHERT. All of those applications were approved.[108]

The IRS's independent inspector general has repeatedly confirmed the Ways and Means Committee's assessment. During the Oversight Committee's July 2013 hearing, TIGTA J. Russell George told Members that "progressive" groups were not subjected to the same systematic treatment as Tea Party applicants. He testified:

> With respect to the 298 cases that the IRS selected for political review, as of the end of May 2012, three have the word "progressive" in the organization's name; another four were used—are used, "progress," none of the 298 cases selected by the IRS, as of May 2012, used the name "Occupy."[109]

Mr. George also informed Congress that at least 14 organizations with "progressive" in their name were not held up and scrutinized by the IRS.[110] "In total," Mr. George wrote, "**30 percent of the organizations we identified with the words 'progress' or 'progressive' in their names were process as potential political cases. In comparison, our audit found that 100 percent of the tax-exempt applications with Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 in their names were processed as potential political cases** during the timeframe of our audit."[111] (emphasis added).

Documents produced by the IRS support the finding of disparate treatment toward Tea Party groups. Notes from one training session in July 2010 reflect that the IRS ordered screeners to transfer Tea Party applications to a special group for "secondary screening."[112] The same notes show that the screeners were asked to "flag" progressive groups.[113] But multiple

---

[108] *Hearing on the Status of IRS Review of Taxpayer Targeting Practices: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Ways & Means*, 113th Cong. (2013) (question and answer with Representative Dave Reichert).
[109] *"The IRS's Systematic Delay and Scrutiny of Tea Party Applications": Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform*, 113th Cong. (2013) (statement of J. Russell George).
[110] Letter from J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector Gen. for Tax Admin., to Sander M. Levin, H. Comm. on Ways & Means (June 26, 2013).
[111] *Id.*
[112] Internal Revenue Serv., Screening Workshop Notes (July 28, 2010). [IRSR 6703-04]
[113] *Id.*

interviews with IRS employees who worked individual cases have yielded no evidence that these "flags" or frontline reviews for political activity led to enhanced scrutiny – except for Tea Party organizations. One sentence on the notes explicitly reminds screeners that "progressive' applications are not considered "Tea Parties.'"[114] These notes confirm testimony from Elizabeth Hofacre, the "Tea Party Coordinator/Reviewer," who told the Committee that she only worked Tea Party cases.[115]

Fig. 6: IRS Screening Workshop Notes, July 28, 2010[116]

Screening Workshop Notes - July 28, 2010 2

- The emailed attachment outlines the overall process.
- Glenn deferred additional statements and/or questions to John Shafer on yesterday's developments; how they affect the screening process and timeline.
- Concerns can be directed to Glenn for additional research if necessary.

Current/Political Activities: Gary Muthert

- Discussion focused on the political activities of Tea Parties and the like-regardless of the type of application.
- If in doubt Err on the Side of Caution and transfer to 7822.
- Indicated the following names and/or titles were of interest and should be flagged for review:
  - 9/12 Project,
  - Emerge,
  - Progressive
  - We The People,
  - Rally Patriots, and
  - Pink-Slip Program.

- Elizabeth Hofacre, Tea Party Coordinator/Reviewer
  - Re-empathize that applications with Key Names and/or Subjects should be transferred to 7822 for Secondary Screening. Activities must be primary.
  - "Progressive" applications are not considered "Tea Parties"

Despite creative interpretations of this individual document, the full evidence rebuts the Democratic claim that the IRS targeted "progressive" groups alongside Tea Party applicants. Although "progressive" groups were referenced in the IRS BOLO lists and internal training documents, Democrats in Congress and the Administration have repeatedly ignored critical distinctions that qualify their meaning. A careful evaluation of facts in context reveals one conclusion: the IRS treated Tea Party groups differently than "progressive" groups.

---

[114] *Id.*
[115] Transcribed interview of Elizabeth Hofacre, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (May 31, 2013).
[116] Internal Revenue Serv., Screening Workshop Notes (July 28, 2010). [IRSR 6703-04]

The IRS treated Tea Party applicants differently than ACORN successor groups

Democratic defenders of the IRS misconduct also argue that the IRS treated Tea Party applicants similar to ACORN successor groups. ACORN endorsed President Barack Obama in his election campaign and had established deep political ties before its network of affiliates delinked and rebranded themselves following scandalous revelations about the organization in 2009.[117] To support allegations about ACORN being targeted, Democrats have pointed to BOLO lists and training documents that "instructed [IRS] screeners to single out for heightened scrutiny . . . ACORN successors."[118]

But allegations of targeting fall flat. First, ACORN successor groups appear on the "Watch List" tab of the BOLO list, unlike Tea Party groups, which appear on the "Emerging Issues" tab.[119] According to IRS documents, the Watch List tab was intended to include applications "not yet received," or "issues [that] are the result of significant world events," or "organizations formed as a result of controversy."[120] The Emerging Issue tab was created to spot groups of applications *already* received by the IRS. An internal IRS training document specifically cites "Tea Party cases" as an example of an emerging issue; it does not similarly cite ACORN successor groups.

Second, Robert Choi, the director of EO Rulings and Agreements until December 2010, testified to several differences between how the IRS treated ACORN successors and how the IRS treated Tea Party applicants. He told the Committee that unlike the Tea Party "test" cases, he did not recall the ACORN successor applications being subject to a "sensitive case report" or worked by the IRS Chief Counsel's office.[121] Most importantly, he explained that the IRS had objective concerns about rebranded ACORN affiliates that had nothing to do with the organization's political views. The primary concern about the ACORN successor groups, according to Choi, was whether the groups were legitimate new entities or part of an "abusive" scheme to continue an old entity under a new name.[122] Mr. Choi testified:

> Q You said earlier in the last hour there was email traffic about the ACORN successor groups in 2010; is that right?
>
> A That's correct, yes.
>
> Q But the ACORN successor groups were not subject to a sensitive case report; is that right?

---

[117] Stephanie Strom, *On Obama, Acorn and Voter Registration*, N.Y. TIMES, Oct. 10, 2008; Stanley Kurtz, *Inside Obama's Acorn*, NAT'L REVIEW ONLINE, May 29, 2008.
[118] Press Release, H. Comm. on Ways and Means Democrats & H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform Democrats, New Documents Highlight IRS Scrutiny of Progressive Groups (Aug. 20, 2013).
[119] *See* Internal Revenue Serv., Be on the Look Out list, "Filed 112310 Tab 5 – Watch List." [IRSR 2562-63]
[120] Internal Revenue Serv., Heightened Awareness Issues. [IRSR 6655-72]
[121] Transcribed interview of Robert Choi, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (Aug. 21, 2013).
[122] *Id.*

A I don't recall if they were listed in there, in the sensitive case report.

Q So you don't recall them being part of a sensitive case report?

A I think what I'm saying is they may be part of a sensitive case report. I do not have a specific recollection that they were listed in a sensitive case report.

Q But you do have a specific recollection that the Tea Party cases were on sensitive case reports in 2010.

A Yes.

Q To your knowledge, did any ACORN successor application go to the Chief Counsel's Office?

A I am not aware of it.

Q Are you aware of any ACORN successor groups facing application delays?

A I do not know if – well, when you say "delays," how do you –

Q Well –

A I mean, I'm aware of successor ACORN applications coming in, and I am aware of email traffic that talked about my concern of delays on those cases and, you know, that there was discussion about seeing an influx of these applications which appear to be related to the previous organization.

***

Q And the concern behind the reason that they weren't being processed was that they were potentially the same organization that had been denied previously?

A Not that they were denied previously. **These appeared to be successor organizations, meaning these were newly formed organizations with a new EIN, employer identification number, located at the same address as the previous organization and, in some instances, with the same officers. And it was an issue of concern as to whether or not these were, in fact, the same organizations just coming in under a new name**; whether, in fact, the previous organizations, if they were, for example, 501(c)(3) organizations, properly disposed of their assets. Did they transfer it to this new organization? Was this perhaps an abusive

scheme by these organizations to say that they went out of business and then not really but they just carried on under a different name?

Q And that's the reason they were held up?

A Yes.[123] (emphasis added).

Choi's testimony shows that the inclusion of ACRON successor groups on the BOLO list centered on a concern for whether the new groups were improperly standing in the shoes of the old groups. As the Committee has documented previously, ACORN groups received substantial attention in 2009 and 2010 for misuse of taxpayer funds and other fraudulent endeavors.[124] In fact, Congress even cut off funding for ACORN groups given widespread concerns about the groups' activities.[125] Six Democratic current members of the Oversight Committee and seven Democratic current members of the Ways and Means Committee voted to stop ACORN funding.[126] The IRS included ACORN successor groups on a special watch list, according to Choi, due to concern "as to whether or not these were, in fact, the same organizations just coming in under a new name."[127]

This information undercuts allegations by congressional Democrats that the IRS's placement of ACORN successor groups on the BOLO list signified that those groups were targeted by the IRS in the same manner as Tea Party cases. Unlike the Tea Party applicants, ACORN successor groups were placed on the IRS BOLO out of specific and unique concern for potentially fraudulent or abusive schemes and not because of their political beliefs. Once identified, even ACORN successor groups were apparently not subjected to the same systematic scrutiny and delay as Tea Party applicants.

The IRS treated Tea Party applicants differently than Emerge affiliate groups

Congressional Democrats attempt to minimize the IRS's targeting of Tea Party applicants by alleging a false analogy to the IRS's treatment of Emerge affiliate groups. Emerge touts itself as the "premier training program for Democratic women" and states as a goal, "to increase the number of Democratic women in public office."[128] In particular, citing IRS training documents, Ranking Member Sander Levin and Ranking Member Elijah Cummings argued that "the IRS

---

[123] *Id.*

[124] *See* H. COMM. ON OVERSIGHT & GOV'T REFORM MINORITY STAFF, IS ACORN INTENTIONALLY STRUCTURED AS A CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE? (July 23, 2009).

[125] *See* H. COMM. ON OVERSIGHT & GOV'T REFORM MINORITY STAFF, FOLLOW THE MONEY: ACORN, SEIU AND THEIR POLITICAL ALLIES (Feb. 18, 2010).

[126] *See* 155 Cong. Rec. H9700-01 (Sept. 17, 2009). The Democratic Members who opposed ACORN funding were Representatives Maloney (D-NY); Tierney (D-MA); Clay (D-MO); Cooper (D-TN); Speier (D-CA); Welch (D-VT); Levin (D-MI); Doggett (D-TX); Thompson (D-CA); Larson (D-CT); Blumenauer (D-OR); Kind (D-WI); and Schwartz (D-PA). *Id.*

[127] Transcribed interview of Robert Choi, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (Aug. 21, 2013).

[128] Emerge America, www.emergeamerica.org (last visited Apr. 2, 2014).

instructed its screeners to single out for heightened scrutiny 'Emerge' organizations."[129] The evidence, once more, fails to support their contention. The IRS did not target Emerge affiliate groups in any similar manner to Tea Party applicants.

The same training documents cited by congressional Democrats as proof of bipartisan IRS targeting clearly show differences between the treatment of Tea Party applications and those filed by Emerge affiliate. The IRS ordered its screeners to transfer Tea Party applications to a special group for "secondary screening," but it asked the screeners to merely "flag" Emerge groups.[130] While another training document specifically offers the Tea Party as an example of an emerging issue, the Emerge affiliate groups were not referenced on the document.[131]

Democrats cite testimony from IRS employee Steven Grodnitzky to support their argument that the IRS engaged in bipartisan targeting. Ranking Member Cummings referenced this testimony when questioning Acting IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel during his unsolicited testimony before the Committee on July 17, 2013.[132] Although Grodnitzky did testify that some liberal applications experienced a three-year delay,[133] he also gave testimony that contradicts the Democrats' manufactured narrative. Grodnitzky testified that unlike the Tea Party cases, which were filed by unaffiliated groups with similar ideologies, the Emerge cases were affiliated entities with different "posts" in each state.[134] He also testified that unlike the Tea Party applications, where the IRS was focused on political speech, the central issue in the Emerge applications was that the groups were conveying an impermissible private benefit upon the Democratic Party.[135] Finally, Grodnitzky testified that there were far fewer Emerge cases than Tea Party applications.[136] While Grodnitzky's testimony supports a conclusion that specific and objective concerns at the IRS led to scrutiny and delayed applications from Emerge affiliates, it does not support a parallel between these organizations and what the IRS did to Tea Party applicants.

Emerge existed as a series of affiliated organizations. One IRS employee testified that whereas the Tea Party applicants waited years for IRS action, some of the Emerge applications were approved by Cincinnati IRS employees in a "matter of hours."[137] But the IRS eventually reversed course, out of concern about impermissible private benefit. Because Emerge affiliates were seen as essentially the same organization, the IRS wanted to flag new affiliates to ensure that these new applications were considered in a consistent manner. Testimony from IRS employee, Amy Franklin Giuliano, explains why the Emerge applicants "were essentially the same organization."[138] She testified:

---

[129] Press Release, H. Comm. on Ways and Means Democrats & H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform Democrats, New Documents Highlight IRS Scrutiny of Progressive Groups (Aug. 20, 2013).
[130] Internal Revenue Serv., Screening Workshop Notes (July 28, 2010). [IRSR 6703-04]
[131] Internal Revenue Serv., Heightened Awareness Issues. [IRSR 6655-72]
[132] *See* July 17th Hearing, *supra* note 25.
[133] Transcribed interview of Steven Grodnitzky, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (July 16, 2013).
[134] *Id.*
[135] *Id.*
[136] *Id.*
[137] Transcribed interview of Amy Franklin Giuliano, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (Aug. 9, 2013).
[138] Transcribed interview of Amy Franklin Giuliano, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (Aug. 9, 2013).

Q The reason that the other five cases would be revoked if that case the Counsel's Office had was denied, was that because they were affiliated entities?

A It is because they were essentially the same organization. I mean, every – the applications all presented basically identical facts and basically identical activities.

Q And the groups themselves were affiliated.

A And the groups themselves were affiliated, yes.[139]

Giuliano also told the Committee that the central issue in these cases was not impermissible political speech activity – as it was with the Tea Party applications – but instead private benefit. She testified:

Q The issue in the case you reviewed in May of 2010 was private benefit.

A Yes.

Q As opposed to campaign intervention.

A We considered whether political campaign intervention would apply, and we decided it did not.[140]

Most striking, Giuliano told the Committee that the career IRS experts recommended *denying* an Emerge application, whereas the experts recommended *approving* the Tea Party application.[141] Even then, despite the recommended approval, the Tea Party applications still sat unprocessed in the IRS backlog.

Documents and testimony received by the Committee demonstrate that the IRS never engaged in systematic targeting of Emerge applicants as it did with Tea Party groups. IRS scrutiny of Emerge affiliates appears to have been based on objective and non-controversial concerns about impermissible private benefit. Taken together, this evidence strongly rebuts any Democratic claims that the IRS treated Emerge affiliates similarly to Tea Party applicants.

The IRS treated Tea Party applicants differently than Occupy groups

Finally, congressional Democrats defend the IRS targeting of Tea Party organization by arguing that liberal-oriented Occupy groups were similarly targeted.[142] Contrary to these claims, evidence available to the Committee indicates that the IRS did not target Occupy groups.

---

[139] *Id.*
[140] *Id.*
[141] *Id.*
[142] July 18th Hearing, *supra* note 28

TIGTA found that none of the applications in the IRS backlog were filed by groups with "Occupy" in their names.[143] Several IRS employees interviewed by the Committee testified that they were not even aware of any Occupy entry on the BOLO list until after congressional Democrats released the information in June 2013.[144] Further, there is no indication that the IRS systematically scrutinized and delay Occupy applications, or that the IRS subjected Occupy applicants to burdensome and intrusive information requests. To date, the Committee has not received evidence that "Occupy Wall Street" or an affiliate organization even applied to the IRS for non-profit status.

Conclusion

Democrats in Congress and the Administration have perpetrated a myth that the IRS targeted both conservative and liberal tax-exempt applicants. The targeting is a "phony scandal," they say, because the IRS did not just target Tea Party groups, but it targeted liberal and progressive groups as well. Month after month, in public hearings and televised interviews, Democrats have repeatedly claimed that progressive groups were scrutinized in the same manner as conservative groups.[145] Because of this bipartisan targeting, they conclude, there is not a "smidgeon of corruption" at the IRS.

The problem with these assertions is that they are simply not accurate. The Committee's investigation shows that the IRS sought to identify and single out Tea Party applications. The facts bear this out. The initial "test" applications were filed by Tea Party groups. The initial screening criteria identified only Tea Party applications. The revised criteria still intended to identify Tea Party activities. The IRS's internal review revealed that a substantial majority of applications were conservative. In short, the IRS treated conservative tax-exempt applications in a manner distinct from other applications, including those filed by liberal groups.

Evidence available to the Committee contradicts Democrats' claims about bipartisan targeting. Although the IRS's BOLO list included entries for liberal-oriented groups, only Tea Party applicants received systematic scrutiny because of their political beliefs. Public and nonpublic analyses of IRS data show that the IRS routinely approved liberal applications while holding and scrutinizing conservative applications. Even training documents produced by the IRS indicate stark differences between liberal and conservative applications: "'progressive' applications are not considered "Tea Parties."'[146] These facts show one unyielding truth: Tea Party groups were target because of their political beliefs, liberal groups were not.

---

[143] *"The IRS's Systematic Delay and Scrutiny of Tea Party Applications": Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform*, 113th Cong. (2013) (statement of J. Russell George).

[144] *See, e.g.*, Transcribed interview of Elizabeth Kastenberg, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (July 31, 2013); Transcribed interview of Sharon Light, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (Sept. 5, 2013); Transcribed interview of Joseph Grant, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (Sept. 25, 2013); Transcribed interview of Nancy Marks, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (Oct. 8, 2013); Transcribed interview of Justin Lowe, Internal Revenue Serv., in Wash., D.C. (July 23, 2013).

[145] Press Release, H. Comm. on Ways and Means Democrats & H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform Democrats, New Documents Highlight IRS Scrutiny of Progressive Groups (Aug. 20, 2013).

[146] Internal Revenue Serv., Screening Workshop Notes (July 28, 2010). [IRSR 6703-04]

A. Timeline for the 3 exemption applications that were referred to EOT from EOD

1. Prescott Tea Party, LLC	2. American Junto, Inc.	3. Albuquerque Tea Party, Inc.
The Applicant sought exemption under §501(c)(3) formed to educate the public on current political issues, constitutional rights, fiscal responsibility, and support for a limited government. It planned to undertake this educational activity through rallies, protests, educational videos and through its website. The organization also intended to engage in legislative activities. The case was closed FTE on May 26, 2010.	The organization applied for exemption under §501(c)(3), stating it was formed to educate voters on current social and political issues, the political process, limited government, and free enterprise. It also indicated it would be involved in political campaign intervention and legislative activities. The case was closed FTE on January 4, 2012.	The organization applied for exemption under §501(c)(4) as a social welfare organization for purposes of issue advocacy and education. A proposed adverse is being prepared on the basis that the organization's primary activity is political campaign intervention supporting candidates associated with a certain political faction, its educational activities are partisan in nature, and its activities are intended to benefit candidates associated with a specific political faction as opposed to benefiting the community as a whole.
Timeline: **2009** • **11/09/2009** → Application received by EOD. • **12/18/2009** → Case assigned to EOD specialist. **2010** • **3/08/2010** → **Date the case was referred to EOT.** Case pulled from	**Timeline:** **2010** • **2/11/2010** → Application was received by EOD.	**Timeline:** **2010** • **1/4/2010** → Application was received by EOD.

EOD files to send to EOT for review. • **3/11/2010** → EOD prepared a memo to transfer the case to EOT as part of EOT's review of some of the "advocacy organization" cases being received in EOD. • **4/02/2010** → Case assigned to EOT. • **4/14/2010** → 1st development letter mailed to Taxpayer (Response due by 5/06/2010). • **5/26/2010** → Case closed FTE (90-day suspense date ended on 8/26/2010).	• **4/11/2010** → Case assigned to a specialist in EOD. • **4/25/2010** → EOD emailed EOT (Manager Steve Grodnitzky) regarding who EOD should contact for help on "advocacy organization" cases being held in screening. • **5/25/2010** → EOT requested a §501(c)(3) "advocacy organization" case be transferred from EOD to replace Prescott Tea Party, LLC, a §501(c)(3) advocacy organization applicant that had been closed FTE. • **6/25/2010** → Memo proposing to transfer the case to EOT was prepared by EOD specialist. • **6/30/2010** → **Date the case was referred to EOT.** • **7/7/2010** → 1st development letter sent (Response due by 7/28/2010). • **7/28/2010** → EOT received Taxpayer's response to 1st development letter.	• **2/22/2010** → Case assigned to EOD specialist. • **3/11/2010** → EOD prepared memo to transfer the case to EOT as part of EOT's help reviewing the "advocacy organization" cases received in EOD. • **4/02/2010** → Case assigned to EOT. • **4/21/2010** → 1st development letter sent (Response due by 5/12/2010). • **4/29/2010** → Taxpayer requested extension for time to respond to 1st development letter. TLS granted extension until 6/11/2010. • **6/8/2010** → EOT received the Taxpayer's response to 1st development letter.

	2011 • **4/27/2011** → 2nd development letter sent (Response due by 5/18/2011). • **5/18/2011** → EOT received Taxpayer's response to 2nd development letter. • **8/10/2011** → EOT met with Chief Counsel to discuss the "advocacy organization" cases pending in EOT, including American Junto (and Albuquerque Tea Party, discussed next). EOT and Counsel determined that additional development should be conducted on both. • **11/18/2011** → 3rd development letter sent (Response due by 12/9/2011). • **12/16/2011** → TLS left voicemail with Taxpayer to determine if the organization had responded or planned to respond to 3rd development letter. • **12/22/2011** → TLS again contacted the Taxpayer to determine if the organization was going to respond to 3rd development letter. The Taxpayer indicated it was not going to respond and that the organization had	**2011** • **5/13/2011** → File memo forwarded to Guidance for review. • **6/27/2011** → The case file and file memo were forwarded to Chief Counsel for review and comments regarding EOT's proposed recognition of exemption. • **8/10/2011** → EOT met with Chief Counsel to discuss the "advocacy organization" cases pending in EOT including Albuquerque Tea Party (and American Junto, discussed previously). EOT and Counsel determined additional development should be conducted on both. • **11/16/2011** → 2nd development letter sent to the Taxpayer (Response due by 12/7/2011). • **11/30/2011** → TLS spoke with Taxpayer and granted a 30-day extension to respond to the 2nd development letter. Extension was granted until 1/6/2012.

	dissolved. An FTE letter was prepared. **2012** • **1/4/2012** → FTE letter mailed to the Taxpayer (90-day suspense date ends 4/4/2012).	**2012** • **1/11/2012** → EOT received Taxpayer's response to 2nd development letter. • **1/24/2012** → After review of file, TLS recommended a proposed denial. The TLS is currently drafting a proposed denial.

B. Timeline for informal technical assistance which was provided by EOT Personnel to EOD between May 2010 to October 2010

- 5/17/2010 → EOD personnel (Liz Hofacre) contacted and referred 2 proposed development letters to an EOT personnel (Chip Hull) for informal review.
- Between May, 2010 to October 2010, EOT personnel (Chip Hull) informally reviewed approximately 26 case exemption applications and development letters on behalf of EOD. Mr. Hull provided feedback on most of the 26 exemption applications.

C. Timeline for preparation of the Advocacy Organization Guide sheet

- Late July 2011 - started drafting the guide sheet to help EOD personnel working advocacy organization cases in differentiating between the different types of advocacy and explaining the advocacy rules pertaining to various exempt organizations.
- Early November 2011 - forwarded to EOD for comments. No comments were received.

Increase in (c)(3)/(c)(4) Advocacy Org. Applications

Background:

- EOD Screening has identified an increase in the number of (c)(3) and (c)(4) applications where organizations are advocating on issues related to government spending, taxes and similar matters. Often there is possible political intervention or excessive lobbying.

- EOD Screening identified this type of case as an emerging issue and began sending cases to a specific group if they meet any of the following criteria:
  - "Tea Party," "Patriots" or "9/12 Project" is referenced in the case file
  - Issues include government spending, government debt or taxes
  - Education of the public by advocacy/lobbying to "make America a better place to live"
  - Statements in the case file criticize how the country is being run

- Over 100 cases have been identified so far, a mix of (c)(3)s and (c)(4)s. Before this was identified as an emerging issue, two (c)(4) applications were approved.

- Two sample cases were transferred to EOT, a (c)(3) and a (c)(4).
  - The (c)(4) stated it will conduct advocacy and political intervention, but political intervention will be 20% or less of activities. A proposed favorable letter has been sent to Counsel for review.
  - The (c)(3) stated it will conduct "insubstantial" political intervention and it has ties to politically active (c)(4)s and 527s. A proposed denial is being revised by TLS to incorporate the org.'s response to the most recent development letter.

- EOT is assisting EOD by providing technical advice (limited review of application files and editing of development letters).

EOD Request:

- EOD requests guidance in working these cases in order to promote uniform handling and resolution of issues.

Options for Next Steps:

- Assign cases for full development to EOD agents experienced with cases involving possible political intervention. EOT provides guidance when EOD agents have specific questions.

- EOT composes a list of issues or political/lobbying indicators to look for when investigating potential political intervention and excessive lobbying, such as reviewing website content, getting copies of educational and fundraising materials, and close scrutiny of expenditures.

- Establish a formal process similar to that used in healthcare screening where EOT reviews each application on TEDS and highlights issues for development.

- Transfer cases to EOT to be worked.

- Include pattern paragraphs on the political intervention restrictions in all favorable letters.

- Refer the organizations that were granted exemption to the ROO for follow-up.

Cautions:

- These cases and issues receive significant media and congressional attention.

- The determinations process is representational, therefore it is extremely difficult to establish that an organization will intervene in political campaigns at that stage.

EO Technical
Significant Case Report
(August 31, 2011)

- *21 open SCs*

A. Open SCs:

	Name of Org/Group	Group #/Manager	EIN	Received	Issue	Tax Law Specialist	Estimated Completion Date	Status/Next action	Being Elevated to TEGE Commissioner This Month
1.	Political Advocacy Organizations	T2/Ron Shoemaker	[redacted]	4/2/2010	Whether a tea party organization meets the requirements under section 501(c)(3) and is not involved in political intervention. Whether organization is conducting excessive political activity to deny exemption under section 501(c)(4)	Chip Hull & Hilary Goehausen	3/31/2011 (Orig) 05/31/2011 (Rev) 07/31/2011 (Rev) 10/30/2011 (Rev) 12/31/2011 (Rev)	Developing both a (c)(3) and (c) (4) cases. Proposed (c)(4) favorable is currently being reviewed. Proposed denial currently being reviewed on (c)(3). Cases were discussed with Judy Kindell on 04/06/11. Judy requested staff to get additional information from taxpayers regarding certain activities. Development letters were sent. Proposed favorable (c)(4) ruling forwarded to Chief Counsel for comments on 05/04/11. Information from (c)(3) organization regarding activities due on 05/18/2011.Waiting on taxpayer response. : Met with Director EO on June 29, 2011. Met with Counsel on 8/10/11 to discuss the cases: Counsel recommended further development of the cases by getting information on the organizations' 2010 activities. Counsel gave us directions on the type of information needed. [redacted] **Next Action:** [redacted]	No

CASE NAME: (1) [redacted] (501(c)(3) applicant), (2) [redacted] (501(c)(4) applicant), (3) [redacted] (501(c)(3) applicant) **TIN/EIN:** [redacted] and [redacted] **POA:** None	**TAX PERIODS:** [redacted] **EARLIEST STATUTE DATE:**
FUNCTION REPORTING: **POD:** Washington, D.C.	**INITIAL REPORT** **X FOLLOW-UP REPORT** **FINAL REPORT**
SENSITIVE CASE CRITERIA: Likely to attract media or Congressional attention Unique or novel issue Affects large number of taxpayers	Potentially involves large dollars ($10M or greater) Other (explain in Case Summary)
FORM TYPE(S): (1) Form 1023. (2) Form 1024	**START DATE:** 04/02/2010
POTENTIAL DOLLARS INVOLVED (IF > $10M): Unknown	**CRIMINAL REFERRAL?** Unknown **IF YES, WHEN?** **Freeze Code TC 914 (Yes or No)**

CASE OR ISSUE SUMMARY:
The various "tea party" organizations are separately organized, but appear to be a part of a national political movement that may be involved in political activities. The "tea party" organizations are being followed closely in national newspapers (such as The Washington Post) almost on a regular basis. Cincinnati is holding three applications from organizations which have applied for recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Code as educational organizations and approximately twenty-two applications from organizations which have applied for recognition of exemption under section 501c)(4) as social welfare organizations. Two organizations that we believe may be "tea party" organizations already have been recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(4). EOT has not seen the case files, but are requesting copies of them. The issue is whether these organizations are involved in campaign intervention or, alternatively, in nonexempt political activity.

CURRENT SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS ON CASE:
Met with J. Kindell to discuss organizations (2) and (3) and Service position. Ms. Kindell recommended additional development re: activities, then forward to Chief Council.

Organization (1) – closed FTE for failure to respond to a development letter.
Organization (2) – proposed favorable 501(c)(4) ruling forwarded to Chief Council for comment on 06/16/2011.
Organization (3) – additional information was received. Proposed denial was revised and forwarded for review 07/19/2011.
Coordination between HQ and Cincinnati is continuing regarding information letters to applicants for exemption under 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4).

SIGNIFICANT NEXT STEPS, IF ANY: Organization (2) – Wait on comments from Counsel. Organization (3) Await the results of review on the revised proposed denial. .Continue coordinated review of applications in EO Determinations.	**ESTIMATED CLOSURE DATE:** July 31 , 2011
BARRIERS TO RESOLUTION, IF ANY: Concerns whether the organizations are involved in political activities.	
SUBMITTED BY: Carter C. Hull, SE:T:EO:RA:T:2	**MANAGER:** RONALD SHOEMAKER, SE:T:EO:RA:T:2
DATE: June **17, 2011**	

CASE NAME: (1) [redacted] (501(c)(3) applicant), Closed FTE. (2) [redacted]. (501)(c)(4) applicant) Open. (3) [redacted] (501(c)(3) applicant) Closed FTE **TIN/EIN:** [redacted] and [redacted] **POA:** None	**TAX PERIODS:** 2009 and forward **EARLIEST STATUTE DATE:**
FUNCTION REPORTING: **POD:** Washington, D.C.	**INITIAL REPORT** **X FOLLOW-UP REPORT** **FINAL REPORT**
SENSITIVE CASE CRITERIA: Likely to attract media or Congressional attention Unique or novel issue Affects large number of taxpayers	Potentially involves large dollars ($10M or greater) Other (explain in Case Summary)
FORM TYPE(S): (1) Form 1023 (2) Form 1024	**START DATE:** 04/02/2010
POTENTIAL DOLLARS INVOLVED (IF > $10M) : Unknown	**CRIMINAL REFERRAL?** Unknown **IF YES, WHEN?** **Freeze Code TC 914 (Yes or No)**

CASE OR ISSUE SUMMARY:
These organizations are "advocacy organizations," and although are separately organized, they appear to be part of a larger national political movement that may be involved in political activities. These types of advocacy organizations are followed closely in national newspapers (such as The Washington Post) almost on a regular basis. Cincinnati has in its inventory a number of applications from these types of organizations that applied for recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Code as educational organizations and from organizations that applied for recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(4) as social welfare organizations.

CURRENT SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS ON CASE:
Organization (1) – [redacted]

Organization (2) – [redacted]. 501(c)(4) [redacted]

[redacted]

SIGNIFICANT NEXT STEPS, IF ANY:	ESTIMATED CLOSURE DATE:
Organization (2): [redacted] 6103 – 501(c)(4) - [redacted]	December 31, 2012

BARRIERS TO RESOLUTION, IF ANY:
Concerns are whether the organizations are primarily involved in political activities and whether substantial private benefit exists.

SUBMITTED BY: Hilary Goehausen, SE:T:EO:RA:T:1	MANAGER: LIZ KASTENBERG, SE:T:EO:RA:T:2

DATE: September 18, 2012

From: Kall Jason C
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 9:09 PM
To: Lerner Lois G
Cc: Ghougasian Laurice A; Fish David L; Paz Holly O; Downing Nanette M
Subject: Workplan and background on how we started the self declarer project

Lois,

I found the string of e-mails that started us down the path of what has become the c-4, 5, 6 self declarer project. Our curiosity was not from looking at the 990 but rather data on c-4 self declarers.

Jason Kall
Manager, EO Compliance Strategies and Critical Initiatives
[redacted]

From: Chasin Cheryl D
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2010 8:59 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Kindell Judith E; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue; Kall Jason C; Downing Nanette M
Subject: RE: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

That's correct. These are all status 36 organizations, which means no application was filed.

Cheryl Chasin
[redacted](phone)
(fax)

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2010 9:58 AM
To: Chasin Cheryl D; Kindell Judith E; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue; Kall Jason C; Downing Nanette M
Subject: Re: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

Ok guys. We need to have a plan. We need to be cautious so it isn't a per se political project. More a c4 project that will look at levels of lobbying and pol. activity along with exempt activity. Cheryl- I assume none of those came in with a 1024?
Lois G. Lerner----------
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Chasin Cheryl D
To: Lerner Lois G; Kindell Judith E; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue; Kall Jason C; Downing Nanette M
Sent: Wed Sep 15 14:54:38 2010
Subject: RE: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

It's definitely happening. Here are a few organizations (501(c)(4), status 36) that sure sound to me like they are engaging in political activity:

[redacted]

I've also found (so far) 94 homeowners and condominium associations, a VEBA, and legal defense funds set up to benefit specific individuals.

Cheryl Chasin
[redacted] (phone)
(fax)

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 1:51 PM
To: Kindell Judith E; Chasin Cheryl D; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue; Kall Jason C; Downing Nanette M
Subject: RE: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

I'm not saying this is correct--but there is a perception out there that that is what is happening. My guess is most who conduct political activity never pay the tax on the activity and we surely should be looking at that. Wouldn't that be a surprising turn of events. My object is not to look for political activity--more to see whether self-declared c4s are really acting like c4s. Then we'll move on to c5,c6,c7--it will fill up the work plan forever!

Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations

From: Kindell Judith E
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 1:03 PM
To: Lerner Lois G; Chasin Cheryl D; Ghougasian Laurice A
Cc: Lehman Sue
Subject: RE: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

My big concern is the statement "some (c)(4)s are being set up to engage in political activity" - if they are being set up to engage in political campaign activity they are not (c)(4)s. I think that Cindy's people are keeping an eye out for (c)(4)s set up to influence political campaigns, but we might want to remind them. I also agree that it is about time to start looking at some of those organizations that file Form 990 without applying for recognition -whether or not they are involved in politics.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 12:27 PM

To: Chasin Cheryl D; Ghougasian Laurice A; Kindell Judith E
Cc: Lehman Sue
Subject: FW: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

Not sure you guys get this directly. I'm really thinking we do need a c4 project next year

Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations

From: paul streckfus [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 12:20 PM
To: paul streckfus
Subject: EO Tax Journal 2010-130

From the Desk of Paul Streckfus,
Editor, EO Tax Journal

Email Update 2010-130 (Wednesday, September 15, 2010)

Yesterday, I asked, "Is 501(c)(4) Status Being Abused?" I can hardly keep up with the questions and comments this query has generated. As noted yesterday, some (c)(4)s are being set up to engage in political activity, and donors like them because they remain anonymous. Some commenters are saying, "Why should we care?", others say these organizations come and go with such rapidity that the IRS would be wasting its time to track them down, others say (c)(3) filing requirements should be imposed on (c)(4)s, and so it goes.

Former IRSer Conrad Rosenberg seems to be taking a leave them alone view:

"I have come, sadly, to the conclusion that attempts at revocation of these blatantly political organizations accomplish little, if anything, other than perhaps a bit of *in terrorem* effect on some other (usually much smaller) organizations that may be contemplating similar behavior. The big ones are like balloons -- squeeze them in one place, and they just pop out somewhere else, largely unscathed and undaunted. The government expends enormous effort to win one of these cases (on very rare occasion), with little real-world consequence. The skein of interlocking 'educational' organizations woven by the fabulously rich and hugely influential Koch brothers to foster their own financial interests by political means ought to be Exhibit One. Their creations operate with complete impunity, and I doubt that potential revocation of tax exemption enters into their calculations at all. That's particularly true where deductibility of contributions, as with (c)(4)s, is not an issue. Bust one, if you dare, and they'll just finance another with a different name. I feel for the IRS's dilemma, especially in this wildly polarized election year."

A number of individuals said the requirements for (c)(4)s to file the Form 1024 or the Form 990 are a bit of a muddle. My understanding is that (c)(4)s need not file a Form 1024, but generally the IRS won't accept a Form 990 without a Form 1024 being filed. The result is that attorneys can create new (c)(4)s every year to exist for a short time and never file a 1024 or 990. However, the IRS can claim the organization is subject to tax (assuming it becomes aware of its existence) and then the organization must prove it is exempt (by essentially filing the information required by Form 1024 and maybe 990). Not being sure of the correctness of my understanding, I went to the only person who may know more about EO tax law than Bruce Hopkins, and got this response from Marc Owens:

"You are sort of close. It's not quite accurate to state that a (c)(4) 'need not file a Form 1024.' A (c)(4) is not subject to IRC 508, hence it is not required to file an application for tax-exempt status within a particular period of time after its formation. Such an organization is subject, however, to Treas. Reg. Section 1.501(a)-1(a)(2) and (3) which set forth the general requirement that in order to be exempt, an organization must file an application, but for which no particular time period is specified. Once a would-be (c)(4) is formed and it has completed one fiscal year of life, and assuming that it had revenue during the fiscal year, it is required to file a tax return.

move things along. the 'clean" sheet doesn't give me any sense unless I go back to previous SCRs.

I've added Sharon so she can see what kinds of things I'm interested in.

Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations

From: Paz Holly O
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:02 AM
To: Lerner Lois G; Seto Michael C
Cc: Trilli Darla J; Douglas Akaisha; Letourneau Diane L; Kindell Judith E
Subject: RE: SCR Table for Jan. 2011

Tea Party - Cases in Determs are being supervised by Chip Hull at each step - he reviews info from TPs, correspondence to TPs, etc. No decisions are going out of Cincy until we go all the way through the process with the c3 and c4 cases here. I believe the c4 will be ready to go over to Judy soon.

HMO case ([redacted]) - When you say to push for the next Counsel meeting, with whom in Counsel are you referring? The plan had been for Sarah to meet with Wilkins and Nan on this. We think this has not happened but have not heard directly (unless Sarah has responded to your recent email on this case). I don't know that we at this level can drive that meeting.

[redacted]-I will reach out to Phil to see if Nan has seen it. She was involved in the past but I don't know about recently.

On [redacted] (religious order), proposed denials typically do not go to Counsel. Proposed denial goes out, we have conference, then final adverse goes to Counsel before that goes out. We can alter that in this case and brief you after we have Counsel's thoughts.

[redacted] was not elevated at Mike Daly's direction. He had us elevate it twice after the litigation commenced but said not to continue after that unless we are changing course on the application front and going forward with processing it.

[redacted] - Our general criteria as to whether or not to elevate an SCR to Sarah/Joseph and on up is to only elevate when there has been action. [redacted] was elevated this month because it was just received. We will now begin to review the 1023 but won't have anything to report for sometime. We will elevate again once we have staked out a position and are seeking executive concurrence.

We (Mike and I) keep track of whether estimated completion dates are being moved by means of a track changes version of the spread sheet. When next steps are not reflected as met by the estimated time, we follow up with the appropriate managers or Counsel to determine the cause for the delay and agree on a due date.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 6:28 PM
To: Seto Michael C
Cc: Paz Holly O; Trilli Darla J; Douglas Akaisha; Letourneau Diane L; Kindell Judith E
Subject: RE: SCR Table for Jan. 2011

Thanks--a couple comments

1. Tea Party Matter very dangerous. This could be the vehicle to go to court on the issue of whether Citizen's United overturning the ban on corporate spending applies to tax exempt rules. Counsel and Judy Kindell need to be in on this one please needs to be in this. Cincy should probably NOT have these cases--Holly please see what exactly they have please.

2. We need to push for the next Counsel meeting re: the HMO case Justin has. Reach out and see if we can set it up.

3. [redacted]--has that gone to Nan Marks? It says Counsel, but we'll need her on board. In all cases where it says Counsel, I need to know at what level please.

4. I assume the proposed denial of the religious or will go to Counsel before it goes out and I will be briefed?

5. I think no should be yes on the elevated to TEGE Commissioner slot for the Jon Waddel case that's in litigation--she is well aware.

6. Case involving healthcare reconciliation Act needs to be briefed up to my level please.
7. SAME WITH THE NEWSPAPER CASES--NO GOING OUT WITHOUT BRIEFING UP PLEASE.

8. The 3 cases involving [redacted] should be briefed up also.

9. [redacted] case--why "yes-for this month only" in TEGE Commissioner block?

Also, please make sure estimated due dates and next step dates are after the date you send these. On a couple of these I can't tell whether stuff happened recently or not.

Question--if you have an estimated due date and the person doesn't make it, how is that reflected? My concern is that when Exam first did these, they just changed the date so we always looked current, rather than providing a history of what occurred. perhaps it would help to sit down with me and Sue Lehman--she helped develop the report they now use.

From: Seto Michael C
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:33 PM
To: Lerner Lois G
Cc: Paz Holly O; Trilli Darla J; Douglas Akaisha; Letourneau Diane L
Subject: SCR Table for Jan. 2011

Here is the Jan. SCR summary.

Heightened Awareness Issues

OBJECTIVES

- What Are The Heightened Awareness Issues
- Definition and Examples of Each
- Issue Tracking and Notification
- What Happens When You See One?

What are Heightened Awareness Issues?

- TAG
- Emerging Issues
- Coordinated Issues
- Watch For Issues

IRSR0000006657

Your Role

- Per IRM 1.54.1.6.1, a Front Line Employee Should Elevate the Following Matters Concerning Their Work:

  1. Unusual Issues that Prevent them from Completing Their Work.

  2. Issues Beyond Their Current Level of Training.

  3. Issues that Require Elevation in Accordance with Statute, Revenue Procedure, or Field Directive.

What are TAG Issues ?:

- Involves Abusive Tax Avoidance Transactions:
  1. Abusive Promoters
  2. Fake Determination Letters

- Activities are Fraudulent In Nature:
  1. Materially Misrepresented Operations or Finances.
  2. Conducting Activities Contrary to Tax Law (e.g. Foreign Conduits).

- Issues Involving Applicants with Potential Terrorist Connections:
  1. Cases with Direct Hits on OFAC
  2. Substantial Foreign Operations in Sanctioned Countries

- Processing is Governed by IRM 7.20.6

What Are Emerging Issues?

- Groups of Cases where No Established Tax Law or Precedent has been Established.
- Issues Arising from Significant Current Events (Doesn't Include Disaster Relief)
- Issues Arising from Changes to Tax Law
- Other Significant World Events

Emerging Issue Examples

- Tea Party Cases:
  1. High Profile Applicants
  2. Relevant Subject in Today's Media
  3. Inconsistent Requests for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4).
  4. Potential for Political/Legislative Activity
  5. Rulings Could be Impactful

Emerging Issue Examples Continued:

- Pension Trust 501(c)(2):
  1. Cases Involved the Same Law Firm
  2. High Dollar Amounts
  3. Presence of an Unusual Note Receivable

Emerging Issues Examples Continued

- Historical Examples:
  1. Foreclosure Assistance
  2. Carbon Credits
  3. Pension Protection Act
  4. Credit Counseling
  5. Partnership/Tax Credits
  6. Hedge Funds

What Are Coordinated Processing Issues?

- Cases with Issues Organized for Uniform Handling
- Involves Multiple Cases
- Existing Precedent or Guidance Does Exist

Coordinated Examples

- Break-up of a Large Group Ruling Where Subordinates are Seeking Individual Exemption.
- Multiple Entities Related Through a Complex Business Structure (e.g. Housing and Management Companies)
- Current Specialized Inventories

What is a Watch For Issue?

Watch For Issues:

- Typically Applications Not Yet Received
- Issues are the Result of Significant Changes in Tax Law
- Issues are the Result of Significant World Events
- Special Handling is Required when Applications are Received

Watch For Examples

Watch For Examples Continued

- Successors to Acorn
- Electronic Medical Records
- Regional Health Information Organizations
- Organizations Formed as a Result of Controversy---- Arizona Immigration Law
- Other World Events that ***Could*** Result in an Influx of Applications

IRSR0000006669

Tracking and Notification

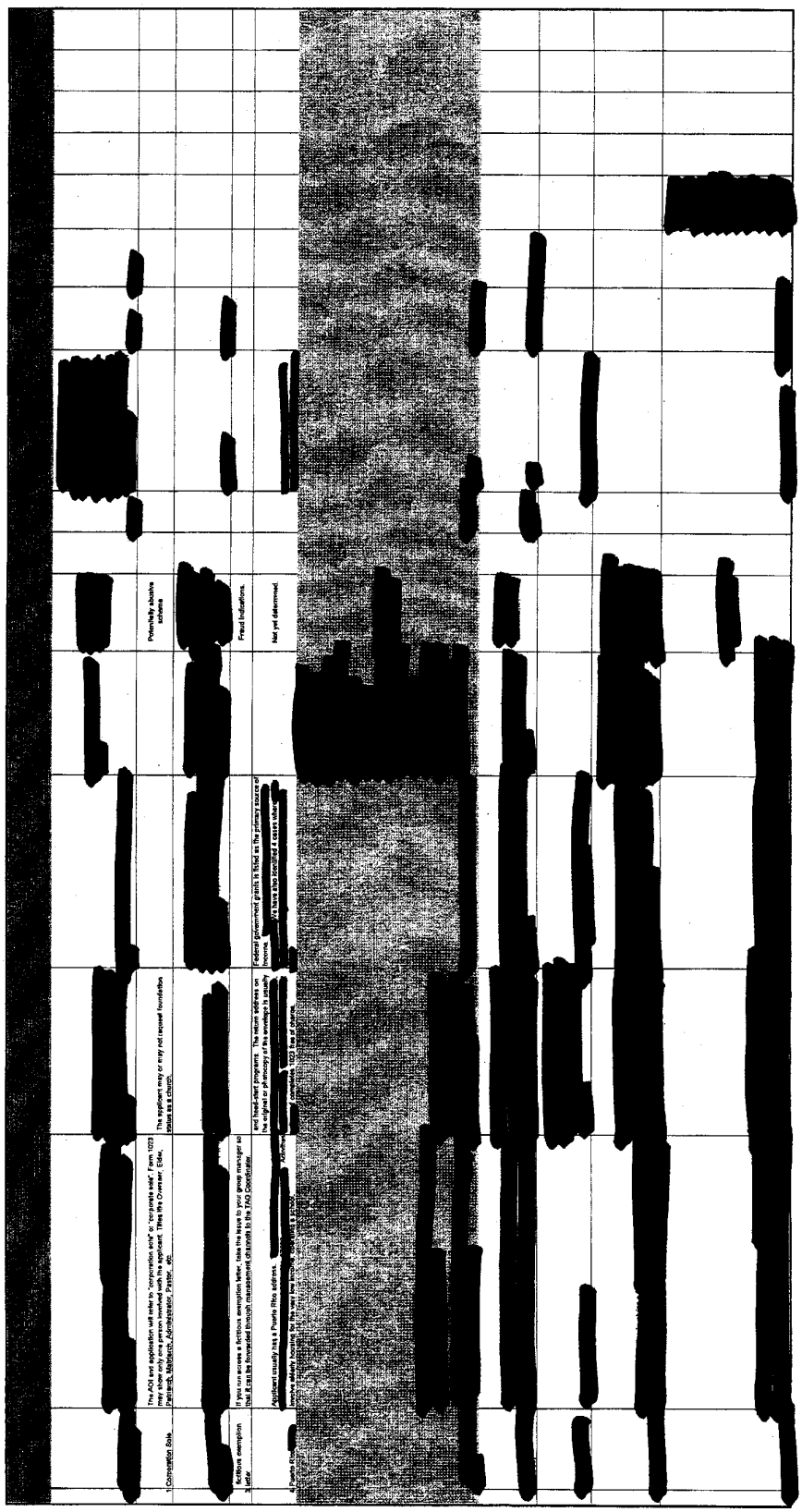
Combined Excel Workbook

- Will Include Tabs for TAG, TAG Historical, Emerging Issues, Coordinated, and Watch For
- Tabs Will Include the Various Issues, Descriptions, and Guidance.
- A Designated Coordinator Will Maintain the Workbook and Disseminate Alerts in One Standard E-Mail.
- Mailbox: *TE/GE-EO-Determinations Questions

IRSR0000006671

When You Spot Heightened Awareness Issues

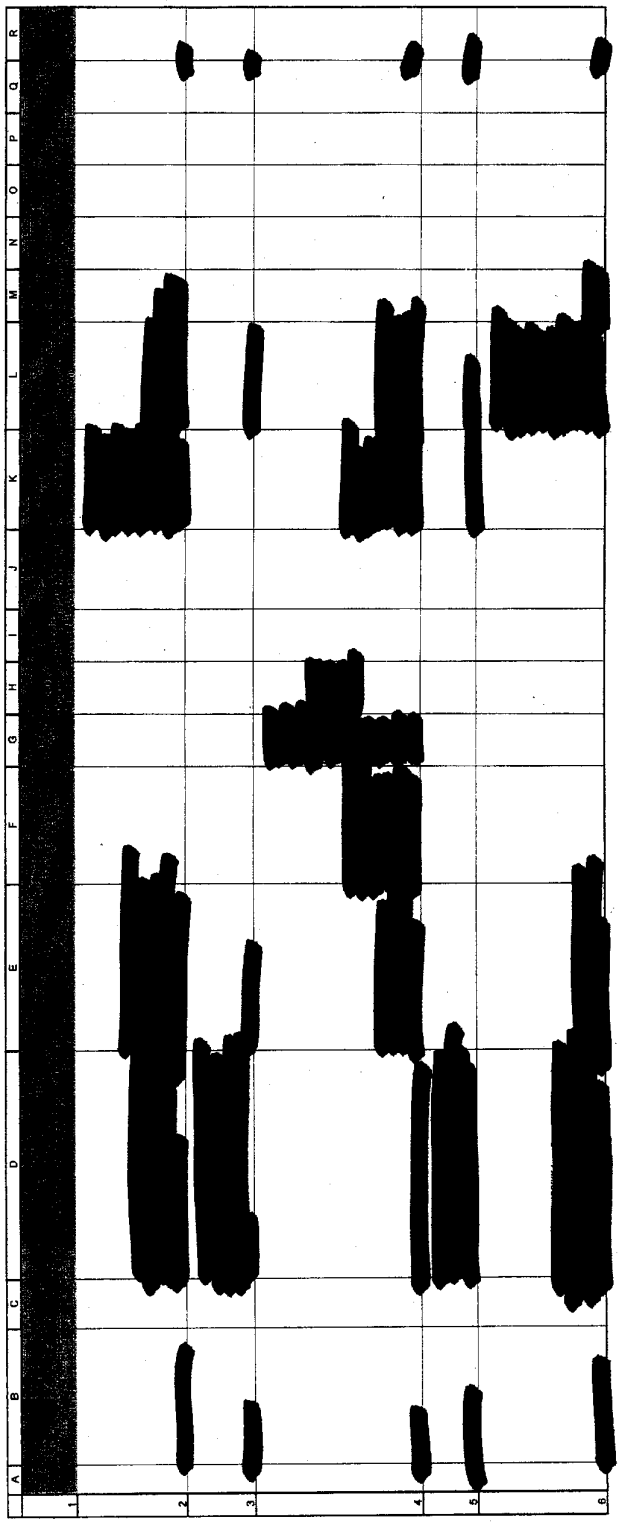
- If a TAG Issue, follow IRM 7.20.6.
- If an Emerging Issue or Coordinated Processing Case, Complete the Required Referral Form and Submit to your Manager
- Watch For Issue Cases are Referred to your Manager


IRS0000001350

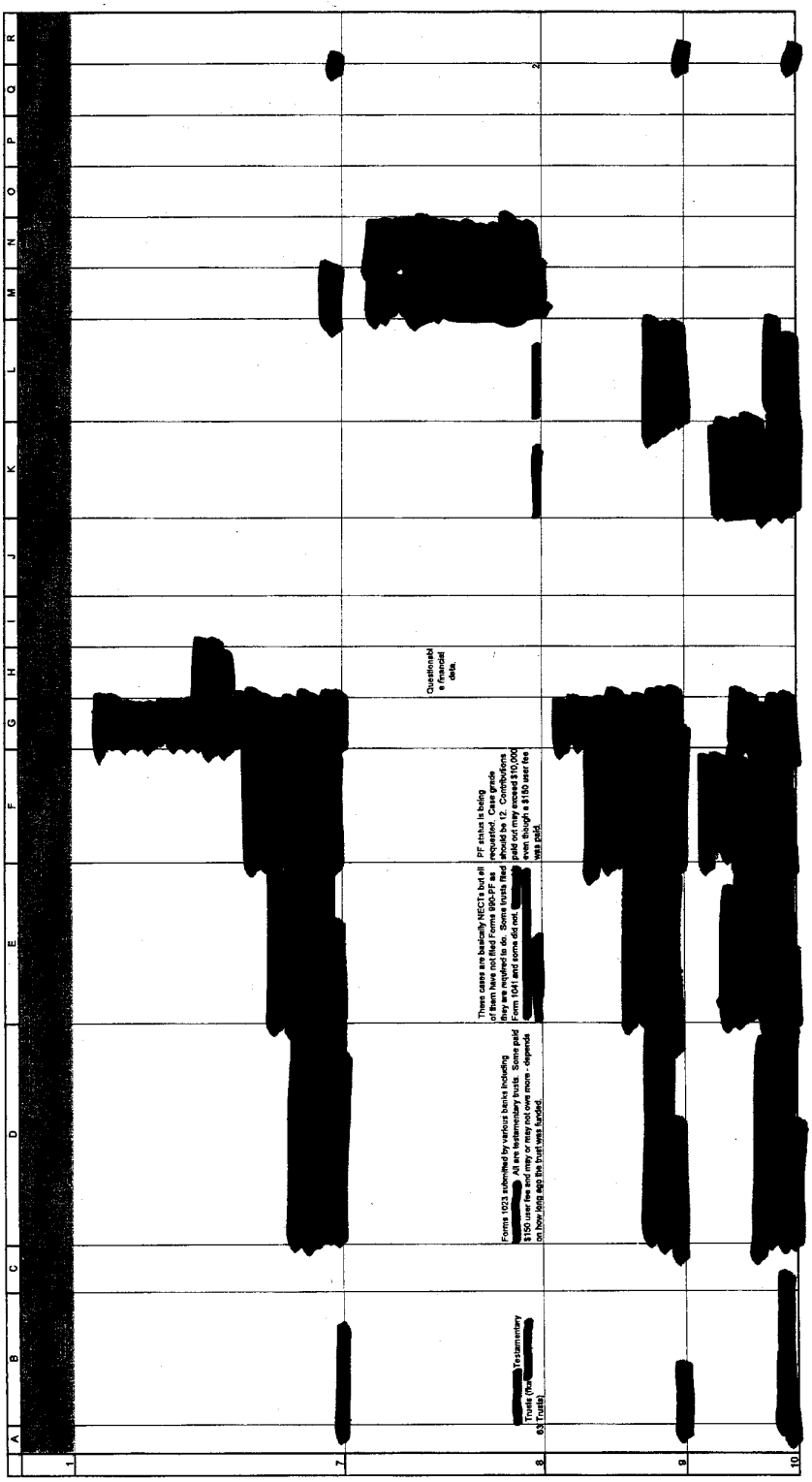
File 11 9 10

Tab 2 – TAG Historical

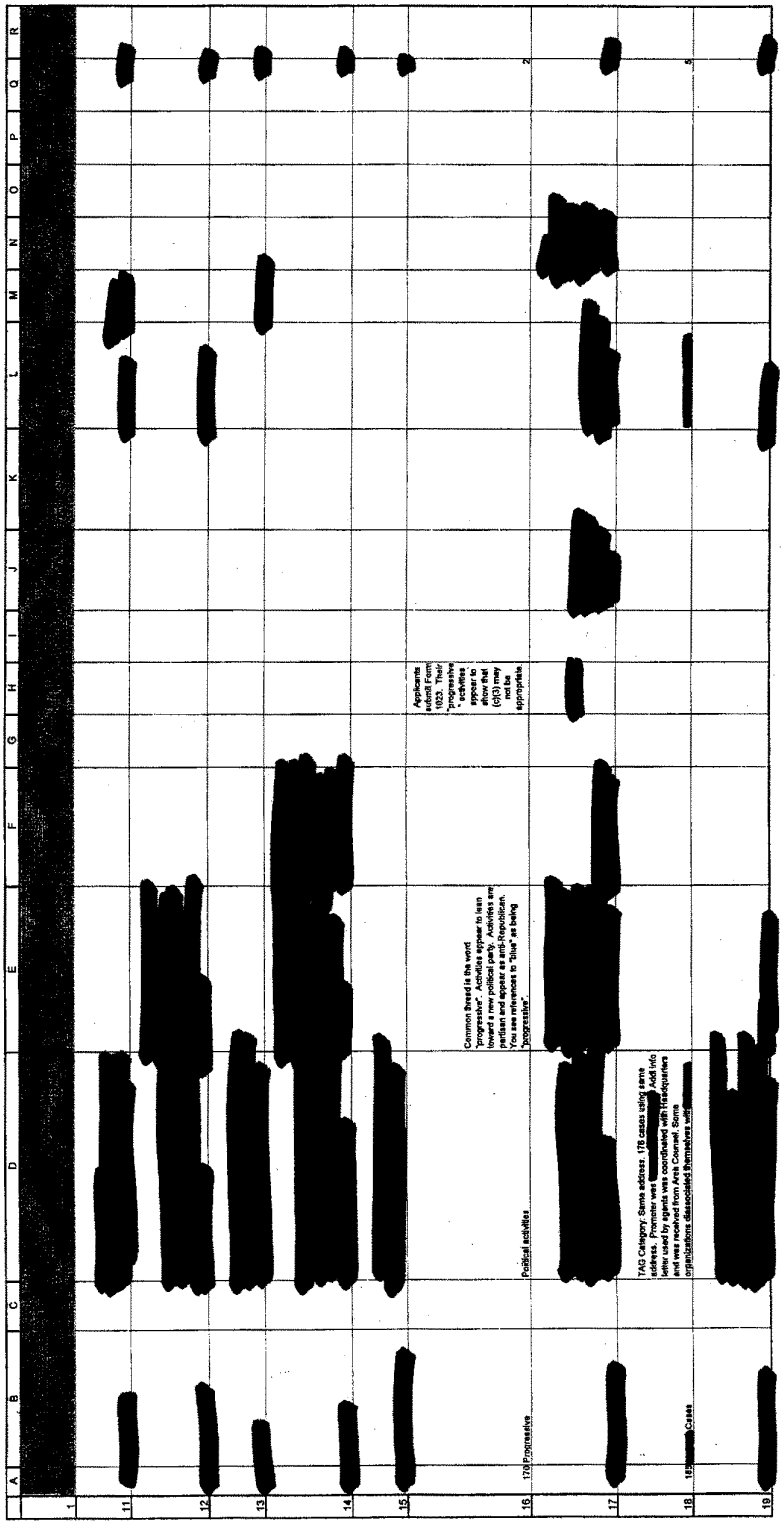
IRS0000001352



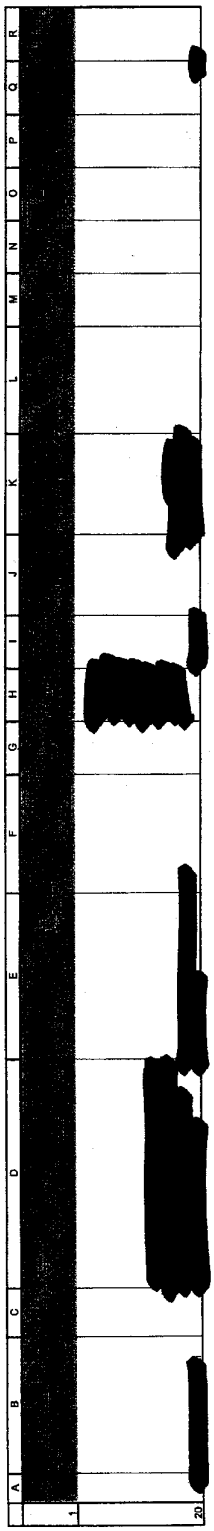
IRS0000001353



IRS0000001354



IRS0000001355



File 11 9 10

Tab 3 – Emerging Issues

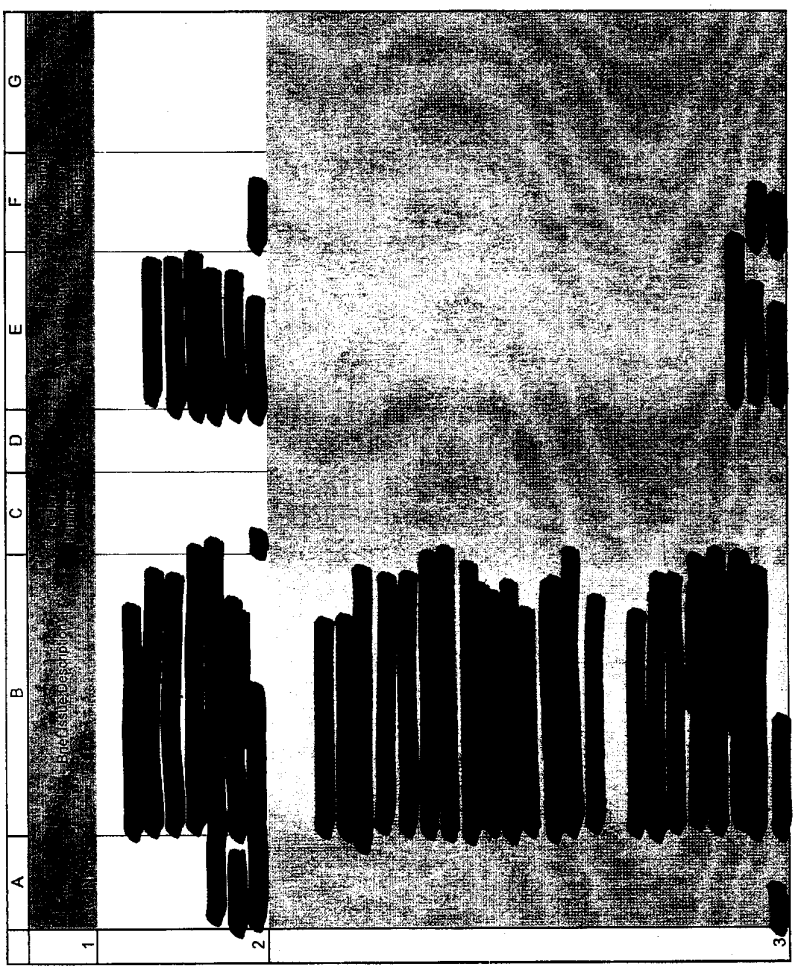
IRS0000001357

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2	501(c)(2)	These cases involve a commingled pension trust holding title to a high dollar note receivable secured by real estate. The application appear to be prepared from a template. The fund manager is usually [redacted]	x	x		Any future cases may be closed on merit if applicable. EOT determined these applications qualify under 501(c)(2). A referral was completed to address any EP concerns.	Closed	
3	Tea Party	These case involve various local organizations in the Tea Party movement are applying for exemption under 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4).	EI-1	x		Any cases should be sent to Group 7822. Liz Hofacre is coordinating. These cases are currently being coordinated with EOT.	Open	

File 11 9 10

Tab 4 – Coordinated Processing

IRS00000001359



File 11 9 10

Tab 5 – Watch List

IRS0000001361

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	[redacted]							
2	Open Source Software	These organizations are requesting either 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) exemption in order to collaboratively develop new software. The members of these organizations are usually the for-profit business or for-profit support technicians of the software.		1 x		The is no specific guidance at this point. If you see a case, elevate it to your manager.	Open	
3	RHIO's	Organization's setup to electronically exchange healthcare data, called Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs), are requesting exemption under 501(c)(3).		2 x		These cases should be transferred to EOT.	Open	
4	[redacted]							
5	Healthcare legislation	Per Rob Choi email dated April 20, 2010, cases impacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) (PPACA) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152) (HCERA) are being coordinated with EOT.		4	2010 - #1	New applications are subject to secondary screening in Group 7821. Wayne Bothe is the coordinator.	Open-4/20/10	
6	[redacted]							

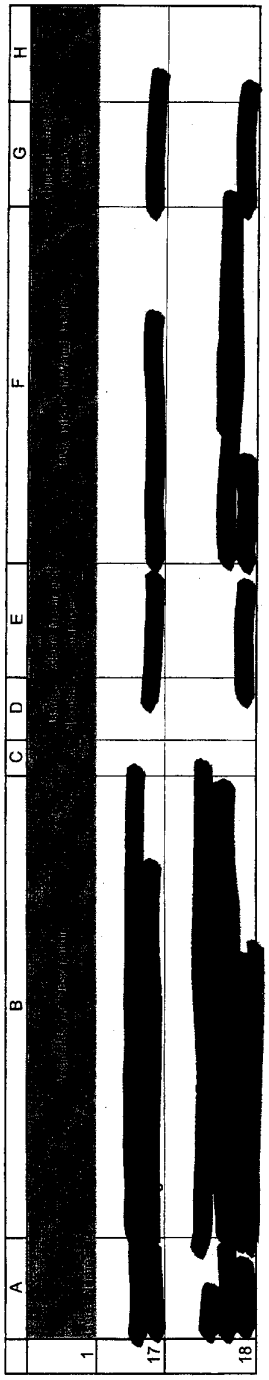
IRS0000001362

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	[redacted]							
7	[redacted]					Forward cases to processing who will forward the cases to Denise Tamayo, group 7888	Open-7-15-10	
8	Medical Marijuana	Email dated 7/15/10. Look for cases involving Medical Marijuana		7	2010 - #1			
9	[redacted]	[redacted]						
10	[redacted]	[redacted]						
11	[redacted]	[redacted]						

IRS00000001363

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	[redacted]	[redacted]						
12	Occupied Territory Advocacy	Email dated 8/6/10. Applications deal with disputed territories in the Middle East. Examples may be organizations named or connected with [redacted] XXXX (XXXX = a particular city), [redacted] Applications may be inflammatory, advocate a one sided point of view and promotional materials may signify propaganda.		11	2010 - #1	If you see these cases, please forward to the TAG Group, 7830.	Open- 8/6/10	
13	[redacted]	[redacted]						
14	Accountable Care Organization (ACO)	Email dated 8/12/10. An ACO is a an entity created by the Affordable Care Act. These consist of groups of healthcare providers (hospitals and doctors) who have entered into an agreement with Medicare to have Medicare patients assigned to them. The amounts charged to Medicare for the ACO's patients are compared to certain benchmark levels set by Medicare. Medicare pays the ACO a percentage difference of the difference as incentive to cost savings. ACO's are not required to be tax exempt.		13	2010 - #1	These cases should be forwarded to Group 7821	Open- 8/12/10	
15	[redacted]	[redacted]						
16	[redacted]	[redacted]						

IRS0000001364



From: Kindell Judith E
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 10:54 AM
To: Lerner Lois G
Cc: Light Sharon P
Subject: Bucketed cases

Of the 84 (c)(3)

cases, slightly over half appear to be conservative leaning groups based solely on the name. The remainder do not obviously lean to either side of the political spectrum.

Of the 199 (c)(4)

cases, approximately 3/4 appear to be conservative leaning while fewer than 10 appear to be liberal/progressive leaning groups based solely on the name. The remainder do not obviously lean to either side of the political spectrum.

File 112310
Tab 5 – Watch List

20101123

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Issue Name	Watch Issue Description		Issue Number	Alerts (Year and number)	Disposition of Watch Issue	Current Status (Opened or closed)	
2	Open Source Software	These organizations are requesting either 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) exemption in order to collaboratively develop new software. The members of these organizations are usually the for-profit business or for-profit support technicians of the software.		1	x	The is no specific guidance at this point. If you see a case, elevate it to your manager.	Open	
3	RHIO's	Organization's setup to electronically exchange healthcare data, called Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs), are requesting exemption under 501(c)(3).		2	x	These cases should be transferred to EOT.	Open	
4	[redacted]			[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]	
5	Healthcare legislation	Per Rob Choi email dated April 20, 2010, cases impacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) (PPACA) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152) (HCERA) are being coordinated with EOT.		4	2010 - #1	New applications are subject to secondary screening in Group 7821. Wayne Bothe is the coordinator.	Open-4/20/10	
6	[redacted]			[redacted]		[redacted]		
7	[redacted]			[redacted]		[redacted]		
8	Medical Marijuana	Email dated 7/15/10. Look for cases involving Medical Marijuana		7	2010 - #1	Forward cases to processing who will forward the cases to Denise Tamayo, group 7888	Open-7-15-10	

- The emailed attachment outlines the overall process.
- Glenn deferred additional statements and/or questions to John Shafer on yesterday's developments; how they affect the screening process and timeline.
- Concerns can be directed to Glenn for additional research if necessary.

Current/Political Activities: Gary Muthert

- Discussion focused on the political activities of Tea Parties and the like-regardless of the type of application.
- If in doubt Err on the Side of Caution and transfer to 7822.
- Indicated the following names and/or titles were of interest and should be flagged for review:
  - 9/12 Project,
  - 6103
  - Progressive
  - 6103
  - Pink-Slip Program.

- Elizabeth Hofacre, Tea Party Coordinator/Reviewer
  - Re-empathize that applications with Key Names and/or Subjects should be transferred to 7822 for Secondary Screening. Activities must be primary.
  - "Progressive" applications are not considered "Tea Parties"

Disaster Relief: Renee Norton/Joan Kiser

- Advise audience that buzz words or phrases include:
  - "X" Rescue
  - References to the Gulf Coast, Oil Spills,
- Reminded screeners that Disaster Relief is controlled by 7838, and then forwarded to Group 7827, for Secondary Screening.
- Denied Expedites worked by initial screener:
  - Complete Expedite Denial CCR, place on left side of file.
  - Email Renee or Joan with specific reason why expedite was denied and disposition (i.e. AP, IP, 51).
  - Place Post-It on Orange Folder advising Karl
    - "Denied Expedite / Fwd to M Flammer."

Power of Attorneys: Nancy Heagney

- Form 2848 that references 990, 941 or the like should be
  - Printed and annotate on the bottom per procedures
  - Documentation on TEDS should be made.
    - See Interim Guidance located on Public Folders.

Closing Sheets: Gary Muthert

- Closing Sheets should not cover pertinent info on the AIS sheet or EDS' 8327.
- Case Grade and Data (e.g. NTEEs) must be correctly presented and accurately depict the case's complexity and purpose.
    - Inaccurate presentations create processing delays.
    - Steve Bowling, Mgr 7822 "Volumes of cases are graded incorrectly."
    - EDS and TEDS must Agree to achieve desire business results

Credit Counseling (CC)

Stephen Seok

- Re-stressed impact that section 501(q) had on purely educational cases.
    - Cases are fully developed as 501(q) Credit Counseling Cases.
    - Key analysis is whether financial education and/or counseling activities are "substantial".
    - Cases with financial education and/or financial counseling- substantial or insubstantial are still subject to Secondary Screening until further notice.
    - Continue to document the analysis as "Substantial" or "Insubstantial" on the CC Check-sheet.
    - Feedback on cases received is in process.

TAG

Jon Waddell

- The New List will be completed and issued this week- approximately 7/30/10.
- Sharing a Drive on the Server has created the delay/dilemma.
- Monthly Emails will restart shortly after the List's distribution.
- Listing will include the following:
    - Touch and Go, Emerging Issues and Issues to Watch For.
    - 6103 Cases* (Puerto Rico based low-income housing) are considered "Potential Abusive Cases".
    - 6103 Cases (Las Vegas, NV) should continue to be sent to TAG Group for re-screening

*LCD referrals are in process since both have questionable practices.

INSPECTOR GENERAL
FOR TAX
ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

June 26, 2013

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6348

Dear Representative Levin:

This letter is in response to letters dated June 24, 2013 and June 26, 2013 regarding our recent audit report entitled "Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review." We appreciate the opportunity to clarify our recent report in response to your questions.

TIGTA's audit report focused on criteria being used by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) during the period of May 2010 through May 2012 regarding allegations that certain groups applying for tax-exempt status were being targeted. We reviewed all cases that the IRS identified as potential political cases and did not limit our audit to allegations related to the Tea Party. TIGTA concluded that inappropriate criteria were used to identify potential political cases for extra scrutiny – specifically, the criteria listed in our audit report. From our audit work, we did not find evidence that the criteria you identified, labeled "Progressives," were used by the IRS to select potential political cases during the 2010 to 2012 timeframe we audited. The "Progressives" criteria appeared on a section of the "Be On the Look Out" (BOLO) spreadsheet labeled "Historical," and, unlike other BOLO entries, did not include instructions on how to refer cases that met the criteria. While we have multiple sources of information corroborating the use of Tea Party and other related criteria we described in our report, including employee interviews, e-mails, and other documents, we found no indication in any of these other materials that "Progressives" was a term used to refer cases for scrutiny for political campaign intervention.

Based on the information you flagged regarding the existence of a "Progressives" entry on BOLO lists, TIGTA performed additional research which determined that six tax-exempt applications filed between May 2010 and May 2012 having the words "progress" or "progressive" in their names were included in the 298 cases the IRS identified as potential political cases. We also determined that 14 tax-exempt applications filed between May 2010 and May 2012 using the words "progress" or "progressive" in their names were not referred for added scrutiny as potential political cases. In total, 30 percent of the organizations we identified with the words "progress" or "progressive" in their names were processed as potential political cases. In

comparison, our audit found that 100 percent of the tax-exempt applications with Tea Party, Patriots, or 9/12 in their names were processed as potential political cases during the timeframe of our audit.

The following addresses the specific questions presented in your June 24, 2013 letter:

- Please describe in detail why your report dated May 14, 2013 omitted the fact that "Progressives" was used.

  Our audit did not find evidence that the IRS used the "Progressives" identifier as selection criteria for potential political cases between May 2010 and May 2012. The focus of our audit was on whether the IRS: 1) targeted specific groups applying for tax-exempt status, 2) delayed processing of targeted groups' applications, and 3) requested unnecessary information from targeted groups. We determined the IRS developed and used inappropriate criteria to identify applications from organizations with the words Tea Party in their names. In addition, we found other inappropriate criteria that were used (e.g., 9/12, Patriots) to select potential political cases that were not included in any BOLO listings. The inappropriate criteria used to select potential political cases for review did not include the term "Progressives." The term "Progressives" appears, beginning in August 2010, in a separate section of the BOLO listings that was labeled "TAG [Touch and Go] Historical" or "Potential Abusive Historical." The Touch and Go group within the Exempt Organizations function Determinations Unit is a different group of specialists than the team of specialists that was processing potential political cases related to the allegations we audited.

- Did you investigate whether the criteria "Progressives" in the BOLO lists was developed in the same manner as you did for "Tea Party"? If not, why?

  TIGTA did not audit how the criteria for the "Progressives" identifier were developed in the BOLO listings. We did not audit these criteria because it appeared in a separate section of the BOLO listings labeled as "Historical" (as described above) and we did not have indications or other evidence that it was in use for selecting potential political cases from May 2010 to May 2012.

- Please also explain why footnote 16 on page 6 was included in the audit report.

  Footnote 16 was included in our report because TIGTA was aware of other named organizations being on BOLO listings that were not used for selecting cases related to political campaign intervention. TIGTA added this footnote to disclose that we did not audit whether the use of the other named organizations was appropriate. Following the publication of our audit report, we communicated information

regarding other names on the BOLO listings to Acting Commissioner Daniel Werfel, and, to the extent authorized by Title 26 U.S.C. § 6103, the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

- If your organization overlooked the existence of the "Progressives" identifier, please describe in detail the process by which your organization investigated the BOLO lists created and circulated by the EO Determinations Unit.

  As part of our audit, we reviewed the section of the BOLO listings that related to the specific criteria that the IRS stated were used to identify potential political cases for additional scrutiny. TIGTA also found that certain criteria (e.g., Patriots, 9/12, education of the public by advocacy/lobbying to "make America a better place to live," etc.) used to select potential political cases were not in any BOLO listings.

- Your report states that TIGTA "reviewed all 298 applications that had been identified as potential political cases as of May 31, 2012." (See page 10 of your report.) Your report includes the following breakdown of the potential political cases by organization name: (1) 96 were "Tea Party," "9/12," or "Patriots" organizations; and (2) 202 were "Other." Why did your report not identify that liberal organizations were also included among the 298 applications you reviewed?

  TIGTA did not make any characterizations of any organizations in its audit report as conservative or liberal and believes it would be inappropriate for a nonpartisan Inspector General to make such judgments. Instead, our audit focused on the testing of 296 of the 298 potential political cases (two case files were incomplete) to determine if they were selected using the actual criteria that should have been used by the IRS from the beginning to screen potential political cases. Those criteria were whether the specific applications had indications of significant amounts of political campaign intervention (a term used in Treasury's Regulations). For 69 percent of the 296 cases, TIGTA found that there were indications of significant political campaign intervention, while 31 percent of the cases did not have that evidence. We also reviewed samples of 501 (c)(4) cases that were not identified as potential political cases to determine if they should have been. We estimate that more than 175 applications were not appropriately identified as potential political cases.

  TIGTA's audit report determined that certain cases were referred for potential political review because their names used terms in the IRS selection criteria. We could not tell why other organizations were selected for additional scrutiny because the IRS did not document specifically why the cases were forwarded to a team of specialists. TIGTA recommended that the IRS do so in the future.

- Why did your testimony before the Committee on Ways and Means, the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee not include a discussion of this aspect of the 298 applications?

  When I testified, I attempted to convey that our report did not characterize organizations as conservative or liberal and I believe it would be inappropriate for a nonpartisan Inspector General to make such judgments.

- In the course of your audit, what did you discover about the processing of cases with the "Progressives" identifier? Were the cases processed in the same manner as the cases with the "Tea Party" and associated terms identifiers? Or were they processed differently?

  TIGTA's audit did not review how TAG Historical cases (including the "Progressives" identifier) were processed because we did not find evidence that the IRS used the TAG Historical section of the BOLO listings as selection criteria for potential political cases between May 2010 and May 2012.

- If you are now auditing or investigating the processing of tax-exemption applications with the "Progressives" identifier, please provide the date that you started the audit or investigation and documentation to support this assertion. We also would like to know if you have briefed and alerted anyone at the IRS or Department of Treasury of such audit or investigation.

  TIGTA's Office of Audit made a referral to our Office of Investigations on May 28, 2013 stating that our recently issued audit report noted the use of other named organizations on the BOLO listings that were not related to potential political cases reviewed as part of our audit. TIGTA's Office of Audit requested the Office of Investigations investigate to determine: 1) whether cases meeting the criteria on the "watch list" [a particular section of the BOLO listings] were routed for any additional or specialized review, or were simply referred to the same group for coordinated processing; 2) how many (if any) applications were affected by use of these criteria; 3) who was responsible for the inclusion of these criteria on the BOLO lists; and 4) whether these criteria were added to the BOLO for an improper purpose.

  TIGTA also discussed the BOLO listings with the Acting Commissioner of the IRS on May 28, 2013, and expressed our concerns and the importance of the IRS following up on this matter. We notified the Acting Commissioner of our review of this matter on that date. In addition, I informed the Department of the Treasury's Chief of Staff and General Counsel about this matter.

Pursuant to authorization under Title 26 U.S.C. § 6103, we also provided these BOLO listings to House Ways and Means Committee Majority staff and the Senate Finance Committee Majority and Minority staff on June 7, 2013. We spoke to staff from House Ways and Means Committee Majority staff on the BOLOs on June 6 and June 11, 2013, and Senate Finance Committee Majority and Minority staff on June 10, 2013. We informed the staff we met with of our ongoing review of this matter.

Because of Privacy Act and Title 26 U.S.C. § 6103 restrictions, TIGTA cannot comment specifically on the status of any ongoing investigation. TIGTA will continue its efforts to provide independent oversight of IRS activities and accomplish its statutory mission through audits, inspections and evaluations, and investigations of criminal and administrative misconduct.

In your June 26, 2013 letter, you raised concerns about statements attributed to TIGTA sources by members of the media. Many of the press reports are not accurate. Please rely on our statements in this letter, my testimony, and our published materials for an accurate portrayal of our position.

We hope this information is helpful. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact me at 202-[redacted] or Acting Deputy Inspector General for Audit Michael E. McKenney at 202-[redacted].

Sincerely,

J. Russell George

J. Russell George
Inspector General

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

JUN 24 2013

June 24, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Edward Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to your request for documents relating to the screening and review process for applicants for tax-exempt status. I am providing copies of "Be on the Lookout" (BOLO) spreadsheets from which IRC section 6103 information has been redacted.

We are committed to providing you with as full a response as possible and to full cooperation with you and your staff to address this matter.

Our efforts to gather documents related to the TIGTA report 2013-10-053, dated May 14, 2013, are ongoing. These documents are being produced from the set that been reviewed to date. To the extent our continuing searches reveal additional BOLO lists responsive to your request, we will provide them.

The attached documents are indexed by Bates stamped numbers IRS0000001349 to IRS0000001537 and numbers IRS0000002479-IRS0000002591 and numbers IRS0000002705 to IRS0000002717.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have questions, please contact me or have your staff contact me at 202-[redacted].

Sincerely,

Leonard Oursler
Area Director

Testimony of Carter Hull
Tax Law Specialist in EO Technical Unit
June 14, 2013

Q. Okay. Now, sir, in this period, roughly March of 2010, was there a time when someone in the IRS told you that you would be assigned to work on two Tea Party cases? 23

A. Yes.

***

Q. Do you recall when precisely you were told that you would be assigned two Tea Party cases?

A. When precisely, no.

Q. Sometime in –

A. Sometime in the area, but I did get, they were assigned to me in April.

***

Q. Okay, and just to be clear, April of 2010?

A. Yes.

***

Q. And sir, were they cases 501(c)(3)s, or 501(c)(4)s?

A. One was a 501(c)(3), and one was a 501(c)(4).

Q. So one of each?

A. One of each.

Q. What, to your knowledge, was it intentional that you were sent one of each?

A. Yes.

Q. Why was that?

A. I'm not sure exactly why. I can only make assumptions, but those are the two areas that
usually had political possibilities.

***

Q. The point of my question was, no one ever explained to you that you were to understand and work these cases for the purpose of working similar cases in the future?

***

A. All right, I -- I was given -- they were going to be test cases to find out how we approached (c)(4), and (c)(3) with regards to political activities.

***

Q. Mr. Hull, before we broke, you were talking about these two cases being test cases, is that right? Do you recall that?

A. I realized that there were other cases. I had no idea how many, but there were other cases. And they were trying to find out how we should approach these organizations, and how we should handle them.

***

Q. And when you say these organizations, you mean Tea Party organizations?

A. The two organizations that I had.

Testimony of Carter Hull
Tax Law Specialist in EO Technical Unit
June 14, 2013

Q. Did you send out letters to both organizations the 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4)?

A. I did.

Q. Did you get responses from both organizations?

A. I got response from only one organization.

Q. Which one?

A. The (c)(4).

Q. (C)(4). What did you do with the case that did not respond?

A. I tried to contact them to find out whether they were going to submit anything.

Q. By telephone?

A. By telephone. And I never got a reply.

Q. Then what did you do with the case?

A. I closed it, failure to establish.

***

Q. So at this time, when the (c)(3) became the FTE, did you begin to work only on the (c)(4)?

A. I notified my supervisor that I would need another (c)(3) if they wanted me to work one of each.

***

Q. How did you phrase the request to Ms. Hofacre? Was it -- were you asking for another (c)(3) Tea Party application?

A. I was asking for another (c)(3) application in the lines of the first one that she had sent up. I'm not sure if I asked her for a particular organization or a particular type of organization. I needed a (c)(3) that was maybe involved in political activities.

Q. And the first (c)(3), it was a Tea Party application?

A . Yes, it was.

Testimony of Elizabeth Hofacre
Revenue Agent in Determinations Unit
May 31, 2013

Q. And you mentioned the Tea Party cases. Do you have an understanding of whether the Tea Party cases were part of that grouping of organizations with political activity, or were they separate?

A. That was the group of political cases.

Q. So why do you call them Tea Parties if it includes more than –

A. Well, at that time that's all they were. That's all that we were -- that's how we were classifying them.

Q. In 2010, you were classifying any organization that had political activity as a Tea Party?

A. No, it's the latter. I mean, we were looking at Tea Parties. I mean, political is too broad.

Q. What do you mean when you say political is too broad?

A. No, because when -- what do you mean by "political"?

Q. Political activity -- if an application has an indication of political activity in it.

A. I mean, I was tasked with Tea Party, so that's all I'm aware of. So I wasn't tasked with political in general.

Q. Was there somebody who was tasked with political in general?

A. Not that I'm aware of.

Testimony of Ron Bell
Exempt Organizations Specialist in Determinations Unit
June 13, 2013

Q. Okay. So at this point between October 2010 and July 2011, were all the Tea Party cases going to you?

A. Correct.

Q. And to your knowledge, during this same time period, was it only Tea Party cases that were being assigned to you or were there other advocacy cases that were part of this group?

***

A. Does that include 9/12 and Patriot?

Q. Yes, yes.

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. So it was just those type of cases, not other type of advocacy cases that maybe had a different -- a different political -- a liberal or progressive case?

A. Correct.

***

Q. Okay. And to your knowledge, when you were first assigned these cases in October 2010 and through July 2011, do you know what criteria the screening unit was using to identify the cases to send to you?

A. Yes.

Q. And what was that criteria?

A. It was solicited on the Emerging Issues tab of the BOLO report.

Q. And what did that say? What did that Emerging Issue tab on the BOLO say?

A. In July 20 –

Q. In October 2010 we'll start.

A. I don't know exactly what it said, but it just -- Tea Party cases, 9/12, Patriot.

Q. And do you recall how many cases you inherited from Ms. Hofacre?

A. 50 to 100.

Q. And were those only Tea Party-type cases as well?

A. To the best of my knowledge.

Testimony of Carter Hull
Tax Law Specialist in EO Technical Unit
June 14, 2013

A. I'm not sure who mentioned Tea Party, but at that point Lois I remember breaking in and saying no, no, we don't refer to those as Tea Parties anymore. They are advocacy organizations.

Q. And what was her tone when saying that?

A. Very firm.

Q. Did she explain why she wanted to change the reference?

A. She said that the Tea Party was just too pejorative.

Testimony of Ron Bell
Exempt Organizations Specialist in Determinations Unit
June 13, 2013

Q. And do you recall when that – when the BOLO was changed after – you said it was after the meeting [with Lerner], they changed the BOLO after the meeting, do you recall when?

A. July.

Q. Of 2011?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you were going to say the BOLO became more, and then you were cut off. What were you going to say?

A. It became more – they had more the advocacy, more organizations to the advocacy, like I mentioned about maybe a cat rescue that's advocating for let's not kill the cats that get picked up by the local government in whatever cities.

Testimony of Ron Bell
Exempt Organizations Specialist in Determinations Unit
June 13, 2013

Q. Mr. Bell, in July 2011, when the BOLO was changed where they chose broad language, after that point, did you conduct secondary screening on any of the cases that were being held by you?

A. You mean the cases that I inherited from Liz are the ones that had already been put into the whatever timeframe, Tea Party advocacy, slash advocacy?

Q. Other type, yes.

A. No, these were new ones coming in that someone thought that they perhaps should be in the advocacy, slash, Tea Party inventory.

Q. Okay.

A. They were assigned to Group 7822, and I reviewed them, and you know, maybe some were, but a vast majority was like outside the realm we were looking for.

Q. And so they were like the . . . cat type cases you were discussing earlier?

A. Yes.

***

Q. After the July 2011 change to the BOLO, how long did you perform the secondary screening?

A. Up until July 2012.

Q. So, for a whole year?

A. Yeah.

Q. And you would look at the cases and see if they were not a Tea Party case, you would move that either to closing or to further development?

A. Yeah, and then the BOLO changed about midway through that timeframe.

Q. Okay.

A. To make it where we put the note on there that we don't need the general advocacy.

Q. And after the BOLO changed in January 2012, did that affect your secondary screening process?

A. There was less cases to be reviewed.

Q. Okay. So during this whole year, the Tea Party cases remained on hold pending guidance from Washington while the other cases that you identified as non-Tea Party cases were moved to either closure or further development; is that right?

A. Correct.

Testimony of Michael Seto
Manager of EO Technical Unit
July 11, 2013

Q. -- about the cases? What about Miss Lerner, did you ever talk to Miss Lois Lerner about the cases at this point in time, January-February 2011?

A. No, I have not talked to her verbally about it.

Q. But did you talk to her nonverbally about these cases in that period of time?

A. She sent me email saying that when these cases need to go through multi-tier review and they will eventually have to go to Miss Kindell and the chief counsel's office.

Q. Miss Lerner told you this in an email?

A. That's my recollection.

Testimony of Carter Hull
Tax Law Specialist in EO Technical Unit
June 14, 2013

Q. Have you ever sent a case to Ms. Kindell before?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. This is the only case you remember?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Correct?

A. This is the only case I remember sending directly to Judy.

***

Q. Had you ever sent a case to the Chief Counsel's office before?

A. I can't recall offhand.

Q. You can't recall. So in your 48 years of experience with the IRS, you don't recall sending a case to Ms. Kindell or a case to IRS Chief Counsel's office?

A. To Ms. Kindell, I don't recall ever sending a case before. To Chief Counsel, I am sure some cases went up there, but I can't give you those.

Q. Sitting here today you don't remember?

A. I don't remember.

Testimony of Ron Bell
Exempt Organizations Specialist in Determinations Unit
June 13, 2013

Q. So did you see something different in these Tea Party cases applying for 501(c)(4) status that was different from other organizations that had political activity, political engagement applying for 501(c)(4) status in the past?

A. I'm not sure if I understand that.

Q. I guess what I'm getting at is you said you had seen previous applications from an organization applying for 501(c)(4) status that had some level of political engagement, and these Tea Party groups are also applying for 501(c)(4) status and they have some level of political engagement. Was there any difference in your mind between the Tea Party groups and the other groups that you'd seen in your experience at the IRS?

A. No.

Q. So, do you think that Tea Party groups are treated the same as these other groups from your previous experience?

A. No.

***

Q. In your experience, was there anything different about the way that the Tea Party 501(c)(4) cases were treated that was as opposed to the previous 501(c)(4) applications that had some level of political engagement?

A. Yes.

Q. And what was different?

A. Well, they were segregated. They seemed to have been more scrutinized. I hadn't interacted with EO technical [in] Washington on cases really before.

Q. You had not?

A. Well, not a whole group of cases.

Testimony of Stephen Seok
Group Manager of EO Determinations Unit
June 19, 2013

Q. And to your knowledge, the cases that you worked on, was there anything different or novel about the activities of the Tea Party cases compared to other (c)(4) cases you had seen before?

***

A. Normal (c)(4) cases we must develop the concept of social welfare, such as the community newspapers, or the poor, that types. These organizations mostly concentrate on their activities on the limiting government, limiting government role, or reducing government size, or paying less tax. I think it[']s different from the other social welfare organizations which are (c)(4).

***

Q. So the difference between the applications that you just described, the applications for folks that wanted to limit government, limit the role of government, the difference between those applications and the (c)(4) applications with political activity that you had worked in the past, was the nature of their ideology, or perspective, is that right?

A. Yeah, I think that's a fair statement. But still, previously, I could work, I could work this type of organization, applied as a (c)(4), that's possible, though. Not exactly Tea Party, or 9-12, but dealing with the political ideology, that's possible, yes.

Q. So you may have in the past worked on applications from (c)(4), applicants seeking (c)(4) status that expressed a concern in ideology, but those applications were not treated or processed the same way that the Tea Party cases that we have been talking about today were processed, is that right?

A. Right. Because that [was] way before these – these organizations were put together. So that's way before. If I worked those cases, way before this list is on.

Testimony of Robert Choi
Former Director of IRS Rulings and Agreements
August 21, 2013

Q. You said earlier in the last hour there was email traffic about the ACORN successor groups in 2010; is that right?

A. That's correct, yes.

Q. But the ACORN successor groups were not subject to a sensitive case report; is that right?

A. I don't recall if they were listed in there, in the sensitive case report.

Q. So you don't recall them being part of a sensitive case report?

A. I think what I'm saying is they may be part of a sensitive case report. I do not have a specific recollection that they were listed in a sensitive case report.

Q. But you do have a specific recollection that the Tea Party cases were on sensitive case reports in 2010.

A. Yes.

Q. To your knowledge, did any ACORN successor application go to the Chief Counsel's Office?

A. I am not aware of it.

Q. Are you aware of any ACORN successor groups facing application delays?

A. I do not know if – well, when you say "delays," how do you –

Q. Well –

A. I mean, I'm aware of successor ACORN applications coming in, and I am aware of email traffic that talked about my concern of delays on those cases and, you know, that there was discussion about seeing an influx of these applications which appear to be related to the previous organization.

***

Q. And the concern behind the reason that they weren't being processed was that they were potentially the same organization that had been denied previously?

A. Not that they were denied previously. These appeared to be successor organizations, meaning these were newly formed organizations with a new EIN, employer identification number, located at the same address as the previous organization and, in some instances, with the same officers.

And it was an issue of concern as to whether or not these were, in fact, the same organizations just coming in under a new name; whether, in fact, the previous organizations, if they were, for example, 501(c)(3) organizations, properly disposed of their assets. Did they transfer it to this new organization? Was this perhaps an abusive scheme by these organizations to say that they went out of business and then not really but they just carried on under a different name?

Q. And that's the reason they were held up?

A. Yes.

Testimony of Lucinda Thomas
Program Manager of EO Determinations Unit
June 28, 2013

Q. Ms. Thomas, is this an example of the BOLO from looks like November 2010?

A. I don't know if it was from November of 2010, but –

Q. This is an example of the BOLO, though?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And, ma'am, under what has been labeled as tab 2, TAG Historical?

A. Yes.

***

Q. Let's turn to page 1354.

A. Okay.

Q. Do you see that, it says -- the entry says progressive?

A. Yes.

Q. This is under TAG Historical, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. So this is an issue that hadn't come up for a while, is that right?

A. Right.

Q. And it doesn't note that these were referred anywhere, is that correct? What happened with these cases?

A. This would have been on our group as – because of – remember I was saying it was consistency-type cases, so it's not necessarily a potential fraud or abuse or terrorist issue, but any cases that were dealing with these types of issues would have been worked by our TAG group.

Q. Okay. And were they worked any different from any other cases that EO Determinations had?

A. No. They would have just been worked consistently by one group of agents.

Q. Okay. And were they cases sent to Washington?

A. I'm not – I don't know.

Q. Not that you are aware?

A. I'm not aware of that.

Q. As the head of the Cincinnati office you were never aware that these cases were sent to Washington?

A. There could be cases that are transferred to the Washington office according to, like, our [Internal Revenue Manual] section. I mean, there's a lot of cases that are processed, and I don't know what happens to every one of them.

Q. Sure. But these cases identified as progressive as a whole were never sent to Washington?

A. Not as a whole.

Testimony of Elizabeth Hofacre
Revenue Agent in EO Determinations Unit
May 31, 2013

Q. In 2010, you were classifying any organization that had political activity as a Tea Party?

A. No, it's the latter. I mean, we were looking at Tea Parties. I mean, political is too broad.

Q. What do you mean when you say political is too broad?

A. No, because when -- what do you mean by "political"?

Q. Political activity -- if an application has an indication of political activity in it.

A. I mean, I was tasked with Tea Party, so that's all I'm aware of. So I wasn't tasked with political in general.

Q. Was there somebody who was tasked with political in general?

A. Not that I'm aware of.

Testimony of Steven Grodnitzky
Manager in EO Technical Unit
July 16, 2013

Q. So these Democratic-leaning organizations, their applications took approximately 3 years to process?

A. On or around. I mean, if they came in at the end of 2008, for example, and were resolved in the beginning of 2011, it may be a little over 2 years. But I mean, on or around that time period.

***

Q. Did those 2008 Democratic-leaning applications involve potential political campaign activity as well?

A. Yes, we had -- the organizations were related in the sense that they were -- how can I say this? -- sort of like an -- I am going to call it, for lack of a better term, like when you have in a veterans-type organization, you have posts, and there is one in each State. And that is sort of what it was like. So they were very similar in the sense that the main difference that I recall was that they were just from one State to the next. And we found in those particular cases that the organization was benefiting the Democratic Party, and there was too much private benefit to that particular party. And the organization was denied.

Testimony of Amy Franklin Giuliano
Attorney Advisor in IRS Chief Counsel's Office
August 9, 2013

Q. And you said that some of those five progressive applications were approved in a matter of hours; is that right?

A. Yes.

***

Q. The reason that the other five cases would be revoked if that case the Counsel's Office had was denied, was that because they were affiliated entities?

A. It is because they were essentially the same organization. I mean, every – the applications all presented basically identical facts and basically identical activities.

Q. And the groups themselves were affiliated.

A. And the groups themselves were affiliated, yes.

***

Q. The issue in the case you reviewed in May of 2010 was private benefit.

A. Yes.

Q. As opposed to campaign intervention.

A. We considered whether political campaign intervention would apply, and we decided it did not.

Testimony of Sharon Light
Senior Technical Advisor
September 5, 2013

Q Were you aware that there was an entry for Occupy organizations in the BOLO by the May 2012 time frame?

A I don't think I was. My understanding of Determinations at that point was if you saw an organization or issue that you thought Determinations should be on the watch for, you would -- I would send an email to Cindy and say, hey, can you tell your screeners to keep an eye out for this, so it didn't slip through and get approved without someone looking at it.

Q Did you become aware of the entry on the BOLO for Occupy organizations at a later date?

A Yes, I did at some point.

Q And why did you become aware of the entry on the BOLO for the Occupy organizations -- or, rather, how?

A I believe I became aware of it the summer after it hit the news that groups were -- well, I became aware of it after it was reported that only conservative groups were being singled out by the IRS.

Testimony of Joseph Grant
Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities
September 25, 2013

Q Were you aware that for a period of time the IRS also specifically referenced "Occupy" on a BOLO?

A I subsequently became aware of that. I was not aware of that at the time.

Testimony of Nancy Marks
Senior Technical Advisor to the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities
October 8, 2013

Q Were you aware in the spring 2012 timeframe that there was a "Be on the Look Out" list entry specifically identifying Occupy groups by name?

A I don't think I knew that in the spring of 2012. At some point, I became aware that that was one of the things on the "Be on the Look Out" list.

Testimony of Elizabeth Kastenburg
Tax Law Specialist in EO Technical Unit
July 31, 2013

Q. Do you recall if progressive or Occupy groups were among those listed on the BOLO?

A. No, I don't know.

Q. Do you know how Occupy groups, as in Occupy Wall Street groups, were processed by the IRS?

A. No, I do not know.

Testimony of Justin Lowe
Technical Advisor, Tax Exempt and Government Entities
July 23, 2013

Q. ...Do you recall whether as a tax law specialist in EO Guidance you referred cases related to Occupy organizations?

A. It's a pretty broad descriptor, so I don't know exactly.
I don't think so, but I couldn't tell you definitively one way or the other...

Testimony of Ron Bell
Exempt Organizations Specialist in Determinations Unit
June 13, 2013

Q. Okay. And is it normal procedure for EO Technical to have to -- for you -- for you to have to wait for approval from EO Technical to move these cases?

A. Not in my personal experience.

Q. Okay. So this was something that was unusual that you were having to wait on Washington?

A. In -- from -- in my experience.

Q. In your experience. Okay.

Testimony of Steven Grodnitzky
Manager in EO Technical Unit
July 16, 2013

Q. Is it fair to say that those Democratic organizations that were grouped together in the 2008 time frame were treated similarly to the Tea Party cases that you saw in the 2010 time frame?

A. Sure. I mean, it is fair to say that they were treated similarly. It is -- there were fewer of them. Unlike the Tea Party, my understanding is that there are more -- as far as quantity there is more of them.

Testimony of Amy Franklin Giuliano
Attorney Advisor in IRS Chief Counsel's Office
August 9, 2013

Q. Did you ever speak to Mr. Griffin about these cases around the time they were assigned to you, or the one assigned to you?

A. Yes. He handed the case that was assigned to me to me directly.

Q. And what did he say to you?

A. He said, "This is a (c)(4) case that presents the question of political advocacy. It seems to be conservative-leaning."

***

Q. Prior to you receiving this case in June of 2011, do you know if it was worked by IRS officials in Washington?

A. Yes. On top of the case file were three memos, all by D.C. employees.

Q. Who were the memos from?

A. Janet Gitterman, Siri Buller, and Justin Lowe.

Q. And what was the substance of these memos?

A. The memo from Janet was first because I believe she was, sort of, their docket attorney. I don't know what they call it. And she explained that she had looked through the file, that some of the ads seemed to verge on political campaign intervention, and it wasn't an election year. She raised that the group leased space from a Republican group. But she said that it seemed that the amount of political activity did not preclude exemption.

There was a memo from Siri Buller as sort of a concurring -- I think she was kind of asked to review what Janet had done. And Siri's

memo is much longer and listed about 15 instances of what could be considered political campaign intervention and said that there is political campaign intervention here but maybe not enough to preclude exemption.

And then Justin Lowe had about a one-page memo that sort of said, you know, the ads seem to be propaganda, they don't seem to be informative, but not sure that that's a reason to deny, so I concur.

Q. So all three of them, Ms. Gitterman, Ms. Buller, and Mr. Lowe, all concurred in the recommendation to approve exemption?

A. Yes.

Q. And Ms. Gitterman and Ms. Buller, are they in EO Technical, do you know?

A. I don't know. It's either Technical or Guidance, and I don't really understand the difference.

***

Q. So, you're aware of some coordination between EO Technical or EO Guidance and Cincinnati regarding the treatment of this group of progressive cases?

A. Yes. I mean, I was aware of it because I knew that enough communication had happened to get three like cases to one person in D.C.

Q. And it sounded like there was concern about the way the cases had been developed in Cincinnati; is that fair?

A. I think there was concern that -- that a -- yeah. That it looked like maybe they should be denials, yet already the five favorables had gone out. There was a concern that we were going to be treating the taxpayers inconsistently.

***

Q. In this case, the -- did you state that the ultimate outcome was a recommendation for denial?

A. Yes, that was our recommendation.

KERRY W. KIRCHER
GENERAL COUNSEL

WILLIAM PITTARD
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

TODD B. TATELMAN
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

MARY BETH WALKER
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

ELENI M. ROUMEL
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

ISAAC B. ROSENBERG
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
219 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6532
(202) 225-9700
FAX: (202) 226-1360

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Honorable Darrell E. Issa, Chairman**
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Stephen Castor, General Counsel
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

FROM: **Office of General Counsel**
United States House of Representatives

DATE: **March 25, 2014**

RE: **Lois Lerner and the Rosenberg Memorandum**

You advised us that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ("Oversight Committee" or "Committee") may consider a resolution recommending that the full House hold former Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") employee Lois G. Lerner in contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions at a Committee hearing that began on May 22, 2013, and continued on March 5, 2014.

To assist you in determining whether the Committee should take up such a resolution, and to assist Committee Members (who, we understand, will be privy to the contents of this memorandum) in determining how to proceed if such a resolution is taken up, you asked that we analyze a March 12, 2014 memorandum, prepared by former Congressional Research Service ("CRS") attorney Morton Rosenberg. That memorandum concludes that "the requisite legal foundation for a criminal contempt of Congress prosecution mandated by the Supreme Court

rulings in [*Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155 (1955), *Emspak v. United States*, 349 U.S. 190 (1955), and *Bart v. United States*, 349 U.S. 219 (1955)] ha[s] not been met" as to Ms. Lerner. Mem. from Morton Rosenberg, Leg. Consultant, to Hon. Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform at 4 (Mar. 12, 2014) ("Rosenberg Memorandum"), attached to Letter from Hon. Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to Hon. John Boehner, Speaker (Mar. 12, 2014).

By "criminal contempt of Congress prosecution," Mr. Rosenberg presumably means the approval of a resolution of contempt by the full House, followed by a referral to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 194, followed by an indictment and prosecution pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 192 for "refus[al] to answer . . . question[s] pertinent to the" Committee's investigation. If so, we agree with Mr. Rosenberg that the *Quinn* trilogy of cases articulates a key legal standard that underlies the viability of such a prosecution. However, we disagree with his conclusion that that standard has not been satisfied here.

The question, in brief, is whether Ms. Lerner was "clearly apprised that the [C]ommittee demand[ed] [her] answer[s] [to its questions] notwithstanding h[er Fifth Amendment] objections." *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 166. Based on our review of the record, we believe Ms. Lerner clearly was so apprised for two independent reasons. *First*, the Committee formally rejected her Fifth Amendment claims and expressly advised her of its determination (a fact that she, through her attorney, acknowledged prior to her appearance at the reconvened hearing on March 5, 2014). *Second*, the Committee Chairman thereafter advised Ms. Lerner in writing that the Committee expected her to answer its questions, and advised her orally, at the reconvened hearing on March 5, 2014, that she faced the possibility of being held in contempt of Congress if she continued to decline to provide answers.

We now explain our reasoning in more detail.

PERTINENT FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The underlying Oversight Committee investigation concerns allegations that the IRS subjected organizations applying for tax-exempt status to differing degrees of scrutiny, and/or applied to them differing standards of approval, depending on the political orientation of the organizations. From the outset, Ms. Lerner, who at all pertinent times was the Director of the Exempt Organizations Division of the IRS' Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, was a central figure in the investigation.[1]

Ms. Lerner, accompanied by her experienced personal counsel,[2] appeared at the Oversight Committee's May 22, 2013 hearing session pursuant to a Committee subpoena which commanded her to "appear" and "**to testify**." Subpoena to Lois Lerner (May 17, 2013) ("Subpoena"). After being sworn, Ms. Lerner voluntarily made a lengthy statement in which she effectively testified about a number of matters, including (i) the fact that she was a lawyer and had practiced law at the Department of Justice ("DOJ") and the Federal Election Commission; (ii) her experience with the IRS, including, in particular, the Exempt Organizations Division; (iii) a May 14, 2013 Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration ("TIGTA") report which concerned issues similar to those being investigated by the Committee and which criticized the Exempt Organizations Division headed by Ms. Lerner, *see* Treasury Inspector Gen. for Tax

---

[1] According to press reports, Ms. Lerner retired from government service, effective September 23, 2013. *See, e.g.*, John D. McKinnon, *Lois Lerner, at Center of IRS Investigation, Retires*, Wall St. J., Sept. 23, 2013, *available at* http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304713704579093461064758006.

[2] Ms. Lerner's counsel, William W. Taylor, III, is a senior partner with Zuckerman Spaeder, a Washington, D.C.-based law firm. He is a seasoned white-collar criminal defense attorney and has prior experience, dating back to the 1980s, representing clients before congressional committees. *See* Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, William W. Taylor, III, http://www.zuckerman.com/william_taylor (last visited Mar. 25, 2014).

Admin., *Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review*, Ref. No. 2013-10-053 (May 14, 2013), *available at* http://www.treasury.gov/tigta/auditreports/2013reports/201310053fr.pdf; (iv) DOJ's investigation into the same matters being investigated by TIGTA; and (v) her asserted innocence: "I have done nothing wrong. I have not broken any laws. I have not violated any IRS rules or regulations, and I have not provided false information to this or any other congressional committee." *The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs: Hr'g Before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform*, 113th Cong. 22 (May 22, 2013) (statement of Lois Lerner). In addition, in conjunction with her statement, Ms. Lerner authenticated a collection of her written responses to questions asked of her by TIGTA in the course of its investigation. *See id.* at 22-23.

After Ms. Lerner completed her statement, and after she had authenticated the collection of her written responses, the following exchange occurred:

> **CHAIRMAN ISSA.** Ms. Lerner, the topic of today's hearing is the IRS' improper targeting of certain groups for additional scrutiny regarding their application for tax-exempt status. As Director of Exempt Organizations of the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division of the IRS, you were uniquely positioned to provide testimony to help this committee better understand how and why the IRS targeted these groups. *To that end, I must ask you to reconsider, particularly in light of the fact that you have given not once, but twice testimony before this committee under oath this morning.* You have made an opening statement in which you made assertions of your innocence, assertions you did nothing wrong, assertions you broke no laws or rules. Additionally, you authenticated earlier answers to the IG.
>
> *At this point I believe you have not asserted your rights, but, in fact, have effectively waived your rights. Would you please seek* [counsel] *for further guidance on this matter while we wait?*
>
> **MS. LERNER.** I will not answer any questions or testify about the subject matter of this committee's meeting.

CHAIRMAN ISSA. We will take your refusal as a refusal to testify.

Id. at 23 (emphases added); *see also id.* (statement of Rep. Gowdy) ("She just testified. She just waived her Fifth Amendment right to privilege. You don't get to tell your side of the story and then not be subjected to cross examination. That's not the way it works. She waived her right of Fifth Amendment privilege by issuing an opening statement. She ought to stay in here and answer our questions.").

After hearing testimony from the remaining witnesses, the Chairman recessed the May 22, 2013 hearing session with the following remarks:

> And, with that, at the beginning of this hearing, I called four witnesses. Pursuant to a subpoena, Ms. Lois Lerner arrived. We had been previously communicated by her counsel – and she was represented by her own independent counsel – that she may invoke her Fifth Amendment privileges.
>
> Out of respect for this constitutional right and on advice of committee counsel, we, in fact, went through a process that included the assumption which was – which I did, which was that she would not make an opening statement. She chose to make an opening statement.
>
> In her opening statement, she made assertions under oath in the form of testimony. Additionally, faced with the interview notes that we received at the beginning of the hearing, I asked her if they were correct, and she answered yes.
>
> It is – and it was brought up by Mr. Gowdy that, in fact, in his opinion as a longtime district attorney, Ms. Lerner may have waived her Fifth Amendment rights by addressing core issues in her opening statement and authentication afterwards.
>
> I must consider this. *So, although I excused Ms. Lerner, subject to a recall, I am looking into the possibility of recalling her and insisting that she answer questions in light of a waiver.*
>
> For that reason and with your understanding and indulgence, this hearing stands in recess, not adjourned.

Id. at 124 (statement of Chairman Issa) (emphasis added).

On June 28, 2013, the Committee met in public to consider whether Ms. Lerner had waived her Fifth Amendment privilege by making her voluntarily statement. The Chairman noted that, while he could have ruled on the waiver issue himself during the course of the May 22, 2013 hearing session, he had chosen the more deliberate course of putting the issue to a Committee vote. *See Tr. of Bus. Meeting of the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform*, 113th Cong. 4 (June 28, 2013) ("June 28, 2013 Business Meeting Transcript") (statement of Chairman Issa), *video record available at* http://oversight.house.gov/markup/full-committee-business-meeting-15. During the intervening 37 days, the Committee had received and considered, among other things, Ms. Lerner's views on the waiver issue, as expressed in writing by her counsel on her behalf. *See id.* at 5 (entering Ms. Lerner's views into the record).

The Chairman then expressed his views as follows:

> Having now considered the facts and arguments, I believe Lois Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privileges. She did so when she chose to make a voluntary opening statement.
>
> Ms. Lerner's opening statement referenced the Treasury IG report, and the Department of Justice investigation . . . and the assertions that she had previously provided false information to the committee. She made four specific denials. Those denials are at the core of the committee's investigation in this matter. She stated that she had not done anything wrong, not broken any laws, not violated any IRS rules or regulations, and not provided false information to this or any other congressional committee regarding areas about which committee members would have liked to ask her questions. Indeed, committee members are still interested in hearing from her. Her statement covers almost the entire range of questions we wanted to ask when the hearing began on May 22.

Id.

After a vigorous debate, the Committee approved, by a 22-17 vote, a resolution which states in pertinent part as follows:

> Resolved, That the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform determines that the voluntary statement offered by Ms. Lerner constituted a waiver of her Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination as to all questions within the subject matter of the Committee hearing that began on May 22, 2013, including questions relating to (i) Ms. Lerner's knowledge of any targeting by the Internal Revenue Service of particular groups seeking tax exempt status, and (ii) questions relating to any facts or information that would support or refute her assertions that, in that regard, "she has not done anything wrong," "not broken any laws," "not violated any IRS rules or regulations," and/or "not provided false information to this or any other congressional committee."

Res. of the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, 113th Cong. (June 28, 2013) ("June 28, 2013 Resolution"), *available at* http://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Resolution-of-the-Committee-on-Oversight-and-Government-Reform-6-28-131.pdf; *see also* June 28, 2013 Bus. Meeting Tr. at 65-66 (recording vote).

On February 25, 2014, the Chairman wrote to Ms. Lerner's counsel as follows:

> At [the May 22, 2013 session of] the hearing, Ms. Lerner gave a voluntary opening statement, under oath, discussing her position at the IRS and professing her innocence. After that opening statement, during which she spoke in detail about the core issues under consideration at the hearing, Ms. Lerner invoked the Fifth Amendment and declined to answer questions from Committee Members . . . . I temporarily excused Ms. Lerner from, and later recessed, the hearing to allow the Committee to determine whether she had waived her asserted Fifth Amendment right. The Committee subsequently determined that Ms. Lerner in fact had waived that right.
>
> * * *
>
> *[B]ecause the Committee explicitly rejected [Ms. Lerner's] Fifth Amendment privilege claim, I expect her to provide answers when the hearing reconvenes on March 5.*

Letter from Hon. Darrell E. Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to William W. Taylor, III, Esq., at 1-2 (Feb. 25, 2014) ("Issa February 25, 2014 Letter") (emphasis added). Ms. Lerner's counsel responded the next day that "[w]e understand that the Committee

voted that she had waived her rights." Letter from William W. Taylor, III, Esq., to Hon. Darrell E. Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, at 1 (Feb. 26, 2014) ("Taylor February 26, 2014 Letter").

Finally, on March 5, 2014, while still subject to the Subpoena and again accompanied by her counsel, Ms. Lerner appeared at the reconvened session of the Committee hearing that originally began on May 22, 2013. At the outset of the reconvened session, the Chairman stated as follows:

> Today, we have recalled Ms. Lois Lerner, the former director of Exempt Organizations at the IRS. Ms. Lerner appeared for the May 22nd, 2013, hearing under a subpoena, and that subpoena remains in effect.
>
> Before we resume our questioning, I am going to briefly state for the record a few developments that have occurred since the hearing began 9 months ago. *These are important for the record and for Ms. Lerner to know and understand.*
>
> On May 22nd, 2013, after being sworn in at the start of the hearing, Ms. Lerner made a voluntary statement under oath discussing her position at the IRS and professing her innocence.
>
> Ms. Lerner did not provide the committee with any advance notification of her intention to make such a statement.
>
> During her self-selected and entirely voluntary statement, Ms. Lerner spoke in detail about core issues under consideration at the hearing when she stated, "I have not done anything wrong. I have not broken any laws. I have not violated any IRS rules or regulations, and I have not provided false information to this or any other congressional committee."
>
> * * *
>
> At that hearing, a member of the committee, Mr. Gowdy, stated that Ms. Lerner had waived her right to invoke the Fifth Amendment because she had given a voluntary statement professing her innocence.

> I temporarily excused Ms. Lerner from the hearing and subsequently recessed the hearing to consider whether Ms. Lerner had in fact waived her Fifth Amendment rights.
>
> * * *
>
> At a business meeting on June 28, 2013, the committee approved a resolution rejecting Ms. Lerner's claim of Fifth Amendment privilege based on her waiver . . . .
>
> After that vote, having made the determination that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights, the committee recalled her to appear today to answer questions pursuant to rules. *The committee voted and found that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights by making a statement on May 22nd, 2013, and additionally, by affirming documents after making a statement of [her] Fifth Amendment rights.*
>
> *If Ms. Lerner continues to refuse to answer questions from our members while she is under a subpoena, the committee may proceed to consider whether she should be held in contempt.*

The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs: Hr'g before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, 113th Cong. 3-5 (Mar. 5, 2014) ("March 5, 2014 Hearing Session") (statement of Chairman Issa) (emphases added).

As the March 5, 2014 Hearing Session proceeded, Ms. Lerner did exactly what the Chairman warned her against: She continued to assert the Fifth Amendment and refused to answer any questions put to her by the Oversight Committee.

ANALYSIS

Part I: The Legal Framework – the *Quinn* Trilogy

On May 23, 1955, the Supreme Court released three opinions: *Quinn*, 349 U.S. 155; *Emspak*, 349 U.S. 190; and *Bart*, 349 U.S. 219. All three opinions concerned witnesses who refused to answer questions put to them by a House investigative committee, and all of whom then were prosecuted for, and convicted of, violating 2 U.S.C. § 192 for their refusal to answer that committee's questions. Section 192 provided then, as it provides now, that:

> Every person who having been summoned as a witness by the authority of either House of Congress to give testimony . . . under inquiry before . . . any committee of either House of Congress, willfully makes default, or who, having appeared, refuses to answer any question pertinent to the question under inquiry, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than $1,000 nor less than $100 and imprisonment in a common jail for not less than one month nor more than twelve months.

In each of the three cases (the principal cases on which Mr. Rosenberg relies in opining as he does), the Supreme Court considered whether the requisite criminal intent – i.e., "a deliberate, intentional refusal to answer," *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 165 – could be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. The Court articulated the legal standard for resolving that question as follows: "[U]nless the witness is clearly apprised that the committee demands his answer notwithstanding his objections, there can be no conviction under § 192 for refusal to answer that question." *Id.* at 166; *see also id.* at 167 (all that is required is "a clear disposition of the witness' objection"); *Emspak*, 349 U.S. at 202 (witness must be "confronted with a clear-cut choice between compliance and noncompliance, between answering the question and risking prosecution for contempt"); *Bart*, 349 U.S. at 222-23 ("Without such a [clear-cut] ruling [on the witness' objection], evidence of the requisite criminal intent to violate § 192 is lacking.").

The Supreme Court went on to say that the prosecution could establish that the "witness [had been] clearly apprised that the committee demands his answer notwithstanding his objections," *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 166 – and thereby defeat a motion to dismiss a section 192 indictment – in one of two ways:

- directly, by demonstrating that the congressional entity – here, the Oversight Committee – specifically overruled the witness' objection; *or*

- indirectly, by demonstrating that the congressional entity specifically directed the witness to answer.[3]

In *Quinn*, *Emspak* and *Bart*, the Court determined that the House investigative committee had done neither (and, as a result, concluded that the witnesses could not be prosecuted under section 192):

> At no time did the committee specifically overrule [the witness'] objection based on the Fifth Amendment; *nor* did the committee indicate its overruling of the objection by specifically directing [the witness] to answer. In the absence of such committee action, [the witness] was never confronted with a clear-cut choice between compliance and noncompliance, between answering the question and risking prosecution for contempt. At best he was left to guess whether or not the committee had accepted his objection.

Quinn, 349 U.S. at 166 (emphasis added).

> At no time did the committee specifically overrule [the witness'] objection based on the Fifth Amendment, *nor* did the committee indicate its overruling of the objection by specifically directing [the witness] to answer. In the absence of such committee action, [the witness] was never confronted with a clear-cut choice between compliance and noncompliance, between answering the question and risking prosecution for contempt.

Emspak, 349 U.S. at 202 (emphasis added).

---

[3] *See also Presser v. United States*, 284 F.2d 233, 235-36 (D.C. Cir. 1960) (affirming conviction upon determining that witness sufficiently apprised of requirement that he testify based on Chairman's directing that he do so, notwithstanding absence of any express overruling of witness' Fifth Amendment objection); *Grossman v. United States*, 229 F.2d 775, 776 (D.C. Cir. 1956) (noting, in discussing *Quinn* trilogy, that Supreme Court "held that the Committee must *either* specifically overrule the objection *or* specifically direct the witness to answer despite his objection" (emphases added)); *United States v. Singer*, 139 F. Supp. 847, 848, 853 n.6 (D.D.C. 1956) ("To lay the necessary foundation for a prosecution under Section 192 . . . a congressional investigating committee before whom a witness appears must specifically overrule the objections of the witness *or* specifically direct him to answer despite his objections"; "Committee must *either* specifically overrule the objection *or* specifically direct the witness to answer despite his objection." (emphases added)), *aff'd sub nom. Singer v. United States*, 244 F.2d 349 (D.C. Cir.), *vacated & rev'd on other grounds*, 247 F.2d 535 (D.C. Cir. 1957).

> At no time did the committee directly overrule [the witness'] claims of self-incrimination or lack of pertinency. *Nor* was [the witness] indirectly informed of the committee's position through a specific direction to answer. . . .
>
> Because of the consistent failure to advise the witness of the committee's position as to his objections, [the witness] was left to speculate about the risk of possible prosecution for contempt; he was not given a clear choice between standing on his objection and compliance with a committee ruling.

Bart, 349 U.S. at 222-23 (emphasis added).

In ruling as it did, the Supreme Court made clear that the notice to a witness of the rejection of his or her objection need not follow "any fixed verbal formula." *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 170; *see also Flaxer v. United States*, 358 U.S. 147, 152 (1958) ("'[T]he committee is not required to resort to any fixed verbal formula to indicate its disposition of the objection.'" (quoting *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 170)). Rather, "[s]o long as the witness is not forced to guess the committee's ruling, he has no cause to complain." *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 170; *accord Flaxer*, 358 U.S. at 152.

Part II: Application of the Legal Framework Here

Here, the factual record overwhelmingly supports the conclusion that Ms. Lerner would "ha[ve] no cause to complain" if she were to be indicted and prosecuted under 2 U.S.C. § 192 because she was "not forced to guess the [C]ommittee's ruling" on her Fifth Amendment claim. *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 170. This is so for two reasons.

First, unlike in *Quinn*, *Emspak* and *Bart*, the Oversight Committee specifically overruled Ms. Lerner's Fifth Amendment objection (and then advised her that it had done so):

- By virtue of its June 28, 2013 Resolution, the Committee formally "determine[d] that the voluntary statement offered by Ms. Lerner constituted a waiver of her Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination as to all questions within

the subject matter of the Committee hearing that began on May 22, 2013." June 28, 2013 Res.

- The Chairman then stated in his February 25, 2014 letter to Ms. Lerner's counsel that "[t]he Committee . . . determined that Ms. Lerner in fact had waived [her Fifth Amendment] right," Issa Feb. 25, 2014 Letter at 1, and that "the Committee explicitly rejected [Ms. Lerner's] Fifth Amendment privilege claim," *id.* at 2.
- The Chairman then reiterated during the reconvened hearing session on March 5, 2014 – at which Ms. Lerner physically was present with her counsel – that "[a]t a business meeting on June 28, 2013, the committee approved a resolution rejecting Ms. Lerner's claim of Fifth Amendment privilege based on her waiver," and that "[t]he committee voted and found that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights by making a statement on May 22nd, 2013, and additionally, by affirming documents after making a statement of Fifth Amendment rights." Mar. 5, 2014 Hr'g Session at 4-5.

It is hard to imagine "a clear[er] disposition of [Ms. Lerner's] objection," *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 167, and plainly she was "left to guess" at nothing, *id.* at 166. Through her counsel, she acknowledged that she "underst[oo]d that the Committee voted that she had waived her rights," Taylor Feb. 26, 2014 Letter at 1, and even Mr. Rosenberg admits that the Committee "on June 28, 2013 . . . reject[ed] Ms. Lerner's privilege claim," Rosenberg Mem. at 2.[4]

[4] Given Mr. Rosenberg's explicit acknowledgement of what occurred on June 28, 2013, we are at a loss to understand the significance he attaches to the fact that the "Chair [did not] . . . expressly overrule [Ms. Lerner's] claim of privilege" on March 5, 2014. Rosenberg Mem. at 2. The Chairman did not need to rule on Ms. Lerner's Fifth Amendment claim at the March 5, 2014 reconvened hearing because the Committee already formally had rejected her claim more than eight months earlier. To the extent Mr. Rosenberg implies that the Committee had to re-reject Ms. Lerner's Fifth Amendment claim on March 5, 2014, we are aware of no authority that

Second, although it was not required to do so (in light of its express rejection of Ms. Lerner's Fifth Amendment claim on June 28, 2013, and its communication of that determination to her), the Oversight Committee also specifically directed Ms. Lerner to answer its questions, and then reinforced that direction by making clear that she risked being held in contempt if she did not comply (again, unlike in *Quinn*, *Emspak* and *Bart*). In particular:

- The Chairman stated in his February 25, 2014 letter to Ms. Lerner's counsel that "because the Committee explicitly rejected [Ms. Lerner's] Fifth Amendment privilege claim, I expect her to provide answers when the hearing reconvenes on March 5." Issa Feb. 25, 2014 Letter at 2.[5]
- The Chairman's February 25, 2014 letter was preceded by extensive discussion at the Committee's June 28, 2013 public business meeting of the possibility that Ms. Lerner could be held in contempt. *See, e.g.*, June 28, 2013 Bus. Meeting Tr. at 24 (statement of Rep. Mica) ("And the ranking member is correct, she may be held in contempt in the future."); *id.* at 45 (statement of Rep. Meehan) ("To the extent that she will invoke the Fifth Amendment privilege, and we would hold her in contempt, it will go before ultimately a qualified court of law."); *id.* at 53 (statement of Rep. Lynch) ("[W]e assume that there will be a contempt citation issued by this Congress.").
- And, the Chairman's February 25, 2014 letter was succeeded, during the reconvened hearing session on March 5, 2014, by this verbal warning: "If Ms.

---

supports such a suggestion, nor has Mr. Rosenberg cited any. Moreover, and in any event, the Chairman did reiterate at the March 5, 2014 reconvened hearing, after specifically drawing Ms. Lerner's attention to these developments, that, "[a]t a business meeting on June 28, 2013, the [C]ommittee approved a resolution rejecting Ms. Lerner's claim of Fifth Amendment privilege based on her waiver." Mar. 5, 2014 Hr'g Session at 4-5.

[5] The Rosenberg Memorandum does not mention the Chairman's February 25, 2014 letter.

> Lerner continues to refuse to answer questions from our members while she is under a subpoena, the [C]ommittee may proceed to consider whether she should be held in contempt." Mar. 5, 2014 Hr'g Session at 5.[6]

For all these reasons, we do not agree with Mr. Rosenberg that "the requisite legal foundation for a criminal contempt of Congress prosecution [against Ms. Lerner] . . . ha[s] not been met and that such a proceeding against [her] under 2 U.S.C. [§] 19[2], if attempted, will be dismissed." Rosenberg Mem. at 4. In this Office's opinion, there is no constitutional impediment to (i) the Committee approving a resolution recommending that the full House hold Ms. Lerner in contempt of Congress; (ii) the full House approving a resolution holding Ms. Lerner in contempt of Congress; (iii) if such resolutions are approved, the Speaker certifying the matter to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 194; and (iv) a grand jury indicting, and the United States Attorney prosecuting, Ms. Lerner under 2 U.S.C. § 192.

In other words, contrary to Mr. Rosenberg's conclusion, we think it highly unlikely a district court would dismiss a section 192 indictment of Ms. Lerner on the ground that she was insufficiently apprised that the Committee demanded her answers to its questions, notwithstanding her Fifth Amendment objection.

---

[6] This is in sharp contrast to *Bart* – to which Mr. Rosenberg attaches substantial significance, *see* Rosenberg Mem. at 3 – where a committee Member "suggest[ed] to the chairman that the witness 'be advised of the possibilities of contempt' for failure to respond, but the suggestion was rejected [by the chairman]." *Bart*, 349 U.S. at 222 (footnote omitted). Here, the Chairman expressly advised Ms. Lerner that she risked being held in contempt of Congress if she continued to refuse to answer the Committee's questions.

Part III: Response to Other Rosenberg Conclusions/Theories

We discuss here four other respects in which Mr. Rosenberg's legal analysis is flawed.

1. Mr. Rosenberg appears to contend that the Committee was obligated to warrant in some fashion to Ms. Lerner that she would *in fact* be prosecuted if she did not answer its questions. *See* Rosenberg Mem. at 2 ("At no time during his questioning [during the March 5, 2014 reconvened hearing] did the Chair . . . make it clear that [Ms. Lerner's] refusal to respond would result in a criminal contempt prosecution."); *id.* at 3 ("[I]t [was not] made unequivocally certain that [Ms. Lerner's] failure to respond [to the Committee's questions] would result in criminal contempt prosecution."); *id.* at 4 ("[T]here could be no certainty for the witness and her counsel that a contempt prosecution was inevitable."). But Mr. Rosenberg cites no authority to support this "inevitability" proposition, and indeed there is none. *Cf. Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 166 (standard is whether witness clearly apprised that committee demands his answer notwithstanding his objections; emphasizing that standard requires only that witness be presented choice "between answering the question and *risking* prosecution for contempt" (emphasis added)); *Emspak*, 349 U.S. at 202 (same); *Bart*, 349 U.S. at 221-22 (same).

Indeed, there could be no such guarantee because a section 192 prosecution of Ms. Lerner would be a multi-step process, involving many different actors, none of whose conduct or decisions could be guaranteed in advance.

- The process would begin with a Committee vote on a resolution recommending to the full House that Ms. Lerner be held in contempt – and the outcome of that vote could not be guaranteed in advance.

- Assuming the Committee approved such a resolution, a vote in the full House on a resolution of contempt would follow – and the outcome of that vote also could not be guaranteed in advance.
- Assuming the full House approved such a resolution, the Speaker would be statutorily obligated to refer the matter to the United States Attorney (an officer of a separate branch of the federal government) who would be statutorily obligated to present the matter to a grand jury.
- Assuming the United States Attorney carried out his statutory obligation – again, something that could not be guaranteed in advance – a section 192 prosecution of Ms. Lerner still would require the return of an indictment by a grand jury that does not yet even exist, and whose actions also could not be guaranteed in advance.

In short, if Mr. Rosenberg were correct, no witness before a congressional committee *ever* could be prosecuted for violating section 192, no matter how contumacious his/her conduct.

2. Mr. Rosenberg also appears to contend that the *Quinn* trilogy required the Committee *both* to overrule Ms. Lerner's Fifth Amendment objection *and* to direct her to answer its questions. *See* Rosenberg Mem. at 3. But this is an incorrect reading of the Supreme Court's reasoning in the *Quinn* trilogy, *see supra* Analysis, Part I, as confirmed by the D.C. Circuit, both in its holding in *Presser* and in *Grossman*, *see id.* at n.3. We are not aware of any case that holds otherwise, and Mr. Rosenberg has not cited one.[7] Moreover, Mr. Rosenberg's contention is

[7] Aside from the *Quinn* trilogy, Mr. Rosenberg cites no authority on the notice issue other than *Fagerhaugh v. United States*, 232 F.2d 803 (9th Cir. 1956), and *Jackins v. United States*, 231 F.2d 405 (9th Cir. 1956), neither of which he discusses. Those cases are inapposite here for at least two reasons. *First*, the statements in those cases upon which Mr. Rosenberg presumably would rely are dicta. In *Fagerhaugh*, the House committee neither overruled the witness' Fifth

beside the point because the Oversight Committee *both* overruled Ms. Lerner's Fifth Amendment objection, *and* directed her to answer its questions. *See supra* Analysis, Part II.

3. Mr. Rosenberg also states, immediately after asserting that "a proceeding against Ms. Lerner under 2 U.S.C. [§] 19[2], if attempted, will be dismissed," Rosenberg Mem. at 4, that "[s]uch a dismissal will likely also occur if the House seeks civil contempt enforcement," *id.* By "civil contempt enforcement," Mr. Rosenberg presumably means a subpoena enforcement action – like the Committee's subpoena enforcement action against Attorney General Holder in the Fast and Furious matter – pursuant to a House resolution authorizing the Oversight Committee to initiate such an action against Ms. Lerner.[8]

Amendment objection nor directed the witness to answer after he had asserted his Fifth Amendment objection. *See* 232 F.2d at 804. In fact, after the witness asserted his Fifth Amendment objection, "the Committee seem[ed] to abandon the question and proceed[ed] to inquire about other matters." *Id.* at 805. Similarly, in *Jackins*, the House committee did not direct the witness to answer the relevant questions and, as far as the record reveals, also did not overrule the witness' objection. *See* 231 F.2d at 406-07. In short, neither case actually *held* that a section 192 prosecution requires that a witness' objection be overruled *and* that she be directed to answer – because neither court had occasion to actually decide that issue.

Second, *Fagerhaugh* and *Jackins* are not the law in the District of Columbia, where Ms. Lerner would be prosecuted if she were indicted for violating section 192. *See* Fed. R. Crim. P. 18 ("Unless a statute or these rules permit otherwise, the government must prosecute an offense in a district where the offense was committed."); 2 U.S.C. § 192 (not providing for different venue). *Presser* and *Grossman*, on the other hand, are the law in the District of Columbia, and both say that a section 192 prosecution can proceed if a committee *either* specifically overrules a witness' objection *or* specifically directs the witness to answer despite her objection.

Other circuits that have considered this issue agree with the D.C. Circuit that a committee may apprise a witness of the necessity of choosing between answering a question and risking contempt *either* by overruling her objection *or* by directing her to answer. *See Braden v. United States*, 272 F.2d 653, 661 (5th Cir. 1959) (affirming section 192 conviction after inquiring only whether committee provided direction to answer; no inquiry into whether objection expressly overruled); *Davis v. United States*, 269 F.2d 357, 362-63 (6th Cir. 1959) (same; emphasizing *Quinn*'s admonition that, "'[s]o long as the witness is not forced to guess the committee's ruling, [the witness] has no cause to complain'"; "'[T]he committee is not required to resort to any fixed verbal formula to indicate its disposition of the objection.'" (quoting *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 170)).

[8] *See* H. Res. 706, 112th Cong. (June 28, 2012) (enacted) (authorizing Oversight Committee to initiate civil subpoena enforcement action against Attorney General); *cf.* H. Res. 711, 112th

Such a subpoena enforcement action would be a civil suit and would not arise under section 192, which means that criminal intent would not be at issue, and the *Quinn* trilogy would not apply. *Cf. supra* Analysis, Part I. Accordingly, the assertion that "civil contempt enforcement" likely would be dismissed is simply that: a bare assertion that is unsupported by any analysis or case law in the Rosenberg Memorandum.

4. Lastly, we note that Mr. Rosenberg more recently suggested that the Chairman's "last question to [Ms.] Lerner [on March 5, 2014] further reflects the uncertainty of what the [C]ommittee intended. He asked her whether she still wanted to 'testify' with a week[']s delay, referencing communications between the [C]ommittee and her attorney." Michael Stern, *Can Lois Lerner Skate on a Technicality?*, Point of Order (Mar. 20, 2014, 11:46 AM), http://www.pointoforder.com/2014/03/20/can-lois-lerner-skate-on-a-technicality/#more-5510 (scroll down to "Mort Rosenberg responds"); *see also* Mem. from Louis Fisher to H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform at 2 (Mar. 16, 2014) (suggesting, in similar vein, that (i) Ms. Lerner might have been willing to testify had the Committee recalled her one week later, and (ii) because Committee did not wait that week, it "has not made the case that [Ms. Lerner] acted in contempt . . . . [, and, i]f litigation resulted, courts are likely to reach the same conclusion"). The factual backdrop for these incorrect notions is as follows.

On March 1, 2014, Ms. Lerner's counsel suggested to a Committee staffer that she might testify if there was a one week delay in the reconvening of the hearing. The Committee's General Counsel promptly sought clarification: "I understand . . . that Ms. Lerner is willing to testify, and she is requesting a one week delay. In talking . . . to the Chairman, wanted to make sure we had this right." E-mail from Stephen Castor, Gen. Counsel, H. Comm. on Oversight &

Cong. (June 28, 2012) (enacted) (holding Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. in contempt of Congress for failure to comply with Oversight Committee subpoena).

Gov't Reform, to William W. Taylor, III, Esq. (Mar. 1, 2014, 2:11 PM EST). One hour later, Ms. Lerner's counsel responded "[y]es." E-mail from William W. Taylor, III, Esq. to Stephen Castor, Gen. Counsel, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (Mar. 1, 2014, 3:10 PM EST).

Two days later, Ms. Lerner's offer, if that is what it was, was off the table. Specifically, the Committee's General Counsel emailed Ms. Lerner's counsel, on March 3, 2014, as follows:

> We are getting some mixed messages from reporters about your current position. . . . You said your client was going to testify and requested a one week delay. On Sat[urday, March 1, 2014,] I indicated the Chairman would be in a position to confer with his members on that request on Monday [March 3, 2014]. Do you have a current ask that you want us to take back? If so please state it.

E-mail from Stephen Castor, Gen. Counsel, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to William W. Taylor, III, Esq. (Mar. 3, 2014, 11:01 AM EST). Three hours later, Ms. Lerner's counsel responded, "*I have no ask. She will appear Wednesday* [March 5, 2014]." E-mail from William W. Taylor, III, Esq., to Stephen Castor, Gen. Counsel, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform (Mar. 3, 2014, 2:07 PM EST) (emphasis added).

At the reconvened hearing on March 5, 2014, the Chairman's final question to Ms. Lerner – which Messrs. Rosenberg and Fisher both reference – appears to reflect nothing more than the Chairman's effort to ascertain for certain Ms. Lerner's position on this issue:

> Ms. Lerner, on Saturday [March 1, 2014], our committee's general counsel sent an email to your attorney saying, "I understand that Ms. Lerner is willing to testify and she is requesting a 1 week delay. In talking . . . to the chairman, wanted to make sure that was right." Your lawyer, in response to that question, gave a one word email response, "yes." Are you still seeking a 1 week delay in order to testify?

Mar. 5, 2014 Hr'g Session at 8 (statement of Chairman Issa). Ms. Lerner responded that, "[o]n the advice of my counsel, I respectfully exercise my Fifth Amendment right and decline to answer that question." *Id.* (statement of Lois Lerner).

Accordingly, at the time the March 5, 2014 reconvened hearing closed, there was, as a matter of fact, no offer on the table by Ms. Lerner to testify in exchange for a one-week delay (and no basis for confusion on the part of anyone with access to the facts). Her attorney had nixed that idea on March 3, 2014, and Ms. Lerner's final Fifth Amendment assertion confirmed that she was not willing to testify before the Committee – period.

In addition, as a legal matter, a witness before a congressional committee who has been subpoenaed to testify, as Ms. Lerner was, does not get to choose when to comply. While the Committee could have agreed to reschedule Ms. Lerner's testimony, it was not obliged to do so. Indeed, if the law were otherwise, a congressional subpoena would have no force at all because a witness always could promise to testify "tomorrow." *See, e.g.*, *United States v. Bryan*, 339 U.S. 323, 331 (1950) ("A subpoena has never been treated as an invitation to a game of hare and hounds, in which the witness must testify only if cornered at the end of the chase. If that were the case, then, indeed, the great power of testimonial compulsion, so necessary to the effective functioning of courts and legislatures, would be a nullity."); *Eisler v. United States*, 170 F.2d 273, 279 (D.C. Cir. 1948) ("Having been summoned by lawful authority, [the witness] was bound to conform to the procedure of the Committee."); *Comm. on the Judic., U.S. House of Representatives v. Miers*, 558 F. Supp. 2d 53, 99 (D.D.C. 2008) ("The Supreme Court has made it abundantly clear that compliance with a congressional subpoena is a legal requirement."); *United States v. Brewster*, 154 F. Supp. 126, 134 (D.D.C. 1957) ("[A]witness has no right to set his own conditions for testifying or to force the committee to depart from its settled

procedures."), *rev'd on other grounds*, 255 F.2d 899 (D.C. Cir. 1958); *accord United States v. Orman*, 207 F.2d 148, 158 (3d Cir. 1953) ("In general a witness before a congressional committee must abide by the committee's procedures and has no right to vary them or to impose conditions upon his willingness to testify."). Neither Mr. Rosenberg nor Mr. Fisher has cited any case law or other authority to the contrary.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons stated above, it is this Office's considered opinion that Mr. Rosenberg is wrong in concluding that "the requisite legal foundation for a criminal contempt of Congress prosecution [of Ms. Lerner] . . . ha[s] not been met and that such a proceeding against [her] under 2 U.S.C. [§] 19[2], if attempted, will be dismissed." Rosenberg Mem. at 4.

April 9, 2014

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Cummings:

The Committee has engaged in a comprehensive and thorough examination of the IRS targeting of tax-exempt applicants. From the very outset, you have worked to obstruct the investigation, even declaring on national television after only a few weeks of fact-finding that the "case is solved."[1] New IRS documents identified by the Committee raise disturbing concerns about your possible motivations for opposing this investigation and unwillingness to lend your support to efforts to obtain the testimony of former IRS Exempt Organizations Director Lois G. Lerner.

Although you have previously denied that your staff made inquiries to the IRS about conservative organization True the Vote that may have led to additional agency scrutiny, records of communication between your staff and IRS officials – which you did not disclose to Majority Members or staff – indicate otherwise. As the Committee is scheduled to consider a resolution holding Ms. Lerner, a participant in responding to your communications that you failed to disclose, in contempt of Congress, you have an obligation to fully explain your staff's undisclosed contacts with the IRS.

Ms. Catherine Engelbrecht, the founder and President of True the Vote, an organization that had applied for tax-exempt status with the IRS, testified before the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Regulatory Affairs about the IRS targeting of True the Vote.[2] During this proceeding, she alleged that you targeted her group in the same manner as the IRS. She testified: "Three times, Representative Elijah Cummings sent letters to True the Vote, demanding much of the same information that the IRS had requested. Hours after sending

[1] *State of the Union with Candy Crowley* (CNN television broadcast June 9, 2013) (interview with Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings).

[2] *"The IRS Targeting Investigation: What Is the Administration Doing?": Hearing before the Subcomm. on Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Regulatory Affairs of the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't & Reform*, 113th Cong. (2014).

letters, he would appear on cable news and publicly defame me and my organization. Such tactics are unacceptable."[3]

During the hearing, Ms. Engelbrecht's attorney, Cleta Mitchell, raised the possibility that your staff had coordinated with the IRS in targeting True the Vote. Your exchange with Ms. Mitchell was as follows:

Ms. Mitchell:	**We want to get to the bottom of how these coincidences happened, and we're going to try to figure out whether any – if there was any staff of this committee that might have been involved in putting True the Vote on the radar screen of some of these Federal agencies.** We don't know that, but we – we're going to do everything we can do to try to get to the bottom of how did this all happen.
Mr. Cummings:	Will the gentleman yield?
Mr. Meadows:	Yes.
Mr. Cummings:	I want to thank the gentleman for his courtesy. **What she just said is absolutely incorrect and not true.**[4]

Beginning in 2010, congressional Democrats publicly and aggressively lobbied the IRS to crack down on 501(c)(4) organizations involved in political speech. Senator Dick Durbin urged the IRS to "quickly investigate the tax-exempt status of Crossroads GPS,"[5] and Senator Max Baucus implored the IRS to "survey major" nonprofit groups.[6] In March 2012, Representative Peter Welch and 31 other Democrats urged the IRS to "investigate whether any groups qualifying as social welfare organizations under 501(c)(4) . . . are improperly engaged in political campaign activity.[7]

New IRS e-mails obtained in the Committee's investigation of IRS targeting indicate that in late August 2012, your staff contacted the IRS to notify them that you "are about to launch an investigation similar to the one launched by Cong. Welch's office."[8] In October 2012, you sent the first of a series of letters to Ms. Engelbrecht, President of True the Vote, an organization that had applied for tax-exempt status with the IRS.[9] Your letter requested various categories of

---

[3] *Id.* (written testimony of Catherine Engelbrecht, True the Vote).
[4] *Id.*
[5] Press Release, Senator Dick Durbin, Durbin urges IRS to investigate spending by Crossroads GPS (Oct. 12, 2010).
[6] Letter from Max Baucus, S. Comm. on Finance, to Douglas H. Shulman, Internal Revenue Serv. (Sept. 28, 2010).
[7] Letter from Peter Welch et al., U.S. House of Representatives, to Douglas Shulman, Internal Revenue Serv. (Mar. 28, 2012).
[8] E-mail from Catherine Williams, Internal Revenue Serv., to Ross Kiser & Kevin Smith, Internal Revenue Serv. (Aug. 31, 2012). [IRSR 563026]
[9] Letter from Elijah E. Cummings, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to Catherine Engelbrecht, True the Vote (Oct. 4, 2012) [hereinafter "Ranking Member Cummings Letter"].

information from Ms. Engelbrecht.[10] Several of your requests are virtually identical to the information requests sent by the IRS to True the Vote in February 2012.[11] For example:

- The IRS asked True the Vote "how many jurisdictions have you presented your review of voter rolls to election administration?"[12] You similarly requested "a list of voter registration rolls by state, county, and precinct that True the Vote is currently reviewing for potential challenges"; "a list of all individual voter registration challenges by state, county, and precinct submitted to government entities"; and "copies of all letters sent to states, counties, or other entities alleging non-compliance with the National Voter Registration Act for failing to conduct voter registrations list maintenance prior to the November elections."[13]

- The IRS inquired about the intellectual property rights associated with True the Vote's voter registration software.[14] You requested "copies of computer programs, research software, and databases used by True the Vote to review voter registration"; all contracts, agreements, and memoranda of understanding between True the Vote and affiliates or other entities relating to the terms of use of True the Vote research software and databases"; and "a list of all organizations and volunteer groups that currently have access to True the Vote computer programs, research software, and databases."[15]

- The IRS asked True the Vote for information describing "the training process used by the organization" and for a copy of "any training materials used."[16] You, likewise, requested "copies of all training materials used for volunteers, affiliates, or other entities."[17]

- The IRS requested information about any for-profit organizations associated with True the Vote.[18] You similarly requested "a list of vendors of voter information, voter registration lists, and other databases used by True the Vote, its volunteers, and its affiliates."[19]

This timeline and pattern of inquiries raises concerns that the IRS improperly shared protected taxpayer information with your staff.

---

[10] *Id.*
[11] Letter from Janine L. Estes, Internal Revenue Serv., to True the Vote, c/o Cleta Mitchell, Foley & Lardner LLP (Feb. 8, 2012) [hereinafter "IRS Letter"].
[12] *Id.*
[13] Ranking Member Cummings Letter, *supra* note 9.
[14] IRS Letter, *supra* note 11.
[15] Ranking Member Cummings Letter, *supra* note 9.
[16] IRS Letter, *supra* note 11.
[17] Ranking Member Cummings Letter, *supra* note 9.
[18] IRS Letter, *supra* note 11.
[19] Ranking Member Cummings Letter, *supra* note 9.

According to Ms. Engelbrecht, following your initial document request to her,[20] she faced additional scrutiny by multiple agencies and outside groups, including the IRS and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. For example, five days after your initial document request to Ms. Engelbrecht, in which you requested, among other things, "copies of all training materials used for volunteers, affiliates, or other entities,"[21] the IRS requested that Ms. Engelbrecht provide "a copy of [True the Vote's] volunteer registration form," "...the process you use to assign volunteers," "how you keep your volunteers in teams," and "how your volunteers are deployed ... following the training they receive by you."[22] Less than two weeks after your initial document request to Ms. Engelbrecht, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) urged Lois Lerner to deny True the Vote's application for tax exempt status.[23] The following day, you sent a second request for documents to Ms. Engelbrecht, which you publicly described as "Ramp[ing] Up" your "Investigation" of True the Vote.[24]

In January 2013, your staff requested information from the IRS about True the Vote.[25] The head of the IRS Legislative Affairs office e-mailed several IRS officials, including former Exempt Organizations Director Lois Lerner, that "House Oversight Committee Minority staff" sought information about True the Vote.[26] The e-mail shows that your staff requested tax returns filed by True the Vote as well as any other IRS material about True the Vote's tax-exempt status.

From: Barre Catherine M
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2013 02:58 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Lerner Lois G; Paz Holly O; Marks Nancy J
Subject: House Oversight Committee Minority Staff

The house oversight committee (not the subcommittee of ways and means) has requested any publicly available information on an entity that they believe has filed for c3 status.

They do not have a waiver.

The entity is KSP True the Vote EIN [redacted].

They believe the entity has filed tax returns in the past and would like copies of those if they are publicly available in addition to any other information that is publicly available about the entity's tax-exempt status.

In response to your staff's request, Lerner's subordinate Holly Paz – who has since been placed on administrative leave for her role in the targeting of conservative groups[27] – asked an

[20] Letter from Hon. Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member, House Comm. on Oversight and Govt. Reform, to Ms. Catherine Engelbrecht, Oct. 4, 2012.
[21] *Id.*
[22] Letter from IRS to True the Vote, Inc., October 9, 2012.
[23] Letter from Judith A. Scott, General Counsel, Service Employees International Union, to Douglas Shulman and Lois Lerner, Oct. 17, 2012.
[24] Press Release, Hon. Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member, House Comm. on Oversight and Govt. Reform, Oct. 18, 2012, available at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/press-releases/cummings-ramps-up-investigation-of-voter-suppression-allegations/.
[25] E-mail from Catherine Barre, Internal Revenue Serv., to Lois Lerner et al., Internal Revenue Serv. (Jan. 25, 2013). [IRSR 180906]
[26] *Id.*
[27] *See* Eliana Johnson, *Did the IRS fire Holly Paz*, NAT'L REVIEW ONLINE, June 13, 2013.

IRS employee to look for material about True the Vote.[28] This e-mail included material redacted as confidential taxpayer information covered by I.R.C. § 6103, suggesting that the IRS discussed particular sensitivities about True the Vote's tax information as a result of your request. It is unclear how the IRS responded to your request or what information you received from the IRS.

From:	Paz Holly O
Sent:	Friday, January 25, 2013 3:53 PM
To:	Megosh Andy
Subject:	Fw: House Oversight Committee Minority Staff

[redacted]

IRS e-mails indicate that Lois Lerner appeared personally interested in fulfilling your request for information about True the Vote. Your staff requested the information on Friday, January 25, 2013. The following Monday, January 28, Lerner wrote to Paz: "Did we find anything?"[29] When Paz informed her minutes later that she had not heard back about True the Vote's information, Lerner replied: "thanks – check tomorrow please."[30]

[28] E-mail from Holly Paz, Internal Revenue Serv., to Andy Megosh, Internal Revenue Serv. (Jan. 25, 2013). [IRSR 180906]
[29] E-mail from Lois Lerner, Internal Revenue Serv., to Holly Paz, Internal Revenue Serv. (Jan. 28, 2013). [IRSR 557133]
[30] E-mail from Lois Lerner, Internal Revenue Serv., to Holly Paz, Internal Revenue Serv. (Jan. 28, 2013). [IRSR 557133]

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 5:57 PM
To: Paz Holly O
Subject: RE: House Oversight Committee Minority Staff

thanks--check tomorrow please

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Paz Holly O
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 4:04 PM
To: Lerner Lois G
Subject: RE: House Oversight Committee Minority Staff

Have not heard yet. We didn't get the request until people had left on Friday and people were in late or on unscheduled leave today.

From: Lerner Lois G
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 4:01 PM
To: Paz Holly O
Subject: RE: House Oversight Committee Minority Staff

Did we find anything?

Lois G. Lerner
Director of Exempt Organizations

From: Paz Holly O
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2013 4:51 PM
To: Barre Catherine M; Lerner Lois G; Marks Nancy J
Subject: Re: House Oversight Committee Minority Staff

I will see what we have as far as publicly available info and get back to you asap.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Barre Catherine M
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2013 02:58 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Lerner Lois G; Paz Holly O; Marks Nancy J
Subject: House Oversight Committee Minority Staff

The house oversight committee (not the subcommittee of ways and means) has requested any publicly available information on an entity that they believe has filed for c3 status.

Subsequently, on January 31, 2013, Holly Paz informed the IRS Legislative Affairs office that True the Vote had not been recognized for exempt status.[31] Paz attached True the Vote's form 990s, which she authorized the IRS to share with your staff.[32] Paz's e-mail also

[31] E-mail from Holly Paz, Internal Revenue Serv., to Catherine Barre, Internal Revenue Serv. (Jan. 31, 2013). [IRSR 557181]
[32] *Id.*

included information redacted as confidential taxpayer information.[33] It is unclear whether the IRS shared True the Vote's confidential taxpayer information with you or your staff through either official or unofficial channels. The IRS certainly did not share these documents or others related to True the Vote at the time nor did they inform the Majority of your staff's request for information.

From:	Paz Holly O
Sent:	Thursday, January 31, 2013 4:40 AM
To:	Barre Catherine M
Cc:	Lerner Lois G; Marks Nancy J
Subject:	FW: House Oversight Committee Minority Staff
Attachments:	27-2860095 67 201112.pdf; 27-2860095 67 2010 .pdf
Importance:	High

Cathy,

We have no record that this organization is recognized as a tax-exempt organization by virtue of an approved application. As you know, 6103 only permits us to talk about or provide copies of approved applications. [redacted]

6103

[redacted] The organization has filed two Forms 990-EZ (attached) that we can share with the staffers.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss.

Thanks,

Holly

These documents, indicating the involvement of IRS officials at the center of the targeting scandal responding to your requests, raise serious questions about your actions and motivations for trying to bring this investigation to a premature end. If the Committee, as you publicly suggested in June 2013, "wrap[ped] this case up and moved on" at that time,[34] the Committee may have never seen documents raising questions about your possible coordination with the IRS in communications that excluded the Committee Majority. Your frequent complaints about the Committee Majority contacting individuals on official matters without the involvement of Minority staff make the reasons for your staff's secretive correspondence with the IRS even more mysterious.[35]

As the Committee continues to investigate the IRS's wrongdoing and to gather all relevant testimonial and documentary evidence, the American people deserve to know the full truth. They deserve to know why the Ranking Member and Minority staff of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform surreptitiously contacted the IRS about an

---

[33] *Id.*

[34] *State of the Union with Candy Crowley* (CNN television broadcast June 9, 2013) (interview with Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings).

[35] *See, e.g.*, letter from Hon. Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member, House Comm. on Oversight and Govt. Reform, and Hon. Gerald Connolly, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Government Operations, to Hon. J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Feb. 4, 2012.

individual organization without informing the Majority Staff and even failed to disclose the contact after it became an issue during a subcommittee proceeding.

The public deserves a full and truthful explanation for these actions. We ask that you explain the full extent of you and your staff's communications with the IRS and why you chose to keep communications with the IRS from Majority Members and staff even after it became a subject of controversy.

Sincerely,

Darrell Issa
Chairman

John Mica
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

Jim Jordan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic Growth,
Job Creation, and Regulatory Affairs

Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

James Lankford
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Policy,
Health Care and Entitlements

Blake Farenthold
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Workforce,
U.S. Postal Service and the Census

VIII. MINORITY VIEWS

Democratic Members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

OPPOSITION TO RESOLUTION BY CHAIRMAN DARRELL ISSA PROPOSING THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HOLD LOIS LERNER IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
113TH CONGRESS
APRIL 10, 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

These Minority Views are the opinions of Democratic Members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in opposition to Chairman Darrell Issa's resolution proposing that the House of Representatives hold former Internal Revenue Service (IRS) employee Lois Lerner in contempt of Congress despite the fact that she exercised her rights under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.

We oppose the resolution because Chairman Issa fundamentally mishandled this investigation and this contempt proceeding. During this investigation, Chairman Issa has made reckless accusations with no evidence to back them up, routinely leaked partial excerpts of interview transcripts to promote misleading allegations, repeatedly ignored opposing viewpoints that are inconsistent with his political narrative, inconceivably rejected an offer by Ms. Lerner's attorney for her to testify with a simple one-week extension, and—in his rush to silence a fellow Committee Member—botched the contempt proceedings by disregarding key due process protections that are required by the Constitution, according to the Supreme Court.

McCarthy Era Precedent for Chairman Issa's Actions

Chairman Issa has identified virtually no historical precedent for successfully convicting an American citizen of contempt after that person has asserted his or her Fifth Amendment right not to testify before Congress. The only era in recent memory when Congress attempted to do this was a disgraceful stain on our nation's history.

We asked the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service (CRS) to identify the last time Congress disregarded an individual's Fifth Amendment rights, held that person in contempt, and pursued a criminal prosecution. CRS went back more than four decades to identify a series cases spanning from 1951 to 1968. In these cases, the Senate Committee on Government Operations led by Senator Joseph McCarthy, the House Un-American Activities Committee, and other committees attempted to hold individuals in contempt even after they asserted their Fifth Amendment rights. In almost every case, juries refused to convict these individuals or Federal courts overturned their convictions.

We oppose Chairman Issa's efforts to re-create the Oversight Committee in Joe McCarthy's image, and we reject his attempts to drag us back to that shameful era in which Congress tried to strip away the Constitutional rights of American citizens under the bright lights of hearings that had nothing to do with responsible oversight and everything to do with the most dishonorable kind of partisan politics.

Chairman Issa Could Have Obtained Lerner's Testimony

The unfortunate irony of Chairman Issa's contempt resolution is that the Committee could have obtained Ms. Lerner's testimony if the Chairman had accepted a reasonable request by her attorney for a simple one-week extension.

When Chairman Issa demanded—with only a week's notice—that Ms. Lerner appear before the Committee on March 5, her attorney had obligations out of town, so he requested an additional seven days to prepare his client to testify. If Chairman Issa had sought our input on this request, every one of us would have accepted it without a moment's hesitation. Anyone actually interested in obtaining Ms. Lerner's testimony would have done the same.

We wanted to question Ms. Lerner about the Inspector General's finding that she failed to conduct sufficient oversight of IRS employees in Cincinnati who developed inappropriate terms to screen tax-exempt applicants. We wanted to know why she did not discover the use of these terms for more than a year, as the Inspector General reported, and how new inappropriate terms were put in place after she had directed employees to stop using them. We also wanted to know why she did not inform Congress sooner about the use of these inappropriate terms.

Instead, Chairman Issa rejected this request without consulting any of us. Even worse, he went on national television and stated—inaccurately—that Ms. Lerner had agreed to testify without the extension, scuttling the offer from Ms. Lerner's attorney. This counterproductive action deprived the Committee of Ms. Lerner's testimony, deprived us of the opportunity to question her, and deprived the American people of information important to our inquiry.

Independent Experts Conclude That Chairman Issa Botched Contempt Proceedings

Based on an overwhelming number of legal assessments from Constitutional law experts across the country—and across the political spectrum—we believe that pressing forward with contempt based on the fatally flawed record compiled by Chairman Issa would undermine the credibility of the Committee and the integrity of the House of Representatives.

We do not believe that Ms. Lerner "waived" her Fifth Amendment rights during the Committee's hearing on May 22, 2013, when she gave a brief statement professing her innocence. Ms. Lerner's attorney wrote to the Committee before the hearing making clear her plan to exercise her Fifth Amendment right not to testify, yet Chairman Issa compelled her to appear in person anyway. Ms. Lerner relied on her attorney's advice at every stage of the proceeding, and there is no doubt about her intent. As the Supreme Court held in 1949, "testimonial waiver is not to be lightly inferred and the courts accordingly indulge every reasonable presumption against finding a testimonial waiver."

In addition, 31 independent legal experts have now come forward to conclude that Chairman Issa botched the contempt proceeding when he abruptly adjourned the Committee's hearing on March 5, 2014. In an effort to prevent Ranking Member Cummings from speaking, Chairman Issa rushed to end the hearing, ignored the Ranking Member's repeated requests for recognition, silenced the Ranking Member's microphone, and drew his hand across his neck while ordering Republican staff to "close it down."

According to more than two dozen Constitutional law experts who have reviewed the record before the Committee, the legal byproduct of Chairman Issa's actions on March 5 was that—in his rush to silence the Ranking Member—he failed to take key steps required by the Constitution, according to the Supreme Court. Specifically, these experts found that the

Chairman did not give Ms. Lerner a clear, unambiguous choice between answering his questions or being held in contempt because he failed to overrule Ms. Lerner's assertion of her Fifth Amendment rights and direct her to answer notwithstanding the invocation of those protections.

Chairman Issa has tried to minimize the significance of these independent experts, but their qualifications speak for themselves. They include two former House Counsels, three former clerks to Supreme Court justices, six former federal prosecutors, several attorneys in private practice, and law professors from Yale, Stanford, Harvard, Duke, and Georgetown, as well as the law schools of several Republican Committee Members, including Temple, University of Michigan, University of South Carolina, George Washington, University of Georgia, and John Marshall. They also include both Democrats and Republicans. For example:

- Morton Rosenberg, who served for 35 years as an expert in Constitutional law and contempt at CRS, concluded that "the requisite due process protections have not been met."

- Stanley M. Brand, who served as House Counsel from 1976 to 1983, concluded that Chairman Issa's failure to comply with Constitutional due process requirements "is fatal to any subsequent prosecution."

- Thomas J. Spulak, who served as House Counsel from 1994 to 1995, concluded that "I do not believe that the proper basis for a contempt of Congress charge has been established."

- J. Richard Broughton, a Professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and a member of the Republican National Lawyers Association, concluded that Ms. Lerner "would likely have a defense to any ensuing criminal prosecution for contempt, pursuant to the existing Supreme Court precedent."

After independent experts raised concerns about these Constitutional deficiencies, Chairman Issa asked the House Counsel's office to draft a memo justifying his actions. We have great respect for the dedicated attorneys in this office, and we recognize their obligation to represent their client, Chairman Issa. However, their memo must be understood for what it is—a legal brief written in preparation for defending Chairman Issa's actions in court.

Because of the gravity of these Constitutional issues and their implications for all American citizens, on June 26, 2013, Ranking Member Cummings asked Chairman Issa to hold a hearing with legal experts from all sides. He wrote: "I believe every Committee Member should have the benefit of testimony from legal experts—on both sides of this issue—to present and discuss the applicable legal standards and historical precedents regarding Fifth Amendment protections for witnesses appearing before Congress." He added: "rushing to vote on a motion or resolution without the benefit of even a single hearing with expert testimony would risk undercutting the legitimacy of the motion or resolution itself."

More than nine months later, Chairman Issa has still refused to hold a hearing with any legal experts, demonstrating again that he simply does not want to hear from anyone who disagrees with his position.

Democrats Call for Full Release of All Committee Interview Transcripts

Rather than jeopardizing Constitutional protections and continuing to waste taxpayer funds in pursuit of deficient contempt litigation, we call on the Committee to release copies of the full transcripts of all 38 interviews conducted during this investigation that have not been released to date.

For the past year, Chairman Issa's central accusation in this investigation has been that the IRS engaged in political collusion directed by—or on behalf of—the White House. Before the Committee received a single document or interviewed one witness, Chairman Issa went on national television and stated: "This was the targeting of the President's political enemies effectively and lies about it during the election year."

The full transcripts show definitively that the Chairman's accusations are baseless. They demonstrate that the White House played no role in directing IRS employees to use inappropriate terms to screen tax-exempt applicants, they show that there was no political bias behind those actions, and they explain in detail how the inappropriate terms were first developed and used.

Until now, Chairman Issa has chosen to leak selected excerpts from interview transcripts and withhold portions that directly contradict his public accusations. For example, Chairman Issa leaked cherry-picked transcript excerpts prior to an appearance on national television on June 2, 2013. When pressed on why he provided only portions instead of the full transcripts, he responded: "these transcripts will all be made public."

On June 9, 2013, Ranking Member Cummings asked Chairman Issa to "release publicly the transcripts of all interviews conducted by Committee staff."

This request included, for example, the full transcript of an interview conducted with a Screening Group Manager in Cincinnati who identified himself as a "conservative Republican." This official explained how one of his own employees first developed the inappropriate terms, and he explained that he knew of no White House involvement or political motivation. As he told us: "I do not believe that the screening of these cases had anything to do other than consistency and identifying issues that needed to have further development."

Although Chairman Issa had promised to release the transcripts, he responded to this request by calling the Ranking Member "reckless" and claiming that releasing the full transcripts would "undermine the integrity of the Committee's investigation." The Ranking Member asked Chairman Issa to "identify the specific text of the transcripts you believe should be withheld from the American public," but he refused. As a result, the Ranking Member released the full transcript of the Screening Group Manager, while deferring to the Chairman on the others.

It has been more than nine months since Chairman Issa promised on national television to release the full transcripts, and we believe it is now time for the Chairman to make good on his promise.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. BACKGROUND

On May 14, 2013, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration issued a report concluding that IRS employees used "inappropriate criteria" to screen applications for tax-exempt status.[1] The first line of the "results" section of the report found that this activity began in 2010 with employees in the Determinations Unit of the IRS office in Cincinnati.[2] The report stated that these employees "developed and used inappropriate criteria to identify applications from organizations with the words Tea Party in their names."[3] The report also stated that these employees "developed and implemented inappropriate criteria in part due to insufficient oversight provided by management."[4]

The Inspector General's report found that Lois Lerner, the former Director of Exempt Organizations at the IRS, did not discover the use of these inappropriate criteria until a year later—in June 2011—after which she "immediately" ordered the practice to stop.[5] Despite this direction, the Inspector General's report found that employees subsequently began using different inappropriate criteria "without management knowledge."[6] The Inspector General reported that "the criteria were not influenced by any individual or organization outside the IRS."[7]

After announcing that the Committee would be investigating this matter—but before the Committee received a single document or interviewed one witness—Chairman Issa went on national television and stated: "This was the targeting of the President's political enemies effectively and lies about it during the election year."[8]

To date, the IRS has produced more than 450,000 pages of documents, Committee staff have conducted 39 transcribed interviews of IRS and Department of the Treasury personnel, and the Committee has held five hearings. The IRS estimates that it has spent between $14 million and $16 million responding to Congressional investigations on this topic.[9]

---

[1] Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, *Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review* (May 14, 2013) (2013-10-053).

[2] *Id.*

[3] *Id.*

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Id.*

[6] *Id.*

[7] *Id.*

[8] *Issa on IRS Scandal: "Deliberate" Ideological Attacks*, CBS News (May 14, 2013) (online at www.cbsnews.com/videos/issa-on-irs-scandal-deliberate-ideological-attacks/).

[9] Letter from Commissioner John Koskinen, Internal Revenue Service, to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Feb. 25, 2014).

On May 14, 2013, Chairman Issa invited Ms. Lerner to testify before the Committee on May 22, 2013.[10] On the same day, Chairman Issa and Chairman Jordan sent a second letter to Ms. Lerner accusing her of providing "false or misleading information" to the Committee, noting that her actions carry "potential criminal liability," and citing Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code providing criminal penalties of up to five years in prison.[11]

The same week, House Speaker John Boehner also raised the specter of criminal prosecution, stating at a press conference: "Now, my question isn't about who's going to resign. My question is who's going to jail over this scandal?" He added: "Clearly someone violated the law."[12]

Based on these accusations of criminal conduct, Ms. Lerner's attorney wrote a letter on May 20, 2013, informing Chairman Issa that he had advised his client to exercise her Fifth Amendment right not to testify and requesting that she not be compelled to appear in person:

> Because Ms. Lerner is invoking her constitutional privilege, we respectfully request that you excuse her from appearing at the hearing. Congress has a longstanding practice of permitting a witness to assert the Fifth Amendment by affidavit or through counsel in lieu of appearing at a public hearing to do so. In addition, the District of Columbia Bar's Legal Ethics Committee has opined that it is a violation of the Bar's ethics rule to require a witness to testify before a congressional committee when it is known in advance that the witness will invoke the Fifth Amendment, and the witness's appearance will serve "no substantial purpose 'other than to embarrass, delay, or burden' the witness." D.C. Legal Ethics Opinion No. 358 (2011); see also D.C. Legal Ethics Opinion No. 31 (1977). Because Ms. Lerner will exercise her right not to answer questions related to the matters discussed in the TIGTA report or to her prior exchanges with the Committee, requiring her to appear at the hearing merely to assert her Fifth Amendment privilege would have no purpose other than to embarrass or burden her.[13]

---

[10] Letter from Chairman Darrell Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Lois Lerner, Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service (May 14, 2013).

[11] Letter from Chairman Darrell Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Chairman Jim Jordan, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Lois Lerner, Director, Exempt Organizations Division, Internal Revenue Service (May 14, 2013).

[12] *Boehner on IRS Scandal: "Who Is Going to Jail?"*, CNN.com (May 15, 2013) (online at http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2013/05/15/boehner-on-irs-scandal-who-is-going-to-jail/).

[13] Letter from William W. Taylor, III, Counsel to Lois Lerner, to Chairman Darrell Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (May 20, 2013).

Rather than accepting the letter from Ms. Lerner's counsel as proof of her intention to invoke her Fifth Amendment right not to testify, Chairman Issa demanded that Ms. Lerner appear before the Committee on May 22, 2013, pursuant to his unilateral subpoena.[14]

On the advice of counsel, Ms. Lerner complied with the subpoena by attending the hearing and invoking her Fifth Amendment rights in a brief statement professing her innocence:

> [M]embers of this committee have accused me of providing false information when I responded to questions about the IRS processing of applications for tax exemption.
>
> I have not done anything wrong. I have not broken any laws. I have not violated any IRS rules or regulations, and I have not provided false information to this or any other congressional committee. And while I would very much like to answer the committee's questions today, I've been advised by my counsel to assert my constitutional right not to testify or answer questions related to the subject matter of this hearing. After very careful consideration, I have decided to follow my counsel's advice and not testify or answer any of the questions today.
>
> Because I'm asserting my right not to testify, I know that some people will assume that I've done something wrong. I have not. One of the basic functions of the Fifth Amendment is to protect innocent individuals, and that is the protection I'm invoking today. Thank you.[15]

After she delivered her statement, Committee Member Trey Gowdy stated:

> She just testified. She just waived her Fifth Amendment right to privilege. You don't get to tell your side of the story and then not be subjected to cross examination. That's not the way it works. She waived her right of Fifth Amendment privilege by issuing an opening statement. She ought to stay in here and answer our questions.[16]

Later in the hearing, Chairman Issa agreed, telling Ms. Lerner:

> You have made an opening statement in which you made assertions of your innocence, assertions you did nothing wrong, assertions you broke no laws or rules. Additionally, you authenticated earlier answers to the IG. At this point I believe you have not asserted your rights, but, in fact, have effectively waived your rights.[17]

---

[14] House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subpoena to Lois Lerner (May 17, 2013); Letter from William Taylor, III, Counsel to Lois Lerner, to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (May 20, 2013).

[15] House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Hearing on The IRS: Targeting Americans for their Political Beliefs* (May 22, 2013).

[16] *Id.*

[17] *Id.*

Chairman Issa then stated:

> For this reason, I have no choice but to excuse the witness subject to recall after we seek specific counsel on the questions of whether or not the constitutional right of the Fifth Amendment has been properly waived. Notwithstanding that, in consultation with the Department of Justice as to whether or not limited or use immunity could be negotiated, the witness and counsel are dismissed.[18]

Chairman Issa recessed the hearing instead of adjourning it, explaining:

> [I]t was brought up by Mr. Gowdy that, in fact, in his opinion as a longtime district attorney, Ms. Lerner may have waived her Fifth Amendment rights by addressing core issues in her opening statement and the authentication afterwards. I must consider this. So, although I excused Ms. Lerner, subject to a recall, I am looking into the possibility of recalling her and insisting that she answer questions in light of a waiver. For that reason and with your understanding and indulgence, this hearing stands in recess, not adjourned.[19]

On June 25, 2013, Chairman Issa announced that the Committee would hold a business meeting three days later to "consider a motion or resolution concerning whether Lois Lerner, the Director of Exempt Organizations at the Internal Revenue Service, waived her Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination when she made a statement at the Committee hearing on May 22, 2013."[20]

On June 26, 2013, Ranking Member Cummings sent a letter to Chairman Issa requesting that the Committee first hold a hearing with Constitutional law experts who could testify about the legal issues involved with Fifth Amendment waivers. He wrote:

> [E]very Committee Member should have the benefit of testimony from legal experts—on both sides of this issue—to present and discuss the applicable legal standards and historical precedents regarding Fifth Amendment protections for witnesses appearing before Congress.[21]

---

[18] *Id.*

[19] *Id.*

[20] House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Oversight Committee to Vote on Lois Lerner's Potential Waiver of Fifth Amendment Right* (June 25, 2013) (online at http://oversight.house.gov/release/oversight-committee-to-vote-on-lois-lerners-potential-waiver-of-fifth-amendment-right/).

[21] Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (June 26, 2013) (online at: http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/press-releases/cummings-asks-issa-for-testimony-from-legal-experts-before-committee-vote-on-lerners-5th-amendment-rights/).

Chairman Issa disregarded this request, and the Committee voted on June 28, 2013, on a partisan basis to adopt a resolution concluding that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights.[22]

On February 25, 2014, Chairman Issa wrote a letter to Ms. Lerner's attorney recalling her to appear before the Committee on March 5, 2014, pursuant to the subpoena that remained in effect.[23]

On February 26, 2014, Ms. Lerner's attorney wrote to the Committee stating that Ms. Lerner did not waive her Fifth Amendment rights when she appeared before the Committee in 2013, reaffirming that she would continue to decline to answer questions, and requesting that the Committee not require her to appear solely for the purpose of again invoking her Fifth Amendment rights.[24]

Again, Chairman Issa insisted that Ms. Lerner appear in person, and, on March 5, 2014, he asked Ms. Lerner a series of questions. She again asserted her right under the Fifth Amendment not to answer his questions.[25] When the Chairman finished asking questions, he adjourned the hearing without overruling Ms. Lerner's invocation of her Fifth Amendment rights or ordering her to answer his questions notwithstanding her assertion. As Chairman Issa rushed to end the hearing, he disregarded repeated requests for recognition by Ranking Member Cummings, silenced the Ranking Member's microphone, and drew his hand across his neck while ordering Republican staff to "close it down."[26]

II. LACK OF HISTORICAL PRECEDENT FOR CHAIRMAN ISSA'S ACTIONS

Chairman Issa has cited virtually no historical precedent for successfully convicting an American citizen of contempt after that person asserts his or her Fifth Amendment right not to testify before Congress.

On March 20, 2014, the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service (CRS) issued a memorandum reviewing "previous instances in which a witness before a congressional committee was voted in contempt of Congress and then prosecuted for refusing to answer the committee's questions or produce documents pursuant to a subpoena after invoking the Fifth

---

[22] House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Business Meeting, Resolution of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (June 28, 2013) (22 yeas, 17 nays).

[23] Letter from Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to William Taylor, III, Counsel to Lois Lerner (Feb. 25, 2014).

[24] Letter from William W. Taylor, III, Counsel to Lois Lerner, to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Feb. 26, 2014).

[25] House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Resumption of Hearing on The IRS: Targeting Americans for their Political Beliefs* (Mar. 5, 2014).

[26] *Id.*

Amendment privilege against self-incrimination."[27] The memo also analyzed whether any subsequent convictions for contempt of Congress under 2 U.S.C. §§ 192, 194 were upheld or overturned.[28] The CRS memorandum is included as Attachment A to these Minority Views.

The CRS memo identified 11 cases spanning from 1951 to 1968 in which congressional committees held individuals in contempt even after they asserted their Fifth Amendment rights. These include seven individuals held in contempt by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, two by the Special Committee on Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce, one by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and one by the Senate Committee on Government Operations.[29] The vast majority of those congressional investigations involved alleged communist activities.

In almost every case, the witnesses were either acquitted or their convictions were overturned on appeal. According to the CRS memo, three of these individuals were not convicted of criminal contempt, and Federal courts overturned the convictions of six more individuals. In three cases, the Supreme Court itself overturned the convictions despite the findings of the congressional committees. In each case, the Court found that the committee had failed to establish a record sufficient to prove the elements of contempt of Congress.[30]

For example, in the case of *Quinn v. United States*, the defendant was held in contempt by the House Committee on Un-American Activities and convicted criminally. The Supreme Court overturned this conviction, finding that "the court below erred in failing to direct a judgment of acquittal."[31] The Court held that a committee must enable a witness to determine "with a reasonable certainty that the committee demanded his answer despite his objection."[32] The Court wrote: "Since the enactment of § 192, the practice of specifically directing a recalcitrant witness to answer has continued to prevail."[33]

In another example highlighted by CRS, *United States v. Hoag,* there are striking similarities between the actions of Senator Joseph McCarthy in 1954 and those of Chairman Issa in the present case. Senator McCarthy chaired the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Committee on Government Operations. During a hearing on August 6, 1954, Senator

---

[27] Congressional Research Service, *Prosecutions for Contempt of Congress and the Fifth Amendment* (Mar. 20, 2014) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/uploads/CRS%20Contempt%20Report%20--%20Redacted.pdf) (noting the possibility that unpublished cases might not be included in its review).

[28] *Id.*

[29] *Id.*

[30] *Id.*

[31] *Quinn v. United States,* 349 U.S. 155, 167 (1955).

[32] *Id.*

[33] *Id.* at 169.

McCarthy repeatedly questioned a woman named Diantha Hoag despite the fact that she had asserted her Fifth Amendment rights. The witness was a coil winder at the Westinghouse Company in Cheektowaga who made $1.71 an hour.[34]

Like Ms. Lerner, Ms. Hoag professed her innocence and then declined to answer subsequent questions. In response to questioning from Senator McCarthy, for example, Ms. Hoag stated: "I have never engaged in espionage nor sabotage. I am not so engaged. I will not so engage in the future. I am not a spy nor a saboteur."[35]

Like Chairman Issa, Senator McCarthy concluded that his witness had waived her Fifth Amendment rights without citing any independent legal opinions or experts. He explained to her at the time:

> For your benefit, you have waived any right as far as espionage is concerned by your volunteering the information you have never engaged in espionage. ... My position is, just for counsel's benefit, when the witness says she never engaged in espionage, then she waived the Fifth Amendment, not merely as to that question, but the entire field of espionage. Giving out information about Government work would be in that field.[36]

The Senate pursued criminal charges, Ms. Hoag was indicted, and she opted for a federal judge to preside over her case instead of a jury. The judge explained the issue before the court:

> The issue, therefore, is whether, by giving that answer, she waived her rights, under the Fifth Amendment, to the questions subsequently propounded. These, generally speaking, had to do with whether she had given information about her work to members of the Communist Party, whether she had discussed at a Communist Party meeting classified Government work, whether she received any clearance before 1947 to work on classified work, whether she did some espionage for the Communist Party seven and one-half years before, the character of work she was doing before 1947, and the city where she worked before her present job.[37]

The judge rejected Senator McCarthy's claims, found no Fifth Amendment waiver, and acquitted the witness of all charges, writing in an opinion in 1956:

> Having in mind the admonition in the recent case of *Emspak v. United States*, 1955, 349 U.S. 190, 196, 75 S.Ct. 687, 691, 99 L.Ed. 997, quoting from *Smith v. United States*, 337

---

[34] Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Government Operations, *Hearing on Subversion and Espionage in Defense Establishments and Industry* (Aug. 6. 1954) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/uploads/McCarthy%20Hearing%2008-06-1954.pdf).

[35] *Id.*

[36] *Id.*

[37] *U.S. v. Hoag*, 142 F. Supp. 667, 668 (D.D.C. 1956) (online at www.courtlistener.com/dcd/cAQM/united-states-v-hoag/).

U.S. 137, 150, 69 S.Ct. 1000, 93 L.Ed. 1264, that "Waiver of constitutional rights * * * is not lightly to be inferred", and in the light of the controlling decisions of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals for this circuit, above referred to, I reach the conclusion that the defendant did not waive her privilege under the Fifth Amendment and therefore did not violate the statute in question in refusing to answer the questions propounded to her. Therefore, I find that she is entitled to a judgment of acquittal on all counts, and judgment will be entered accordingly.[38]

In addition to the cases cited by CRS, Committee staff identified additional cases from the same time period. In four of those cases, federal appellate courts overturned the convictions.[39] In one case, the federal appellate court affirmed the conviction. Unlike in the present case, however, the Chairman in that case gave the witness a direct, unequivocal order to answer the question: "You are ordered—with the permission of the committee the Chair orders and directs you to answer that question."[40]

III. CHAIRMAN ISSA COULD HAVE OBTAINED LERNER'S TESTIMONY

The Committee could have obtained Ms. Lerner's testimony if Chairman Issa had accepted a request by her attorney for a simple one-week extension.

On February 25, 2014, Chairman Issa wrote a letter to Ms. Lerner's attorney recalling her to appear before the Committee on March 5, 2014, pursuant to the subpoena that remained in effect.[41] The next day, Ms. Lerner's attorney wrote to the Committee stating that Ms. Lerner did not waive her Fifth Amendment rights when she appeared before the Committee in 2013, that she would continue to decline to answer questions, and that the Committee should not require her to appear solely for the purpose of again invoking her Fifth Amendment rights.[42]

In the days that followed, Chairman Issa's staff communicated frequently with Ms. Lerner's attorney via email and telephone about various options, including potential hearing testimony. Ultimately, Ms. Lerner's attorney explained that Ms. Lerner was willing to testify if she could obtain a one-week extension to March 12. That extension would have allowed him to adequately prepare his client for the hearing since he had obligations out of town.

---

[38] *Id.*

[39] *See, e.g., Singer v. United States*, 247 F.2d 535 (1957); *U.S. v. Doto,* 205 F.2d 416 (2d Cir. 1953); *Poretto v. U.S.,* 196 F.2d 392 (5th Cir. 1952); *Starkovich v. U.S.,* 231 F.2d 411 (9th Cir. 1956); *Aiuppa v. U.S.,* 201 F. 2d 287 (6th Cir. 1952).

[40] *Presser v. U.S.,* 284 F.2d 233 (D.C. Cir. 1960).

[41] Letter from Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to William W. Taylor, III, Counsel to Lois Lerner (Feb. 25, 2014).

[42] Letter from William W. Taylor, III, Counsel to Lois Lerner, to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Feb. 26, 2014).

On Saturday, March 1, 2014, a staff member working for Chairman Issa wrote an email to Ms. Lerner's counsel stating: "I understand from [another Republican staffer] that Ms. Lerner is willing [sic] testify, and she is requesting a one week delay. In talking to the Chairman, wanted to make sure we had this right."[43] In response, Ms. Lerner's counsel wrote: "Yes."[44]

In a subsequent email, Chairman Issa's staffer memorialized a telephone conversation he had with Ms. Lerner's counsel, writing: "On Sat I indicated the Chairman would be in a position to confer with his members on that request on Monday."[45] It is unclear whether Chairman Issa ever discussed this offer with his Republican colleagues or Speaker Boehner, but he certainly did not discuss it with any Democratic Committee Members, who would have accepted it immediately.

Instead of consulting with Committee Members on the following Monday, Chairman Issa went on national television a day earlier, on Sunday, March 2, 2014, to announce—inaccurately—the "late breaking news" that Ms. Lerner would testify on March 5, 2014. He stated: "Quite frankly, we believe the evidence we've gathered causes her, in her best interest, to be someone who should testify."[46]

As a result of Chairman Issa's actions, the Committee lost the opportunity to obtain Ms. Lerner's testimony. Following Chairman Issa's interview and his inaccurate statements, Ms. Lerner's attorney, William W. Taylor III, explained why he advised Ms. Lerner against testifying:

> We lost confidence in the fairness and the impartiality of the forum. It is completely partisan. There was no possibility in my view that Ms. Lerner would be given a fair opportunity to speak or to answer questions or to tell the truth.[47]

Chairman Issa's staff subsequently claimed that they "didn't realize at the time that Taylor's offer was contingent on the delay."[48]

---

[43] Email from Majority Staff, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to William W. Taylor III, Counsel to Lois Lerner (Mar. 1, 2014). *See also Lawyer for IRS Official Denies Issa Claim Client Will Testify*, Washington Times (Mar. 3, 2014).

[44] Email from William W. Taylor, III, Counsel to Lois Lerner, to Majority Staff, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 1, 2014)

[45] Email from Majority Staff, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to William W. Taylor, III, Counsel to Lois Lerner (Mar. 3, 2014).

[46] *Fox News Sunday,* Fox News (Mar. 2, 2014) (online at www.foxnews.com/on-air/fox-news-sunday-chris-wallace/2014/03/02/rep-mike-rogers-deepening-crisis-ukraine-rep-darrell-issa-talks-irs-investigation-sen-rob#p//v/3281439472001).

[47] *Lerner Again Takes the Fifth in Tea Party Scandal*, USA Today (Mar. 5, 2014) (online at www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2014/03/05/lois-lerner-oversight-issa-irs/6070401/).

IV. INDEPENDENT EXPERTS CONCLUDE THAT CHAIRMAN ISSA BOTCHED CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS

Independent experts conclude that Ms. Lerner did not waive her Fifth Amendment rights by professing her innocence and that Chairman Issa botched the contempt proceeding when he abruptly adjourned the Committee's hearing on March 5 without taking key steps required by the Constitution. Chairman Issa has steadfastly refused to hold a hearing with any legal experts on these issues.

A. No Waiver of Fifth Amendment Rights

Contrary to Chairman Issa's theory that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights when she gave a brief statement professing her innocence, numerous legal experts have concluded that no Fifth Amendment waiver occurred.

On June 26, 2013, Ranking Member Cummings requested that the Chairman hold a hearing so Committee Members could hear directly from independent experts in Constitutional law before voting on a resolution offered by Chairman Issa concluding that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights. Ranking Member Cummings wrote:

> I believe every Committee Member should have the benefit of testimony from legal experts—on both sides of this issue—to present and discuss the applicable legal standards and historical precedents regarding Fifth Amendment protections for witnesses appearing before Congress.[49]

His letter cited three noted experts who concluded, after reviewing the record before the Committee, that Ms. Lerner did not waive her Fifth Amendment rights:

- Stan Brand, the Counsel of the House of Representatives from 1976 to 1983, stated that Ms. Lerner was "not giving an account of what happened. She's saying, I'm innocent."

- Yale Kamisar, a former University of Michigan law professor and expert on criminal procedure, stated: "A denial is different than disclosing incriminating facts. You ought to be able to make a general denial, and then say I don't want to discuss it further."

---

[48] *Darrell Issa Rankles Some Republicans in Handling IRS Tea Party Probe,* Politico (Mar. 27, 2014) (online at www.politico.com/story/2014/03/darrell-issa-irs-tea-party-investigation-105119.html).

[49] Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (June 26, 2013) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/images/user_images/gt/stories/EEC%20to%20Issa.Business%20Mtg.LLerner.pdf).

- James Duane, a professor at Regent University School of Law, stated: "it is well settled that they have a right to make a 'selective invocation,' as it's called, with respect to questions that they think might raise a meaningful risk of incriminating themselves."[50]

The Ranking Member concluded his request by writing:

> [A] hearing to obtain testimony from legal experts would help Committee Members consider this issue in a reasoned, informed, and responsible manner. In contrast, rushing to vote on a motion or resolution without the benefit of even a single hearing with expert testimony would risk undercutting the legitimacy of the motion or resolution itself.[51]

The Chairman disregarded this request and proceeded with the Committee's business meeting to consider his resolution. During debate on the resolution, Ranking Member Cummings introduced into the official record numerous opinions from legal experts addressing the issue.[52] In addition to the experts described above, Ranking Member Cummings entered into the record a statement from Daniel Richman, a law professor who served as the Chief Appellate Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, stating: "as a matter of law, Ms. Lerner did not waive her privilege and would not be found to have done so by a competent federal court."[53]

In contrast, Chairman Issa did not enter into the Committee's official record any legal opinions supporting his position. Although he referred to a confidential memorandum from House Counsel, he shared it with Committee Members only on condition that it not be disclosed to the public or entered into the record. Without disclosing the details of that opinion, it did not conclude that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights beyond a reasonable doubt—the standard that is required for criminal contempt.

B. Chairman's Offensive Conduct in Silencing Ranking Member

To date, 31 independent experts in Constitutional and criminal law have now come forward to conclude that Chairman Issa botched the contempt proceeding when he abruptly adjourned the Committee's hearing on March 5. In an effort to prevent Ranking Member Cummings from speaking, Chairman Issa rushed to end the hearing, ignored the Ranking

---

[50] *Id.*

[51] *Id.*

[52] Opening Statement of Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, Business Meeting, Resolution of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (June 28, 2013) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/press-releases/opening-statement-of-ranking-member-elijah-e-cummings-full-committee-business-meeting/).

[53] Statement of Professor Daniel Richman, *Regarding Validity of Fifth Amendment Privilege Assertion by Lois Lerner* (June 27, 2013).

Member's repeated requests for recognition, silenced the Ranking Member's microphone, and drew his hand across his neck while ordering Republican staff to "close it down."[54]

Ranking Member Cummings intended to pose a procedural question concerning a potential proffer Ms. Lerner's counsel agreed to provide in response to a request from Chairman Issa's staff. Although Ranking Member Cummings was attempting to help the Committee obtain this information, Republican Committee Members left the room while the Ranking Member was attempting to speak.[55]

Chairman Issa's actions were so egregious that within hours of the hearing, the Democratic Members of the Committee sent a letter criticizing the Chairman's actions and insisting that he "apologize immediately to Ranking Member Cummings as a first step to begin the process of restoring the credibility and integrity of our Committee."[56]

Republicans also criticized Chairman Issa's actions. One senior Republican lawmaker stated: "You can be firm without being nasty; you can be effective without being snide—this is Darrell's personality. He is not the guy that you'd move next door to."[57] Similarly, Republican commentator Joe Scarborough stated: "It seemed like a bush league move to me."[58]

In addition, David Firestone, the Projects Director for the *New York Times* Editorial Board, wrote:

> For Mr. Issa, the fear of again being exposed as a fraud was greater than his fear of being accused of trampling on minority rights. When politicians reach for the microphone switch, you know they've lost the argument.[59]

Dana Milbank of the *Washington Post* wrote:

---

[54] House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Resumption of the Hearing on The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs* (Mar. 5, 2014).

[55] Statement of Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Resumption of the Hearing on The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs* (Mar. 5, 2014) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/press-releases/issa-turns-off-mic-tries-to-silence-cummings-and-democrats-at-irs-hearing/).

[56] Letter from Democratic Members to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 5, 2014) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/press-releases/oversight-committee-democrats-unanimously-condemn-chairman-issas-actions-at-todays-irs-hearing/).

[57] *Issa Hands Dems the Mic*, The Hill (Mar. 6, 2014) (online at http://thehill.com/homenews/house/200162-issa-hands-dems-the-mic#ixzz2vJSTVh2e).

[58] *Morning Joe,* MSNBC (Mar. 6, 2014) (online at www.msnbc.com/morning-joe/watch/rep-cummings-please-do-not-shut-my-mic-down-184217155964).

[59] David Firestone, *Why Darrell Issa Turned Off the Mic*, New York Times (Mar. 6, 2014).

> Even by today's low standard of civility in Congress, calling a hearing and then not allowing minority lawmakers to utter a single word is rather unusual. But Issa, now in the fourth and final year of his chairmanship, is an unusual man.[60]

The day after Chairman Issa's actions, Rep. Marcia Fudge offered a Privileged Resolution on the House floor, which stated:

> That the House of Representatives strongly condemns the offensive and disrespectful manner in which Chairman Darrell E. Issa conducted the hearing of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 5, 2014, during which he turned off the microphones of the Ranking Member while he was speaking and adjourned the hearing without a vote or a unanimous consent agreement.[61]

On March 6, 2014, the House tabled the resolution by a vote of 211 to 186.[62] That evening, Chairman Issa telephoned Ranking Member Cummings and apologized for his conduct.[63]

On March 14, 2014, Congressman Dan Kildee offered another Privileged Resolution on the House floor condemning the Chairman's "offensive and disrespectful behavior" and calling on Chairman Issa to issue a public apology from the well of the House.[64] That resolution was also tabled.[65]

C. "Fatal" Constitutional Defect in Rushed Adjournment

According to more than two dozen Constitutional law experts who have now reviewed the record before the Committee, the legal byproduct of Chairman Issa's actions on March 5 was

---

[60] Dana Milbank, *Darrell Issa Silences Democrats and Hits a New Low*, Washington Post (Mar. 5, 2014).

[61] Privileged Resolution Against the Offensive Actions of Chairman Darrell E. Issa (Mar. 6, 2014).

[62] Vote to Table Privileged Resolution Against the Offensive Actions of Chairman Darrell E. Issa (Mar. 6, 2014).

[63] House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Democrats, *Cummings Responds to Issa's Apology* (Mar. 6, 2014) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/press-releases/cummings-responds-to-issas-apology1/).

[64] Office of Rep. Dan Kildee, *Congressman Dan Kildee Introduces Privileged Resolution in House to Condemn Repeated Offensive Behavior by Chairman Darrell Issa* (Mar. 14, 2014) (online at http://dankildee.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/congressman-dan-kildee-introduces-privileged-resolution-in-house-to).

[65] *Dems Hold Up Pictures on House Floor to Protest Issa*, The Hill (Mar. 13, 2014) (online at http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/votes/200779-house-rejects-dem-resolution-to-force-issa-apology#ixzz2y9SObYL6).

that—in his rush to silence the Ranking Member—he failed to take key steps required by the Constitution, according to the Supreme Court.

Specifically, these experts found that the Chairman did not give Ms. Lerner a clear, unambiguous choice between answering the Committee's questions or being held in contempt because he failed to overrule Ms. Lerner's assertion of her Fifth Amendment rights and failed to direct her to answer notwithstanding the invocation of those protections.

In an independent analysis provided to the Committee, Morton Rosenberg, who spent 35 years as a Specialist in American Public Law with CRS, stated:

> I conclude that the requisite legal foundation for a criminal contempt of Congress prosecution mandated by the Supreme Court rulings in *Quinn, Emspak and Bart* have not been met and that such a proceeding against Ms. Lerner under 2 U.S.C. 194, if attempted, will be dismissed.[66]

Mr. Rosenberg stated that because Chairman Issa did not reject Ms. Lerner's invocation of her Fifth Amendment rights and did not direct her to answer notwithstanding her assertion, the foundation for holding her in contempt of Congress has not been met. He explained:

> More significantly, the Chairman's opening remarks were equivocal about the consequence of a failure by Ms. Lerner to respond to his questions. As indicated above, he simply stated that "the Committee *may proceed to consider* whether she will be held in contempt." Combined with his closing remarks in the May 2013 hearing, where he indicated he would be discussing the possibility of granting the witness statutory immunity with the Justice Department to compel her testimony, there could be no certainty for the witness and her counsel that a contempt prosecution was inevitable.[67]

Stan Brand, who served as House Counsel from 1976 to 1983, joined in Mr. Rosenberg's analysis, stating:

> [A] review of the record from last week's hearing reveals that at no time did the Chair expressly overrule the objection and order Ms. Lerner to answer on pain of contempt. Making it clear to the witness that she has a clear cut choice between compliance and assertion of the privilege is an essential element of the offense and the absence of such a demand is fatal to any subsequent prosecution.[68]

After independent legal experts raised concerns regarding Chairman Issa's procedural errors in the March 5 hearing, the Chairman asked the House Counsel's office to draft a memo justifying his actions. On March 26, 2014, Chairman Issa released an opinion issued by House

---

[66] Statement of Morton Rosenberg, *Constitutional Due Process Prerequisites for Contempt of Congress Citations and prosecutions* (Mar. 9, 2014).

[67] *Id.*

[68] *Id.*

Counsel a day earlier stating that "it is this Office's considered opinion that Mr. Rosenberg is wrong that 'the requisite legal foundation for a criminal contempt of Congress prosecution [of Ms. Lerner] ... ha[s] not been met and that such a proceeding against [her] under 2 U.S.C. [§] 19[2], if attempted, will be dismissed.'"[69]

In addition, Chairman Issa and other Committee members attempted to minimize the significance of these expert opinions. For example, in a letter to Ranking Member Cummings on March 14, 2014, Chairman Issa suggested that Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Brand were not independent. He wrote: "Your position was based on an allegedly 'independent legal analysis' provided by your lawyer, Stanley M. Brand, and your 'Legislative Consultant,' Morton Rosenberg."[70] Similarly, Committee Member Trey Gowdy stated: "I am not persuaded by the legal musings of two attorneys."[71]

Despite these claims, the number of independent legal experts who have now come forward with opinions concluding that Chairman Issa's contempt case is deficient has increased dramatically to 31. They include two former House Counsels, three former clerks to Supreme Court justices, six former federal prosecutors, several attorneys in private practice, and law professors from Yale, Stanford, Harvard, Duke, and Georgetown, as well as the law schools of several Republican Committee Members, including Temple, University of Michigan, University of South Carolina, George Washington, University of Georgia, and John Marshall. They also include both Democrats and Republicans.

For example, Thomas J. Spulak, who served as House Counsel from 1994 to 1995, concluded that "I do not believe that the proper basis for a contempt of Congress charge has been established." He explained: "I have deep respect for Chairman Darrell Issa and his leadership of the Committee. But the matter before the Committee is a relatively rare occurrence and must be dispatched in a constitutionally required manner for the good of this and future Congresses." He provided his opinion "out of my deep concerns for the constitutional integrity of the U.S. House of Representatives, its procedures and its future precedents."[72]

J. Richard Broughton, a former federal prosecutor and now a Professor at the University of Detroit Mercy Law School and member of the Republican National Lawyers Association, concluded:

---

[69] Memorandum from Office of General Counsel, United States House of Representatives, to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 25, 2014) (bracketed text and ellipse in original).

[70] Letter from Chairman Darrell E. Issa to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 14, 2014).

[71] *Democrats: Darrell Issa Botches Rules in Run-up to IRS Contempt Vote,* Politico (Mar. 12, 2014) (online at www.politico.com/story/2014/03/darrell-issa-irs-contempt-vote-lois-lerner-democrats-104611.html).

[72] Letter from Thomas Spulak, former General Counsel to the House of Representatives, to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 14, 2014).

> Like any other criminal sanction, however, the contempt power must be used prudently, not for petty revenge or partisan gain. It should also be used with appropriate respect for countervailing constitutional rights and with proof that the accused contemnor possessed the requisite level of culpability in failing to answer questions. ... Absent such a formal rejection and subsequent directive, the witness—here, Ms. Lerner—would likely have a defense to any ensuing criminal prosecution for contempt, pursuant to the existing Supreme Court precedent. Those who are concerned about the reach of federal power should desire legally sufficient proof of a person's culpable mental state before permitting the United States to seek and impose criminal punishment.[73]

Robert Muse, a partner at Stein, Mitchell, Muse & Cipollone, LLP, Adjunct Professor of Congressional Investigations at Georgetown University Law Center, and formerly the General Counsel to the Special Senate Committee to Investigate Hurricane Katrina, concluded: "Procedures and rules exist to provide justice and fairness. In his rush to judgment, Issa forgot to play by the rules."[74]

Louis Fisher, a former Senior Specialist in Separation of Powers at CRS, Adjunct Scholar at the CATO Institute, and Scholar in Residence at the Constitution Project, concluded:

> Why would a delay of one week interfere with the committee's investigation that has thus far taken nine and a half months? Why not, in pursuit of facts and evidence, probe this opportunity to obtain information from her, particularly when Chairman Issa and the committee have explained that she has important information that is probably not available from any other witness? With his last question, Chairman Issa raised the "expectation" that she would cooperate with the committee if given an additional week. Under these conditions, I think the committee has not made the case that she acted in contempt. If litigation resulted, courts are likely to reach the same conclusion.[75]

Julie Rose O'Sullivan, a former federal prosecutor and law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and current Professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, concluded:

> The Supreme Court has spoken—repeatedly—on point. Before a witness may be held in contempt under 18 U.S.C. sec. 192, the government bears the burden of showing "criminal intent—in this instance, a deliberate, intentional refusal to answer." *Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155, 165 (1955). This intent is lacking where the witness is not faced with an order to comply or face the consequences. Thus, the government must show that the Committee "clearly apprised [the witness] that the committee demands his

---

[73] Statement of Professor J. Richard Broughton, *Regarding Legal Issues Related to Possible Contempt of Congress Prosecution* (Mar. 17, 2014).

[74] Statement of Robert Muse (Mar. 13, 2014).

[75] Statement of Louis Fisher, *Regarding Possible Contempt of Lois Lerner* (Mar. 14, 2014).

answer notwithstanding his objections" or "there can be no conviction under [sec.] 192 for refusal to answer that question." *Id.* at 166. Here, the Committee at no point directed the witness to answer; accordingly, no prosecution will lie. This is a result demanded by common sense as well as the case law. "Contempt" citations are generally reserved for violations of court or congressional orders. One cannot commit contempt without a qualifying "order."[76]

Joshua Levy, a partner at Cunningham & Levy who teaches Congressional Investigations at Georgetown University Law Center, concluded: "Contempt cannot be born from a game of gotcha. Supreme Court precedents that helped put an end to the McCarthy era ruled that Congress cannot initiate contempt proceedings without first giving the witness due process."[77]

Samuel W. Buell, a former federal prosecutor who teaches at Duke University Law School, concluded: "Seeking contempt now on this record thus could accomplish nothing but making the Committee look petty and uninterested in getting to the merits of the matter under investigation."[78]

A full set of the independent legal opinions from all of these Constitutional law experts is included as Attachment B to these Minority Views.

D. House Counsel's Retroactive Defense of Chairman's Actions

After Ranking Member Cummings warned that independent legal experts had identified Constitutional deficiencies with Chairman Issa's actions at the May 5 hearing, House Speaker John Boehner stated: "I and the House Counsel reject the premise of Mr. Cummings's letter."[79] When asked if he would provide a copy of the House Counsel opinion he referenced, Speaker Boehner first directed reporters to ask "the appropriate people." When they explained that he was the appropriate person, he answered: "I am sure that we will see an opinion at some point."[80]

It appears that, at the time Speaker Boehner made these statements, the House Counsel had not issued any written opinion. To date, no House Counsel opinion prepared before the March 5 hearing has been made available to the members of the Committee, particularly one stating that Ms. Lerner could be successfully prosecuted for contempt if Chairman Issa did not overrule her assertion of Fifth Amendment rights and order her to answer his questions

---

[76] Statement of Julie Rose O'Sullivan (Mar. 12, 2014).

[77] Statement of Joshua Levy (Mar. 12, 2014).

[78] Statement of Samuel Buell (Mar. 12, 2014).

[79] Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Speaker of the House John Boehner (Mar. 14, 2014) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/press-releases/cummings-asks-speaker-boehner-for-copy-of-counsel-opinion-on-lerner-contempt-proceedings/#sthash.jpaw602R.dpuf).

[80] *Id.*

notwithstanding her assertion. Instead, it appears that Chairman Issa sought an opinion justifying his actions only after the March 5 hearing when independent legal experts raised concerns about these Constitutional deficiencies.[81]

Independent legal experts have rejected the arguments raised by House Counsel in defense of Chairman Issa's actions. The House Counsel memo stated that contempt charges could be brought against Ms. Lerner because the Chairman had ensured that Ms. Lerner was "'clearly apprised that the [C]ommittee demand[ed] [her] answer[s] [to its questions] notwithstanding h[er Fifth Amendment] objections.' *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 166." The House Counsel's memo cited two reasons for this opinion:

> First, the Committee formally rejected her Fifth Amendment claims and expressly advised her of its determination (a fact that she, through her attorney, acknowledged prior to her appearance at the reconvened hearing on March 5, 2014).
>
> Second, the Committee Chairman thereafter advised Ms. Lerner in writing that the Committee expected her to answer its questions, and advised her orally, at the reconvened hearing on March 5, 2014, that she faced the possibility of being held in contempt of Congress if she continued to decline to provide answers.[82]

According to Mr. Rosenberg, "both assertions are meritless." Regarding the Committee's June 28, 2013, partisan vote that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment right, Mr. Rosenberg explained:

> Nothing in the language of the Committee's June 28, 2013 resolution can be even be remotely construed as an *explicit* rejection of Ms. Lerner's Fifth Amendment privilege at the May 22 hearing. It is solely and exclusively concerned with the question whether Ms. Lerner voluntarily waived her privilege at that hearing. A rejection of a future claim in a resumed hearing may be implicit in the resolution's language, but that rejection, under *Quinn, Emspak,* and *Bart,* would have had to have been expressly directed at the particular claim when raised by the witness.[83]

Mr. Rosenberg also addressed the second argument in the House Counsel memorandum:

---

[81] Memo from the Office of General Counsel, United States House of Representatives, to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 25, 2014) (explaining that Chairman Issa requested that the office "analyze a March 12, 2014 memorandum, prepared by former Congressional Research Service ('CRS') attorney Morton Rosenberg.").

[82] Memo from the Office of General Counsel, United States House of Representatives, to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 25, 2014).

[83] Statement of Morton Rosenberg, *Comments on House General Counsel Opinion* (Apr. 6, 2014).

> [T]he Chairman's verbal observation at the end of his opening remarks at the March 5 hearing that if she continued to refuse to answer questions, "the [C]ommittee may proceed to consider whether she should be held in contempt." Thus the "indirect" support relies predominantly on the incorrect factual and legal premise that the Committee had communicated a rejection of her privilege claims in its waiver resolution and ambiguous statements by members and the Chairman about the risk of contempt. But, again, when the March 5 questioning took place, the Chairman never expressly overruled her objections or demanded a response.[84]

Former House Counsel Tom Spulak also "fully" agreed with Mr. Rosenberg's opinion that Chairman Issa failed to establish a record to support contempt charges. He explained:

> The fact of the matter, however, is that based on relevant Supreme Court rulings, the pronouncement must occur with the witness present so that he or she can understand the finality of the decision, appreciate the consequences of his or her continued silence, and have an opportunity to decide otherwise at that time.[85]

Mr. Spulak also explained that, although he agreed that there is no "fixed verbal formula" to convey to a witness the Committee's decision regarding questioning, Chairman Issa's equivocal statements to Ms. Lerner on March 5 did not meet the standard of "specifically directing a recalcitrant witness to answer" outlined by the Supreme Court.[86] He wrote:

> I believe that the Court does require that whatever words are used be delivered to the witness in a direct, unequivocal manner in a setting that allows the witness to understand the seriousness of the decision and the opportunity to continue to insist on invoking the privilege or revoke it and respond to the Committee's questioning. That, as I understand the facts, did not occur.[87]

V. DEMOCRATS CALL FOR FULL RELEASE OF ALL COMMITTEE INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS

Instead of pursuing deficient contempt litigation that will continue to waste taxpayer funds, Democratic Members of the Oversight Committee now call on the Committee to officially release copies of the full transcripts of all 38 interviews conducted by Committee staff during this investigation that have not been released to date.

---

[84] *Id.*

[85] Letter from Thomas Spulak, former General Counsel to the House of Representatives, to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 14, 2014).

[86] *Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155, 169 (1955).

[87] Letter from Thomas Spulak, former General Counsel to the House of Representatives, to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 14, 2014).

For the past year, Chairman Issa's central accusation in this investigation has been that the IRS engaged in political collusion directed by—or on behalf of—the White House. Before the Committee received a single document or interviewed one witness, Chairman Issa went on national television and stated: "This was the targeting of the President's political enemies effectively and lies about it during the election year."[88]

Until now, Chairman Issa has chosen to leak selected excerpts from the Committee's interviews and withhold portions that directly contradict his public accusations. The interview transcripts show definitively that the Chairman's accusations are baseless and that the White House played absolutely no role in directing IRS employees to use inappropriate terms to screen applicants for tax exempt status.

For example, on June 6, 2013, Committee staff interviewed the Screening Group Manager in the Cincinnati Determinations Unit who worked at the IRS for 21 years as a civil servant and supervised a team of several Screening Agents in that office. He answered questions from Committee staff directly and candidly for more than five hours. When asked by Republican Committee staff about his political affiliation, he answered that he is a "conservative Republican."[89]

The Screening Group Manager stated that there was no political motivation in the decision to screen and centralize the review of the Tea Party cases:

Q: In your opinion, was the decision to screen and centralize the review of Tea Party cases the targeting of the President's political enemies?

A: I do not believe that the screening of these cases had anything to do other than consistency and identifying issues that needed to have further development.[90]

The Screening Group Manager also explained that he had no reason to believe that any officials from the White House were involved in any way:

Q: Do you have any reason to believe that anyone in the White House was involved in the decision to screen Tea Party cases?

A: I have no reason to believe that.

Q: Do you have any reason to believe that anyone in the White House was involved in the decision to centralize the review of Tea Party cases?

---

[88] *Issa on IRS Scandal: "Deliberate" Ideological Attacks*, CBS News (May 14, 2013) (online at www.cbsnews.com/videos/issa-on-irs-scandal-deliberate-ideological-attacks/).

[89] House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Interview of Screening Group Manager, at 28-29 (June 6, 2013).

[90] *Id.* at 139-140.

A: I have no reason to believe that.[91]

Instead, the Screening Group Manager explained how one of his own employees flagged the first "Tea Party" case for additional review because it needed further development, and that he elevated the case to his management because it was "high-profile" and to ensure consistent review:

> We would need to know how frequently or—of the total activities, 100 percent of the activities, what portion of those total activities would you be dedicating to political activities. And in this particular case, it wasn't addressed, it was just mentioned, and, to me, that says it needs to have further development, and it could be good, you know. Once the information is all received, it could be fine.[92]

After elevating the original case to his management, the Screening Group Manager explained that he made the decision on his own to instruct his Screening Agents to identify additional similar cases. He said: "There was no—there was no—no one said to make a search."[93] He explained that he did this to ensure "consistency" in the treatment of applications with similar fact patterns.[94]

The Screening Group Manager informed Committee staff that he did not discover that his employee had used inappropriate search terms until June 2, 2011, and he did not provide that information to his superiors before June of 2011. The Inspector General's report confirmed that Ms. Lerner did not learn of the use of the inappropriate criteria until June of 2011, a fact that also was corroborated by Committee interviews.[95]

On June 2, 2013, Chairman Issa leaked selected excerpts of transcribed interviews with IRS employees prior to an appearance on CNN's "State of the Union" with Candy Crowley. When pressed to release the full the transcripts, Chairman Issa promised to do so:

> ISSA: These transcripts will all be made public. The killer about this thing is—
>
> CROWLEY: Why don't you put the whole thing out? Because you know our problem really here is—and you know that your critics say that Republicans and you in particular sort of cherry pick information that go to your foregone conclusion, and so it worries us to kind of to put this kind of stuff out. Can you not put the whole transcript out?

---

[91] *Id.* at 141.

[92] *Id.* at 146.

[93] *Id.* at 63.

[94] *Id.*

[95] Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, *Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review* (May 14, 2013); House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Interview of Acting Director of Rulings and Agreements (May 21, 2013).

> ISSA: The whole transcript will be put out. We understand—these are in real time. And the administration is still—they're paid liar, their spokesperson, picture behind, he's still making up things about what happens in calling this local rogue. There's no indication—the reason that Lois Lerner tried to take the fifth is not because there is a rogue in Cincinnati, it's because this is a problem that was coordinated in all likelihood right out of Washington headquarters and we're getting to proving it.[96]

On June 9, 2013, Ranking Member Cummings wrote to Chairman Issa requesting that the Committee "release publicly the transcripts of all interviews conducted by Committee staff."[97] This request included the transcripts of the "conservative Republican" Screening Group Manager as well as all other officials interviewed by the Committee.

On June 11, 2013, Chairman Issa wrote to Ranking Member Cummings reversing his previous position and arguing instead that releasing the transcripts publicly would be "reckless" and "undermine the integrity of the Committee's investigation."[98]

On June 13, 2013, Ranking Member Cummings wrote to Chairman Issa seeking clarification about his reversal and asking him to "identify the specific text of the transcripts you believe should be withheld from the American public."[99]

Over the following week, Chairman Issa reversed his position again and allowed select reporters to come into the Committee's offices to review full, unredacted transcripts from several interviews with employees other than the Screening Group Manager. For example:

- *USA Today* reported that Chairman Issa allowed its reporters to review the full transcript of IRS official Holly Paz: "USA TODAY reviewed all 222 pages of the transcript of her interview."

---

[96] *State of the Union,* CNN (June 2, 2013) (online at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zuQU-Mqll4&feature=youtu.be).

[97] Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (June 9, 2013) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/press-releases/conservative-republican-manager-in-charge-of-irs-screeners-in-cincinnati-denies-any-white-house-involvement-or-political-influence-in-screening-tea-party-cases/).

[98] Letter from Chairman Darrell E. Issa to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (June 11, 2013).

[99] Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (June 13, 2013) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/press-releases/new-cummings-letter-to-issa-identify-specific-transcript-text-you-want-withheld-from-public/).

- The *Wall Street Journal* reported that he allowed its reporters to review the full Paz transcript: "The Wall Street Journal reviewed the transcript of her interview in recent days."

- *Reuters* reported that he allowed its reporters to review the full Paz transcript as well: "Reuters has reviewed the interview transcript."

- The *Associated Press* reported that he allowed its reporters to review not only the full Paz transcript, but also transcripts of interviews with two other IRS officials: "The Associated Press has reviewed transcripts from three interviews—with Paz and with two agents, Gary Muthert and Elizabeth Hofacre."

- *Politico* also reported that its reporters were given access to full transcripts of interviews "conducted by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and reviewed by POLITICO."[100]

In light of the Chairman's actions, Ranking Member Cummings publicly released the full transcript of the Screening Group Manager on June 18, 2013, explaining:

> This interview transcript provides a detailed first-hand account of how these practices first originated, and it debunks conspiracy theories about how the IRS first started reviewing these cases. Answering questions from Committee staff for more than five hours, this official—who identified himself as a "conservative Republican"—denied that he or anyone on his team was directed by the White House to take these actions or that they were politically motivated.[101]

Democratic Committee Members have been asking for more than nine months for the public release of all of the Committee's interview transcripts and believe it is now time for the Chairman to make good on his promise to do so.

---

[100] Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (June 18, 2013) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/images/user_images/gt/stories/2013-06-18.EEC%20to%20Issa.pdf).

[101] *Id.*

ATTACHMENT A

MEMORANDUM FROM THE NONPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE ON McCARTHY ERA PRECEDENT

Congressional Research Service
Informing the legislative debate since 1914

MEMORANDUM March 20, 2014

To: House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Attention: [redacted]

From: [redacted] Legislative Attorney, [redacted]

Subject: **Prosecutions for Contempt of Congress and the Fifth Amendment**

This memorandum responds to your request for information about invocation of the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination in congressional hearings and contempt of Congress. Specifically, you asked for previous instances in which a witness before a congressional committee was voted in contempt of Congress and then prosecuted for refusing to answer the committee's questions or produce documents pursuant to a subpoena after invoking the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. Additionally, you asked for information on whether any subsequent convictions for contempt of Congress under 2 U.S.C. §§ 192, 194 were upheld or overturned.

The table below provides the requested information based on searches of federal court cases in the LexisNexis database.[1] Although a number of search terms were used, it is possible that some relevant cases were missed. Additionally, other relevant cases may be unpublished, and therefore, not searchable in an available database. Cases involving witnesses who asserted other constitutional privileges, not including the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination, and were subsequently held in contempt of Congress are not included in the table. The cases are organized first by court authority (Supreme Court, followed by circuit courts and district courts) and then in chronological order.

[1] Several searches using different combinations of the following search terms were conducted: "2 U.S.C. 192," 192, committee, contempt, "contempt of Congress," "Fifth Amendment," subpoena, and subpena. Additionally, relevant cases appearing on the Shepard's report for 2 U.S.C § 192 were searched.

Table 1. Published Cases of Prosecutions for Contempt of Congress Following a Fifth Amendment Privilege Assertion

Case	Court and Date	Congressional Committee	Was the Witness Convicted?	Disposition of Convictions	Case Excerpt
Quinn v. United States, 349 U.S. 155 (1955).	Supreme Court May 23, 1955	Comm. on Un-American Activities	Yes	Overturned	"...we must hold that petitioner's references to the Fifth Amendment were sufficient to invoke the privilege and that the court below erred in failing to direct a judgment of acquittal." *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 165.
Emspak v. United States, 349 U.S. 190 (1955).	Supreme Court May 23, 1955	Comm. on Un-American Activities	Yes	Overturned	"...in the instant case, we do not think that petitioner's "No" answer can be treated as a waiver of his previous express claim under the Fifth Amendment." *Emspak*, 349 U.S. at 197.
Bart v. United States, 349 U.S. 219 (1955).	Supreme Court May 23, 1955	Comm. on Un-American Activities	Yes	Overturned	"Because of the consistent failure to advise the witness of the committee's position as to his objections, petitioner was left to speculate about the risk of possible prosecution for contempt; he was not given a clear choice between standing on his objection and compliance with a committee ruling. Because of this defect in laying the necessary foundation for a prosecution under § 192, petitioner's conviction cannot stand under the criteria set forth more fully in Quinn v. United States..." *Bart*, 319 U.S. at 223.
McPhaul v. United States, 364 U.S. 372 (1960).	Supreme Court Nov. 14, 1960	Comm. on Un-American Activities	Yes	Upheld	"The Fifth Amendment did not excuse petitioner from producing the records of the Civil Rights Congress, for it is well settled that "books and records kept 'in a representative rather than in a personal capacity cannot be the subject of the personal privilege against self-incrimination, even though production of the papers might tend to incriminate [their keeper] personally.'" *McPhaul*, 364 U.S. at 380.

CRS-2

Case	Court and Date	Congressional Committee	Was the Witness Convicted?	Disposition of Convictions	Case Excerpt
Marcello v. United States, 196 F.2d 437 (1952).	Fifth Circuit April 22, 1952	Special Committee on Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce (The Kefauver Committee)	Yes	Overturned	"We are clear that there was no waiver by the appellant of the privilege against self-incrimination in this case. The judgment appealed from is reversed, and a judgment of acquittal here rendered." *Marcello*, 196 F.2d at 445.
Jackins v. United States, 231 F.2d 405 (1956).	Ninth Circuit March 8, 1956	Comm. on Un-American Activities	Yes	Overturned	"Jackins' claim of privilege must be sustained since in the setting here described 'it was not 'perfectly clear, from a careful consideration of all the circumstances in the case, that the witness (was) mistaken, and that the answer(s) cannot possibly have such tendency' to incriminate.'... The judgment is reversed with directions to enter a judgment of acquittal upon all counts." *Jackins*, 231 F.2d at 410.
Fagerhaugh v. United States, 232 F.2d 803 (1956).	Ninth Circuit April 24, 1956	Comm. on Un-American Activities	Yes	Overturned	"We believe that Quinn v. United States requires a reversal of this conviction as it appears that the Committee did not indicate its refusal to accept the claim of privilege against self-incrimination, and did not 'demand' that the witness answer the question... The judgment is reversed with directions to enter a judgment of acquittal." *Fagerhaugh*, 232 F.2d at 805.
Shelton v. United States, 404 F.2d 1292 (1968).	D.C. Circuit August 14, 1968	Comm. on Un-American Activities	Yes	Upheld	"...the subpoena did not call upon Mr. Shelton to produce any personal papers, but only those of Klan organizations... The privilege accordingly was not available to him as a basis for refusing to produce." *Shelton*, 404 F.2d at 1301.

CRS-3

Case	Court and Date	Congressional Committee	Was the Witness Convicted?	Disposition of Convictions	Case Excerpt
United States v. Jaffe, 98 F. Supp. 191 (1951).	District Court for the D.C. Circuit May 28, 1951	Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations	No	n/a	"...having claimed the privilege granted to him by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, he should not have been required to give such testimony, and, therefore, it is the judgment of the Court that, in refusing to do so, he is not guilty of contempt." *Jaffe*, 98 F. Supp. at 198.
United States v. Fischetti, 103 F. Supp. 796 (1952).	District Court for the D.C. Circuit March 11, 1952	Senate Special Comm. to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce (The Kefauver Committee)	No	n/a	"...the Court is of the opinion that it is required to grant the defendant's motion for judgment of acquittal." Fischetti, 103 F. Supp. at 799.
United States v. Hoag, 142 F. Supp. 667 (1956).	District Court for the D.C. Circuit July 6, 1956	Senate Committee on Government Operations	No	n/a	"...I reach the conclusion that the defendant did not waive her privilege under the Fifth Amendment and therefore did not violate the statute in question in refusing to answer the questions propounded to her. Therefore, I find that she is entitled to a judgment of acquittal on all counts." *Hoag*, 142 F. Supp. at 673.

Source: Searches of LexisNexis database

CRS-4

ATTACHMENT B

OPINIONS FROM 31 INDEPENDENT LEGAL EXPERTS IDENTIFYING CONSTITUTIONAL DEFICIENCIES IN CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS

Experts Opinions on Lois Lerner Contempt Proceedings

1. **Morton Rosenberg spent 35 years as a former Specialist in American Public Law at the non-partisan Congressional Research Service and is a former Fellow at the Constitution Project.**

2. **Stanley M. Brand, who served as General Counsel for the House of Representatives from 1976 to 1983, wrote that he agreed with Mr. Rosenberg's analysis.**

March 12, 2014

To: Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Minority Member,
House Committee on Oversight
And Government Reform

From: Morton Rosenberg
Legislative Consultant

Re: Constitutional Due Process Prerequisites for Contempt of Congress Citations and Prosecutions

You have asked that I discuss whether, at this point in the questioning of Ms. Lois Lerner, a witness in the Committee's ongoing investigation of alleged irregularities by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the processing of applications by certain organizations for tax-exempt status, the appropriate constitutional foundation has been established for the Committee to initiate the process that would lead to her prosecution for contempt of Congress. My understanding of the requirements of the law in this area leads me to conclude that the requisite due process protections have not been met.

My views in this matter have been informed by my 35 years of work as a Specialist in American Public Law with the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service, during which time I concentrated particularly on constitutional and practice issues arising from interbranch conflicts over information disclosures in the course of congressional oversight and investigations of executive agency implementation of their statutory missions. My understandings have been further refined by my preparation for testimony on investigative matters before many committees, including your Committee, and by the research involved in the writing and publication by the Constitution Project in 2009 of a monograph entitled "When Congress Comes Calling: A Primer on the Principles, Practices, and Pragmatics of Legislative Inquiry."

Briefly, the pertinent background of the situation is as follows. Ms. Lerner, who was formerly the Director of Exempt Organizations of the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division of IRS, was subpoenaed to testify

before the Committee on May 22, 2013. She appeared and after taking the oath presented an opening statement but thereafter refused to answer questions by Members, invoking her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. The question was raised whether Ms. Lerner had effectively waived the privilege by her voluntary statements. On advice of counsel she continued to assert the privilege. Afterward, on dismissing Ms. Lerner and her counsel, Chairman Issa remarked "For this reason I have no choice but to excuse this witness subject to recall after we seek specific counsel on the question whether or not the constitutional right of the Fifth Amendment has been properly waived. Notwithstanding that, in consultation with the Department of Justice as to whether or not limited or use of unity [sic: immunity] could be negotiated, the witness and counsel are dismissed." Thus at the end of her initial testimony, there had been no express Committee determination rejecting her privilege claim nor an advisement that she could be subject to a criminal contempt proceeding. There was, however, some hint of granting statutory use immunity that would compel her testimony. On June 28, 2013, the Committee approved a resolution rejecting Ms. Lerner's privilege claim on the ground that she had waived it by her voluntary statements.

Still subject to the original subpoena, Ms. Lerner was recalled by the Committee on March 5, 2014. Chairman Issa's opening statement recounted the events of the May 22, 2013 hearing and the fact of the Committee's finding that she had waived her privilege. He then stated that "if she continues to refuse to answer questions from Members while under subpoena, the Committee may proceed to consider whether she will be held in contempt." In answer to the first question posed by Chairman Issa, Ms. Lerner expressly stated in response that she had been advised by counsel that she had not waived her privilege and would continue to invoke her privilege, which she did in response to all the Chair's further questions. After his final question Chairman Issa adjourned the hearing without allowing further questions or remarks by Committee members, and granted her "leave of said Committee," stating, "Ms. Lerner, you're released." At no time during his questioning did the Chair explicitly demand an answer to his questions, expressly overrule her claim of privilege, or make it clear that her refusal to respond would result in a criminal contempt prosecution.

In 1955 the Supreme Court announced in a trilogy of rulings that in order to establish a proper legal foundation for a contempt prosecution, a jurisdictional committee must disallow the constitutional privilege objection and clearly apprise the witness that an answer is demanded. A witness will not be forced to guess whether or not a committee has accepted his or her objection. If the witness is not able to determine "with a reasonable degree of certainty that the committee demanded his answer despite his objection," and thus is not presented with a "clear-cut choice between compliance and non-compliance, between answering the question and risking the prosecution for contempt," no prosecution for contempt may lie. *Quinn v. United States,* 349 U.S. 155, 166, 167 (1955); *Empsak v. United States,* 349 U.S. 190, 202 (1955). In *Bart v. United States,* 349 U.S. 219 (1955), the Court found that at no time did the committee overrule petitioner's claim of self-incrimination or lack of pertinency, nor was he indirectly informed of the committee's position through a specific direction to answer. A committee member's suggestion that the chairman advise the witness of the possibility of contempt was rejected. The Court concluded that the consistent failure to advise the witness of the committee's position as to his objections left him to speculate about this risk of possible prosecution for contempt and did not give him a clear choice between standing with his objection and compliance with a committee ruling. Citing *Quinn,* the Court held that this defect in laying the necessary constitutional foundation for a contempt prosecution required reversal of the petitioner's conviction. 349 U.S. at 221-23. Subsequent appellate court rulings have adhered to the High Court's guidance. See, e.g., *Jackins v. United States,* 231 F. 2d 405 (9th Cir. 1959); *Fagerhaugh v. United* States, 232 F. 2d 803 (9th Cir. 1959).

In sum, at no stage in this proceeding did the witness receive the requisite clear rejections of her constitutional objections and direct demands for answers nor was it made unequivocally certain that her failure to respond would result in criminal contempt prosecution. The problematic Committee determination that Ms. Lerner had waived her privilege, see, e.g., *McCarthy v. Arndstein,* 262 U.S. 355. 359 (1926) and *In re Hitchings,* 850 F. 2d 180 (4th Cir. 1980), occurred after the May 2013 hearing. Chairman Issa's opening statement at the March 5, 2014 hearing, while referencing the waiver decision did not make it a substantive element of the Committee's current concern and was never mentioned again during his interrogation of the witness. More significantly, the Chairman's opening remarks were equivocal about the consequence of a failure

by Ms. Lerner to respond to his questions. As indicated above, he simply stated that "the Committee *may proceed to consider* whether she will be held in contempt." Combined with his closing remarks in the May 2013 hearing, where he indicated he would be discussing the possibility of granting the witness statutory immunity with the Justice Department to compel her testimony, there could be no certainty for the witness and her counsel that a contempt prosecution was inevitable. Finally, it may be reiterated that the Chairman during the course of his most recent questioning never expressly rejected Ms. Lerner's objections nor demanded that she respond.

I conclude that the requisite legal foundation for a criminal contempt of Congress prosecution mandated by the Supreme Court rulings in *Quinn, Emspak and Bart* have not been met and that such a proceeding against Ms. Lerner under 2 U.S.C. 194, if attempted, will be dismissed. Such a dismissal will likely also occur if the House seeks civil contempt enforcement.

You also inquire whether the waiver claim raised in the May 2013 hearing can be raised in a subsequent hearing to which Ms. Lerner might be again subpoenaed and thereby prevent her from invoking her Fifth Amendment rights. The courts have long recognized that a witness may waive the Fifth Amendment right to self-incrimination in one proceeding, and then invoke it later at a different proceeding on the same subject. See, e.g., *United States v. Burch*, 490 F.2d 1300, 1303 (8th Cir. 1974); *United States v. Licavoli,* 604 F. 2d 613, 623 (9th Cir. 1979); *United States v. Cain,* 544 F. 2d 1113,1117 (1st Cir. 1976); *In re Neff,* 206 F. 2d 149, 152 (3d Cir. 1953). See also, *United States v. Allman,* 594 F. 3d 981 (8th Cir. 2010) (acknowledging the continued vitality of the "same proceeding" doctrine: "We recognize that there is ample precedent for the rule that the waiver of the Fifth Amendment privilege in one proceeding does not waive that privilege in a subsequent proceeding."). Since Ms. Lerner was released from her subpoena obligations by the final adjournment of the Committee's hearing, a compelled testimonial appearance at a subsequent hearing on the same subject would be a different proceeding.

In addition, Stanley M. Brand has reviewed this memorandum and fully subscribes to its contents and analysis.

Mr. Brand served as General Counsel for the House of Representatives from 1976 to 1983 and was the House's chief legal officer responsible for representing the House, its members, officers, and employees in connection with legal procedures and challenges to the conduct of their official activities. Mr. Brand represented the House and its committees before both federal district and appellate courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, in actions arising from the subpoena of records by the House and in contempt proceedings in connection with congressional demands.

In addition to the analysis set forth above, Mr. Brand explained that a review of the record from last week's hearing reveals that at no time did the Chair expressly overrule the objection and order Ms. Lerner to answer on pain of contempt. Making it clear to the witness that she has a clear cut choice between compliance and assertion of the privilege is an essential element of the offense and the absence of such a demand is fatal to any subsequent prosecution.

3. Joshua Levy, a partner in the firm of Cunningham and Levy and an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center who teaches Congressional Investigations, said:

"Contempt cannot be born from a game of gotcha. Supreme Court precedents that helped put an end to the McCarthy era ruled that Congress cannot initiate contempt proceedings without first giving the witness due process. For example, Congress cannot hold a witness in contempt without directing her to answer the questions being asked, overruling her objections and informing her, in clear terms, that her refusal to answer the questions will result in contempt. None of that occurred here."

4. Julie Rose O'Sullivan, a former federal prosecutor and law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and current a Professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, said:

"The Supreme Court has spoken—repeatedly—on point. Before a witness may be held in contempt under 18 U.S.C. sec. 192, the government bears the burden of showing 'criminal intent—in this instance, a deliberate, intentional refusal to answer.' *Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155, 165 (1955). This intent is lacking where the witness is not faced with an order to comply or face the consequences. Thus, the government must show that the Committee 'clearly apprised [the witness] that the committee demands his answer notwithstanding his objections' or 'there can be no conviction under [sec.] 192 for refusal to answer that question.' *Id.* at 166. Here, the Committee at no point directed the witness to answer; accordingly, no prosecution will lie. This is a result demanded by common sense as well as the case law. 'Contempt' citations are generally reserved for violations of court or congressional orders. One cannot commit contempt without a qualifying 'order.'"

5. Samuel W. Buell, a former federal prosecutor and current Professor of Law at Duke University Law School, said:

"[T]he real issue for me is the pointlessness and narrow-mindedness of proceeding in this way. Contempt sanctions exist for the purpose of overcoming recalcitrance to testify. One would rarely if ever see this kind of procedural Javert-ism from a federal prosecutor and, if one did, one would expect it to be condemned by any federal judge before whom such a motion were made.

In federal court practice, contempt is not sought against grand jury witnesses as a kind of gotcha penalty for invocations of the Fifth Amendment privilege that might turn out to contain some arguable formal flaw. Contempt is used to compel witnesses who have asserted the privilege and then continued to refuse to testify after having been granted immunity. Skirmishing over the form of a privilege invocation is a wasteful sideshow. The only question that matters, and that would genuinely interest a judge, is whether the witness is in fact intending to assert the privilege and in fact has a legitimate basis to do so. The only questions of the witness that therefore need asking are the kind of questions (and a sufficient number of them) that will make the record clear that the witness is not going to testify. Usually even that process is not necessary and a representation from the witness's counsel will do.

Again, contempt sanctions are on the books to serve a simple and necessary function in the operation of legal engines for finding the truth, and not for any other purpose. Any fair and level-headed judge is going to approach the problem from that perspective. Seeking contempt now on this record thus could accomplish nothing but making the Committee look petty and uninterested in getting to the merits of the matter under investigation."

6. Robert Muse, a partner at Stein, Mitchell, Muse & Cipollone, LLP, Adjunct Professor of Congressional Investigations at Georgetown Law, and formerly the General Counsel to the Special Senate Committee to Investigate Hurricane Katrina, said:

"Procedures and rules exist to provide justice and fairness. In his rush to judgment, Issa forgot to play by the rules."

7. Professor Lance Cole of Penn State University's Dickinson School of Law, said:

"I agree with the analysis and conclusions of Mr. Rosenberg, and the additional comments by Mr. Brand. I also have a broader concern about seeking criminal contempt sanctions against Ms. Lerner. I do not believe criminal contempt proceedings should be utilized in a situation in which a witness is asserting a fundamental constitutional privilege and there is a legitimate, unresolved legal issue concerning whether or not the constitutional privilege has been waived. In that situation initiating a civil subpoena enforcement proceeding to obtain a definitive judicial resolution of the disputed waiver issue, prior to initiating criminal contempt proceedings, would be preferable to seeking criminal contempt sanctions when there is a legitimate issue as to whether the privilege has been waived and that legal issue inevitably will require resolution by the judiciary. Pursuing a criminal contempt prosecution in this situation, when the Committee has available to it the alternatives of either initiating a civil judicial proceeding to resolve the legal dispute on waiver or granting the witness statutory immunity, is unnecessary and could have a chilling effect on the constitutional rights of witnesses in congressional proceedings."

8. Renée Hutchins is a former federal prosecutor, current appellate defense attorney, and Associate Professor of Law at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law. She said:

"America is a great nation in no small part because it is governed by the rule of law. In a system such as ours, process is not a luxury to be afforded the favored or the fortunate. Process is essential to our notion of equal justice. In a contempt proceeding like the one being threatened the process envisions, at minimum, a witness who has refused to comply with a valid order. But a witness cannot refuse to comply if she has not yet been told what she must do. Our system demands more. Before the awesome powers of government are brought to bear against individual Americans we must be vigilant, now and always, to ensure that the process our fellow citizens confront is a fair one."

9. Colin Miller is an Associate Professor of Law at the University of South Carolina School of Law whose areas of expertise include Evidence, as well as Criminal Law and Procedure. He wrote:

In this case, the witness invoked the Fifth Amendment privilege, the Committee Chairman recessed the hearing, and the Chairman now wants to hold the witness in contempt based upon the conclusion that she could not validly invoke the privilege. Under these circumstances, the witness cannot be held in contempt. Instead, the only way that the witness could be held in contempt is if the Committee Chairman officially ruled that the Fifth Amendment privilege was not available, instructed the witness to answer the question(s), and the witness refused.

As the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois noted in *United States ex rel. Berry v. Monahan*, 681 F.Supp. 490, 499 (N.D.Ill. 19988),

> If the law were otherwise, a person with a meritorious fifth amendment objection might not assert the privilege at all simply because of fear that the judge would find the invocation erroneous and hold the person in contempt. In that scenario, the law would throw the person back on the horns of the "cruel trilemma" for in order to insure against the contempt sanction the person would have to either lie or incriminate himself.

The Northern District of Illinois is not alone in this conclusion. Instead, it cited as support:

> *Traub v. United States*, 232 F.2d 43, 49 (D.C.Cir.1955) ("no contempt can lie unless the refusal to answer follows an adverse ruling by the court on the claim of the privilege or clear direction thereafter to answer" (*citation omitted*)); *Carlson v. United States*, 209 F.2d 209, 214 (1st Cir.1954) ("the claim of privilege calls upon the judge to make a ruling whether the privilege was available in the circumstances presented; and if the judge thinks not, then he instructs the witness to answer"). *See also Wolfe v. Coleman*, 681 F.2d 1302, 1308 (11th Cir.1982) (the petition for the writ in a contempt case failed because the court had found the petitioner's first amendment objection invalid before ordering him to answer); *In re Investigation Before the April 1975 Grand Jury*, 531 F.2d 600, 608 (D.C.Cir.1976) (a witness is subject to contempt if the witness refuses to answer a grand jury question previously found not to implicate the privilege). *Compare Maness v. Meyers*, 419 U.S. 449, 459, 95 S.Ct. 584, 591, 42 L.Ed.2d 574 (1975) (" once the court has ruled, counsel and others involved in the action must abide by the ruling and comply with the court's orders" (emphasis added)); *United States v. Ryan*, 402 U.S. 530, 533, 91 S.Ct. 1580, 1582, 29 L.Ed.2d 85 (1971) (after the court rejects a witness' objections, the witness is confronted with the decision to comply or be held in contempt if his objections to testifying are rejected again on appeal).

Most importantly, it cited the Supreme Court's opinion in *Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155 (1955), in support

> The Supreme Court in *Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155, 75 S.Ct. 688, 99 L.Ed. 964 (1955) held that in congressional-committee hearings the committee must clearly dispose of the witness' fifth amendment claim and order that witness to answer before the committee invokes its contempt power. Quinn v. United States, 349 U.S. 155, 167–68, 75 S.Ct. 668, 675–76, 99 L.Ed.

964 (1955). According to *Quinn*, "unless the witness is clearly apprised that the committee demands his answer notwithstanding his objections," the witness' refusal to answer is not contumacious because the requisite intent element of the congressional-contempt statute is lacking. Id. at 165–66, 75 S.Ct. at 674–75 (discussing 2 U.S.C. § 192). The court further stated that "a clear disposition of the witness' objection is a prerequisite to prosecution for contempt."

Therefore, *Quinn* clearly stands for the proposition that the witness in this case cannot be held in contempt of COurt.

Sincerely,

Colin Miller
University of South Carolina School of Law

10. Thomas Crocker is a Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of South Carolina School of Law who teaches courses in teaches Constitutional Law, Criminal Procedure, as well as seminars in Jurisprudence.

21 March 2014

Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Minority Member
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Cummings:

After reviewing materials relevant to the recent appearance of Ms. Lois Lerner as a witness before the Committee, I conclude that that no legal basis exists for holding her in contempt. Specifically, I agree with the legal analysis and conclusions Morton Rosenberg reached in the memo provided to you. Let me add a few thoughts as to why I agree.

The Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination has deep constitutional roots. As the Supreme Court explained, the privilege is "of great value, a protection to the innocent though a shelter to the guilty, and a safeguard against heedless, unfounded, or tyrannical prosecutions." Quinn v. United States, 349 U.S. 155, 161-62 (1955). Because of its importance, procedural safeguards exist to ensure that government officials respect "our fundamental values," which "mark[] an important advance in the development of our liberty." Kastigar v. United States, 406 U.S. 441, 444 (1972). As the Supreme Court made clear in a trio of cases brought in response to congressional contempt proceedings, before a witness can be held in contempt under 18 U.S.C. sec. 192, a committee must "directly overrule [a witness's] claims of self incrimination." Bart v. United States, 349 U.S. 219, 222 (1955). "[U]nless the witness is clearly apprised that the committee demands his answer notwithstanding his objections, there can be no conviction under sec. 192 for refusal to answer that question." Quinn, 349 U.S. at 166. Without this clear appraisal, and without a subsequent refusal, the statutory basis for violation of section 192 does not exist. This reading of the statutory requirements under section 192, required by the Supreme Court, serves the constitutional purpose of protecting the values reflected in the Fifth Amendment.

Reviewing the proceedings before the House Oversight Committee, it is clear that Chairman Darrell Issa did not overrule the witness's assertion of her Fifth Amendment privilege. As a result, the witness was "never confronted with a clear-cut choice between compliance and noncompliance, between answering the question and risking prosecution for contempt." Empsak v. United States, 349 U.S. 190, 202 (1955). Without that choice, then under section 192, the witness lacks the relevant intent, and therefore does not meet an essential element necessary for a claim of contempt. This is not a close or appropriately debatable case.

In addition, I understand that arguments have been made that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privilege in making an opening statement to the Committee and in authenticating earlier answers to the Inspector General. Although I would conclude that Ms. Lerner did not waive her right to invoke a Fifth Amendment privilege against testifying, resolution of this legal question is not relevant to the question of whether the proper foundation exists for a contempt of Congress claim under section 192. Even if the witness had waived her privilege, Chairman Issa failed to follow the minimal procedural safeguards required by the Supreme Court as a prerequisite for a contempt charge.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Crocker, J.D., Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Law

11. Thomas Spulak served as General Counsel of the House of Representatives from 1994-1995. He wrote in a statement to Ranking Member Cummings:

THOMAS J. SPULAK, ESQ.

1700 P ENNSYLVANIA A VENUE, N. W.

202-661-7948

March 20, 2014

Honorable Elijah Cummings

Ranking Member

WASHINGTON, DC 20006

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

U. S. House of Representatives

24 71 Rayburn Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cummings:

I write to you in response to your request for my views on the matter involving Ms. Lois Lerner currently pending before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (the "Committee"). I do so out of my deep concerns for the constitutional integrity of the U.S. House of Representatives, its procedures and its future precedents. I have no association with the matter whatsoever.

I have read reports in the Washington Post regarding the current proceedings involving Ms. Lois Lerner and especially the question of whether an appropriate and adequate constitutional predicate has been laid to serve as the basis for a charge of contempt of Congress. In my opinion, it has not.

I have deep respect for Chairman Darrell Issa and his leadership of the Committee. But the matter before the Committee is a relatively rare occurrence and must be dispatched in a constitutionally required manner for the good of this and future

Congresses.

I have reviewed the memorandum that Mr. Morton Rosenberg presented to you on March 12'h of this year. As you may know, Mr. Rosenberg is one of the leading scholars on the U.S. Congress, its procedures and the constitutional foundation. He has been relied upon by members and staff of both parties for over 30 years. I first met Mr. Rosenberg in the early 1980s when I was Staff Director and General Counsel of the House Rules Committee. He was an important advisor to the members of the Rules Committee then and has been for years after. While perhaps there have been times when some may have disagreed with his position, I know of no instance where his objectivity or commitment-to the U.S. Congress has ever been questioned.

Based on my experience, knowledge and understanding of the facts, I fully agree with Mr. Rosenberg's March 12th memorandum.

I have also reviewed Chairman Issa's letter to you dated March 14th of this year. His letter is very compelling and clearly states the reasons that he believes a proper foundation for a charge of contempt of Congress has been laid. For example, he indicates that on occasions, Ms. Lerner knew or should have known that the Committee had rejected her Fifth Amendment privilege claim, either through the Chairman's letter to her attorney or to reports of the same that appeared in the media. The fact of the matter, however, is that based on relevant Supreme Court rulings, the pronouncement must occur with the witness present so that he or she can understand the finality of the decision, appreciate the consequences of his or her continued silence, and have an opportunity to decide otherwise at that time.

I agree with the Chairman's reading of *Quinn v. United States* in that there is no requirement to use any "fixed verbal formula" to convey to the witness the Committee's decision. But, I believe that the Court does require that whatever words are used be delivered to the witness in a direct, unequivocal manner in a setting that allows the

witness to understand the seriousness of the decision and the opportunity to continue to insist on invoking the privilege or revoke it and respond to the Committee's questioning. That, as I understand the facts, did not occur.

In conclusion, I quote from Mr. Rosenberg's memorandum and agree with him when he said-

> ... [A}t no stage in [the}proceeding did the witness receive the requisite clear rejections of her constitutional objections and direct demands for answers nor was it made unequivocally certain that her failure to respond would result in criminal contempt prosecution.

Accordingly, I do not believe that the proper basis for a contempt of Congress charge has been established. Ultimately, however, this will be determined by members of the Judicial Branch.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Spulak

12. J. Richard Broughton is a Professor of Law at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and a member of the Republican National Lawyers Association.

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Donald K. Sherman, Counsel House Oversight & Government Reform Committee
FROM:	J. Richard Broughton, Associate Professor of Law University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
RE:	Legal Issues Related to Possible Contempt of Congress Prosecution
DATE:	March 17, 2014

You have asked for my thoughts regarding the possibility of a criminal contempt prosecution pursuant to 2 U.S.C. §§ 192 & 194 against Lois Lerner, in light of the assertion that the Committee violated the procedures necessary for permitting such a prosecution. My response here is intended to be objective and non-partisan, and is based on my own research and expertise. I am a full-time law professor, and my areas of expertise include Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, and Criminal Procedure, with a special focus on Federal Criminal Law. I previously served as an attorney in the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice during the Bush Administration. These views are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Detroit Mercy or anyone associated with the University.

The power of Congress to hold a witness in contempt is an important tool for carrying out the constitutional functions of the legislative branch. Lawmaking and oversight of the other branches require effective fact-finding and the cooperation of those who are in a position to assist the Congress in gathering information that will help it to do its job. Like any other criminal sanction, however, the contempt power must be used prudently, not for petty revenge or partisan gain. It should also be used with appropriate respect for countervailing constitutional rights and with proof that the accused contemnor possessed the requisite level of culpability in failing to answer questions. The Supreme Court has held that a recalcitrant witness's culpable mental state can only be established after the Committee has unequivocally rejected a witness's objection to a question and then demanded an answer to that question, even where the witness asserts the Fifth Amendment privilege. Absent such a formal rejection and subsequent directive, the witness – here, Ms. Lerner – would likely have a defense to any ensuing criminal prosecution for contempt, pursuant to the existing Supreme Court precedent. Those who are concerned about the reach of federal power should desire legally sufficient proof of a person's culpable mental state before permitting the United States to seek and impose criminal punishment.

Whether the precedents are sound, or whether they require such formality, however, is another matter. As set forth in the Rosenberg memorandum of March 12, 2014, the relevant cases are *Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155 (1955), *Emspak v. United States*, 349 U.S. 190 (1955), and *Bart v. United States*, 349 U.S. 219 (1955). *Quinn* contains the most detailed explanation of the procedural requirements for using section 192. Mr. Rosenberg's thoughtful memo correctly describes the holding in these cases. Still, those cases are not a model of clarity and their application to the Lerner matter is subject to some greater exploration.

One could argue that the Committee satisfied the rejection-then-demand requirement here, when we view the May 22, 2013 and March 5, 2014 hearings in their totality. At the May 22, 2013 hearing, Chairman Issa indicated to Ms. Lerner that he believed she had waived the

privilege (a contention bolstered by Rep. Gowdy at that hearing). The Committee then voted 22 to 17 on June 28, 2013 in favor of a resolution stating that she had waived the privilege. The Chairman then referred to this resolution in his opening statement on March 5, 2014, in the presence of Ms. Lerner and her counsel. And at each hearing, Chairman Issa continued to ask questions of her even after she re-asserted the privilege, thus arguably further demonstrating to her that the chair did not accept her invocation. Consequently, it could be argued that these actions placed her on adequate notice that her assertion of the privilege was unacceptable and that she was required to answer the questions propounded to her, which is why the Chairman continued with his questioning on March 5. Her refusal to answer was therefore intentional.

This argument is problematic, however, particularly if we read the cases as imposing a strict requirement that the specific question initially propounded be repeated and a demand to answer *it* made after formally rejecting the witness's invocation of privilege *as to that question.* And that is a fair reading of the cases. Although the Court said that no fixed verbal formula is necessary when rejecting a witness's objection, the witness must nevertheless be "fairly apprised" that the Committee is disallowing it. *See Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 170. Even Justice Reed's *Quinn* dissent, which criticized the demand requirement, conceded that the requisite mens rea for contempt cannot be satisfied where the witness is led to believe that – or at least confused about whether – her invocation of the privilege is acceptable. *See id.* at 187 (Reed, J., dissenting). Here, the Committee appeared equivocal at the first hearing. Although Chairman Issa's original rejection on May 22, 2013 was likely satisfactory (and bolstered by Rep. Gowdy's argument), it was not followed by a demand to answer the specific question propounded. He then moved onto other questions. On March 5, 2014, the Committee's conduct was also equivocal, because even though the Committee had approved a resolution stating that she had waived the privilege, and the Chairman referred to that resolution in his opening statement, the Committee never formally overruled her assertion of the privilege upon her repeated invocations of it (though it could easily have done so, by telling her that the resolution of June 28, 2013 still applied to each question she would be asked on March 5, 2014). Nor did the Committee demand answers to those same questions. Ms. Lerner was then excused each time and was never compelled to answer.

The problem, then, is not that the Committee failed to notify Ms. Lerner generally that it rejected her earlier assertion of privilege. Rather, the problem is that the Committee did not specifically overrule *each* invocation on either May 22, 2013 or March 5, 2014 and then demand an answer to *each* question previously asked. This is a problem because the refusal to answer each question constitutes a distinct criminal offense for which the mens rea must be established. Therefore, Ms. Lerner could have been confused about whether her invocation of the privilege as to each question was now acceptable – the waiver resolution and the Chair's reference to it notwithstanding – especially after her attorney had assured her that she did *not* waive the privilege. A fresh ruling disputing her counsel's advice would have clarified the Committee's position, but did not occur. But even if she could not have been so confused, she would likely have a persuasive argument that this process was still not sufficient under *Quinn*, absent a ruling on *each* question propounded *and* a demand that she answer the question initially asked of her prior to her invocation of the privilege.

Of course, none of this is to say that the cases are not problematic. *Quinn* is not clear about whether a general rejection of a witness's previous assertion of the privilege – like the one we have here via resolution and reference in an opening statement – would suffice as a method

for overruling an invocation of privilege on each and every question asked (as opposed to informing the witness after each invocation that the invocation is unacceptable). The best reading of *Quinn* is that although it does not require a talisman, it does require that the witness be clearly apprised as to each question that her objection to it is unacceptable. And that would seem to require a separate rejection and demand upon each invocation. *Quinn* also specifically states that once the Committee reasonably concludes that the witness has invoked the Fifth Amendment privilege, the privilege "must be respected." *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 163. Yet *Quinn* later states that when a witness asserts the privilege, a contempt prosecution may lie only where the witness refuses the answer once the committee has disallowed the objection and demanded an answer. *Id.* at 166. This would often put the committee in an untenable position. If the committee must respect an assertion of the privilege, then it cannot overrule the invocation of the privilege and demand an answer. For if the committee must decide to overrule the objection and demand an answer, then the committee is not respecting the assertion of the privilege. Perhaps the Court meant something different by "respect;" but its choice of language is confusing.

Also, the cases base the demand requirement on the problem of proving mens rea. Although the statute does not explicitly set forth the "deliberate and intentional" mens rea, the Court has held that the statute requires this. *See Sinclair v. United States*, 279 U.S. 263, 299 (1929). Contrary to *Quinn*, it is possible to read the statute as saying that the offense is complete once the witness refuses to answer a question, especially once it is made clear that the Committee rejects the underlying objection to answering. That reading is made even more plausible if the witness already knows that she may face contempt if she asserts the privilege and refuses to answer. Justice Reed raised this problem, *see Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 187 (Reed, J., dissenting), as did Justice Harlan, who went even farther in his *Emspak* dissent by saying that the rejection-then-demand requirement has no bearing on the witness's state of mind as of the time she initially refuses to answer. *See Emspak*, 349 U.S. at 214 (Harlan, J., dissenting). Here, Chairman Issa asked Ms. Lerner a series of questions that she did not answer, asserting the privilege instead. There remains a plausible argument that this, combined with the Chairman's initial statement that she had waived the privilege and the subsequent resolution of June 28, 2013, is enough to prove that she acted intentionally in refusing, even without a subsequent demand. That argument, however, would require reconsideration of the holding in *Quinn*.

Third, the Rosenberg memo adds that the witness must be informed that failure to respond *will* result in a criminal contempt prosecution. That, however, also places the committee in an untenable position. A committee cannot assure such a prosecution. Pursuant to section 194 and congressional rules, the facts must first be certified by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, the case must be referred to the United States Attorney, and the United States Attorney must bring the case before a grand jury (which could choose not to indict). Even if the committee believes the witness should be prosecuted, that result is not inevitable. Therefore, because the committee alone is not empowered to initiate a contempt prosecution, requiring the committee to inform the witness of the inevitability of a contempt prosecution would be inconsistent with federal law (section 194). Perhaps what Mr. Rosenberg meant was simply that the witness must be told that the committee would refer the case to the full Congress.

Even assuming the soundness of the rejection-and-demand requirement (which we should, as it is the prevailing law), and assuming it was not satisfied here, this does not necessarily preclude some future contempt prosecution against Ms. Lerner under section 192. If

the Committee were to recall Ms. Lerner, question her, overrule her assertion of privilege and demand an answer to the same question(s) at that time, then her failure to answer would apparently satisfy section 192. In the alternative, the Committee could argue that *Quinn, et al.* were wrong to require the formality of an explicit rejection and a subsequent demand for an answer in order to prove mens rea. That question would then have to be subject to litigation.

Finally, although beyond the scope of your precise inquiry, I continue to believe that any discussion of using the contempt of Congress statutes must consider that the procedure set forth in section 194 potentially raises serious constitutional concerns, in light of the separation of powers. *See* J. Richard Broughton, *Politics, Prosecutors, and the Presidency in the Shadows of Watergate*, 16 CHAPMAN L. REV. 161 (2012).

I hope you find these thoughts helpful. I am happy to continue assisting the Committee on this, or any other, matter.

13. Louis Fisher, Adjunct Scholar at the CATO Institute and Scholar in Residence at the Constitution Project.

I am responding to your request for thoughts on holding former IRS official Lois Lerner in contempt. They reflect views developed working for the Library of Congress for four decades as Senior Specialist in Separation of Powers at Congressional Research Service and Specialist in Constitutional Law at the Law Library. I am author of a number of books and treatises on constitutional law. For access to my articles, congressional testimony, and books see http://loufisher.org. Email: lfisher11@verizon.net. After retiring from government in August 2014, I joined the Constitution Project as Scholar in Residence and continue to teach courses at the William and Mary Law School.

I will focus primarily on your March 5, 2014 hearing to examine whether (1) Lerner waived her constitutional privilege under the Fifth Amendment self-incrimination clause, (2) there is no expectation that she will cooperate with the committee, and (3) the committee should therefore proceed to hold her in contempt. For reasons set forth below, I conclude that if the House decided to hold her in contempt and the issue litigated, courts would decide that the record indicated a willingness on her part to cooperate with the committee to provide the type of information it was seeking. Granted that she had complicated her Fifth Amendment privilege by making a voluntary statement on May 22, 2013 (that she had done nothing wrong, not broken any laws, not violated any IRS rules or regulations, and had not provided false information to House Oversight or any other committee), the March 5 hearing revealed an opportunity to have her provide facts and evidence to House Oversight to further its investigation.

The March 5 hearing began with Chairman Issa stating that the purpose of meeting that morning was "to gather facts about how and why the IRS improperly scrutinized certain organizations that applied for tax-exempt status." He reviewed the committee's inquiry after May 22, 2013, including 33 transcribed interviews of witnesses from the IRS. He then stated: "If Ms. Lerner continues to refuse to answer questions from our members while she is under a subpoena the committee may proceed to consider whether she should be held in contempt." He asked her, under oath, whether her testimony would be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. She replied in the affirmative. He proceeded to ask her nine questions. Each time she answered: "On the advice of my counsel I respectfully exercise my Fifth Amendment right and decline to answer that question." With the initial warning from Chairman Issa, followed by nine responses taking the Fifth, the committee might have been in a position to consider holding her in contempt. However, the final question substantially weakens the committee's ability to do that in a manner that courts will uphold.

Chairman Issa, after asking the eighth question, said the committee's general counsel had sent an e-mail to Lerner's attorney, saying "I understand that Ms. Lerner is willing to testify and she is requesting a week's delay." The committee checked to see if that information was correct and received a one-word response to that question from her attorney: "Yes." Chairman Issa asked Ms. Lerner: "Are you still seeking a one-week delay in order to testify?" She took the Fifth, but might have been inclined to answer in the affirmative but decided to rely on the privilege out of concern that a positive answer could be interpreted as waiving her constitutional right. When she chose to make an opening statement on May 22, 2013, and later took the Fifth, she was openly challenged as having waived the privilege. The hearing on March 5 is unclear on her willingness to testify. For purposes of holding someone in contempt, the record should be clear without any ambiguity or uncertainty.

These are the final words from Chairman Issa: "Ladies and Gentlemen, seeking the truth is the obligation of this Committee. I can see no point in going further. I have no expectation that Ms. Lerner will cooperate with this committee. And therefore we stand adjourned."

If it is the committee's intent to seek the truth, why not fully explore the possibility that she would, supported by her attorney, be willing to testify after a short delay of one week? According to a news story, her attorney, William Taylor, agreed to a deposition that would satisfy "any obligation she has or would have to provide information in connection with this investigation." http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2014/03/03/lois-lerner-testimony-lawyer-e-mails/5981967.

Why would a delay of one week interfere with the committee's investigation that has thus far taken nine and a half months? Why not, in pursuit of facts and evidence, probe this opportunity to obtain information from her, particularly when Chairman Issa and the committee have explained that she has important information that is probably not available from any other witness? With his last question, Chairman Issa raised the "expectation" that she would cooperate with the committee if given an additional week. Under these conditions, I think the committee has not made the case that she acted in contempt. If litigation resulted, courts are likely to reach the same conclusion.

14. Steven Duke, a former law clerk to Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and a current criminal procedure professor at Yale University Law School.

March 20, 2014

To: Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

From: Steven B. Duke, Professor of Law, Yale Law School

Re: Prerequisites for Contempt of Congress Citations and Prosecutions

At the request of your Deputy Chief Counsel, Donald Sherman, I have reviewed video recordings of proceedings before the Committee regarding the testimony of Ms. Lois Lerner, including her claims of privilege and the remarks of Chairman Issa regarding those claims. I have also reviewed the March 12,2014 report to you by Morton Rosenberg, legislative consultant, and the case law cited therein. I have also done some independent research on the matter. Based on those materials and my own experience as a teacher and scholar of evidence and criminal procedure for five decades, I concur entirely with the conclusions reached in Mr. Rosenberg's report that a proper basis has not been laid for a criminal contempt of Congress prosecution of Ms. Lerner.

I also agree with Mr. Rosenberg's conclusion that whether or not Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privilege during the May, 2013 proceedings, any new efforts to subpoena and obtain testimony from Ms. Lerner will be accompanied by a restoration of her Fifth Amendment privilege, since that privilege may be waived or reasserted in separate proceedings without regard to what has previously occurred, that is, the privilege may be waived in one proceedings and lawfully reasserted in subsequent proceedings.

15. Barbara Babcock, Emerita Professor of Law at Stanford University Law School has taught and written in the fields of civil and criminal procedure. She said:

"I agree completely with the memo from Morton Rosenberg about the requirements for laying a foundation before a contempt citation can be issued: a minimal and long-standing requirement for due process. In addition, it is preposterous to think she waived her Fifth Amendment right with the short opening statement on her previous appearance."

16. Michael Davidson is a Visiting Lecturer at Georgetown University on National Security and the Constitution. He wrote:

"I watched the tape of the March 5, 2014 hearing, by way of the link that you sent me. I also read Mort Rosenberg's memorandum to Ranking Member Cummings.

It seems to me the Committee is still midstream in its interaction with Ms. Lerner. Whatever may have occurred on May 22, 2013 (I have not watched that tape), the Chairman asked a series of questions on March 5, 2014, Ms. Lerner asserted privilege under the Fifth Amendment, but the Chairman did not rule with respect to his March 5 questions and Ms. Lerner's assertion of privilege with respect to them.

As Mr. Rosenberg's memorandum indicates, several Supreme Court decisions should be considered. It would be worthwhile, I believe, to focus on the discussion of 2 U.S.C. 192 in *Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155, 165-70 (1955). For a witness's refusal to testify to be punishable as a crime under Section 192, there must be a requisite criminal intent. Under the Supreme Court's decision in Quinn, "unless the witness is clearly apprised that the committee demands his answer notwithstanding his objections, there can be no conviction under [section] 192 for refusal to answer that question." 349 U.S. at 166.

From the March 5 tape, it appears that the Chairman did not demand that Ms. Lerner answer, notwithstanding her assertion of privilege, any of the questions asked on March 5, and therefore in the words of Quinn there could be no conviction for refusal to answer "that question," meaning any of the questions asked on March 5.

The Committee could, of course, seek to complete the process begun on March 5. If I were counseling the Committee, which I realize I am not, I'd suggest the value of inviting Ms. Lerner's attorney to submit a memorandum of law on her assertion of privilege. That could include whether on May 22, 2013 she had waived her Fifth Amendment privilege for questions asked then and whether any waiver back then carried over to the questions asked on March 5, 2014. Knowing her attorney's argument, the Committee could then consider the analysis of its own counsel or any independent analysis it might wish to receive. If it then decided to overrule Ms.Lerner's assertion of privilege, she could be recalled, her assertion of privilege on March 5 overruled, and if so she could then be directed to respond."

17. Robert Weisberg is the Edwin E. Huddleson, Jr. Professor of Law and Director of the Stanford Criminal Justice Center at Stanford University Law School.

To: Rep. Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight & Government Reform
United States House of Representatives

March 21, 2014

From: Robert Weisberg, Stanford Law School

Contempt Issue In Regard To Witness Lois Lerner

Dear Rep. Cummings:

You have asked my legal opinion as to whether Chairman Issa has laid the proper foundation for a contempt charge against Ms. Lerner. My opinion is that he has not.

I base this opinion on a review of what I believe to be the relevant case law. Let me note, however, that I have undertaken this review on a very tight time schedule and therefore (a) I cannot claim to have exhausted all possible avenues of research, and (b) the following remarks are more conclusory and informal than scholarly would call for.

The core of my opinion is that the sequence of colloquies at the May 22, 2013 hearing and the March 5, 2014 hearing do not establish the criteria required under 2 U.S.C. sec. 192, as interpreted by the Supreme Court in Quinn v. United States, 349 U.S. 155 (1956); Empsak v. United States, 349 U.S. 190 (1956), and Bart v. United States, 349 U.S. 219 (1956). The clear holding of these cases is that a contempt charge may not lie unless the witness has been presented "with a clear-cut-choice between compliance and non-compliance, between answering the question and risking the prosecution for contempt."*Quinn*, at 167. Put in traditional language of criminal law, the actus reus element of under section 192 is an express refusal to answer in the face of a categorical declaration that the refusal is legally unjustified..

I know that your focus is on the March 5, 2014 hearing, but I find it useful to first look at the earlier hearing. In my view, the Chairman essentially conceded that contempt had not occurred on May 22, 2013, because rather than frame the confrontation unequivocally as required by section 192, he excused the witness subject to recall, wanting to confirm with counsel whether the witness had waived the privilege by her remarks on that day. Moreover, as I understand it, the Chair at least considered the possibility offering the witness immunity after May 22. Under Kastigar v. United States, 406 US 441 (1972), use immunity is a means by which the government can simultaneously respect the witness's privilege and force her to testify. It makes little sense for the government to even consider immunity unless it believes it at least possible that the witness still holds the privilege. Thus, in my view, the government may effectively be estopped from alleging that the witness was in contempt at that point.

Nor, in my view, was the required confrontation framed at the March 5, 2014 hearing, Instead of directly confronting Ms. Lerner on her refusal to answer, the Chairman proceeded to ask a series of substantive questions, to each of which she responded with an invocation of her privilege. Ms. Lerner could have inferred that the Chair was starting the question/answer/invocation clock all over again, such that as long as she said nothing at this March 5 hearing that could be construed as a waiver, her privilege claim was intact. In my opinion, the Chairman's approach at this point could be viewed, in effect, as a waiver of the waiver issue, or as above, it would allow her to claim estoppel against the government.

Moreover, while the Chairman did lay out the position that Ms. Lerner had earlier waived the privilege, he did not do so in a way that set the necessary predicate for a contempt charge. In opening remarks, the Chairman alluded to Rep. Gowdy's belief that Ms. Lerner had earlier waived and said that the Committee had voted that she had waived. The former of these points is irrelevant. The latter is relevant, but not sufficient, if she was not directly confronted with a formal legal pronouncement upon demand for an answer. Apparently, the Chairman, the reference to the committee vote occurred after Ms. Lerner's first invocation on March 5, but before he continued on to a series of substantive questions and further invocations. Thus, even if reference to the committee view on waiver might have satisfied part of the *Quinn* requirement, Chairman Issa, yet again, arguably waived the waiver issue.

I recognize that by this view the elements of contempt are formalistic and that it puts a heavy burden of meeting those formalistic requirements on the questioner. But such a burden of formalism is exactly what the Supreme Court has demanded in *Quinn*, *Emspak*, and *Bart*. Indeed, it is precisely the formalism of the test that is decried by Justice Reed's dissent in those cases. See *Quinn*, at 171 ff.

Another, supplementary approach to the contempt issue is to consider what mens rea is required for a section 192 violation. This question requires me to turn to the waiver issue. I have not been asked for, nor am I am not offering, any ultimate opinion on whether Ms. Lerner's voluntary statements at the start of the May 22 hearing constituted a waiver. However, the possible dispute about waiver may be relevant to the contempt issue because it may bear whether Ms. Lerner had the required mental state for contempt, given that she may reasonably or at least honestly believed she had not waived.

The key question is whether the refusal to answer must be "willful." There is some syntactical ambiguity here. Section 192 says that a "default--by which I assume Congress means a failure to appear, must be willful to constitute contempt, and arguably the term "willfully" does not apply to the clause about refusal. But an equally good reading is that because contempt can hardly be a strict liability crime and so there must be some mens rea, Congress meant "willfully: to apply to the refusal as well. In any event, the word "refusal" surely suggests some level of defiance, not mere failure or declination.

So if the statute requires willfulness or its equivalent, federal case law would suggest that a misunderstanding or mistake of law can negate the required mens rea. The doctrine of mistake is very complex because of the varieties of misapprehension of law that call under this rubric. But this much is clear: While mistake about of the existence of substantive meaning of a criminal law with which is one charged normally is irrelevant to one's guilt, things are different under a federal statue requiring willfulness. See Cheek v. United States, 498 US 192 (1991) (allowing honest, even if unreasonable, misunderstanding of law to negate guilt).[102]

Showing that the predicate for willfulness has not been established involves repeating much of what I have said before, from slightly different angle. That is, one can define the actus reus term "refuse" so as to implicitly incorporate the mens rea concept of willfulness.

One possible factor bearing on willfulness involves the timing of Ms. Lerner's statements at the May 22 hearing. If Ms. Lerner's voluntary exculpatory statements at that hearing preceded any direct questioning by the committee, there is an argument that those statements did not waive the privilege because she was not yet facing any compulsion to answer, and thus the privilege was not in play yet. To retain her privilege a witness need not necessarily invoke it at the very start of a hearing. Thus in cases like Jackins v. United States, 231 F,405 (9th Cir. 1959), the witness was able to answer questions and then later invoke the privilege because it was only after a first set of questions that new questions probed into areas that raised a legitimate concern about criminal exposure. Under those cases, the witness has not waived the privilege because the concern about compelled self-incrimination has not arisen yet. This is, of course, a different situation, because the risk of criminal exposure was already apparent to Ms. Lerner when she made her exculpatory statements. But the situations are somewhat analogous under a general principle that waiver has not occurred until by virtue of both a compulsion to answer and a risk of criminal exposure the witness is facing the proverbial "cruel trilemma" that it is the purpose of the privilege to spare the witness.

Here is one other analogy. When a criminal defendant testifies in his own behalf, the prosecutor may seek to impeach him by reference to the defendant's earlier silence, so long as the

---

[102] According to Prof. Sharon Davies:

"Knowledge of illegality" has ... been construed to be an element in a wide variety of [federal] statutory and regulatory criminal provisions. . . . These constructions establish that . . . ignorance or mistake of law has already become an acceptable [defense] in a number of regulatory and nonregulatory settings, particularly in prosecutions brought under statutes requiring proof of "willful" conduct on the part of the accused. Under the reasoning employed in these cases, at least 160 additional federal statutes . . . are at risk of similar treatment." The Jurisprudence of Ignorance: An Evolving Theory of Excusable Ignorance, 48 Duke L. J. 341, 344-47 (1998).

prosecutor is not by penalizing the defendant for exercising his privilege against self-incrimination. The prosecutor may do so where the silence occurred before arrest or before the *Miranda* warning, because until the warning is given, the court will not infer that he was exercising a constitutional right. Jenkins v. Anderson, 447 U.S. 231 (1980); Fletcher v. Weir, 455 US 603 (1982) By inference here, the Fifth Amendment was not yet in legal play in at the May 22 hearing until Ms. Lerner was asked a direct question, en though she was under subpoena.

Second, I can imagine Ms. Lerner being under the impression that because her voluntary statement could not constitute a waiver because they chiefly amounted to a denial of guilt, not any details about the subject matter.[103] Again, I am not crediting such a view as a matter of law. Rather, I am allowing for the possibility t hat Ms. Lerner, perhaps on advice of counsel, had honestly believed this to be to be a correct legal inference. But it would probably require the questioner to confront the witness very specifically and expressly about the waiver and to make unmistakably clear to her that it was the official ruling of the committee that her grounds for belief that she had not waived were wrong. If she then still refused to answer, she might be in contempt. (Of course she could then argue to a trial or appellate court that she had not waived but if she lost on that point she would not then be able to undo her earlier refusal.

Most emphatically, I am *not* opining here that these arguments are valid and can defeat a waiver claim by the government. Rather, they are relevant to the extent that Ms. Lerner may have believed them to be valid arguments, and therefore may not have acted "willfully." If so, at the very least her refusal at the March 5 hearing would not be willful unless the Chairman had categorically clarified for her that she had indeed waived, that she no longer had the privilege, and that if she immediately reasserted her purported privilege, she would be held in contempt. As discussed above, this the Chairman did not do.

One final analogy might be useful here, and that is perjury law. In Bronston v. United States,409 U.S. 352 (1973), the Supreme Court held that even when a witness clearly intended to mislead the questioner, there was no perjury unless the witness's statement was a literally a false factual statement.[104] While its reading of the law imposed a heavy burden on the prosecutor to arrange the phrasing of its questions so as to prevent the witness from finessing perjury as Bronston had done there, the Court made clear that just such a formalistic burden is what the law required to

---

[103] The federal false statement statute18 U,.S.C. 1001, had allowed the defense that the false statement was merely an "exculpatory no." That defense was overruled in Brogan v. United States 522 U.S. 398 1998), but perhaps a witness or her lawyer might believe would advise a client that a parallel notion might apply in regard to waiver of her fifth amendment privilege.

[104]The perjury statute like the contempt statute, makes "willfulness" the required mens rea.

make a criminal of a witness.[105] "Ambiguities with respect to whether an answer is perjurious "are to be remedied through the questioner's acuity." *Bronston*, at 362.

Robert Weisberg
Edwin E. Huddleson, Jr. Professor of Law
Director, Stanford Criminal Justice Center
Stanford University
phone: (650) 723-0612
FAX: (650) 725-0253

http://www.law.stanford.edu/program/centers/scjc/

[105] "[I]f the questioner is aware of the unresponsiveness of the answer, with equal force it can be argued that the very unresponsiveness of the answer should alert counsel to press on for the information he desires. It does not matter that the unresponsive answer is stated in the affirmative, thereby implying the negative of the question actually posed; for again, by hypothesis, the examiner's awareness of unresponsiveness should lead him to press another question or reframe his initial question with greater precision. Precise questioning is imperative as a predicate for the offense of perjury." *Bronston*, at 361-62.

18. Gregory Gilchrist is an attorney with experience representing individuals in congressional investigations and currently an Associate Professor at the University of Toledo College of Law.

Statement of Gregory M. Gilchrist, an attorney with experience representing individuals in congressional investigations and current Associate Professor at the University of Toledo College of Law:

The rule is clear, as is the reason for the rule, and neither supports a prosecution for contempt. The Supreme Court has consistently held that unless a witness is "confronted with a clear-cut choice between compliance and noncompliance, between answering the question and risking prosecution for contempt," the assertion of the Fifth Amendment privilege is devoid of the criminal intent required for a contempt prosecution. See Quinn v. United States, 349 U.S. 155, 166 (1955).

Criminal contempt is not a tool for punishing those whose legal analysis about asserting the privilege is eventually overruled by a governing body. Privilege law is hard, and reasonable minds can and will differ.

Contempt proceedings are reserved for those instances where a witness – fully and clearly apprised that her claim of privilege has been rejected by the governing body and ordered to answer under threat of contempt – nonetheless refuses to answer. In this case, the committee was clear only that it had not yet determined how to treat the continued assertion of the privilege. Prosecution for contempt under these circumstances would be inconsistent with rule and reason.

19. Lisa Kern Griffin, Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law whose scholarship and teaching focuses on constitutional criminal procedure stated:

"The Committee has an interest in pursuing its investigation into a matter of public concern and in getting at the truth. But the witness has rights, and there are well-established mechanisms for obtaining her testimony. If a claim of privilege is valid, then a grant of immunity can compel testimony. If a witness has waived the privilege, or continues to demur despite a grant of immunity, then contempt sanctions can result from the failure to respond. But the Supreme Court has made clear that those sanctions are reserved for defiant witnesses. Liability for contempt of Congress under section 192 requires a refusal to answer that is a 'deliberate' and 'intentional' violation of a congressional order. The record of this Committee hearing does not demonstrate the requisite intent because the witness was not presented with a clear choice between compliance and contempt."

20. David Gray is a Professor of Law at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law with expertise in criminal law, criminal procedure, international criminal law, and jurisprudence. He said:

"After reviewing the relevant portions of the May 22, 2013, and March 5, 2014, hearings, I concur in the views of Messrs. Rosenberg and Brand that a contempt charge filed against Ms. Lerner based on her invocation of her Fifth Amendment privilege and subsequent refusal to answer questions at the March 5, 2014, hearing would in all likelihood be dismissed. Two deficits stand out.

First, at no point during the hearing was Ms. Lerner advised by the Chairman that her invocation of her Fifth Amendment privilege at the March 5, 2014, hearing was improper. The Chairman instead read a lengthy narrative history "for the record," the content of which he believed were "important . . . for Ms. Lerner to know and understand." During that narrative, the Chairman reported a vote taken by his committee on June 28, 2013, expressing the committee's view that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights at the May 22, 2013, hearing and that her invocation of her Fifth Amendment rights at the May 22, 2012, hearing was therefore improper. During subsequent questioning at the March 5, 2014, hearing, Ms. Lerner declared that her counsel had advised her that she had not waived her Fifth Amendment rights and that she would therefore refuse to answer questions posed at the March 5, 2014, hearing. This exchange produced a wholly ambiguous record. Chairman Issa's narrative history could quite reasonably have been interpreted by Ms. Lerner as precisely that: history. The committee's view that her invocation of Fifth Amendment privilege at the May 22, 2013, hearing was improper may well have been "important . . . for Ms. Lerner to know and understand" as a matter of history, but did not inform her as to the committee's views on her potential invocation of Fifth Amendment privilege at the March 5, 2014, hearing. Ms. Lerner's statement regarding her counsel's opinion that she had not waived her Fifth Amendment rights might have been in direct response to the committee's June 28, 2013, resolution. Alternatively, it may have been a statement regarding the extension of any waiver made in May 2013 to a hearing conducted in March 2014. In either event, in order to lay a proper foundation for a potential contempt charge, Chairman Issa needed to respond directly to Ms. Lerner's March 5, 2013, invocation at the March 5, 2013, hearing.

Second, Ms. Lerner was never directly informed by the Chairman at the March 5, 2014, hearing that her failure to answer direct questions posed at the March 5, 2014, would leave her subject to a contempt charge. During his narrative history, the Chairman did state that "if [Ms. Lerner] continues to refuse to answer questions from Members while under subpoena, the Committee may proceed to consider whether she will be held in contempt." Messrs. Rosenberg and Brand are quite right to point out that, by using the word "may," this statement fails to put Ms. Lerner on notice that her failure to answer questions posed at the March 5, 2014, hearing would leave her subject to a contempt charge. There is another problem, however. In context, the statement seems to be reported as part of the content of the June 28, 2013, resolution and then-contemporaneous discussions of the committee rather than a directed warning to Ms. Lerner as to the risks of her conduct in the March 5, 2014, hearing. In order to lay a proper foundation for a potential contempt charge, Chairman Issa therefore needed to inform Ms. Lerner in unambiguous terms that, pursuant to its June 28, 2013, resolution, the committee would pursue contempt charges against her should she refuse to answer questions posed by the committee on March 5, 2014.

Although it appears that Chairman Issa failed to lay a proper foundation for any contempt charges against Ms. Lerner based on her refusal to answer questions at the March 5, 2014, hearing, I cannot discern any malevolent intent on his part. To the contrary, it appears to me that, based on his exchanges with Ms. Lerner at the May 22, 2013, hearing and his manner and comportment at the March 5, 2014, hearing, that he is genuinely, and laudibly, concerned that he and his committee pay all due deference to Ms. Lerner's constitutional rights. It appears likely to me that his omissions here are the results of an abundance of caution and his choice to largely limit his engagement with Ms. Lerner to reading prepared statements and questions rather than initiating the more extemporaneous dialogue that is the hallmark of examinations conducted in court."

21. JoAnne Epps, a former federal prosecutor and Dean of Temple University Beasley School of Law, said:

"A key element of due process in this country is fairness. The 'uninitiated' are not expected to divine the thinking of the 'initiated.' In other words, witnesses can be expected to make decisions based on what they are told, but they are not expected to know – or guess – what might be in the minds of governmental questioners. In the context of criminal contempt for refusal to answer, fairness requires that a witness be made clearly aware that an answer is demanded, that the refusal to answer is not accepted, and further that the refusal to answer can have criminal consequences. It appears that the witness in this case received neither a demand to answer, a rejection of her refusal to do so, nor an explanation of the consequences of her refusal. These omissions render defective any future prosecution."

22. Stephen Saltzburg, is a former law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, and currently the Wallace and Beverley Woodbury University at the George Washington University School of Law with expertise in criminal law and procedure; trial advocacy; evidence; and congressional matters. He said:

The Supreme Court has made clear that a witness may not be validly convicted of contempt of Congress unless the witness is directed by a committee to answer a question and the witness refuses. The three major cases are Quinn v. United States, 349 U.S. 155, Emspak v. United States, 349 U.S. 190, and Bart v. United States, 349 U.S. 219, all decided in 1955. They make clear that where a witness before a committee objects to answering a certain question, asserting his privilege against self-incrimination, the committee must overrule his or her objection based upon the Fifth Amendment *and* expressly direct him to answer before a foundation may be laid for a finding of criminal intent.

This is a common sense rule. When a witness invokes his or her privilege against self-incrimination, the witness is entitled to know whether or not the committee is willing to respect the invocation. Unless and until the committee rejects the claim and orders the witness to answer, the witness is entitled to operate on the assumption that the privilege claim entitles the witness not to answer.

There is another question that arises, which is whether the Chairman of a committee is delegated the power to unilaterally overrule a claim of privilege or whether the committee must vote on whether to overrule it. This is a matter as to which I have no knowledge. I note that the memorandum by Morton Rosenberg appears to assume that the Chairman may unilaterally overrule a privilege claim, but I did not see any authority cited for that proposition.

23. Kami Chavis Simmons, a former federal prosecutor and Professor of Law at Wake Forest University School of Law with expertise in criminal procedure stated:

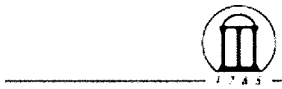
I agree with the legal analysis provided by Mr. Rosenberg, as well the comments of other legal experts. The Supreme Court's holding in *Quinn v. U.S.*, is instructive here. In *Quinn,* the Supreme Court held that a conviction for criminal contempt cannot stand where a witness before a Congressional committee refuses to answer questions based on the assertion of his fifth-amendment privilege against self-incrimination "unless the witness is clearly apprised that the committee demands his answer notwithstanding his objections." *Quinn v. U.S.,* 349, U.S. 155, 165 (1955). Case law relying on *Quinn* similarly indicates that there can be no conviction where the witness was "never confronted with a clear-cut choice between compliance and noncompliance, between answering the question and risking prosecution for contempt." *Emspak v. U.S.*, 349 U.S. 190, 202 (1955). Based on the record in this case, the witness was not confronted with a choice between compliance and non-compliance. Thus, the initiation of a contempt proceeding seems inappropriate here.

There are additional concerns related to the initiation of criminal contempt proceedings in the instant case. Here, the witness, who was *compelled* to appear before Congress, made statements declaring only her innocence and otherwise made no incriminating statements. Pursuing a contempt proceeding based on these facts, may set an interesting precedent for witnesses appearing before congressional committees, and could result in the unintended consequence of inhibiting future Congressional investigations.

24. Patrice Fulcher is an Associate Professor at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School where she teaches Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure. She said:

"American citizens expect, and the Constitution demands, that U.S. Congressional Committees adhere to procedural constraints when conducting hearings. Yet the proper required measures designed to provide due process of law were not followed during the May 22nd House Oversight Committee Hearing concerning Ms. Lerner. In *Quinn v. United States,* the Supreme Court clearly outlined practical safeguards to be followed to lay the foundation for contempt of Congress proceedings once a witness invokes the Fifth Amendment. 349 U.S. 155 (1955). To establish criminal intent, the committee has to demand the witness answer and upon refusal, expressly overrule her claim of privilege. This procedure assures that an accused is not forced to 'guess whether or not the committee has accepted [her] objection', but is provided with a choice between compliance and prosecution. *Id.* It is undeniable that the record shows that the committee did not expressly overrule Ms. Lerner's claim of privilege, but rather once Ms. Lerner invoked her 5th Amendment right, the Chairman subsequently excused her. The Chairman did not order her to answer or present her with the clear option to respond or suffer contempt charges. Therefore, launching a contempt prosecution against Ms. Lerner appears futile and superfluous due to the Committee's disregard for long standing traditions of procedure."

25. Andrea Dennis is a tenured Associate Professor of Law at the University of Georgia Law School who teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Evidence, among other courses.



The University of Georgia

School of Law

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform

FROM: Andrea L. Dennis
Associate Professor of Law
University of Georgia School of Law

DATE: March 25, 2014

You asked my opinion whether the public video record of the appearance of Ms. Lois Lerner, former Director of Exempt Organizations of the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), before the House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform, which was investigating alleged improprieties by the IRS concerning the tax exempt status of some organizations, sufficiently demonstrates that Ms. Lerner acted "willfully" to support a criminal contempt of Congress charge, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. Sec. 192.

Based on my understanding of the facts, legal research, and professional experience, I must answer in the negative. Accordingly, I join the conclusions that Messrs. Morton Rosenberg and Stanley M. Brand presented on March 12, 2014, to Congressman Cummings, and which since have been echoed by others.

I will not herein detail the facts giving rise to this matter or offer a fully fleshed out research report. Mr. Rosenberg's statement of relevant facts in his memorandum is accurate, and he has cited the most pertinent caselaw. I am happy, however, to provide you with additional supporting citations if necessary.

In short, my research of criminal Congressional contempt charges and analogous legal issues leads me to interpret the term "willfully" in 2 U.S.C. Sec. 192 to require that Ms. Lerner have voluntarily and intentionally violated a specific and unequivocal order to answer the Committee's questions. Moreover, I believe that Ms. Lerner must have been advised that she faced contempt charges and punishment if she continued to refuse to answer the Committee's questions despite its clear order to do so. Collectively, these elemental requirements ensure that witnesses in Ms. Lerner's position are fairly notified that they must choose between making self-incriminating statements, lying under oath, and facing punishment for failing to comply with an order. Witnesses who refuse to comply with such clear statements of expectations have little room to question the nature of the circumstances with which they are confronted. In this case, the record indicates that Ms. Lerner was not forced to make such a choice and therefore a contempt prosecution would be legally and factually unsupportable.

Review of the public video recordings of Ms. Lerner's appearances at the Committee's hearings on May 22, 2013, and March 5, 2014, reveals that at no time during the Committee's publicized proceedings did the Committee Chair explicitly order Ms. Lerner to respond to questions under penalty of contempt. At most, the Committee Chair equivocally stated that if Ms. Lerner refused to answer the Committee's questions, then the Committee may possibly investigate her for contempt. This statement by itself is filled with such uncertainty that it would be erroneous to conclude that Ms. Lerner was directly ordered to answer questions and advised that she would be subject to penalty if she did not. And when considered in connection with the Chair's earlier mentions of possibly offering her immunity or granting her an extension of time to respond, the statement regarding possible contempt charges becomes even more indefinite. For these reasons, I am hard-pressed to conclude that the legal pre-requisites for acting "willfully" in a Congressional criminal contempt prosecution were factually established in these circumstances.

And although you did not particularly inquire of my opinion as to whether Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privilege against compelled testimonial self-incrimination at the Committee's hearings on May 22, 2013, I find it an issue worthy of comment. Notably, I am unconvinced that Ms. Lerner waived her privilege at the proceedings by either reading an opening statement briefly describing her professional background and claiming innocence, or authenticating her earlier answers to questions posed to her by the Inspector General. From the record it does not appear that Ms. Lerner voluntarily revealed incriminating information or offered testimony on the merits of the issue being investigated. To conclude otherwise on the waiver issue would suggest oddly that in order to validly assert the privilege individuals must claim the privilege for even non-incriminating information, as well as upend the accepted notion that the innocent may benefit from the privilege.

Before closing, let me explain a little of my background. I am a tenured Associate Professor of Law. I teach Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Evidence, among other courses. I research in a number of areas including criminal adjudication. Prior to entering academia, I clerked for a federal district court judge, practiced as an associate with the law firm of Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., and served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the District of Maryland. A fuller bio may be found at: http://www.law.uga.edu/profile/andrea-l-dennis.

Thank you for the opportunity to reflect on this very important matter. Please let me know if you would like me to elaborate further on my thoughts or answer additional questions. If need be, I may be reached via email at aldennis@uga.edu or in my office at 706-542-3130.

26. Katherine Hunt Federle is a Professor of Law at the Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law where she teaches Criminal Law and serves as Director, for the Center for Interdisciplinary Law & Policy Studies. She said:

Constitutional rights do not end at the doors of Congress. Any witness who receives a subpoena to testify before Congress may nevertheless expect that constitutional protections extend to those proceedings. When that witness raises objections to the questions posed on the grounds of self-incrimination, due process entitles the witness to a clear ruling from the committee on those objections. Bart v. United States, 269 F.2d 357, 361 (1955). Only after the committee informs the witness that her objections are overruled, and she continues to assert her Fifth Amendment right, would it be possible to charge the witness with criminal contempt of Congress. Quinn v. United States, 349 U.S. 155, 165-166 (1955). However, without a clear statement from the committee overruling her objections, there can be no conviction for contempt of Congress based on her refusal to answer questions. Id.

Due process cannot stand for the proposition that a witness must guess whether her assertion of the privilege of self-incrimination has been accepted. In this case, there does not appear to be any statement by the members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform during the hearings informing Ms. Lerner that her objections have been overruled. It would strain credulity to suggest that a witness must rely on news accounts or second-hand statements to divine the Committee's intentions on this matter. Moreover, insisting that a witness who has asserted her Fifth Amendment right appear before the Committee again would seem to serve only political ends in the absence of some intention either to accept the invocation of the privilege against self-incrimination or to offer the witness immunity in exchange for her testimony. Rather, in light of the suggestion that the Committee intends to seek contempt charges, recalling the witness suggests an opportunity for political theater.

The essence of due process is fairness. At the very least, due process requires a direct communication from the Committee to the witness stating in some way that the witness must answer the questions. Some idea that the Committee has disagreed with her objections is not enough, given the nature of the potential charge. Of course that also means that some questions must be posed. I remain unpersuaded that happened here since the Committee met and voted to overrule her objections after Ms. Lerner first appeared, and I cannot see that any questions were asked of Ms. Lerner that would have indicated to her that her objections were overruled. When Ms. Lerner appeared a second time and invoked the privilege against self-incrimination, the Committee then should have told her it was overruling her objections. Again, that did not happen.

27. Glenn F. Ivey is a former federal prosecutor and currently a Partner in the law firm of Leftwich & Ludaway, whose practice focuses on white collar criminal defense, as well as Congressional and grand jury investigations. He said:

"I agree with Morton Rosenberg's statement that Chairman Issa has not laid the requisite legal foundation to bring contempt of Congress charges. Mr. Rosenberg raises important points that the Committee ought to consider, especially given the negative historic impact this decision could have on the institution. Protecting these procedures and precedents from the pressures of the moment is important. Rushing to judgment or trying to score political points is not in the best interest of the Committee, the Congress or the country."

28. Jonathan Rapping is an Associate Professor of Law at the John Marshall School of Law where he teaches Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure. He said:

Ours is a nation founded on the understanding that whenever government representatives are given power over the people, there is the potential for an abuse of that power. Our Bill of Rights enshrined protections meant to shield the individual from a government that fails to exercise restraint. At no time is the exercise of prudence and temperament more important than when a citizen's liberty is at stake. The United States Supreme Court begins its analysis in Quinn v. United States, 349 U.S. 155 (1955), with a discussion of the historical importance the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination holds in our democracy. The Court reminds us that this right serves as "a safeguard against heedless, unfounded or tyrannical prosecutions[,]' and that to treat it "as an historical relic, at most merely to be tolerated - is to ignore its development and purpose." Id. at 162.

In the instant case, zeal to charge into a criminal contempt prosecution appears to trump respect for process necessary to ensure this critical right is respected. The March 5th hearing opens with Representative Issa indicating that the Committee believes Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privilege, and *suggesting* that if Ms. Lerner does not answer questions "the Committee may proceed to consider whether she should be held in contempt." Ms. Lerner subsequently makes clear that her lawyer disagrees with that assessment, and that she believes she retains her right to refuse to answer questions. Ms. Lerner proceeds to refuse to answer questions and Representative Issa appears to accept her refusal without ever again raising the specter of contempt. By the end of the hearing, the threat that contempt charges may be forthcoming is at best ambiguous.

But in our democracy, ambiguous is not good enough. The government has the burden, indeed the obligation, to make clear that refusal to answer questions will result in contempt, giving the individual a chance to comply with an unequivocal demand. There must be no ambiguity about whether the citizen is jeopardizing her liberty. The onus is on the government to dot all i's and cross all t's. Unwavering respect for this core constitutional principle demands no less.

29. Eve Brensike Primus is a Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School with expertise in criminal law, criminal procedure, as well as constitutional law. She said:

In order to be guilty of a criminal offense for refusing to testify or produce papers during a Congressional inquiry under 2 U.S.C. § 192, a subpoenaed witness must *willfully* refuse to answer any question pertinent to the question under inquiry. In a trilogy of cases in 1955, the Supreme Court made it clear that, "unless the witness is clearly apprised that the committee demands [her] answer notwithstanding [her] objections, there can be no conviction under § 192 for refusal to answer that question." *Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155, 166 (1955); *see also Emspak v. United States*, 349 U.S. 190, 202 (1955); *Bart v. United States*, 349 U.S. 219, 222 (1955). Without such appraisal, "there is lacking the element of deliberateness necessary" to establish the willful mental state required by the statute. *Emspak v. United States*, 349 U.S. 190, 202 (1955).

The Supreme Court further emphasized that "[t]he burden is upon the presiding member to make clear the directions of the committee...." *Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155, 166 n.34 (1955) (quoting *United States v. Kamp*, 102 F. Supp. 757, 759 (D.D.C.)). The witness must be "confronted with a clear-cut choice between compliance and noncompliance, between answering the question and risking prosecution for contempt." *Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155, 166 (1955); *see also Bart v. United States*, 349 U.S. 219, 222 (1955) (requiring that the committee give the witness a specific direction to answer before a conviction for contempt can lie).

In neither of the hearings at which Ms. Lerner testified did Chairman Issa expressly overrule her objections and explicitly direct her to answer the committee's questions or face contempt proceedings. Having never been given an order to answer questions, Ms. Lerner could not *willfully* refuse to answer under § 192.

30. David Jaros is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Baltimore School of Law who teaches courses in criminal law and procedure. He said:

"A critical component of due process is that a defendant must have fair notice that their actions will expose them to criminal liability. To hold Ms. Lerner in contempt, the congressional committee must have done more than just inform Ms. Lerner that it had found that her voluntary statements waived her Fifth Amendment Rights. The Committee must have also clearly demanded that she respond to the questions not withstanding her objections. Failing to do that is fatal to the charge."

31. Alex Whiting is a former criminal prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague and a Professor at Harvard Law School with expertise in criminal law, criminal trials and appeals as well as prosecutorial ethics. He said:

Proceeding with contempt against Lois Lerner on the basis of this record would be both unwise and unfair. Because of the risk of politicization in the congressional investigation and oversight process, it is particularly important that due process be scrupulously followed at all times and that the Committee take the maximum steps to ensure that witnesses are afforded all of their legal rights and protections. The record here falls short of meeting this standard. As others have noted, federal prosecutors would rarely if ever seek to deny a witness his or her Fifth Amendment privilege based on the arguments advanced here. Further, with regard to contempt, Congress should provide, as is the practice in courts, clear warnings to the witness that refusal to answer the questions will result in contempt proceedings and then give the witness every opportunity to answer the questions. That practice was not followed in this case. Fairness and a concern for the rights of witnesses who testify before Congress dictate that the Committee take great care in following the proper procedures before considering the drastic step of seeking a finding of contempt. Proceeding with contempt under these circumstances, and on this record, seriously risks eroding the Committee's legitimacy.

32. On April 6, 2014, Morton Rosenberg sent a memo to the Oversight Committee Democratic staff based on his review of Chairman Issa's March 25, 2014 memo from House Counsel. This memo directly rebuts the arguments raised by House Counsel in defense of Chairman Issa's actions on March 5, 2014.

April 6, 2014

To: [redacted]
Deputy Chief Counsel, Minority
House Committee on Oversight
& Government Reform

From: Morton Rosenberg
Legislative Consultant

Re: Comments on House General Counsel Opinion

This is in response to your request for my comments on the House General Counsel's (HGC) March 25 opinion critiquing my March 12 memo for Ranking Member Cummings. In that opinion the HGC readily concedes that the Supreme Court in *Quinn, Emspak*, and *Bart* requires that in order for a congressional committee to successfully prosecute a subpoenaed witness's refusal answer pertinent questions after he has invoked his Fifth Amendment rights, it must be shown that the "witness is clearly apprised that the committee demands his answer notwithstanding his objections", *Quinn*, 349 U.S. at 196; a committee must "directly overrule [a witness's] claims of self-incrimination;" *Bart,* 349 at 222; and the witness must be "confronted with a clear-cut choice between compliance and non-compliance, between answering the question and risking prosecution for contempt." *Emspak,* 349 U.S. at 202. HGC Op. at 10-12. The HGC asserts that the Committee followed the High Court's requirements by "directly" overruling Ms. Lerner's privilege claim by its passage of a resolution specifically determining that she had voluntarily waived her constitutional rights in her opening exculpatory statement at the May 22, 2013 hearing and subsequent authentication of a document, and by communicating that committee action to her; and, "indirectly", by "demonstrating" that it had "specifically directed the witness to answer." *Id.,* 10-11, 12-15.

Both assertions are meritless. The June 28, 2013 resolution stands alone as a committee opinion (which was resisted and challenged by the witness's counsel) and is without any immediate legal consequence until the question of its legal substantiality is considered and resolved as a threshold issue by a court in criminal contempt prosecution under 2 U.S.C. 192 or civil enforcement proceeding to require the withheld testimony. By itself, the resolution, and the communication of its existence, is not a demand for an answer to a propounded question recognized by the Supreme Court trilogy. In fact, a perusal of the record of events relied on by the HGC indicates that there never has been at any time during 10 month pendency of the subject hearing a specific committee overruling of any of Ms. Lerner's numerous invocations of constitutional privilege at the time they were made or thereafter, nor any effective direction to her to respond. As a consequence, she "was left to speculate about the risk of possible prosecution for contempt; [s]he was not given a clear choice between standing on [her] objection and compliance with a committee ruling." *Bart,* 349 U.S. at 223.

More, particularly, after making her controverted opening statement and authentication of a previous document submission to an IG, Chairman Issa advised Ms. Lerner that she had effectively waived her constitutional rights and asked her to obtain her counsel's advice. She then announced her refusal to respond to any further questions, thereby invoking her privilege, to which the Chairman responded that "we will take your refusal as a refusal to testify." It may be noted that Lerner's counsel had advised the committee before the hearing that she was likely to claim privilege. The hearing proceeded without further testimony from the witness. Before adjournment, Chairman Issa announced that the question had arisen whether Ms. Lerner had waived her rights and that he would consider that issue and "look into the possibility of recalling her and insisting that she answer questions in light of a waiver." The committee thereafter sought and received input on the waiver issue, including the written views of Lerner's counsel. On June 28, 2013, after debate amongst the members, a resolution, presumably prepared and vetted by House Counsel and/or committee counsel, was passed by a 22-17 vote. The text of the committee resolution reads as follows:

> Resolved, That the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform determines that voluntary statement offered by Ms. Lerner constituted a waiver of her Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination as to all questions within the subject matter of the Committee hearing that began on May 22, 2013, including questions relating to (i) Ms. Lerner's knowledge of any targeting by the Internal Revenue Service of particular groups seeking tax exempt status, and (ii) questions relating to any facts or information that would support or refute her assertions that, in that regard, "she has not done anything wrong," "not broken any laws," "not violated IRS rules or regulations," and/or "not provided false information to this or any other congressional committee."

Nothing in the language of the Committee's June 28, 2013 resolution can be even be remotely construed as an *explicit* rejection of Ms. Lerner's Fifth Amendment privilege at the May 22 hearing. It is solely and exclusively concerned with the question whether Ms. Lerner voluntarily waived her privilege at that hearing. A rejection of a future claim in a resumed hearing may be implicit in the resolution's language, but that rejection, under *Quinn, Emspak,* and *Bart,* would have had to have been expressly directed at the particular claim when raised by the witness.

After a lapse of eight months, the Chairman decided to resume his questioning of Ms. Lerner and reminded her attorney, by letter dated February 25, 2014, that he had recessed the earlier hearing "to allow the committee to determine whether she had waived her asserted Fifth Amendment right [and that] [t]he Committee subsequently determined that Ms. Lerner in fact had waived that right." The Chairman then, for the first time, asserted *"[B]ecause the Committee explicitly rejected {Ms. Lerner's] Fifth amendment privilege claim , I expect her to provide answers when the hearing reconvenes on March 5."* Lerner's counsel simply responded the next day that the "[w]e understand that the Committee voted that she had waived her rights," but with no acknowledgement that any express rejection of a

privilege claim had taken place. HGC Op. at 7-8. When the hearing resumed on March 5, the Chairman opened by detailing past events. He again erroneously described what had occurred at the June 28, 2012 committee business meeting: "...[T]he committee approved a resolution rejecting Ms. Lerner's claim of Fifth Amendment privilege based on her waiver...." He then inconsistently followed up by stating "After that vote, having made the determination that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights, the Committee recalled her to appear today to answer questions pursuant to rules. The committee voted and found that Ms. Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights by making" a voluntary exculpatory statement and a document authentication. The Chairman concluded that if the witness continued to refuse to answer questions, "the committee may proceed to consider whether she should be held in contempt." HGC Op. at 9. After being recalled and sworn in, Ms. Lerner was asked a question to which she responded that she had not waived her Fifth Amendment right and then asserted her privilege in refusing to answer that question. She continued to invoke privilege with respect to every subsequent question until the Chairman abruptly adjourned the hearing. As was detailed in my March 12 statement, the Chairman never expressly rejected her privilege claims at that hearing, individually or collectively, and thus she was never confronted with the risk of not replying.

Whether a witness has waived her Fifth Amendment protections is a preliminary, threshold issue that must be resolved by a reviewing court prior to grappling with the efficacy of a charge of criminal contempt for refusal to answer. The Supreme Court has long recognized that "Although the privilege against self-incrimination must be claimed, when claimed it is guaranteed by the Constitution....Waiver of constitutional rights... is not lightly to be inferred. A witness cannot properly be held after claim to have waived his privilege...upon vague and uncertain evidence." *Smith v. United States,* 337 U.S. 137, 150 (1949). Here, again, the Court's 1955 trilogy is instructive. In *Emspak* the Court was confronted with a Government claim that the petitioner had waived his rights with respect to one count of his indictment. The Court rejected the claim, emphasizing the context of the situation and its sense of the need to protect the integrity of the constitutional protection at stake. The witness was being questioned about his associations and expressed apprehension that the committee was "trying to perhaps frame people for possible criminal prosecution" and that "I think I have the right to reserve whatever rights I have." He was then asked, " Is it your feeling that to reveal your knowledge of them would subject you to criminal prosecution?" Emspak relied, "No. I don't think this committee has a right to pry into my associations. That is my own position."

Analogizing the situation to the one encountered in the *Smith* case, the Court held that "[I]n the instant case, we do not think that petitioner's 'No' answer can be treated as as a waiver of his previous express claim under the Fifth Amendment. At most, as in the *Smith* case, petitioner's 'No' is equivocal. It may have merely represented a justifiable refusal to discuss the reasons underlying petitioner's assertion of the privilege; the privilege would be of little avail if a witness invoking it were required to disclose the precise hazard which he fears. And even if petitioner's answer were taken as responsive to the question, the answer would still be consistent with a claim of privilege. The protection of the Self-Incrimination

Clause is not limited admissions that 'would subject [a witness] to criminal prosecution'; for this Court has repeatedly held that 'Whether such admissions by themselves would support a conviction under a criminal statute is immaterial' and that the privilege extends to to admissions that may only tend to incriminate. In any event, we cannot say that the colloquy between the committee and the petitioner was sufficiently unambiguous to warrant waiver here. To conclude otherwise would be to violate this Court's own oft-repeated admonition that the courts must 'indulge every reasonable presumption against waiver of fundamental rights.'" *Emspak*, 349 U.S. at 196. Then the Court turned to the question whether the committee appropriately rejected petitioner's privilege claims.

These passages from *Emspak* are presented not to argue about the validity of the Committee's waiver resolution but to demonstrate that its conclusion is preliminary, not yet legally binding, and subject to judicial review and does not constitute the express rejection of the privilege required by the Supreme Court. However, as was indicated in my March 12 memo, extant case law, in addition to *Emspak,* makes a finding of waiver problematic; and past congressional practice accepting similar voluntary exculpatory statements further undermines the efficacy of the Committee's June 28, 2013 resolution. See, Michael Stern, www.pointoforder.com/2013/05/23/lois-lerner-and-waiver-of-fifth-amendment-privilege.

The consequence of the HGC's failure to "directly" establish "that the entity–here, the Oversight Committee—specifically overruled the witness' objection," HGC Op. at 10, is that it totally undermines the second prong of its argument: that "indirectly" it has "demonstrate[ed] that the congressional entity specifically directed the witness to answer." Id. at 11. The HGC references three such purported directions. First, the Chairman's statement in his February 25, 2014 letter to Ms. Lerner's counsel that "because the Committee explicitly rejected [Ms. Lerner's] Fifth Amendment privilege claim, I expect her to provide answers when the hearing reconvenes on March 5." As has been demonstrated above, the Committee resolution in fact did not expressly reject an invocation of privilege; Lerner's counsel's immediate reply to that statement was to convey his understanding that the resolution dealt only with the question of waiver; and Ms. Lerner's immediate response to the Chairman's initial question to her at the March 5 hearing was to assert her belief that she had had not waived her privilege rights and then to invoke her privilege. Second, the HGC quotes remarks by three members at the June 28, 2013 Committee meeting that issued the waiver determination that speculate that Ms. Lerner might be held in contempt. And, third, the Chairman's verbal observation at the end of his opening remarks at the March 5 hearing that if she continued to refuse to answer questions, "the [C]ommittee *may* proceed to consider whether she should be held in contempt." Thus the "indirect' support relies predominantly on the incorrect factual and legal premise that the Committee had communicated a rejection of her privilege claims in its waiver resolution and ambiguous statements by members and the Chairman about the risk of contempt. But, again, when the March 5 questioning took place, the Chairman never expressly overruled her objections or demanded a response.

The HGC's unsuccessful effort to demonstrate that the Committee has both "directly" overruled Ms. Lerner's claims of constitutional privilege and "indirectly...specifically directed the witness to answer," also belies, contradicts and undermines his argument that the Supreme Court's trilogy did not require the Committee to both reject Ms. Lerner's assertions of privilege and to direct her to answer. The rationale of the Court's establishment these foundational requirements for a contempt prosecution was to assure that a "witness is confronted with a clear-cut choice between compliance and noncompliance, between answering the question and risking prosecution for contempt." That would seem to clearly encompass both a rejection of a claim and a demand for an answer, with the latter containing some notion or sense of a prosecutorial risk. In most instances thatI can think of, one without the other is simply insufficient to meet the bottom line of the Court's rationale. The great pains the HGC has unsuccessfully taken here to show that the Committee complied with both requirements raises serious doubts as to his reading of the Court's requirements.

The HGC opinion unfairly diminishes the historical and legal significance of the 1955 trilogy as well as the lessons of contempt practice since those rulings. The Court in those cases (and others subsequent to them) was attempting to send a strong message to Congress generally, and the House Un-American Activities Committee and its chairman in particular, that it would no longer countenance the McCarthyistic tactics evidenced in those proceedings. The Court in *Quinn* wrote a paean in support of the continued vitality of the privilege demanding a liberal application: "Such liberal construction is particularly warranted in a prosecution of a witness for refusal to answer, since the respect normally accorded the privilege is then buttressed by the presumption of innocence accorded a defendant in a criminal trial. To apply the privilege narrowly or begrudgingly to treat it as as an historical relic, at most merely to be tolerated--is to ignore its development and purpose." The *Quinn* Court did observe that no specific verbal formula was required to protect its investigative prerogatives, but it did underline that the firm rules iterated and reiterated in all three cases—clear rejections of a witness's constitutional objections, demands for answers, and notice that refusals would risk criminal prosecution—belie any intent to allow palpable ambiguity. Together with later Court rulings condemning the absence or public unavailability of committee procedural rules, or the failure to abide by standing rules, and the uncertainty of the subject matter jurisdiction and authority of investigating committees, we today have an oversight and investigatory process that is broad and powerful but restrained by clear due process requirements.

My own Zelig-like experience with contempt proceedings was that committees that have faithfully adhered to the script propounded by the Court's trilogy have found it extraordinarily useful in achieving sought after information disclosures. Normally, the criminal contempt process is principally designed to punish noncompliance, not to force disclosure of withheld documents or testimony. That has been the role of inherent contempt or civil enforcement proceedings. But in the dozens of criminal contempt citations voted against cabinet-level officials and private parties by subcommittees, full committees or by a House since 1975 there has been an almost universal success in obtaining full or significant cooperation before actual criminal proceedings were commenced. See generally, [redacted]

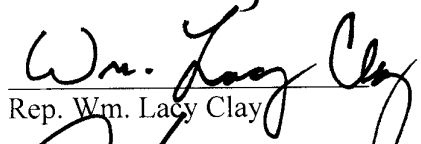
[redacted], *Congress's Contempt Power and the Enforcement of Congressional Subpoenas: Law, History, Practice, and Procedure,* CRS Report RL34097 (August 12, 2012. Two such inquiries nvolving private parties are useful examples for present purposes. In 1998 the Oversight subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee began investigating allegations of undue political influence by an office developer, Franklin Haney, in having the General Services Administration locate the Federal Communications Commission in one of his new buildings. Subpoenas were issued to the developer and his attorneys. Attorney-client privilege was asserted by the developer and the law firm. A contempt hearing was called at which the developer and the representative of the firm were again asked to comply and refused, claiming privilege. The chair rejected the claims and advised the witnesses that continued noncompliance would result in a committee vote of contempt. The witnesses continued their refusals and the committee voted them in contempt. At the conclusion of the vote, the representative of the law firm rose and offered immediate committee access to the documents if the contempt vote against the firm was rescinded. The committee agreed to rescind the citation. Six months later the District of Columbia Bar Association Ethics Committee ruled that the firm had not violated its obligation of client confidentiality in the face of a subcommittee contempt vote that put them legal jeopardy. See, *Contempt of Congress Against Franklin I. Haney,* H. Rept. 105-792, 105th Cong., 2d Sess. (1998).

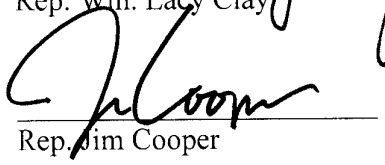
A second illustrative inquiry involved the Asian and Pacific Affairs subcommittee of House Foreign Affairs' investigation looking into real estate investment work by two brothers, Ralph and Joseph Bernstein, a real property investor and lawyer respectively, on behalf of President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines and his wife Imelda. The subcommittee was pursuing allegations of vast holdings in the United States by the Marcoses (some $10 billion) that emanated in large part from U.S. government development funding. The Bernsteins refused to answer any questions about their investment work or even whether they knew the Marcoses, claiming attorney-client privilege. The subcommittee following appropriate demands and rejections of the asserted privilege, voted to report a contempt resolution to the full committee, which in turn presented a report and resolution to the House that was adopted in February 1986. Shortly thereafter, and before an indictment was presented to a grand jury, the Bernsteins agreed to supply the subcommittee with information it required. See, H. Rept. 99-462 (1986) and 132 Cong. Rec. 3028—62 (1986).

I continue to believe a criminal contempt proceeding under the present circumstances would be found faulty by a reviewing court.

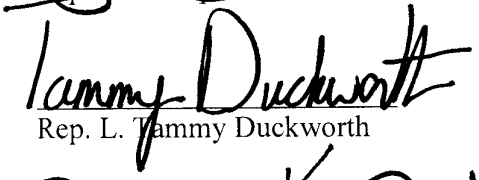

Rep. Elijah E. Cummings

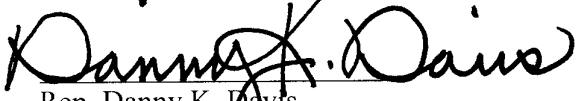

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton

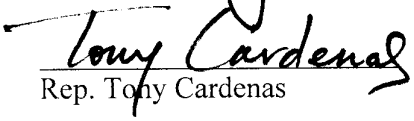

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay


Rep. Jim Cooper

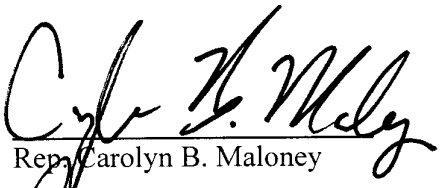

Rep. Jackie Speier


Rep. L. Tammy Duckworth

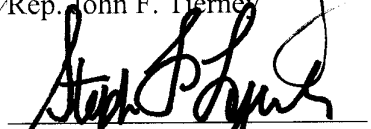

Rep. Danny K. Davis

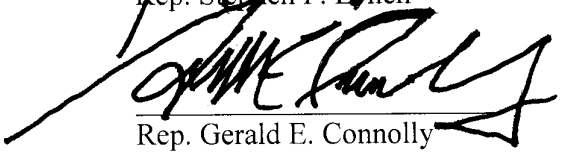

Rep. Tony Cardenas

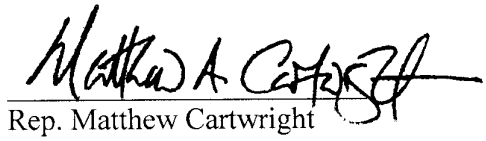

Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham

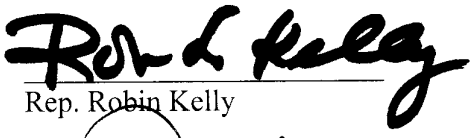

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney

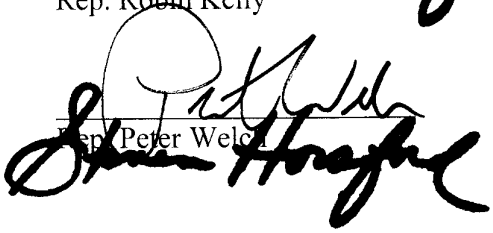

Rep. John F. Tierney


Rep. Stephen F. Lynch


Rep. Gerald E. Connolly


Rep. Matthew Cartwright


Rep. Robin Kelly


Rep. Peter Welch

Rep. Steven Horsford

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 574) recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 568, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 574

Resolved, That because Lois G. Lerner, former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, offered a voluntary statement in testimony before the Committee, was found by the Committee to have waived her Fifth Amendment Privilege, was informed of the Committee's decision of waiver, and continued to refuse to testify before the Committee, Ms. Lerner shall be found to be in contempt of Congress for failure to comply with a congressional subpoena.

Resolved, That pursuant to 2 U.S.C. Sec. 192 and 194, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall certify the report of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, detailing the refusal of Ms. Lerner to testify before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as directed by subpoena, to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, to the end that Ms. Lerner be proceeded against in the manner and form provided by law.

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House shall otherwise take all appropriate action to enforce the subpoena.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution shall be debatable for 50 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their designees.

After debate on the resolution, it shall be in order to consider a motion to refer if offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), or his designee, which shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

The gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 25 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD for the resolution made in order under the rule.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, on May 22, 2013, the committee started a hearing to investigate allegations that the IRS had, in fact, used a flawed process in reviewing applications for tax-exempt status.

To wit, I subpoenaed Lois Lerner to testify at that hearing because she was head of IRS' Exempt Organization's Division, the office that executed and, we believe, targeted conservative groups. The two divisions of the IRS most involved with the targeting were the EO Determinations unit in Cincinnati and the EO Technical unit in Washington, D.C., headed by Lois Lerner.

Before the hearing, Ms. Lerner's lawyer notified the committee that she would invoke her Fifth Amendment privilege and decline to answer any questions from our committee members. Instead of doing so, Ms. Lerner read a voluntary statement—self-selected statement that included a series of specifics declarations of her innocence.

She said:

I have not done anything wrong. I have not broken any laws. I have not violated any IRS rules or regulations, and I have not provided false information to this or any other committee.

She then refused to answer our questions. She invoked her Fifth Amendment right. She wouldn't even answer questions about declarations she made during her opening statement.

Mr. Speaker, that is not how the Fifth Amendment is meant to be used. The Fifth Amendment is protection. It is a shield. Lois Lerner used it as a sword to cut and then defend herself from any response.

A witness cannot come before the committee to make a voluntary statement—self-serving statement and then refuse to answer questions. You don't get to use the public hearing to tell the press and the public your side of the story and then invoke the Fifth.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, after invoking the Fifth, when asked about previous testimony she had made and documents, she answered and authenticated those and then, again, went back to asserting her Fifth Amendment rights.

It is disappointing that things have come to this point. Lois Lerner had almost a year to reconsider her decision not to answer questions to Congress.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. LYNCH. The gentleman was recognized for 2 minutes. It is way past 2 minutes. I was just wondering if we were keeping track of time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Would the gentleman from California like to yield himself additional time?

Mr. ISSA. I would be happy to anytime the Chair tells me my time has expired.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

In the meantime, after invoking, she gave a no-strings-attached interview to the Justice Department. This was said to the press entirely voluntarily before a large gathering. Her position with respect to complying with a duly issued subpoena has become clear. She won't. Her testimony is a missing piece of an investigation into IRS targeting.

We have now conducted 40 transcribed interviews and reviewed hundreds of thousands of documents.

Mr. Speaker, the facts lead to Lois Lerner.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Just shy of 1 year ago, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration reported the IRS had used inappropriate criteria to review applicants for tax-exempt status.

The very same day, Chairman ISSA went on national TV, before he received a single document or interviewed a single witness, and said the following: ''This was the targeting of the President's political enemies effectively, and lies about it during the election year.''

Republicans have spent the past year trying to prove these allegations. The IRS has spent more than $14 million responding to Congress and has produced more than a half a million pages of documents. We have interviewed 39 witnesses, 40 witnesses, IRS witnesses, Treasury Department employees; and after all of that, we have not found any evidence of White House involvement or political motivation.

Yesterday, I issued a report with key portions from the nearly 40 interviews conducted by the committee to date; and these were witnesses, Mr. Speaker, called by the majority. These interviews showed, definitively, that there was no evidence of any White House direction or political bias; instead they describe in detail how the inappropriate terms were first developed and how there was inadequate guidance on how to process the application.

Now, let me be clear that I am not defending Ms. Lerner. I wanted to hear what she had to say. I have questions about why she was unaware of the inappropriate criteria for more than a year after they were created. I want to know why she did not mention the inappropriate criteria in her letters to Congress, but I could not vote to violate an individual's Fifth Amendment rights, just because I want to hear what she has to say.

A much greater principle is at stake here today, the sanctity of the Fifth Amendment rights for all citizens of the United States of America; and I will not walk a path that has been tread by Senator McCarthy and the

House Un-American Activities Committee.

In this case, a vote for contempt not only would endanger the rights of American citizens, but it would be a pointless and costly exercise.

When Senator McCarthy pursued a similar case, the judge dismissed it. The Supreme Court has said that a witness does not waive her rights by professing her innocence.

In addition, more than 30 independent experts have now come forward to conclude that Chairman ISSA botched the contempt procedure by not giving Ms. Lerner the proper warnings at the March 5 hearing, when he rushed to cut off my microphone and adjourn the hearing before any Democrat had the chance to utter a syllable.

For instance, Stan Brand, who served as the House Counsel from 1976 to 1983, concluded that Chairman ISSA's actions were ''fatal to any subsequent prosecution.''

The experts who came forward are from all across the country and all across the political spectrum. J. Richard Broughton, a member of the Republican National Lawyers Association and a law professor, concluded that Ms. Lerner ''would likely have a defense to any ensuing criminal prosecution for contempt pursuant to the existing Supreme Court precedent.''

I didn't say that. The Republican National Lawyers Association member said that.

Rather than squandering our valuable resources, pursuing a contempt vote that more than 30 independent experts have concluded will fail in court, we should release the nearly 40 transcripts, in their entirety, that have not yet been made public and allow all Americans to read the unvarnished facts for themselves.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Look, here is what we know: Lois Lerner was at the center of this scandal right from the get-go.

We know that she waived her Fifth Amendment rights on two separate occasions. She came in front of the committee, as the chairman pointed out, and made multiple factual statements. When you do that, when you make all kinds of assertions, you then don't get a chance to say: oh, now, I invoke my Fifth Amendment privileges.

She waived it a second time when she agreed to be interviewed by the Department of Justice. Think about that. She is willing to sit down with the people who can put her in jail, but she is not willing to answer our questions.

When you waive it in one proceeding, you can't exercise it somewhere else, according to the case law here in the District of Columbia.

Here is what we also know: John Koskinen, the new IRS Commissioner, says it may take as many as 2 years for him to get us all Lois Lerner's emails.

Most importantly, we know Lois Lerner and the Internal Revenue Service systematically targeted American citizens, systematically targeted groups for exercising their First Amendment rights.

Think about that for a second, Mr. Chairman. Think about your First Amendment rights, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech—and speech, in particular—that is political. To speak out against your government, your most fundamental right, that is what they targeted.

So to get to the truth, we need to use every tool we can to compel Ms. Lerner, the lady at the center of the scandal, to come forward and answer our questions so the American people can understand why their First Amendment rights were targeted because we know—we know the criminal investigation at the Department of Justice is a sham. They have already leaked to The Wall Street Journal. No one is going to be prosecuted.

They already had the head of the Executive Branch, the President of the United States, go on national television and say no corruption, not even a smidgeon; and the person leading the investigation is a maxed-out contributor to the President's campaign.

We know that is not going to work.

□ 1630

The only route to the truth is through the House of Representatives and compelling Ms. Lerner to answer our questions. That is why this resolution is so important. That is why I am supporting it. That is why I hope my colleagues on the other side will support it as well. It is about this most fundamental right, and Ms. Lerner is at the center of the storm. We want her simply—simply—to answer the questions.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, as Professor Green of Fordham University has said, it is explicit that a person does not waive a Fifth Amendment right by answering questions outside of a formal setting or by making statements that were not under oath, when he referred to the issue of her making statements to the Justice Department.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from California (Ms. SPEIER), a member of our committee.

Ms. SPEIER. I thank the ranking member for his leadership and for the opportunity to say a few words here on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I am not here to defend Lois Lerner today, but I am here to defend the Constitution and every American's right to assert the Fifth Amendment so as not to incriminate themselves, and every single Member of this body should be as committed to doing the same thing. I am also here to defend the integrity of the committee and the rules of that committee.

Lois Lerner pled the Fifth Amendment before our committee, and she has professed her innocence, pure and simple. Thirty independent legal experts have said that the proceedings were constitutionally deficient to bring a contempt proceeding. They were constitutionally deficient because the chair did not overrule Ms. Lerner's Fifth Amendment assertion and order her to answer the questions. And as long as that deficiency is there, there is no reason to move forward with that effort today.

But let's move on to the bigger picture: Every single 501(c)(4) that was in the queue before the IRS could have self-certified; they didn't even need to be in that queue. So whether or not there was a list of progressive organizations and conservative organizations that they were using to somehow get to the thousands of applications that they had, they could have moved aside and self-certified.

There have been 39 witnesses before this committee. There have been 530 pages of documents. There is no smoking gun. But the other side is locked and loaded. They are just shooting blanks.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, if they hadn't made their applications, perhaps they wouldn't have been asked the inappropriate, abusive questions like, What books do you read? Who are your donors? as has happened.

With that, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the leader of the House.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman from California, Chairman ISSA, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution to hold Ms. Lois Lerner in contempt. The substance of this resolution should not be taken lightly. The contempt of the U.S. House of Representatives is a serious matter and one that must be taken only when duly warranted. There is no doubt in my mind the conditions have been met for today's action.

Mr. Speaker, there are few government abuses more serious than using the IRS to punish American citizens for their political beliefs. The very idea of the IRS being used to intimidate and silence critics of a certain political philosophy is egregious. It is so egregious that it has practically been a cliche of government corruption in works of fiction for decades, ever since President Nixon's administration.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, in this instance, under Ms. Lerner's watch, this corruption became all too real. Conservatives were routinely targeted and silenced by the IRS leading

up to the 2012 election, unjustly and with malice. Those targeted were deprived of their civil right to an unbiased administration of the law. These citizens, these moms and dads simply trying to play within the rules and make their voices heard, were left waiting without answers until Election Day had come and gone.

Liberal groups were not targeted, as my colleagues across the aisle like to claim. Only conservative groups were deliberately singled out because of their political beliefs, and they were subjected to delays, inappropriate questions, and unjust denials.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are owed a government that they can trust, not a government that they fear. The only way to rebuild this trust is to investigate exactly how these abuses occurred and to ensure that they never happen again. Whether you are a conservative or a liberal, a Republican or a Democrat or hold any other political or philosophical position, your rights must be protected from this administration and all those that come after it.

For nearly a full year, Lois Lerner has refused to testify before this House about the singling out and targeting of conservative organizations. She spoke up and gave a detailed assertion of her innocence and then refused to answer questions. She later spoke with DOJ attorneys for hours but still refused to answer a lawful subpoena and testify to the American public. As a public servant, she decided to forgo cooperation, to forgo truth and transparency.

In 2013, Ms. Lerner joked in one uncovered email that perhaps she could get a job with Organizing for America, President Obama's political arm. This is no surprise. Our committees have found that Ms. Lerner used her position to unfairly deny conservative groups equal protection under the law. Ms. Lerner impeded official investigations. She risked exposing, and actually may have exposed, confidential taxpayer information in the process. Day after day, action after action, Ms. Lerner exposed herself as a servant to her political philosophy, rather than a servant to the American people.

This, Mr. Speaker, is why the House has taken the extraordinary action of referring Ms. Lerner to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution and is why we will request a special counsel to investigate this case.

Not only has the President asserted that there is ''not even a smidgeon of corruption'' at the IRS, but leaks from the Department of Justice have indicated that no one will be prosecuted. That is not surprising, as a top donor to the President's campaign is playing a key role in their investigation, potentially compromising any semblance of independence and justice. An independent, nonpartisan special prosecutor is needed to ensure a fair investigation that all Americans can trust.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know the full context of why these actions were taken. As early as 2010, leading Democratic leaders were urging the IRS to take action against conservative groups. How and why was the decision made to take action against them?

The American people, Ms. Lerner's employers, deserve answers. They deserve accountability. They deserve to know that this will never happen again, no matter what your political persuasion. The American people deserve better.

Because of Ms. Lerner's actions, because of her unwillingness to fully testify, and because she has refused to legally cooperate with this investigation, I urge my colleagues in the House to hold Ms. Lerner in contempt.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in response to those recent allegations, I do want to point out that our committee did look at the question of political motivation in selecting tax exemption applications. We asked the inspector general, Russell George, on May 17, 2013, in a hearing before the Ways and Means Committee: ''Did you find any evidence of political motivation in the selection of tax-exempt applications?'' The inspector general who investigated this case testified in response: ''We did not, sir.''

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this contempt resolution. What began as a necessary and compelling bipartisan investigation into the targeting of American citizens by the Internal Revenue Service has now deteriorated into the very sort of dangerous and careless government overreaching that our committee was set out to investigate in the first place.

The gentleman from California commenced this investigation in May of 2013 by stating the following during his opening statement: ''When government power is used to target Americans for exercising their constitutional rights, there is nothing we, as Representatives, should find more important than to take it seriously, get to the bottom of it, and eradicate the behavior.''

I would remind the chairman that our solemn duty as lawmakers, to safeguard the constitutional rights of every American, does not only extend to cases where a powerful Federal department has deprived citizens of freedoms vested in the First Amendment, rather we must be equally vigilant when the power of government is brought down on Americans who have asserted their rights under the Fifth Amendment. And it is guaranteed that no person shall be compelled to be a witness against him- or herself nor be deprived life, liberty, and property without due process of law. In our system where ''innocent until proven guilty'' lies at the bedrock of our constitutional protections, Ms. Lerner's brief assertions of innocence, her 36 words, should not be enough to vitiate her Fifth Amendment constitutional rights.

Regrettably, this contempt resolution utterly fails to reflect the seriousness with which we should approach the constitutional issue at stake here. In the face of Supreme Court precedent and a vast body of legal expert opinion holding that Ms. Lerner did not, in fact, waive her Fifth Amendment privilege by professing her innocence, Chairman ISSA has moved forward with contempt proceedings without even affording the members of our own committee the opportunity to receive public testimony from legal experts on this important constitutional question.

As held by the Supreme Court in 1949 in Smith v. United States:

> Testimonial waiver is not to be lightly inferred . . . and the courts accordingly indulge every reasonable presumption against finding a testimonial waiver.

Chairman ISSA has also chosen to pursue contempt against Ms. Lerner after refusing an offer from her attorney for a brief 1-week delay so that his client could finally provide the testimony that Members on both sides of this aisle have been asking for.

These legally flawed contempt proceedings bring us no closer to receiving Ms. Lerner's testimony and have only served to divert our time, focus, and resources away from our rightful inquiry into the troubling events at the IRS. They are also reflective of the partisan manner in which this $14 million investigation—so far—has been conducted to date.

Chairman ISSA has refused to release the full transcripts of the now 39 transcribed interviews conducted by committee staff with relevant IRS and Treasury officials. He has also recently released two staff reports on these events that were not even provided to the Democratic members prior to their release.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this resolution.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct the record. It is now 40 transcribed interviews, and we have received 12,000 emails from Lois Lerner today. So that $14 million probably went up a little bit because today the IRS finally turned over some of the documents they owed this committee under subpoena for over half a year.

I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, there is probably nothing more sacred to Americans, nothing more important to protect, than the democratic electoral process which has made this, by far, the greatest country

in the world, giving everyone an opportunity to participate.

□ 1645

We are here today to hold Lois Lerner in contempt. It has been stated she didn't have her rights recognized. She has the right to take the Fifth. She has done that under the Constitution. We brought her in twice, May 22, 2013, and March 2014. She began—and you can see the tapes—declaring her innocence. Even before that, when it was pointed out that she was at the heart of this matter—in fact, everyone, her employees, when she tried to throw them under the bus, they said she threw them under a convoy of Mack trucks.

Every road leads to Lois Lerner. Lois Lerner held the Congress of the United States in contempt and is holding it in contempt. Lois Lerner held the electoral process that is so sacred to the country in contempt. Lois Lerner has held the American people and the process that they cherish and the chief financial agency, the IRS—whom we all have to account to—as a tool to manipulate a national election. This was a targeted, directed, and focused attempt, and every road leads to Lois Lerner.

She has had twice the opportunity to come before Congress and to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and she has failed to do that. I urge that we hold Lois Lerner in contempt. That is our responsibility, and it must be done.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the gentleman who just spoke, even the IG found that Lois Lerner did not learn about these inappropriate terms until about a year afterwards, the IG that was appointed by a Republican President.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), a distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, the distinguished ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. I think, Mr. Speaker, if the Founders were here today and if they had witnessed the proceedings on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee with respect to Ms. Lois Lerner, they would have unanimously reaffirmed their commitment to the Fifth Amendment because rights were trampled on, frankly, starting with the First Amendment rights of the ranking member himself, who was cut off and not allowed to speak even after the chairman availed himself of the opportunity for an opening statement and no fewer than seven questions before cutting off entirely the ranking member of our committee.

But then we proceeded to trample on the Fifth Amendment while we were at it, and case law is what governs here. The court has said the self-incrimination clause, the Fifth Amendment, must be accorded liberal construction in favor of the right it was intended to secure since the respect normally accorded the privilege is buttressed by the presumption of innocence accorded to the defendant in a criminal trial. In other words, it is the same. It is the equivalent of the presumption of innocence.

Madison said that if all men—and he meant all men and women, I am sure—were angels, we wouldn't need the Fifth Amendment. Lois Lerner is not to be defended here. She is not a heroic character. But she is a citizen who has an enumerated right in the Constitution of the United States. The relevant case, besides Quinn v. the United States, comes from the 1950s. A U.S. citizen, Diantha Hoag, was taken before the permanent subcommittee, and she was asked questions. She, also, like Lois Lerner, had a prefatory statement declaiming her innocence that she was not a spy, she had not engaged in subversion, and then she proceeded to invoke her Fifth Amendment, just like Lois Lerner.

In fact, the difference is Ms. Hoag actually once in a while answered ''yes'' or ''no'' to some questions put to her. She was found to be in contempt. The chairman of the committee jumped on it, just like our chairman did, and said, aha, gotcha. Two years later, the court found otherwise. The court unanimously ruled that Ms. Hoag had not waived her Fifth Amendment right. She was entitled to a statement of innocence, and that didn't somehow vitiate her invocation of her Fifth Amendment right, and her Fifth Amendment right was upheld.

This is about trampling on the constitutional rights of U.S. citizens—and for a very crass reason, for a partisan, political reason. We heard the distinguished majority leader, my colleague and friend from Virginia, assert something that is absolutely not true, which is that only conservative groups were targeted by the IRS. That is not true, and we have testimony it is not true. Words like ''Occupy,'' ''ACORN,'' and ''progressive'' were all part of the so-called BOLO list. They, too, were looked at.

This was an incompetent, ham-handed effort by one regional office in Cincinnati by the IRS. Was it right? Absolutely not. But does it rise to the level of a scandal, or the false assertion by the chairman of our committee on television, as the ranking member cited, that somehow it goes all the way to the White House picking on political enemies? Flat out untrue, not a scintilla of evidence that that is true. And to have the entire House of Representatives now voting on the contempt citation and declaring unilaterally that a U.S. citizen has waived her constitutional rights does no credit to this House and is a low moment that evokes the spirit of Joe McCarthy from a long ago era. Shame on us for what we are about to do.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, nobody answered the debunking that we put out, this document, nobody. This document makes it clear it was all about targeting and abusing conservative groups, and the gentleman from Virginia knows that very well.

With that, it is my honor to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), who has championed so many of these issues in our investigations.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, about 3 years ago, all of our offices started getting phone calls from constituents saying they are being asked very unusual questions by the IRS. They were applying for non-profit status. They were patriot groups, they were Tea Party groups, and they were constitutional groups. Whatever their name might be, they were getting these questions coming back in. Questions like: Tell us, as the IRS, every conversation you have had with a legislator and the contents of those conversations. Tell us, and give us copies of the documents that are only given to members of your organization. If there is a private part of your Web site that is only set aside for members, show us all of those pages. And by the way, all of those questions were prefaced with a statement from the IRS as, whatever documents you give us will also be made public to everyone.

So the statement was: Tell us what you privately talked about with legislators, and tell us what only your members get because we are going to publish it.

So, of course, we started to get questions about that. The inspector general starts an investigation on that, and on May the 10th of last year, 2013, Lois Lerner stands up in a conference, plants a question in the audience to talk about something completely irrelevant to the conference so she can leak out that this investigation is about to be burst out. Four days later, the inspector general launches this investigation and says that conservative groups have been unfairly targeted—298 groups have their applications held, isolated. They were asked for all these things, and when they turned documents in, they were stored. The initial accusation was that this was a crazy group from Cincinnati that did this.

So our committee happened to bring in these folks from Cincinnati. They all said they wanted to be able to advance these applications, and they were told, no, hold them. We asked the names of the people in Washington who told them to hold them. We brought those folks in. They said they wanted to also move them, and they were told by the counsel's office to hold them.

As we continued to work through point after point, through person after

person, all of them come back to Lois Lerner's office, Lois Lerner, who had come in before us May 22, 2013, made a long statement professing her innocence, saying she had done nothing wrong, had broken no law, and then said: I won't answer questions.

What is at stake here is a constitutional principle: can a person stand before a court or before the Congress and make a long statement saying ''I have done nothing wrong'' and then choose to not answer questions? This is a precedent before every Congress from here on out and in front of every court. Can this be done?

We would say no. It is not just a statement about accepting that she is guilty, though all the evidence leads back to her and her office. It is that if you have the right to remain silent, do you actually remain silent during that time period?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman that we are talking about the constitutional rights of a United States citizen, and we do not have the right to remain silent, as Members of Congress, if those rights are being trampled on.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, if this is a precedent, it is a bad precedent. It is a dangerous precedent. It is a precedent that we ought not to make. ''Read the Constitution,'' I heard over and over and over again. I have read probably the opinions of 25 lawyers whom I respect from many great institutions in this country, none of whom, as I am sure the ranking member has pointed out, none of whom believe that the precedent supports this action.

Mr. Speaker, what a waste of the people's time for Congress to spend this week on politics and not policy. We are about to vote on a resolution that is really a partisan, political message. Everyone here agrees—everyone—that the IRS should never target anyone based on anything other than what they owe in taxes, not their political beliefs or any other traits other than their liability and their opportunities to pay their fair share to the United States of America.

In fact, during an exhaustive investigation into the IRS, Chairman ISSA's committee interviewed 39 witnesses, analyzed more than 530,000 pages, and could not find the conspiracy they were looking for—that they always look for, that they always allege. Fourteen million dollars of taxpayer money has already been spent on this investigation, and all that was found was that which we already knew: that the division led by Ms. Lerner suffered from fundamental administrative and managerial shortcomings that bore no connection to politics or to partisanship.

Independent legal experts have concluded that Chairman ISSA's efforts to hold Ms. Lerner in contempt of Congress is constitutionally deficient. But this resolution before us today is, of course, not meant to generate policy. It is meant to generate headlines. Republicans, once again, are showing that they are more interested in partisan, election-year gimmicks than working in a bipartisan way to tackle our country's most pressing challenges. We ought to turn to the important matters of creating jobs, raising the minimum wage, and restoring emergency unemployment for those who are struggling to find work—issues the American people overwhelmingly support and want their Congress to address.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to give this partisan resolution the vote it deserves and defeat it so that we can turn to the people's business.

In closing, let me say this, Mr. Speaker. There are 435 of us in this body.

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues, do not think about party on this vote. Think about precedent. Think about this institution. Think about the Constitution of the United States of America. And if you haven't read, read some of the legal opinions that say you have to establish a predicate before you can tell an American that they will be held criminally liable if they don't respond to your questions.

That is what this issue is about. It is not about party, it is not about any of us, but about the constitutional protections that every American deserves and ought to be given.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time each side has remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 8¼ minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 14¾ minutes remaining.

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

□ 1700

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to correct the record. Earlier, a minority Member stated that, with 35 words said by Lois Lerner, our count is 305. Hopefully, their inaccuracy of their experts will be considered the same.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. The people's House has thoroughly documented Lois Lerner's trespasses, including her history of targeting conservative groups, as well as the rules and laws she has broken. In fact, there is a 443-page committee report supporting these allegations.

We know that Ms. Lerner refuses to comply with a duly-issued subpoena from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and without Ms. Lerner's full cooperation, the American public will not have the answer it needs from its government.

My friends across the aisle have continuously cried foul over this legitimate investigation; but where is their evidence to put this issue to rest?

Let me say that I do not enjoy holding any Federal official in contempt or pursuing criminal charges because doing so means that we have a government run amuck and a U.S. Attorney General who does not uphold the rule of law. Such a predicament is a lose-lose situation for all Americans and our Constitution.

As uncomfortable as it may be, it is our job to proceed in the name of government accountability. I support this resolution, and it is way past time for contempt for Lois Lerner.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, there is a reason that the American people hold the Congress of the United States in such lowest esteem. We are providing them with some additional basis to have that opinion, and this here is what it is.

Number one, this was an important investigation. We should do it. We should do it energetically, and we should do it together. Instead, information was constantly withheld from the minority.

Our own ranking member was cut off with really quite a bold gesture by the chairman at a certain point; and it created an impression that it was going to be a one-sided affair, rather than a balanced, cooperative approach. That is essential to having any credibility.

The second thing is: What do we do about Lois Lerner who took the Fifth? We have a debate about whether the manner in which she did that caused her to waive that Fifth Amendment privilege. That is a fair and square question.

Your side thinks she waived it and, therefore, should be held in contempt. Our side—and I think we have the weight of legal opinion—said she didn't waive it; but you know what, that is a legal question, and there is a document called the Constitution that separates the powers.

Whether this person crossed the line or didn't is a legal determination to be made by judges, not by a vote of Congress. Since when did Congress get to vote on judicial issues?

If we want this to be resolved in a way that has any credibility, it should be decided by the courts. Send this to the courts. Let the judges decide whether this was a waiver or it wasn't; but the idea that a Congress—this time run by Republicans, next time run by Democrats—can have a vote to make a

legal determination about the rights of a citizen is in complete conflict with the separation of powers in our Constitution.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Vermont in advance for his ''yes'' vote on this because the only way to send this to the court to be decided is to vote ''yes.'' In fact, we are not trying Lois Lerner. We are determining that she should be tried. The question should be before a Federal judge.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS), a member of the committee.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I contend that, in the interest of protecting the constitutional rights of the hardworking taxpayers of this country from the behavior of the IRS, from Lois Lerner—herself a lawyer—who understands that you can waive your right to remain silent as to matters to which you chose to testify, and that she did that. She said: I have done nothing wrong, I have broken no laws.

Subsequently, we find out that she blamed the IRS employees in Cincinnati for wrongdoing that was going on here in Washington, D.C., that she was targeting conservative groups and only conservative groups, thereby violating their First Amendment constitutional rights.

The Oversight Committee needs to find the truth, and to that end, we need answers from Lois Lerner. The committee has sought these answers for more than a year. Lerner's refusal to truthfully answer these questions posed by the committee cannot be tolerated. I urge a ''yes'' vote and, following that, swift action by the Justice Department to ensure that Lois Lerner provides answers on exactly what the IRS was up to.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), a member of the committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I think all of us agree that one of the responsibilities of our committee is to investigate and try to make sure that the laws are carried out the way we intended and to try and make sure that the money is being spent the way we intended for it to be spent.

It seems to me that we have spent $14 million, up to this point, investigating this one issue; and while I think the investigations are designed to tell us something we don't know, we have not learned anything new. We have not learned of any kind of conspiracy. We have not learned of any kind of underhandedness.

The only thing that we know is that we have said to a United States citizen that you cannot invoke the Fifth and say: I have a right not to answer questions if I think it is going to damage me.

I would much rather see us spend the $14 million creating jobs, providing educational opportunities for those who need it, doing something that will change the direction and the flavor of the economics of our country, rather than wasting $14 million more on continuous investigations. I vote ''no.''

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chairman yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is amazing. The American people still have not received answers that they deserve, I believe, from Lois Lerner. Just sitting here on the floor and listening for the last few minutes, it just really amazes me about what is being said.

It is said that, if the chairman had done this or if we had done something else, if we had not done this, and maybe she would have had more time, and maybe we would have found out the truth. Well, maybe if I turn my head sideways and squinted real hard, maybe she would have talked then.

But she did talk. She said a lot of things, including making 17 different factual assertions, and then decided: oops, don't want to talk anymore.

Here is the problem: no one has said or even implied that you can't assert your Fifth Amendment right. That has never been said on this floor. It has never been asserted by any member of the Republican Party.

What has been asserted is you can't come in and you can't say: I have done nothing wrong, no problem, I am clean; and, oh, by the way, quit asking because I am not going to answer any of your questions.

When you do that, then you are taking advantage of a system that you are not supposed to be taking advantage of. She could have walked in, from minute one, and said: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, I am not going to answer a question. I am asserting my Fifth Amendment right.

She did not do that, and what we have now is not a waste of time. I believe there are a lot of things. The Republican majority is working on economic development, but I think one of the things we have to reassert in this country is trust, and right now, our American people do not trust us, and they do not believe that the government is in their favor.

Instances like this, when they are being asked inappropriate questions, when they are trying to fulfill their rights and freedom of speech, this is why we are here. You can't keep doing it.

Ms. Lerner needs to be held in contempt because all I have found on the floor of this House today is arguments that keep coming, that remind me of the song from Pink Floyd. I am just comfortably numb at this point because the arguments don't matter.

We never said she couldn't use her Fifth Amendment right. She just chose to say: I didn't do anything wrong.

That is not the way this process works, Ms. Lerner. It is time to testify.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I would say to the gentleman that is leaving the floor now who just spoke: the arguments do matter. This is still the United States of America. We still have constitutional rights, which we declare we will uphold every 2 years.

I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if the point of a contempt resolution is to find out what Lois Lerner knows, what the committee wants to know, whether there was a deliberate targeting of citizens for political reasons.

The fact is that the committee passed up the opportunity to learn this information. It asked her attorney: Would you tell us what she would tell us?

It is called a proffer. Indeed, her attorney sent a letter to the chairman offering to provide a proffer. That is the information we want to know. This proffer would detail what Ms. Lerner would testify.

Instead of accepting that proffer, the chairman went on national television and claimed that this written offer never happened. The chairman, therefore, never obtained the proffer that the attorney was willing to offer, the information which is the only reason we should be on this floor at all.

When the ranking member tried to ask about it at a hearing in March, the chairman famously cut off his microphone and closed down the hearing in one of the worst examples of partisanship the committee has ever seen.

The chairman did something similar when Ms. Lerner's attorney offered to have her testify with a simple one-week extension, Mr. Speaker, since the attorney had obligations out of town.

Rather than accept this offer to get the committee the information that is at the bottom of this contempt matter today, the chairman went on national television and declared, inaccurately, that she would testify without the extension. Of course, that meant nothing could happen. There was no trust left.

Clearly, what the committee wanted was a Fifth Amendment show hearing, in violation of Ms. Lerner's rights. They wanted a contempt citation vote. That is the political contempt citation vote scheduled today. It will never hold up in the courts of the United States of America.

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

I have worked long and hard with the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia. She is a good person, but her facts simply are 100 percent wrong. Every single one of her assertions were simply not true. You can go to pages

11, 12, and 13 of this 400-plus page report, and you can see none of those statements are true.

We would have accepted a proffer from the attorney. We were not given one; although I will say he did tell us, one time, we wouldn't like what she said if she said something. When I went on national television, I did so because of written communication that indicated that she would appear and testify.

Additionally, the gentlelady did make one point that was very good. It was very good. The attorney told us that she needed another week to prepare, which we were willing to give her; but when we learned it was actually inconvenient for the attorney to necessarily prep her, we said, if he would come in with his client and agree that she was going to testify, we would recess and give her the additional week.

When they came in that day, no such offer was on the table from her attorney, but, in fact, he said she had decided that she simply didn't want to speak to us—not that she was afraid of incrimination—because you can't be afraid of incrimination and not afraid, back and forth. That is pretty clear.

Her contempt for our committee was, in fact, contempt for the body of Congress, while she was happy to speak at length, apparently, with the Department of Justice, perhaps with that $6,000 or $7,000 contributor to President Obama that is so involved in that investigation.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO).

□ 1715

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of this resolution recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois Lerner in contempt of Congress.

Our Pledge of Allegiance ends with the words, ''with liberty and justice for all.'' Lois Lerner's actions have made it nearly impossible for us to follow those ideals for the victims of the IRS targeting scandal. She has placed obstacle after obstacle in front of our pursuit for the truth, worrying that her ideology and the actions of a corrupt Federal agency will be exposed.

I ask my colleagues to join our effort in promoting transparency in our government. As Members of Congress, it is our job to protect rights, not take them away.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD), a member of the committee.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am here today because I do believe Lois Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment right to testify, and by so doing and not answering our questions, she was in contempt of Congress.

The other side makes a big deal about this being political and preserving constitutional rights, but the way the system is supposed to work: we will find Ms. Lerner in contempt; the Justice Department will then go to court; there will be a full hearing in the court. And this may very well make it to the United States Supreme Court.

Her rights will be protected, but we have also got to protect the rights of the people. We are the people's House. It is our job to get to the bottom of the scandals that are troubling the American people so that we can regain the trust of the American people.

You know, it is healthy to be skeptical of your government, but when you don't believe a word that comes out of the mouth of the administration, there is a real problem.

We have got to reclaim our power here. We are struggling. I don't think the Justice Department is going to pursue this. I think the same thing will happen to Ms. Lerner that happened with Mr. Holder—the Justice Department is going to decline to move forward with it—but we have got to do our job.

I also want to point out that we have got to deal with these people who are in contempt of Congress. For that reason, I have H.R. 4447 that is pending before this House that would withhold the pay of anyone in contempt of Congress. We have got to use the power of the purse and everything we have got to reclaim the power of the purse and the power that the Constitution gave this body to get to the truth and be the representatives of the people.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), who, by the way, is, in fact, a constitutional scholar in his own right.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I was struck by the comments by the minority whip instructing us to check the Constitution. That really struck me, because I believe I recall him standing up and applauding in this Chamber when the President said: If Congress doesn't do its job, I will basically do it for them. So someone that would do that doesn't need to be giving lectures on the Constitution.

We have powers under the Constitution that we have got to protect. When someone stands up and exerts their innocence repeatedly and then attempts to take the Fifth Amendment right, it is not there. This is the next step. It will preserve the sanctity and the power of this body, whether it is Democrats or Republicans in charge or anyone who attempts to skirt justice and provide truth.

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

As I close, I want to remind all of my colleagues, several references have been made to the oath that we take every 2 years in this Chamber. Every 2 years we stand in this Chamber and we say:

> I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

It is the first words we say.

It is interesting that at the beginning of that swearing in is that we will defend the Constitution of the United States of America. Yesterday we had a very interesting argument in rules when one of the members of the Rules Committee questioned whether when one becomes a public employee, whether they then lose their rights as an American citizen. It is clear that those rights do stand, no matter whether you are a public servant or whether you are a janitor at some coffee shop.

We are in a situation today where we need to be very clear what is happening. Not since McCarthy has this been tried, that is the stripping away of an American citizen's constitutional right not to incriminate themselves and then holding them in contempt criminally. McCarthy. We are better than that. We are so much better.

The idea that somebody can come in after their lawyer has sent a letter in saying they are going to take the Fifth, then the lawyer comes in, sits behind them while they take the Fifth, then the person says they are taking the Fifth, and then suddenly when they say, ''I declare my innocence,'' we say, ''Gotcha.''

The Supreme Court has said this is not a gotcha moment. It is not about that. The Supreme Court has said these rights, no matter how much we may not like the person who we are talking about, no matter how much we may think they are hiding, they have rights. That is what this is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to make sure that they vote against this, because this is about generations yet unborn, how they will view us during our watch.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I regret that we have to be here today. If it is within my power, if at any time Lois Lerner comes forward to answer our questions, I am fully prepared to hear what she has to say, and at that point I would certainly ask that the criminal prosecution be dropped. It may not be within my power after today.

For more than a year, our committee has sought to get her testimony. For nearly a year we have sought to get her to testify honestly. It was shocking to us on the committee, on the top of the dais, that a lawyer represented by a distinguished lawyer would play fast and loose with the Fifth Amendment assertion. It is a pretty straightforward process to assert your rights. In fact, her attorney may have planned

all along to have a controversy. I will never know.

What I do know is we asserted that she had waived because we were advised by House counsel, an independent organization, that she had. We continue to investigate, and only today, nearly a year after a subpoena was issued, the Treasury, the IRS, actually gave us another 12,000 emails. Like earlier emails, they indicate a deeply political individual, partisan in her views, who apparently was at the center of deciding that when the President, in this well, objected to Citizens United, that it meant they wanted us to fix it, and she was prepared to do it. That is for a different court to decide.

The only question now is did she in fact give testimony, then assert the Fifth Amendment, then give some more testimony, and can we have that kind of activity.

We have dismissed other people who came before our committee, asserted their Fifth Amendment rights. After enough questions to know that they were going to continue to assert, we dismissed them. We have a strong record of respecting the First, the Fourth, the Fifth, the Sixth Amendment and so on. That is what this Congress does, and we do it every day, and our committee does it.

Rather than listen to debate here which was filled with factual inaccuracies, refuted in documentation that is available to the American people, rather than believe that the minority's assertion should carry the day because the gentleman from Georgia said if about eight different if-thens, then they would vote for this, well, I believe that the gentleman from Vermont said it very well when he said: We shouldn't be doing this. We shouldn't be finding her guilty. This should be before a judge. He may not have understood what he was saying, because what he was saying is exactly what we are doing. We are putting the question of did she properly waive or not and should she be back before us or be held in contempt and punished for not giving it.

This won't be my decision. This will be a lifetime-appointment, nonpartisan Federal judge. The only thing we are doing today is sending it for that consideration. If the court rules that in fact her conduct was not a waiver, then we will have a modern update to understand the set of events here.

We will still have the same problem, which is Lois Lerner was at the center of an operation that systematically abused Americans for their political beliefs, asked them inappropriate questions, delayed and denied their approvals.

The minority asserted, well, they could have self-selected. Maybe they could have, maybe they should have, but it wouldn't change the fact that under penalty of perjury the IRS was asking them inappropriate questions which they intended to make public.

The IRS is an organization that we do not have confidence in now as Americans. We need to reestablish that, and part of it is understanding how and why a high-ranking person at the IRS so blatantly abused conservative groups in America that were adverse to the President, no doubt. But that should not be the basis under which you get scrutinized, audited, or abused, and yet it clearly was.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential we vote ''yes'' on contempt. Let the court decide, but more importantly, let the American people have confidence that we will protect their rights from the IRS.

With that, I urge support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, in March of 2012, then-IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman assured Congress: ''there is no targeting of conservative groups.'' Yet, I continued to hear stories from constituents telling me a different story. On April 23, 2012, I joined with 62 of my House colleagues in writing the IRS Commissioner inquiring further about the possible targeting. We were assured that the rules were being applied fairly and that there was no targeting or delay of processing applications from conservative groups.

In April of 2013, top IRS official Lois Lerner revealed in a public forum that the agency had been discriminating against more than 75 groups with conservative sounding names like ''Tea Party'' or ''Patriot'' in the run-up to the 2012 election the very time we were inquiring. Ms. Lerner actually went so far as to plant a question in the audience about the issue. Ms. Lerner's admission came just days before the release of an internal Treasury Inspector General audit that documented that the IRS had been misleading Congress.

When asked by Members of the House about the targeting, Miss Lerner has refused to answer our questions on multiple occasions, prompting the House to find her in contempt of Congress. The rights of hundreds and perhaps thousands of ordinary Americans have been violated, and I am most concerned about making sure that justice is pursued in protecting their rights.

Further allegations of abuse have been made by other conservative groups. The IRS admitted that someone violated the law and leaked confidential taxpayer information on a Republican Senatorial candidate. Disclosing confidential taxpayer information is one of the worst things an IRS employee can do—it's a felony, punishable with a $5,000 fine and up to five years in prison. The Treasury Inspector General noted eight instances of unauthorized access to records, with at least one willful violation, yet Attorney General Eric Holder has failed to prosecute. Why?

Earlier this year I led an effort with the support of over fifty of my House colleagues demanding that Attorney General Eric Holder appoint an independent special prosecutor to investigate these IRS abuses. Instead, A.G. Holder has appointed a partisan Democrat to lead the Justice Department's internal investigation who has donated thousands of dollars to the President's campaign and other Democrat campaigns. This is completely unacceptable.

It's long past time that we have a real and thorough investigation conducted by an objective investigator. Thousands of American citizens deserve to see justice pursued rather than have these abuses swept, under the rug.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the resolution has expired.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of House Resolution 574 is postponed.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 568, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 565) calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 568, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 565

Whereas in February of 2010, the Internal Revenue Service (''IRS'') began targeting conservative nonprofit groups for extra scrutiny in connection with applications for tax-exempt status;

Whereas on May 14, 2013, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) issued an audit report entitled, ''Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review'';

Whereas the TIGTA audit report found that from 2010 until 2012 the IRS systematically subjected tax-exempt applicants to extra scrutiny based on inappropriate criteria, including use of the phrases ''Tea Party'', ''Patriots'', and ''9/12'';

Whereas the TIGTA audit report found that the groups selected for extra scrutiny based on inappropriate criteria were subjected to years-long delay without cause;

Whereas the TIGTA audit report found that the groups selected for extra scrutiny based on inappropriate criteria were subjected to inappropriate and burdensome information requests, including requests for information about donors and political beliefs;

Whereas on January 27, 2010, in his State of the Union Address, President Barack Obama criticized the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision, saying: ''With all due deference to separation of powers, last week the Supreme Court reversed a century of law that I believe will open the floodgates for special interests—including foreign corporations—to spend without limit in our elections'';

Whereas throughout 2010, President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats publicly criticized the Citizens United decision and conservative-oriented tax-exempt organizations;

Whereas the Exempt Organizations Division within the IRS's Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division has jurisdiction

over the processing and determination of tax-exempt applications;

Whereas on September 15, 2010, Lois G. Lerner, Director of the Exempt Organizations Division, initiated a project to examine political activity of 501(c)(4) organizations, writing to her colleagues, ''[w]e need to be cautious so it isn't a per se political project'';

Whereas on October 19, 2010, Lois G. Lerner told an audience at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy that ''everybody'' is ''screaming'' at the IRS ''to fix the problem'' posed by the Citizens United decision;

Whereas on February 1, 2011, Lois G. Lerner wrote that the ''Tea Party matter [was] very dangerous,'' explaining ''This could be the vehicle to go to court on the issue of whether Citizen's [sic] United overturning the ban on corporate spending applies to tax exempt rules'';

Whereas Lois G. Lerner ordered the Tea Party tax-exempt applications to proceed through a ''multi-tier review'' involving her senior technical advisor and the Chief Counsel's office of the IRS;

Whereas Carter Hull, a 48-year veteran of the Federal Government, testified that the ''multi-tier review'' was unprecedented in his experience;

Whereas on June 1, 2011, Holly Paz, Director of Rulings and Agreements within the Exempt Organizations Division, requested the tax-exempt application filed by Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies for review by Lois G. Lerner's senior technical advisor;

Whereas in June 2011, Lois G. Lerner ordered the Tea Party cases to be renamed because she viewed the term ''Tea Party'' to be ''pejorative'';

Whereas on March 22, 2012, IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman was specifically asked about the targeting of Tea Party groups applying for tax-exempt status during a hearing before the House Committee on Ways and Means, to which he replied, ''I can give you assurances . . . [t]here is absolutely no targeting.'';

Whereas on April 26, 2012, IRS Exempt Organizations Director Lois G. Lerner informed the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform that information requests were done in ''the ordinary course of the application process'';

Whereas on May 4, 2012, IRS Exempt Organizations Director Lois G. Lerner provided to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform specific justification for the IRS's information requests;

Whereas prior to the November 2012 election, the IRS provided 31 applications for tax-exempt status to the investigative website ProPublica, all of which were from conservative groups and nine of which had not yet been approved by the IRS, and Federal law prohibits public disclosure of application materials until after the application has been approved;

Whereas the initial ''test'' cases developed by the IRS were applications filed by conservative-oriented Tea Party organizations;

Whereas the IRS determined, by way of informal, internal review, that 75 percent of the affected applications for 501(c)(4) status were filed by conservative-oriented organizations;

Whereas on January 24, 2013, Lois G. Lerner e-mailed colleagues about Organizing for Action, a tax-exempt organization formed as an offshoot of President Barack Obama's election campaign, writing: ''Maybe I can get the DC office job!'';

Whereas on May 8, 2013, Richard Pilger, Director of the Election Crimes Branch of the Department of Justice's Public Integrity Section, spoke to Lois G. Lerner about potential prosecution for false statements about political campaign intervention made by tax-exempt applicants;

Whereas on May 10, 2013, IRS Exempt Organizations Director Lois G. Lerner apologized for the IRS's targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants during a speech at an event organized by the American Bar Association;

Whereas the Ways and Means Committee determined that, of the 298 applications delayed and set aside for extra scrutiny by the IRS, 83 percent were from right-leaning organizations;

Whereas the Ways and Means Committee also determined that, as of Lois G. Lerner's May 10, 2013 apology, only 45 percent of the right-leaning groups set aside for extra scrutiny had been approved, while 70 percent of left-leaning groups and 100 percent of the groups with ''progressive'' names had been approved;

Whereas the Ways and Means Committee has also determined that, of the groups that were inappropriately subject to demands to divulge confidential donors, 89 percent were right-leaning;

Whereas on May 15, 2013, Attorney General Holder testified before the Judiciary Committee that the Department of Justice would conduct a ''dispassionate'' investigation into the IRS matter, and ''[t]his will not be about parties . . . this will not be about ideological persuasions . . . anybody who has broken the law will be held accountable'';

Whereas on May 15, 2013, President Barack Obama called the IRS's targeting ''inexcusable'' and promised that he would ''not tolerate this kind of behavior in any agency, but especially in the IRS, given the power that it has and the reach that it has into all of our lives'';

Whereas the Attorney General has stated that the Department of Justice's investigation involves components from the Civil Rights Division and the Public Integrity Section;

Whereas the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice has a history of politicization, as evident in the report by the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General entitled, ''A Review of the Operations of the Voting Rights Section of the Civil Rights Division'';

Whereas Barbara Bosserman, a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division who in the past several years has contributed nearly $7,000 to the Democratic National Committee and President Barack Obama's political campaigns, is playing a leading role in the Department of Justice's investigation;

Whereas the Public Integrity Section communicated with the IRS about the potential prosecution of tax-exempt applicants;

Whereas on December 5, 2013, President Barack Obama declared in a national television interview that the IRS's targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants was caused by a ''bureaucratic'' ''list'' by employees in ''an office in Cincinnati'';

Whereas on April 9, 2014, the House Committee on Ways and Means referred Lois G. Lerner to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution;

Whereas the House Committee on Ways and Means found that Lois G. Lerner used her position to improperly influence agency action against conservative tax-exempt organizations, denying these groups due process and equal protection rights as guaranteed by the United States Constitution, in apparent violation of section 242 of title 18, United States Code;

Whereas the House Committee on Ways and Means found that Lois G. Lerner targeted Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies while ignoring similar liberal-leaning tax-exempt applicants;

Whereas the House Committee on Ways and Means found that Lois G. Lerner impeded official investigations by knowingly providing misleading statements to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, in apparent violation of section 1001 of title 18, United States Code;

Whereas the House Committee on Ways and Means found that Lois G. Lerner may have disclosed confidential taxpayer information, in apparent violation of section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code;

Whereas former Department of Justice officials have testified before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform that the circumstances of the Administration's investigation of the IRS's targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants warrant the appointment of a special counsel;

Whereas Department of Justice regulations counsel attorneys to avoid the ''appearance of a conflict of interest likely to affect the public perception of the integrity of the investigation or prosecution'';

Whereas since May 15, 2013, the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have refused to cooperate with congressional oversight of the Administration's investigation of the IRS's targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants;

Whereas on January 13, 2014, unnamed officials at the Department of Justice leaked to the media that no criminal charges would be appropriate for IRS officials who engaged in the targeting activity, which undermined the integrity of the Department of Justice's investigation;

Whereas on February 2, 2014, President Barack Obama stated publicly that there was ''not even a smidgen of corruption'' in connection with the IRS targeting activity;

Whereas on April 16, 2014, electronic mail communications between the Department of Justice and the IRS were released showing that the Department of Justice considered prosecuting conservative nonprofit groups for engaging in political activity that is legal under Federal law, which damaged the integrity of the Department and undermined its investigation; and

Whereas the Code of Federal Regulations requires the Attorney General to appoint a Special Counsel when he or she determines—

(1) that criminal investigation of a person or matter is warranted,

(2) that investigation or prosecution of that person or matter by a United States Attorney's Office or litigating Division of the Department of Justice would present a conflict of interest for the Department or other extraordinary circumstances, and

(3) that under the circumstances, it would be in the public interest to appoint an outside Special Counsel to assume responsibility for the matter: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the statements and actions of the IRS, the Department of Justice, and the Obama Administration in connection with this matter have served to undermine the Department of Justice's investigation;

(2) the Administration's efforts to undermine the investigation, and the appointment of a person who has donated almost seven

thousand dollars to President Obama and the Democratic National Committee in a lead investigative role, have created a conflict of interest for the Department of Justice that warrants removal of the investigation from the normal processes of the Department of Justice;

(3) further investigation of the matter is warranted due to the apparent criminal activity by Lois G. Lerner, and the ongoing disclosure of internal communications showing potentially unlawful conduct by Executive Branch personnel;

(4) given the Department's conflict of interest, as well as the strong public interest in ensuring that public officials who inappropriately targeted American citizens for exercising their right to free expression are held accountable, appointment of a Special Counsel would be in the public interest; and

(5) Attorney General Holder should appoint a Special Counsel, without further delay, to investigate the IRS's targeting of conservative nonprofit advocacy groups.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H. Res. 565.

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

There was no objection.

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

On May 10, 2013, the Internal Revenue Service admitted to inappropriately targeting conservative groups for extra scrutiny in connection with their applications for tax-exempt status.

□ 1730

President Obama denounced this behavior as ''outrageous'' and ''unacceptable'' and stated that the IRS ''as an independent agency requires absolute integrity, and people have to have confidence that they're applying the laws in a nonpartisan way.'' He pledged that the administration would ''find out exactly what happened'' and would make sure wrongdoers were ''held fully accountable.''

In testimony before my committee on May 15, 2013, Attorney General Holder testified that the Department of Justice would conduct a ''dispassionate'' investigation into the IRS's admitted targeting of conservative groups. The Attorney General promised me and the members of the Judiciary Committee that ''this will not be about parties, this will not be about ideological persuasions, and anyone who has broken the law will be held accountable.''

Unfortunately, that appears to be where the administration's commitment to pursuing this investigation ended. We have all seen the testimony from conservative groups stating that they had yet to be interviewed by the Department of Justice investigators more than a year after the allegations came to light. Additionally, the administration has sought to undermine whatever investigation the DOJ was conducting at every opportunity.

Earlier this year, unnamed Department of Justice officials leaked information to The Wall Street Journal suggesting that the Department does not plan to file criminal charges over the IRS's targeting of conservative groups. When asked who leaked this information to the media and if the Department plans to prosecute the leaker once identified, Attorney General Holder admitted that he has not looked into this leak.

Additionally, on Super Bowl Sunday, President Obama stated that there was ''not even a smidgen of corruption'' in connection with the IRS targeting.

Finally, as we all know, the Department of Justice appointed Barbara Bosserman, an attorney in the notoriously politicized Civil Rights Division, to head the investigation. Ms. Bosserman has donated more than $6,000 to President Obama's campaigns in 2008 and 2012.

The relevant regulations require the Attorney General to appoint a special counsel when he determines three circumstances exist:

First, that criminal investigation of a person or matter is warranted;

Second, that investigation or prosecution of that person or matter by a United States Attorney's Office or litigating division of the Department of Justice would present a conflict of interest for the Department or other extraordinary circumstances;

And third, that under the circumstances, it would be in the public interest to appoint an outside special counsel to assume responsibility for the matter.

It should be noted that these regulations require the Attorney General to exercise subjective discretion. However, there should be little doubt to any neutral observer that the requirements for appointing a special counsel have been satisfied.

First, as shown in the Ways and Means Committee's referral letter to the Department of Justice, there are serious allegations that IRS officials, including former Director of Exempt Organizations Lois Lerner, violated Federal law by targeting conservative groups and by releasing tax confidential tax information to the media. We also know that troubling information continues to come to light about this matter, including that the Department of Justice considered prosecuting conservative nonprofit groups for engaging in political activity that is legal under Federal law.

Second, it is clear that a conflict of interest exists between DOJ investigators and this administration. As a legal matter, determining whether a conflict of interest exists requires a determination of whether external interests—one's own or those of other clients or third persons—are likely to impact the exercise of independent professional judgment. In addition to Ms. Bosserman's clear conflict of interest, this administration's statements and actions have repeatedly served to undermine the Department of Justice investigation and have created an indisputable conflict of interest.

Third, it is equally clear that appointing an outside special counsel to investigate this matter would be in the public interest. The American people are very concerned that their government has targeted individual American citizens for harassment solely on the basis of their political beliefs.

The American people deserve to know who ordered the targeting, when the targeting was ordered, and why. For many Americans, the IRS is the primary way they interact with the Federal Government. To now have the IRS acting as a politicized organization that persecutes citizens for their political beliefs shakes the core of American democracy. Under the circumstances, this administration cannot credibly investigate this matter. It is time for the Attorney General to appoint an independent, professional special counsel to get to the bottom of this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as I begin this discussion today, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 565. I want to lay the premise of the discussion as I begin to explain why the question of ''why?'' is not answered. I would imagine that the question of ''why?'' will not be answered by the conclusion of this debate.

The premise of the resolution H. Res. 565 is on the Federal regulations 601, 600.2, and 600.3. On the face of the resolution, in the facts, there is no evidence under either of the two initial ones. And that is, first, there has been no elimination of the question of whether there is a criminal investigation or whether there should be; and the grounds for appointing a special counsel include whether or not they determine such an investigation is needed, and that the investigation or prosecution of the person or matter by the United States Attorney's Office would present a conflict of interest. Then the circumstances will be in the public interest. None of those criteria have been met.

First of all, in a May 7 letter most recently, the U.S. Department of Justice

has said there is an ongoing determination of criminal investigation, an ongoing investigation into all of the allegations. From the Ways and Means, from the Oversight Committee there is an ongoing U.S. Department of Justice investigation.

Now, I believe in congressional oversight, but I also believe in rational congressional oversight, which means, why are we asking for special counsel when the Department of Justice is in the middle of an active investigation? There has been no conclusion, there has been no suggestion that there will not be a further investigation or criminal investigation, and there is no proven conflict of interest.

The Department of Justice employee that has been mentioned by the majority:

One, is not lead counsel, as evidenced in a letter dated February 3, 2014;

And two, President Obama is not the point of this investigation, as I understand it, and the individual made private free speech donations in the course of a campaign.

Are you suggesting that a public employee does not have the private personal right, First Amendment right, of freedom of speech? I would think not.

So I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 565. There are no grounds for it. The Justice Department is working and it is investigating. Again, for those of you who are unaware of the legal authority undergirding this resolution, it is based on a series of regulations promulgated by the Justice Department that has been adhered to by Republican and Democratic administrations. You may not like the results of it, but it gives the criteria for authorizing the Attorney General to appoint a special counsel ''when he or she determines that criminal investigation of a person or matter is warranted.''

There is an ongoing investigation. That means that at the conclusion, or when all of the data and information is reviewed, that decision is still to be made. There is no closure now to suggest that the Department of Justice has not done what it is supposed to do.

In sum, these circumstances are that the Justice Department's prosecution will present a conflict of interest for the Department and that it would be in the public interest for a special counsel to assume responsibility.

This measure that we are debating today, however, utterly fails to meet any of that criteria.

The sponsors of H. Res. 565 make bald, unsupported conflict of interest allegations against a mid-level career attorney whose only fault was to engage in lawful, constitutionally protected political activity, of which I have spoken, and is not the lead counsel—definitively is not the lead counsel.

We have two distinct and qualified experts: Bruce Green, a former Federal prosecutor and current professor of law at Fordham Law School, and Daniel Richman, an expert in criminal procedure from Columbia, who clearly articulate no basis for experts conflict of interest. In fact, the ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee issued a report earlier this week detailing that committee's yearlong investigation of the IRS efforts to screen applicants for their tax exempt status.

Among this report's principal findings are that over the course of lengthy and detailed interviews of 39 witnesses, absolutely no evidence of White House involvement was identified. Not a single one of these witnesses' interviews revealed any evidence of political motivation.

These interviewees included IRS employees who identified themselves as Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and others who had no political affiliation.

Another fact that the supporters of this measure ignore is that there already is, as I have indicated, an ongoing investigation by the Justice Department in this matter, and they are complying with the structure of the appointment process for a special counsel. There has been no determination of conflict. There has been no determination that we are ending the investigation to the lack of satisfaction of the United States Congress. We are in an ongoing investigation.

600.2 of the Code, as I mentioned, of the Federal Regulations explicitly authorizes the Attorney General to direct an initial investigation in lieu of appointing a special counsel to determine whether grounds can even exist to warrant the appointment of a special counsel. But an easy manner, other than a resolution on the floor of the House: a simple letter could have been written to the Attorney General for his consideration.

So what is this resolution about? To begin with, it is pure political theater. Rather than simply writing a letter to the Attorney General asking him to appoint a special counsel, which is the time-honored way to do this, the House leadership has resorted to using a resolution that is subject to floor debate and, of course, C–SPAN coverage, but has no real legal effect.

Even The Wall Street Journal's editorial board, which is certainly not a partisan entity as it relates to its advocacy of President Obama or its administration, which is not a bastion of liberalism, noted in an editorial published a year ago that ''calling for a special prosecutor is a form of cheap political grace that gets a quick headline at the cost of less political accountability.''

I would rather have us working together, Mr. Speaker. I would rather us get to the facts. I would rather that the professional men and women of the U.S. Department of Justice be allowed to pursue this investigation unbiased and thorough.

Rather than promoting greater transparency, the appointment of a special counsel, as the Wall Street Journal points out, would have the opposite result. The Journal explains:

> With a special prosecutor, the probe would immediately move to the shadows, and the administration and the IRS would use it as an excuse to limit its cooperation with Congress. Special prosecutors aren't famous for their speed. If there were no indictments, whatever the prosecutor has discovered would stay secret. And even if specific criminal charges were filed, the facts of an indictment couldn't stray far from the four corners of the violated statute.

Beyond proving the specific case in court, a special prosecutor will not be as concerned with the larger public policy consequences and political accountability. We could be doing other things, and we could not be spending $14 million.

There has been no basis for this resolution to pass, and I ask my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 565.

For those of you who are unaware of the legal authority undergirding this resolution, it is based on a series of regulations promulgated by the Justice Department.

In pertinent part, section 600.1 of title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations authorizes the Attorney General to appoint a special counsel ''when he or she determines that criminal investigation of a person or matter is warranted,'' under certain specified circumstances.

In sum, these circumstances are that the Justice Department's prosecution would present a conflict of interest for the Department and that it would be in the public interest for a special counsel to assume responsibility for this matter.

This measure that we are debating today, however, utterly fails to meet any of these criteria.

The sponsors of H. Res. 565 make bald, unsupported conflict of interest allegations against a mid-level career attorney whose only fault was to engage in lawful—constitutionally protected—political activity.

In fact, the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee issued a report earlier this week detailing that Committee's year-long investigation of the IRS efforts to screen applicants for their tax-exempt status.

Among this report's principal findings are that: over the course of lengthy and detailed interviews of 39 witnesses involved in this matter, absolutely no evidence of White House involvement was identified; and not a single one of these 39 witness interviews revealed any evidence of political motivation.

These interviewees included IRS employees who identified themselves as Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and others who had no political affiliation.

Another fact that the supporters of this measure ignore is that there already is an ongoing investigation by the Justice Department into this matter.

Indeed, section 600.2 of title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations explicitly authorizes the Attorney General to direct an initial investigation—in lieu of appointing a special counsel—to determine whether grounds even exist to warrant the appointment of a special counsel.

So what is this resolution really about?

To begin with, it's pure political theater. Rather than simply writing a letter to the Attorney General asking him to appoint a special counsel, which is the time-honored way to do this, the House Leadership has resorted to using a resolution that is subject to floor debate and C-span coverage, but has no real legal effect.

Even the Wall Street Journal's Editorial Board, which is not a bastion of liberalism, noted in an editorial published a year ago that "calling for a special prosecutor is a form of cheap political grace that gets a quick headline at the cost of less political accountability."

And, rather than promoting greater transparency, the appointment of a special counsel, as the Wall Street Journal points out, would have the opposite result. The Journal explains:

With a special prosecutor, the probe would immediately move to the shadows, and the Administration and the IRS would use it as an excuse to limit its cooperation with Congress. Special prosecutors aren't famous for their speed . . . . If there were no indictments, whatever the prosecutor has discovered would stay secret. And even if specific criminal charges were filed, the facts of an indictment couldn't stray far from the four corners of the violated statute.

Beyond proving his specific case in court, a special prosecutor will not be as concerned with the larger public policy consequences and political accountability.

The Wall Street Journal concludes by pointing out the obvious:

Congress can do the investigating first, and if it discovers criminal behavior it can make that known and refer the cases and evidence to Mr. Holder, who will then be accountable if he refuses to act.

Unfortunately, the real scandal here is that this foolhardy witch hunt directed at the IRS has cost American taxpayers well in excess of 14 million dollars, money that we all know could have been better spent.

And now we are wasting limited floor time on this charade rather than taking up the issues that the American people urgently need this Congress to act upon.

These include: fixing our broken immigration system; increasing the minimum wage; strengthening our Nation's economic recovery; creating more jobs; extending unemployment insurance; and helping students struggling with overwhelming educational loan debt, which now exceeds one trillion dollars.

These are real issues that affect real people across America. This is where we should be focusing our resources.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to reject this ill-conceived measure.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This is about real people. One of those is my friend and constituent down in Houston, Texas, by the name of Catherine Engelbrecht. She is the founder of True the Vote and King Street Patriots in Houston, Texas, and she became intimidated and harassed by our very own government, all because she dared to speak her mind and engage in politics, a right that she is guaranteed under the Constitution.

□ 1745

It all began when Catherine Engelbrecht, a businesswoman, applied for nonprofit status in 2010 for True the Vote, which is a voter integrity group, and King Street Patriots; and so began the tidal wave of government inquiries and harassment.

She said it best in her testimony before Congress:

We applied for nonprofit status in 2010. Since then, the IRS has run us through a gauntlet of analysts and hundreds of questions over and over and over again. They've requested to see each and every tweet I've ever tweeted and each and every Facebook post I've ever posted. They've asked to know every place I've ever spoken since our inception, who was in the audience, and everywhere I intend to speak in the future.

This is our government—our government oppressing someone—at its worst.

There is even more. We have learned that the IRS even asked her group and others for their donor lists. This level of detail goes well beyond the business of the IRS.

It didn't stop there. All of a sudden, the Federal Government's snooping included six visits by the FBI, where they would sit in the auditoriums when she was speaking.

Two of those visits, apparently, were by the terrorist inspection—or investigation—division of the FBI. They had numerous and multiple unannounced visits from OSHA, from the ATF, and even from the Texas equivalent of the EPA.

Now, was this just a coincidence that all of these groups were investigating True the Vote and also investigating King Street Patriots? Or was it collusion?

We really don't know. Unfortunately, our Justice Department has lost credibility with the American public on investigating the IRS. We need things to be right, and things need to look right. We need to have a special counsel.

I would like to conclude with a statement that was made during the Abramoff investigation by Senators in 2006 about having a special counsel:

The highly political context of the allegations and charges may lead some to surmise that political influence may compromise the investigation . . . because this investigation is vital to restoring the public's faith in its government. Any appearance of bias, special favor, or political consideration would be a further blow to democracy. The appointment of a special counsel would ensure that the investigation and the prosecution will proceed without fear or favor and provide the public with full confidence that no one is above the law.

Signed, Barack Obama, 2006.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 11½ minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from Texas has 11½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from New Mexico, Congresswoman MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, a former official of the New Mexico State Government.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Thank you to my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, Federal law clearly states that tax-exempt social welfare groups must exclusively promote social welfare, and yet the IRS continues to allow these groups to engage in partisan political activity, instead of in their social welfare missions.

This has allowed social welfare nonprofits to spend over a quarter of a billion dollars on partisan political activities while keeping their donors secret. Congress has known about this issue for years, and it has done absolutely nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress to solve problems on behalf of the American people, and this resolution does absolutely nothing to solve the underlying problem that we have identified at the IRS.

As long as Congress continues to ignore the fact that social welfare organizations are actively engaged in political activity, social welfare groups will continue spending hundreds of millions of dollars on partisan political campaign activities in direct contradiction to current Federal law and congressional intent.

So I urge my colleagues to vote against this very partisan resolution, as it doesn't solve any underlying problems, and, instead, pass legislation that enforces Federal law and that prohibits tax-exempt social welfare groups from engaging in partisan political activity.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), a member of the Judiciary Committee and the author of this resolution.

Mr. JORDAN. I thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for yielding and for all of his good work.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlelady from Texas said in her opening statement that there has been no conclusion to the investigation. Yes, there has, and Ms. Lerner knows it.

Why do you think Ms. Lerner is willing to sit down with the Justice Department and answer their questions? She knows the fix is in. She knows it has already been prejudged and decided.

When the Department of Justice leaks to The Wall Street Journal that no one is going to be referred for prosecution, she knows she is just fine. The investigation is over. They are not doing it.

When the President, who is the highest elected official in this land, goes on national television and says there is nothing there, not even a smidgen, Ms. Lerner knows the fix is in.

Let's review the facts with a quick timeline. On May 10 of last year, Ms. Lerner goes in front of a bar association group here in town and, with a planted question, tells that group and tells the whole country that conservative groups were targeted for exercising their First Amendment free speech rights.

She did that before the inspector general's report was made public. It is unprecedented what she did, not only in her actions, but in her spilling the beans before the report was issued.

On May 13, we get the report from the inspector general that says, in fact, the targeting of conservative groups did take place at the IRS.

On May 14 of last year, the Attorney General launches a criminal investigation and says that what took place was outrageous and unacceptable, and the President of the United States says that what took place was inexcusable.

In June of last year, in the Judiciary Committee, we had then-FBI Director Mueller in front of the committee, and we asked him three simple questions: Who is the lead agent? How many agents have you assigned to the case? Have you talked to any of the victims?

This was a month into this. This was the biggest story in the country at the time, and the FBI Director's response was: I don't know. I don't know. I don't know.

There were seven written inquiries to Justice, asking: Can you tell us some basics about the investigation? Who is, in fact, leading it? Is it truly Barbara Bosserman, as we believe?

Everyone tells us—the witnesses we have interviewed: she is leading the investigation.

How many agents have you assigned? There were seven different inquiries with no responses from the Department of Justice.

On January 13 of this year, as I said earlier, the FBI leaks to The Wall Street Journal that no one is going to be referred for prosecution.

In February, the President says no corruption, not even a smidgen; then we learned Barbara Bosserman, a maxed-out contributor to the President's campaign, was leading the investigation.

Now, take that fact pattern, and apply it to the elements that the Attorney General looks at when you are deciding if you are going to have a special prosecutor. The chairman pointed out, in his opening statement, three elements the Code of Federal Regulations requires for the AG to appoint a special counsel.

It is when he determines these three things:

One, that a criminal investigation of a person or of a matter is warranted; of course, it is warranted. The AG already said it was. This is a big matter. This is a violation of people's First Amendment rights, and the Ways and Means Committee has already said Ms. Bosserman should be referred for prosecution.

The second element, that the investigation by the United States Attorneys' Office or by the litigating division of the Department of Justice would present a conflict of interest for the Department; if we don't have a conflict of interest here, I don't know where we do.

The President has prejudged the outcome, the FBI has leaked to The Wall Street Journal that no one is going to be prosecuted, prejudging the outcome, and the lead investigator is a maxed-out contributor to the DNC and to the President's campaign.

Finally, the third element, that it would be in the public interest to appoint an outside special counsel; frankly, I would think the Attorney General would want this.

There are all kinds of Americans who think this thing is not being done in an impartial and fair manner. I would think the Attorney General would want to pick someone who is above reproach, that he would want to pick someone whom everyone agrees is going to do a fair job.

Why have this cloud hanging over the investigation that the person leading it gave $6,750 to the President's campaign? That is all this asks.

This should be something that the administration should want to do because it clears up, in people's minds all across this country, that we are going to get to the truth and that we are going to have a real investigation.

Never forget what took place here. This is so important. People's most fundamental right—your right to speak out and the First Amendment right to speak out against your government—was targeted.

That is why we need to get to the truth, and that is why we need a special counsel who will do a real investigation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think it is important to state that one of the provisions that is not in the regulation for establishing a special counsel is that it is a ''get you'' procedure. It is not a ''got you'' procedure. It follows an orderly process of which the Department of Justice is engaged.

I would like to introduce into the RECORD a letter dated February 3, 2014, that indicates that the Justice Department's lawyer who has been charged with leading the investigation is not leading the investigation. He is part of a team.

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, DC, February 3, 2014.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: This responds to your letter to an attorney in the Civil Rights Division, dated January 31, 2014, again requesting her testimony at a Subcommittee hearing on February 6, 2014, regarding the Department of Justice's ongoing criminal investigation into the Internal Revenue Service's treatment of groups applying for tax exempt status. To reiterate, consistent with longstanding Department policy, no Department representative will be in a position to provide testimony about this ongoing law enforcement matter.

As a preliminary matter, we disagree with your allegation that because of the attorney's engagement in lawful political activity, she has a conflict of interest regarding the investigation. Your letter of January 28, 2014, selectively quoted the Department regulation concerning the disqualification of employees from investigations based on personal or political relationships, and alleged that ''at the very least, [the attorney's] participation in the investigation runs afoul of this regulation.'' A careful review of 28 C.F.R. 45.2, however, shows that this is not true. That regulation provides that an employee should not participate in an investigation if he or she has ''a personal or political relationship'' with a person or organization substantially involved in the conduct being investigated or who has a specific and substantial interest in the investigation's outcome. The regulation defines a ''political relationship'' as ''close identification with an elected official, a candidate (whether or not successful) for elective, public office, a political party, or a campaign organization, arising from service as a principal adviser thereto or a principal official thereof,'' and defines ''personal relationship'' as a ''close and substantial connection of the type normally viewed as likely to induce partiality'' and states that employees are presumed to have a personal relationship with spouses, parents, children, and siblings, and that other relationships must be judged on an individual basis. Accordingly, consistent with this regulation, the attorney whose integrity you have unfairly questioned has neither a political nor personal relationship that disqualifies her from the investigation. We also note again that, contrary to the assertion in your letter of January 28, 2014, this attorney was not assigned to lead the investigation, but rather is a member of a team that includes representatives of the Criminal Division, the Civil Rights Division, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

We agree with your view that ''[t]he American people deserve to have complete confidence that the Administration is conducting through and unbiased investigation.'' Accordingly, it is imperative that we avoid actions—such as testifying before Congress about this pending criminal investigation—that could give rise to a perception that the criminal investigation is subject to undue influence by elected officials. We reiterate that consistent with longstanding policy, in order to protect the integrity or our

investigation, we are not in a position to provide you with any non-public information about this ongoing matter. This policy is intended to protect the effectiveness and integrity of the criminal justice process, as well as the privacy interests of third parties. It is neither new nor partisan, but rather based upon longstanding views of Department officials, both Democrat and Republican alike. While we respect the important role of congressional oversight, we believe that our provision of the testimony you have requested would be inconsistent with our commitment to principles of justice and the independence of our law enforcement efforts.

As the Attorney General stated in his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on January 29, 2014, ''[t]he men and women of the Justice Department have for time immemorial put aside whatever their political leanings are and conducted investigations in a way that relies only on facts and the law,'' and we do not ''have any basis to believe that the people who are engaged in this investigation are doing so in a way other than investigations are normally done—that is, by looking at the facts, applying the law to those facts and reaching the appropriate conclusions.'' We request that you allow the Department employees responsible for this investigation to conduct it without demands for disclosures or other interference that would be inconsistent with their commitment to the integrity of the criminal justice process. We appreciate your interest in this investigation and, as the Attorney General has explained, we will be in a better position to provide Congress with information about our decisions in this matter when it is concluded.

Sincerely,

JAMES M. COLE,
Deputy Attorney General.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), a member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. DEUTCH. I thank my friend, the gentlelady from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, we have learned a great deal, since the allegations surfaced, that IRS officials discriminated against political-leaning groups that were seeking tax-exempt 501(c)(4) status. I joined with many of my Republican colleagues in condemning the notion that politics in any way influenced the behavior of the IRS.

We learned that the IRS kept a list of key words that triggered extra review, a misguided practice that we are grateful has since stopped. We also learned that the IRS targeted more liberal-leaning groups than conservative ones, meaning there was no conservative witch-hunt.

What my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have apparently failed to learn, however, is that the clear solution to this problem is to get the IRS out of the business of evaluating political conduct.

I wholeheartedly agree with my colleagues that the IRS has no business meddling in our elections, but we don't need a special counsel to make this stop.

Applications for 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status exploded after the Citizens United decision because special interests found a new way to secretly funnel money into our elections. Let me tell you how it works.

Because these groups aren't required to disclose their donors, wealthy special interests that are bent on influencing the political process for their benefit anonymously give to the 501(c)(4). The 501(c)(4) then funnels the money to the super-PAC; and, voila, there are millions of secret dollars influencing our elections.

We ought to be working together in a bipartisan way to get secret money out of our elections. I asked the Treasury Department to review the murky regulations on the books, to revise the rules to restore integrity to 501(c)(4) status and to ensure that taxpayers are never again forced to subsidize blatant political behavior.

I would have hoped that my colleagues in the majority would have joined me in that effort. Instead, Republican leaders responded by attempting to block Treasury from fixing these broken rules and from forcing these secret givers to tell us who they are and what they want from this Congress.

I am afraid there is only one explanation for this latest partisan resolution. I hope I am wrong. I hope I am wrong in that my Republican colleagues don't actually want to protect secret money in our elections. I hope I am wrong in that the GOP does not want to protect the billionaires and the corporations that want to conceal themselves from the American people and believe that they have the right to funnel millions of dollars through 501(c)(4)'s into super-PACs in order to corrupt our elections.

I ask my colleagues to prove me wrong. Prove me wrong by working in a bipartisan way to protect the American people from helping sham special interest groups influence elections on the taxpayers' dime. Let's bring transparency and accountability back to our elections. Reject this sham resolution, and prove me wrong.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, when news broke that the IRS had been targeting Americans based on their political beliefs, the President of the United States said that it was outrageous. He said that: we demand full accountability.

Attorney General Eric Holder said that it was outrageous and unacceptable. Everybody agreed this was serious. Everybody agreed that this required a serious investigation; yet, as we sit here a year later, it is clear that we have not seen the action that we were promised.

First of all, the Department of Justice had been discussing with the IRS, as late as May of 2013, the possibility that some of these groups that had been targeted could end up being prosecuted criminally. The DOJ actually had a role with the IRS.

□ 1800

We know that the investigation is being led by somebody who is a big contributor to President Obama's reelection campaign.

Of course, at the Super Bowl earlier this year, the President said the investigation was essentially over. Nothing happened, he said. No, not even a smidgeon of impropriety. And, of course, the Department of Justice has leaked to the media that no prosecutions will in fact occur.

And when the President said as a senator in 2006 that the highly political context of the allegations and charges may lead some to surmise that political influence may compromise the investigation because this investigation is vital to restoring the public's faith in government, any appearance of bias, special favor, or political consideration would be a further blow to our democracy, that basically applies to what we have now.

The American people don't want their government targeting them and targeting their First Amendment rights. If that is done and power is abused, they need to be held accountable.

But when this is all said and done, I think the American people want to have confidence that this was looked at in a fair manner. And when you have all these political considerations swirling around, I don't think many Americans have confidence that the Department of Justice is doing this in a way that is not conflicted.

And, don't forget, the entire context of this whole scandal was targeting essentially the President's political opposition in the run-up to his reelection campaign.

So I am proud to stand here supporting this resolution. I think voting ''yes'' on it is voting ''yes'' for transparency and accountability in government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 4 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Texas has 6½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just say very quickly that the entire premise of the gentleman's comments have been proven absolutely wrong. Thirty-nine witnesses never said one moment that the Presidential election of 2012 was in any way involved in this particular issue.

In addition, this is a bipartisan investigation because we have the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration appointed by a Republican and who is a Republican working with the Department of Justice.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the distinguished ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has had a detailed investigation and oversight from his committee on this issue.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, let me sum up what this is really all about.

This hallowed institution must not be turned into a campaign arm of either political party. That is what the House Republicans are exactly doing here.

It has been a year since multiple committee investigations began into the IRS handling of 501(c)(4) organization applications, and Republicans are no closer to finding evidence to back up their baseless allegations of a ''White House enemies list,'' as they said, or a ''White House culture of coverup,'' as a Republican said on day one.

So here is what has been going on.

More than 250 employees at the IRS have worked more than 100,000 hours and sent nearly 700,000 pages of documents to Ways and Means in response to Republican requests. More than 60 interviews have been conducted. Also, $14 million in taxpayer money has been spent by the IRS responding to congressional investigations.

And here is what we know.

Documents show that the IRS used inappropriate criteria to treat progressive groups as they did for conservative groups. There was never any evidence of White House involvement. Nada.

There was never any evidence of political motivation. In fact, before the flawed audit was published last May, the IG's head of investigations reviewed 5,500 pages of documents and determined that there was ''no indication that pulling these selected applications was politically motivated.'' Instead, the head of investigations said the cases were consolidated due to ''unclear processing directions.''

Republicans have indicated that they think this action today is necessary because the Department of Justice did not react quickly enough to the referral of information from Ways and Means on Lois Lerner that was sent last month. There is a letter from the Department of Justice saying that they have received this information and have referred it to those in charge of the IRS investigation at Justice.

The Republicans say they want an independent investigation, but what they really want to do is to interrupt the investigation going on and preempt it with their own political theater.

Indeed, talking about fixation, their political fixation, I say this not only to my colleagues but to every one of our citizens: this is the House of Representatives, not a political circus.

I ask my colleagues to see this for what it is worth and vote ''no'' on the resolution.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, could you give us how much time is remaining on both sides, please?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 4 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I am sure my kind friend from Virginia will yield me some additional time, but I will use what I have.

Let me try to bring us together, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday, in the Rules Committee, there was a collegial moment when we said, Let's clarify the law.

If there is anything the Democrats and Republicans agree with, it is that ineptness, wrongness, misdirection was obviously evident in the equal targeting of all groups—groups that had the name ''progressive,'' ''Occupy,'' and others.

As Members of Congress, none of us want the citizens of the United States to be in any way intimidated by a government that is here to help them. And I stand here saying we can come together to ensure that all of our government agencies work well.

The President made the point in May of 2013 that if in fact the IRS personnel engaged in the kind of practices that have been reported on and were intentionally targeting conservative groups—and it has been noted by the witnesses in the Oversight Committee that they were targeting other groups as well—Occupy, progressive—then that is outrageous, and there is no place for it.

There is no conflict in this.

What we are now debating is a fallacy of the appointment of a special counsel and the $14 million and the 700,000 pages of unredacted documents, more than 250 people who have been responding to congressional inquiries.

I will include in the RECORD an April 23, 2014, letter to Congressman SANDER LEVIN that talks about the litany of requests that the IRS has been requested to do.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,
Washington, DC, April 23, 2014.

Hon. SANDER LEVIN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEVIN: I am responding to your request for documents relating to tax exempt advocacy organizations.

Since May of last year, the Internal Revenue Service has been collecting, reviewing, and producing materials in response to a number of Congressional requests, including those from you and your Committee. In order to provide you and your staff our full cooperation in addressing this matter, more than 250 people, including attorneys, litigation support staff, and other IRS personnel have worked more than 100,000 hours.

With this production, we have produced, including special requests from individual committees, nearly 700,000 pages of unredacted documents to the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees, which are authorized to receive I.R.C. §6103 information. We also have produced, including special requests from individual committees, over 530,000 pages, redacted as required by section 6103, to the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee. Our productions have prioritized the custodians, subject matters, and search terms when and as requested.

We have responded to more than fifty Congressional letters and hundreds of informal Congressional requests.

We have facilitated more than sixty transcribed interviews by Congressional staff of current and former IRS employees.

IRS personnel have answered questions related to the subjects of these investigations at 18 Congressional hearings.

The IRS document production was collected from IRS hard copy and electronic files, including documents from 83 individual custodians.

This production consists of documents from multiple custodians; the materials are Bates-stamped IRSR0000617700—IRSR0000645643 and IRSR0000649674—IRSR0000650117.

Additionally, we are reproducing documents that were previously produced with non-6103 redactions, which have been removed in this production. These documents are Bates-stamped as follows:

Begin Bates	End Bates
IRSR0000572647	IRSR0000572649
IRSR0000572657	IRSR0000572659
IRSR0000572665	IRSR0000572666
IRSR0000572667	IRSR0000572669
IRSR0000574027	IRSR0000574029
IRSR0000574572	IRSR0000574575
IRSR0000574627	IRSR0000574630
IRSR0000574641	IRSR0000574643
IRSR0000574654	IRSR0000574657
IRSR0000574732	IRSR0000574734
IRSR0000574735	IRSR0000574737
IRSR0000574742	IRSR0000574743
IRSR0000574744	IRSR0000574747
IRSR0000575418	IRSR0000575424
IRSR0000579620	IRSR0000579623
IRSR0000581378	IRSR0000581381
IRSR0000581459	IRSR0000581462
IRSR0000582671	IRSR0000582674
IRSR0000582782	IRSR0000582785
IRSR0000589737	IRSR0000589741
IRSR0000589756	IRSR0000589758
IRSR0000589759	IRSR0000589764
IRSR0000589787	IRSR0000589789
IRSR0000590764	IRSR0000590770
IRSR0000590783	IRSR0000590786
IRSR0000590791	IRSR0000590797
IRSR0000591252	IRSR0000591256
IRSR0000591422	IRSR0000591425
IR5R0000593400	IRSR0000593401

For your convenience, we are also providing this set of documents in PDF.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact me.

Sincerely,

LEONARD OURSLER.
National Director for Legislative Affairs.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I also will include in the RECORD a May 7, 2014, letter that emphasizes that this is a bipartisan investigation. The inspector general of the Tax Administration, appointed by George Bush, is working with the U.S. Department of Justice. It negates very visibly any suggestion of conflict of interest or that this is a biased investigation.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 7, 2014.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This responds to your letter of April 9, 2014, providing the Department of Justice (the Department) information and documents that the Committee on

Ways and Means (the Committee) has obtained in the course of its ongoing investigation into allegations of targeting by the Internal Revenue Service of organizations based on their political views.

As you may know, the Department has an ongoing criminal investigation into the IRS's treatment of groups applying for tax-exempt status, which is being conducted jointly with the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA). We appreciate your concern and will carefully consider the Committee's findings as part of our investigation into these allegations.

We hope that this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide assistance in this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

PETER J. KADZIK,
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. In addition, I think it is very important to note that we are the Congress and the administration. But I take great issue in suggesting the lack of integrity of our employees in the Federal Government and that they would do anything to undermine an official investigation.

The letter that we received on February 23, 2014, debunks any personal relationship of this single attorney in a single office with any one political candidate from a personal perspective.

A donation, yes. But are you suggesting that that individual has no private right to enterprise their free speech?

There is no close identification with an elected official, no relationship with families and children.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote against this resolution that is not grounded in any substance, does not meet the standard of 600.1, 600.2, and finds no conflict. This is no investigation that is over. There is no suggestion that they are not, in essence, investigating all parties, and that there will not be a conclusion that will ultimately make a decision that is unbiased as to whether or not persons will be criminally prosecuted.

And so this resolution does not meet the standard. It is, again, taking up space on the floor. I would like to see unemployment insurance and immigration reform here. I would like to help the American people and help job legislation to make a difference here in the United States Congress.

I have other documents I will add into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker. These letters are experts saying there is no conflict of interest.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL,
New York, NY, February 5, 2014.

Re Prosecutorial Disqualification

Hon. DONALD K. SHERMAN,
Counsel, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SHERMAN: Although I lack deep familiarity with the matter you are inquiring about, I can offer some brief thoughts on the questions you have posed to me, specifically:

Do past political contributions by a career prosecutor to a Presidential campaign or political party create a conflict of interest in a multi-agency investigation regarding allegations of political targeting by federal agency officials?

Do past political contributions by a career prosecutor to a Presidential campaign or political party create grounds for disqualification arising from a personal or ''political relationship'' under 28 C.F.R. §45.2 in a multi-agency investigation regarding allegations of misconduct of federal agency officials?

Is it appropriate for Department of Justice leadership to check the political donations made by a career prosecutor before assigning that person to join a multi-agency investigation involving victims claiming that they were treated unfairly because of their political beliefs?

For background: I am currently the Paul J. Kellner Professor of Law at Columbia Law School. For the past twenty years, my scholarship has focused on criminal procedure and federal criminal enforcement issues. I teach courses in Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Federal Criminal Law, and a Sentencing seminar. Before entering academia, I served as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York, and ultimately was the Chief Appellate Attorney in that Office. Since leaving government service in 1992, I have served as a consultant for various federal agencies, including the Justice Department's Office of the Inspector General, and I have been retained as defense counsel or a consultant in a number of criminal and civil matters.

You have posed these questions with respect to a specific Justice Department employee who, according to publically available FEC data, donated amounts totaling $4250 to political campaign funds related to the Democratic Party and Barack Obama in 2004, and $2000 to funds relating to President Obama in 2012. Any claim that these contributions, in of themselves, create a conflict of interest or should be cause for disqualification for a career prosecutor investigating allegations of political targeting in the Executive Branch strikes me as meritless.

28 CFR 45.2 is bars an employee from participating ''in a criminal investigation or prosecution if he has a personal or political relationship with:

(1) Any person or organization substantially involved in the conduct that is the subject of the investigation or prosecution; or

(2) Any person or organization which he knows has a specific and substantial interest that would be directly affected by the outcome of the investigation or prosecution.

And it goes on to define a ''political relationship'' as

a close identification with an elected official, a candidate (whether or not successful) for elective, public office, a political party, or a campaign organization, arising from service as a principal adviser thereto or a principal official thereof. . . .

Simple past campaign contributions do not come close to meeting this standard. Indeed, were they to do so, the conflict concerns would extend as much to employees who had donated to the party out of office, since presumably that party would be gain from any findings of impropriety by the current Administration. It would similarly be highly inappropriate for Justice Department officials, in putting an investigative team together to inquire into the legal political contributions that line prosecutors have made in their private capacity. In my experience, one of the glories of the Justice Department—worthy of celebration, not undermining—is the non-partisan way in which line prosecutors have done their work as Administrations come and go. The last thing we want is to divide them into political affinity groups.

Very truly yours,

DANIEL RICHMAN.

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW,
New York, NY, February 4, 2014.

c/o
DONALD K. SHERMAN,
Counsel, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

Re ''The IRS Targeting Investigation''—Hearing scheduled for February 6, 2014

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: I understand that your Committee is considering how conflict of interest laws apply to federal prosecutors. Specifically, do career federal prosecutors who previously contributed to the presidential campaign or political party of the incumbent President have a conflict of interest that precludes them from investigating federal agency officials? I submit this letter to explain why this scenario does not comprise a conflict of interest under prevailing ethics standards and law.

INTRODUCTION

By way of introduction, I am a former federal prosecutor and, as a legal academic, have spent much of the past 27 years studying questions of legal, judicial, prosecutorial and government ethics.

I served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York from 1983 to 1987, after serving as a judicial law clerk. I served under U.S. Attorney Rudolph W. Giuliani throughout my time in the U.S. Attorney's Office. Before leaving in 1987, I served as Deputy Chief Appellate Attorney and Chief Appellate Attorney in the Criminal Division. My responsibilities included advising other prosecutors on legal and ethical questions.

Since 1987, I have taught full-time at Fordham Law School, where I now direct the Stein Center for Law and Ethics. For the past 27 years, I have taught courses relating to legal ethics and criminal law and procedure, including a seminar on ''Ethics in Criminal Advocacy.'' As an academic, I have written more than 25 articles on prosecutors' ethics and I have spoken widely on this subject, including at programs of the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Association of Former United States Attorneys, the American Bar Association (ABA), and other national, state and local organizations and entities. I have also engaged in substantial professional service involving legal ethics generally and prosecutors' ethics particularly. Among other things, I have chaired the ABA Criminal Justice Section and that Section's ethics committee, chaired the New York State Bar Association's ethics committee, and served for more than a decade on the committee that drafts the national bar examination on lawyers' professional responsibility (the MPRE).

While teaching law full-time, I have also engaged in various part-time public service relating to issues of government integrity. I served as Associate Counsel in the Office of Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh (the Iran/Contra prosecutor) and as a consultant to the N.Y.S. Commission on Government Integrity (under Fordham's then-Dean, John Feerick). In 1995, then-Mayor Giuliani appointed me to serve on the five-member New York City Conflicts of Interest Board, which interprets and enforces the city's conflicts of

interest law for government officials and employees. I was subsequently reappointed and served on the Board until early 2005.

Finally, in light of the subject of this letter, I note that I am registered to vote as an ''independent.''

DISCUSSION

I understand that this Committee is considering the following three questions among others) on which I hope to be of assistance.

1. Do past political contributions by a career prosecutor to a Presidential campaign or political party create a conflict of interest in a multi-agency investigation regarding allegations of political targeting by federal agency officials?

As lawyers, federal prosecutors are governed by the professional conduct rules of the states in which they work. In most states, these rules are based on the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct. All state codes of professional conduct for lawyers include provisions on conflicts of interest. In general, the rules provide that a lawyer has a conflict of interest if there is a significant risk that the lawyer's representation will be materially limited by the lawyer's personal interest.

As ''ministers of justice,'' prosecutors are expected to conduct investigations and prosecutions without regard to partisan political considerations. Indeed, the ABA Standards governing prosecutors' conflicts of interest provide: ''A prosecutor should not permit his or her professional judgment or obligations to be affected by his or her own political . . . interests.'' One can envision situations in which prosecutors' political interests would significantly limit their ability to pursue justice evenhandedly, and in such situations, prosecutors would be obligated to step aside. An elected prosecutor's investigation of a campaign rival would surely be one such situation.

I understand that in an investigation of possible misconduct by public officials, the particular prosecutor's political affiliation or level of political engagement might seem to matter. A prosecutor who contributed financially to the winning side might be suspected of favoring officials in the incumbent administration or of harboring an interest in avoiding embarrassment to the administration. A prosecutor who contributed financially to the losing side might be suspected of bias against the incumbents or of desiring to embarrass them. Even a prosecutor who made no financial contribution but who voted for one side or the other might be suspected of bias or favoritism.

Under the prevailing legal and ethical understandings, however, this scenario does not constitute a conflict of interest. The relevant standards for prosecutors—e.g., the ABA rules and standards and the National District Attorneys Association standards—do not forbid prosecutors from making political contributions. Nothing in the rules or standards requires prosecutors who made contributions to recuse themselves from cases involving public officials. This is in contrast to rules of judicial conduct that forbid judges from making contributions to political organizations and candidates. Prosecutors are not held to the same level of neutrality and nonpartisanship as judges. As the Supreme Court has observed, ''the strict requirements of neutrality cannot be the same for . . . prosecutors as for judges.''

Likewise, judicial decisions do not support the premise that prosecutors who make campaign contributions have a conflict of interest in cases of political significance. In criminal cases, the question of whether a prosecutor has a conflict of interest may be raised by a criminal defendant or by an individual who is the subject of a criminal investigation. Additionally, in some jurisdictions, prosecutors who perceive that they have a conflict of interest may ask the court to appoint an independent prosecutor. Thus, courts have had occasion to issue opinions regarding whether a particular prosecutor must be disqualified, or an independent prosecutor appointed, because of an alleged conflict. Prosecutors who have prior lawyer-client relationships, or family or business relationships, with a defendant or potential defendant are ordinarily understood to have a significant personal interest that may impair their impartiality. But no court would seriously entertain a claim that the prosecutor should be disqualified from investigating or prosecuting officials of an executive-branch agency because the prosecutor previously made political donations supporting or opposing the incumbent president or the president's party.

2. Do past political contributions by a career prosecutor to a Presidential campaign or political party create grounds for disqualification arising from a personal or ''political relationship'' under 28 C.F.R. §45.2 in a multi-agency investigation regarding allegations of misconduct of federal agency officials?

Federal prosecutors are subject to 28 C.F.R. §45.2, which requires prosecutors to be disqualified from cases in which they have a personal or ''political relationship'' with the subject of the investigation or with another person or organization having a specific and substantial interest in the investigation or prosecution. The provision defines a disqualifying ''political relationship'' to mean ''a close identification with an elected official, a candidate (whether or not successful) for elective, public office, a political party, or a campaign organization, arising from service as a principal adviser thereto or a principal official thereof'' (emphasis added).

Section 45.2 plainly does not apply to a career prosecutor who contributed to the incumbent president's campaign or political party. The provision is very limited. It applies only to a prosecutor whose close identification with an official, candidate, party or organization arises from the prosecutor's prior service as a principal adviser to the official or candidate or as a principal official of the party or organization that is the subject of the investigation or otherwise an interested party. Few, if any, federal prosecutors fit into that category. A campaign contributor does not, because he or she is not ''a principal adviser'' or a ''principal official.''

That this federal regulation has a ''narrow definition of a disqualifying political conflict of interest'' was noted in In re: Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr, where the court of appeals refused to revive an ethics grievance, filed against Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, maintaining that the Independent Counsel had a conflict of interest in the Whitewater investigation arising out of his political affiliation with the Republican Party. In a concurring opinion, Circuit Judge Loken explained that ''it is not surprising that federal law does not restrict or disqualify prosecutors on the basis of vaguely defined political conflicts of interest,'' and that ''even a brief look at history will confirm [that] judicial reluctance to question a prosecutor's background is even more important'' in an investigation of government misconduct. That history includes the appointment of corruption investigators and prosecutors from ''highly partisan backgrounds and [with] strong personal political ambitions.'' Making a campaign contribution reflects a low level of political involvement by comparison.

3. Is it appropriate for Department of Justice leadership to check the political donations made by a career prosecutor before assigning that person to join a multi-agency investigation involving victims claiming that they were treated unfairly because of their political beliefs?

As discussed above, a career prosecutor assigned to investigate a federal official would not have a conflict of interest simply because the prosecutor contributed to one or the other party or to one or the other presidential candidate. I am unaware of any federal or state jurisdiction in which prosecutors investigating or prosecuting government corruption cases are limited to those who are so politically disengaged. Because political donations are not a relevant consideration in making assignments, it would not be appropriate for Department of Justice leadership to check career prosecutors' political donations before assigning them to an investigation.

There has never been a political-affiliation litmus test for prosecutors engaged in government corruption investigations or other investigations of government officials. Rather, it should be assumed that prosecutors, as professionals, will put their political preferences to the side, because their fundamental allegiance is to the rule of law and to pursuing justice.

Very truly yours,

BRUCE A. GREEN,
Louis Stein Professor of Law.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Oppose this present resolution and let's move on to come together and effectively work on behalf of the American people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in response to the gentlewoman from Texas and the gentleman from Michigan, who said that this hallowed institution should not be turned into a campaign arm of either political party, I totally agree with the gentleman's assertion. I also believe that he would agree with me that the Internal Revenue Service should not be turned into a political arm of any administration.

The IRS—the tax collectors—have the most unenviable job. And they are despised by most Americans coming to collect their taxes from them. To politicize that organization, to turn it into an organization that the American people mistrust, is an abuse.

The contention that the IRS targeted progressives is debunked by this staff report prepared by the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform dated April 7, 2014, just 1 month ago.

I will read from the conclusion of that report:

Evidence available to the committee contradicts Democrats' claims about bipartisan targeting. Although the IRS's BOLO list included entries for liberal-oriented groups, only Tea Party applicants received systematic scrutiny because of their political beliefs. Public and nonpublic analyses of IRS data show that the IRS routinely approved

liberal applications while holding and scrutinizing conservative applications. Even training documents produced by the IRS indicate stark differences between liberal and conservative applications: ''progressive'' applications are not considered ''Tea Parties.'' These facts show one unyielding truth: Tea Party groups were targeted because of their political beliefs, liberal groups were not.

And from the executive summary:

For months, the administration and congressional Democrats have attempted to downplay the IRS's misconduct. First, the administration sought to minimize the fallout by preemptively acknowledging the misconduct in response to a planted question at an obscure Friday morning tax-law conference. When that strategy failed, the administration shifted to blaming ''rogue agents'' and ''line-level'' employees for the targeting. When those assertions proved false, congressional Democrats baselessly attacked the character and integrity of the inspector general. Their attempt to allege bipartisan targeting is just another effort to distract from the fact that the Obama IRS systematically targeted and delayed conservative tax-exempt applicants.

The gentleman from Michigan is right: this institution should not be used, nor the IRS, to benefit either political party. And that is why an independent, professional special counsel should be appointed immediately by the Attorney General. Because the three tests for that appointment have already been met.

□ 1815

That is the reason why we are here today. A criminal investigation of a person or a matter is warranted. An investigation or prosecution of that person or matter by a United States Attorneys' Office or litigating division of the Department of Justice would prevent a conflict of interest for the department.

All of these false assertions made over and over and over again show there is a conflict in this investigation by this administration.

Third, under those circumstances, it would be in the public interest to appoint an outside special counsel to assume responsibility for the matter.

It is time for that outside special counsel to be appointed, to take the politics out of this, and to make sure that the American people's interest in having an Internal Revenue Service—the tax collectors of the country—not attempting to influence public policy, not taking ideological points of view in the enforcement of our tax law is not to take place.

The only way we can assure it is by having that special counsel appointed.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I will insert an executive summary into the RECORD.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the immediate aftermath of Lois Lerner's public apology for the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants, President Obama and congressional Democrats quickly denounced the IRS misconduct. But later, some of the same voices that initially decried the targeting changed their tune. Less than a month after the wrongdoing was exposed, prominent Democrats declared the ''case is solved'' and, later, the whole incident to be a ''phony scandal.'' As recently as February 2014, the President explained away the targeting as the result of ''bone-headed'' decisions by employees of an IRS ''local office'' without ''even a smidgeon of corruption.''

To support this false narrative, the Administration and congressional Democrats have seized upon the notion that the IRS's targeting was not just limited to conservative applicants. Time and again, they have claimed that the IRS targeted liberal- and progressive-oriented groups as well—and that, therefore, there was no political animus to the IRS's actions. These Democratic claims are flat-out wrong and have no basis in any thorough examination of the facts. Yet, the Administration's chief defenders continue to make these assertions in a concerted effort to deflect and distract from the truth about the IRS's targeting of tax-exempt applicants.

The Committee's investigation demonstrates that the IRS engaged in disparate treatment of conservative-oriented tax-exempt applicants. Documents produced to the Committee show that initial applications transferred from Cincinnati to Washington were filed by Tea Party groups. Other documents and testimony show that the initial criteria used to identify and hold Tea Party applications captured conservative organizations. After the criteria were broadened in July 2012 to be cosmetically neutral, material provided to the Committee indicates that the IRS still intended to target only conservative applications.

A central plank in the Democratic argument is the claim that liberal-leaning groups were identified on versions of the IRS's ''Be on the Look Out'' (BOLO) lists. This claim ignores significant differences in the placement of the conservative and liberal entries on the BOLO lists and how the IRS used the BOLO lists in practice. The Democratic claims are further undercut by testimony from IRS employees who told the Committee that liberal groups were not subject to the same systematic scrutiny and delay as conservative organizations.

The IRS's independent watchdog, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), confirms that the IRS treated conservative applicants differently from liberal groups. The inspector general, J. Russell George, wrote that while TIGTA found indications that the IRS had improperly identified Tea Party groups, it ''did not find evidence that the criteria [Democrats] identified, labeled 'Progressives,' were used by the IRS to select potential political cases during the 2010 to 2012 timeframe we audited.'' He concluded that TIGTA ''found no indication in any of these other materials that 'Progressives' was a term used to refer cases for scrutiny for political campaign intervention.''

An analysis performed by the House Committee on Ways and Means buttresses the Committee's findings of disparate treatment. The Ways and Means Committee's review of the confidential tax-exempt applications proves that the IRS systematically targeted conservative organizations. Although a small number of progressive and liberal groups were caught up in the application backlog, the Ways and Means Committee's review shows that the backlog was 83 percent conservative and only 10 percent were liberal-oriented. Moreover, the IRS approved 70 percent of the liberal-leaning groups and only 45 percent of the conservative groups. The IRS approved every group with the word ''progressive'' in its name.

In addition, other publicly available information supports the analysis of the Ways and Means Committee. In September 2013, USA Today published an independent analysis of a list of about 160 applications in the IRS backlog. This analysis showed that 80 percent of the applications in the backlog were filed by conservative groups while less than seven percent were filed by liberal groups. A separate assessment from USA Today in May 2013 showed that for 27 months beginning in February 2010, the IRS did not approve a single tax-exempt application filed by a Tea Party group. During that same period, the IRS approved ''perhaps dozens of applications from similar liberal and progressive groups.''

The IRS, over many years, has undoubtedly scrutinized organizations that embrace different political views for varying reasons—in many cases, a just and neutral criteria may have been fairly utilized. This includes the time period when Tea Party organizations were systematically screened for enhanced and inappropriate scrutiny. But the concept of targeting, when defined as a systematic effort to select applicants for scrutiny simply because their applications reflected the organizations' political views, only applied to Tea Party and similar conservative organizations. While use of term ''targeting'' in the IRS scandal may not always follow this definition, the reality remains that there is simply no evidence that any liberal or progressive group received enhanced scrutiny because its application reflected the organization's political views.

For months, the Administration and congressional Democrats have attempted to downplay the IRS's misconduct. First, the Administration sought to minimize the fallout by preemptively acknowledging the misconduct in response to a planted question at an obscure Friday morning tax-law conference. When that strategy failed, the Administration shifted to blaming ''rogue agents'' and ''line-level'' employees for the targeting. When those assertions proved false, congressional Democrats baselessly attacked the character and integrity of the inspector general. Their attempt to allege bipartisan targeting is just another effort to distract from the fact that the Obama IRS systematically targeted and delayed conservative tax-exempt applicants.

CONCLUSION

Democrats in Congress and the Administration have perpetrated a myth that the IRS targeted both conservative and liberal tax-exempt applicants. The targeting is a ''phony scandal,'' they say, because the IRS did not just target Tea Party groups, but it targeted liberal and progressive groups as well. Month after month, in public hearings and televised interviews, Democrats have repeatedly claimed that progressive groups were scrutinized in the same manner as conservative groups. Because of this bipartisan targeting, they conclude, there is not a ''smidgeon of corruption'' at the IRS.

The problem with these assertions is that they are simply not accurate. The Committee's investigation shows that the IRS sought to identify and single out Tea Party applications. The facts bear this out. The initial ''test'' applications were filed by Tea Party groups. The initial screening criteria identified only Tea Party applications. The

revised criteria still intended to identify Tea Party activities. The IRS's internal review revealed that a substantial majority of applications were conservative. In short, the IRS treated conservative tax-exempt applications in a manner distinct from other applications, including those filed by liberal groups.

Evidence available to the Committee contradicts Democrats' claims about bipartisan targeting. Although the IRS's BOLO list included entries for liberal-oriented groups, only Tea Party applicants received systematic scrutiny because of their political beliefs. Public and nonpublic analyses of IRS data show that the IRS routinely approved liberal applications while holding and scrutinizing conservative applications. Even training documents produced by the IRS indicate stark differences between liberal and conservative applications: '''progressive' applications are not considered ''Tea Parties.''' These facts show one unyielding truth: Tea Party groups were targeted because of their political beliefs, liberal groups were not.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the resolution has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 568, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

The question is on the resolution.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECOMMENDING THAT LOIS G. LERNER BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of House Resolution 574 will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

MOTION TO REFER

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Cummings moves to refer the resolution H. Res. 574 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with instructions that the Committee carry out the following:

(1) Conduct a bipartisan public hearing with testimony from legal and constitutional experts on whether Lois Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights when she professed her innocence during a hearing before the Committee on May 22, 2013, and whether Chairman Darrell E. Issa complied with the procedures required by the Constitution to hold Ms. Lerner in contempt.

(2) As part of that public hearing and in relationship to Ms. Lerner's profession of innocence in her testimony before the Committee, consider and release publicly the full transcripts of the following 39 interviews conducted by Committee staff of employees of the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of the Treasury, who discussed the actions that occurred within the Exempt Organizations Division that Ms. Lerner supervised and who identified no White House involvement or political motivation in the screening of tax exempt applicants, with appropriate redactions as determined by Chairman Darrell E. Issa in consultation with Ranking Minority Member Elijah E. Cummings:

(A) Screening Agent, Exempt Organizations, Determinations Unit, Internal Revenue Service (May 30, 2013).

(B) Screening Group Manager, Exempt Organizations, Determinations Unit, Internal Revenue Service (June 6, 2013).

(C) Determinations Specialist I, Exempt Organizations, Determinations Unit, Internal Revenue Service (May 31, 2013).

(D) Determinations Specialist II, Exempt Organizations, Determinations Unit, Internal Revenue Service (June 13, 2013).

(E) Determinations Specialist III, Exempt Organizations, Determinations Unit, Internal Revenue Service (June 19, 2013).

(F) Group Manager I, Exempt Organizations, Determinations Unit, Internal Revenue Service (June 4, 2013).

(G) Group Manager II, Exempt Organizations, Determinations Unit, Internal Revenue Service (June 12, 2013).

(H) Program Manager for Exempt Organizations, Determinations Unit, Internal Revenue Service (June 28, 2013).

(I) Tax Law Specialist I, Exempt Organizations, Technical Unit, Internal Revenue Service (July 10, 2013).

(J) Tax Law Specialist II, Exempt Organizations, Technical Unit, Internal Revenue Service (June 14, 2013).

(K) Tax Law Specialist III, Exempt Organizations, Technical Unit, Internal Revenue Service (July 2, 2013).

(L) Tax Law Specialist IV, Exempt Organizations, Technical Unit, Internal Revenue Service (July 31, 2013).

(M) Group Manager, Exempt Organizations, Technical Unit, Internal Revenue Service (June 21, 2013).

(N) Manager I, Exempt Organizations, Technical Unit, Internal Revenue Service (July 16, 2013).

(O) Manager II, Exempt Organizations, Technical Unit, Internal Revenue Service (July 11, 2013).

(P) Director of Rulings and Agreements, and Director of Employee Plans Division, Tax Exempt Government Entities, Internal Revenue Service (Aug. 21, 2013).

(Q) Director of Rulings and Agreements and Technical Unit Manager, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service (May 21, 2013).

(R) Technical Advisor to the Division Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities, Internal Revenue Service (July 23, 2013).

(S) Senior Technical Advisor to the Director of Exempt Organizations I, Tax Exempt Government Entities, Internal Revenue Service (Oct. 29, 2013).

(T) Senior Technical Advisor to the Director of Exempt Organizations II, Tax Exempt Government Entities, Internal Revenue Service (Sept. 5, 2013).

(U) Former Senior Technical Advisor to the Division Commissioner, Tax Exempt Government Entities, Internal Revenue Service (Oct. 8, 2013).

(V) Counsel I, Office of Chief Counsel, Tax Exempt Government Entities, Internal Revenue Service (Aug. 9, 2013).

(W) Counsel II, Office of Chief Counsel, Tax Exempt Government Entities, Internal Revenue Service (July 26, 2013).

(X) Senior Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, Tax Exempt Government Entities, Internal Revenue Service (July 12, 2013).

(Y) Deputy Division Counsel and Deputy Associate Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, Tax Exempt Government Entities, Internal Revenue Service (Aug. 23, 2013).

(Z) Division Counsel and Associate Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel Tax Exempt Government Entities, Internal Revenue Service (Aug. 29, 2013).

(AA) Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service (Nov. 6, 2013).

(BB) Commissioner of the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division until December 2010, Internal Revenue Service (Sept. 23, 2013).

(CC) Commissioner of the Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, December 2010–2013, Internal Revenue Service (Sept. 25, 2013).

(DD) Chief of Staff to the Commissioner, 2008–2012, Internal Revenue Service (Nov. 21, 2013).

(EE) Chief of Staff to the Commissioner, 2012–2013, Internal Revenue Service (Oct. 22, 2013).

(FF) Commissioner, 2008–2012, Internal Revenue Service (Dec, 4, 2013).

(GG) Deputy Commissioner of Services and Enforcement and Acting Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service (Nov. 13, 2013).

(HH) Attorney Advisor, Office of Tax Policy, Department of the Treasury (Feb. 3, 2014).

(II) Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy, Office of Tax Policy, Department of the Treasury (Jan. 16, 2014).

(JJ) Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of the Treasury (Feb. 11, 2014).

(KK) Chief of Staff, 2009–2013, Department of the Treasury (Feb. 4, 2014).

(LL) Chief of Staff, 2013, Department of the Treasury (Mar. 27, 2014).

(MM) General Counsel, Department of the Treasury (Feb. 26, 2014).

Mr. ISSA (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent we dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 568, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of the motion to refer this matter back to committee.

Sixty years ago, the Supreme Court of the United States announced that the waiver of Fifth Amendment rights is ''not lightly to be inferred.''

That is exactly what happened when the Oversight Committee held a party line vote finding that Lois Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment privilege without holding even one hearing with one legal expert.

Experts who have reviewed the record before the committee conclude that Ms. Lerner did not waive her Fifth

Amendment rights by declaring her innocence.

Now, more than 30 independent legal experts have also come forward to conclude that the chairman, Chairman ISSA, botched the contempt procedure when he abruptly ended our committee hearing and cut off my microphone before any Democratic members had a chance to utter a single syllable.

In other words, these experts say a judge will likely throw this case out of court.

Let me be clear that I am not defending Lois Lerner's mismanagement at the IRS; but as a Member of Congress, I have sworn, like my colleagues, to protect every citizen's rights under the Constitution of the United States of America, and I do not take that obligation lightly.

I believe that it is irresponsible to move forward today without ever having held a single hearing to hear from a single legal expert on this constitutional question.

I asked for this hearing more than 9 months ago, but my request was rejected, so this motion would require the Oversight Committee to do what it should have done a long time ago.

This motion also would direct the committee to release publicly the full transcripts from all the interviews of the IRS and Treasury employees that our committee staff conducted during the investigation.

These 39 transcripts show that there is no evidence of any White House involvement or any political motivation in the IRS' review of these tax-exempt applicants.

I remind the Speaker that these 39 witnesses are witnesses that were called by the majority. They are the ones who sat down with a bipartisan group of employees from the majority and the minority and went through the questioning.

Instead, these interviews show exactly how the employees in Cincinnati first developed the inappropriate criteria. They tell the story. They tell the story. They show how Lois Lerner failed to discover these criteria for more than a year and that, when she learned of them, she immediately ordered them to stop being used.

In June of last year, Chairman ISSA promised on national television that, at some point, he would release all of the transcripts. That needs to be done sooner, rather than later; but the chairman has repeatedly blocked my efforts to do so, even with his own redactions.

You may hear him say that he does not want to release transcripts now because they would provide a roadmap to our questions to future witnesses. I can understand that. I have made the same arguments myself on many occasions.

With all due respect, he crossed that bridge a long, long, long time ago. He has released selected excerpts from these transcripts on more than a dozen occasions, and he has allowed reporters to come into his committee offices to review some transcripts in their entirety.

It is time to put out the whole story, so the American people can read the facts for themselves, instead of just cherry-picking pieces leaked to further a political narrative.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the motion.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion and seek recognition in opposition.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

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

Let me just, in response to the ranking member, it is not 39 interviews; it is 40. We just did another one yesterday, and that is going to lead to another one because we learned information in that interview yesterday.

The minority staff has released parts of every single one of those depositions. We will release them all when we hear from Lois Lerner. We want to get to the truth. That is what this resolution is all about.

Here is what we did learn yesterday. In the 40th, Richard Pilger, from the Department of Justice said this:

In the fall of 2010, at the direction of the chief of the Public Integrity Section, Jack Smith, I contacted Lois Lerner at the IRS.

So we know now Justice and the IRS were working together back in 2010, all the more reason why we need to hear from Lois Lerner; and the only way to make that happen, the only way to get to the truth is through the House of Representatives using every tool we have to compel Ms. Lerner to come talk to us because we know the fix is in with the Justice Department's investigation.

The fix is in. We all know that. The only route to the truth on something as fundamental as your free speech rights—First Amendment rights to exercise speech in a political fashion—is through the House of Representatives.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire as to whether the minority is prepared to close?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yes, we are.

Mr. Speaker, about how much time do I have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 25 seconds remaining. The gentleman from California has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. ISSA. I am prepared to close.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I am prepared to close.

Again, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing to hide. We need to release the transcripts, and just as significantly, we need to hear from the experts.

This is a very, very serious issue, and I think that Members of Congress deserve to have the expertise presented before them, so that they can make a judgment. A lot of our Members are laypersons, and I think that it is only appropriate, under these circumstances, that they be given this opportunity.

I would ask the Members to vote in favor of my motion.

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

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

I will close in the calmest possible way that I can. For more than 3½ years, I have tried to get cooperation from the minority. For more than 3 years, I have tried to get the cooperation of the minority, and I haven't gotten it.

I get it on things which don't lead to the President or to a Cabinet officer or to an administrative branch. This leads to an administrative branch under the Secretary of the Treasury.

When the minority says that if you would just refer this back and we just have an opinion, quite frankly, they produced these opinions. They sought out 30 people to rubberstamp the same basic opinion again and again, many of whom provided nothing other than we agree. I didn't say anything about that during debate. That is their right.

The ranking member says if we will just release those 39 documents—if he wants to destroy this investigation, he can release them. If he wants to show a roadmap, he can release them. These are not documents that are exclusive. They are documents that either one of us could choose to release.

Good practice is, as we continue investigating—and the questions and the answers from witnesses not be in their entirety released to create a roadmap, that is practice of good counsel, and the ranking member himself said he would have done the same thing in some cases.

We only learned, a matter of days ago, that people working in the office of the President had withheld, until a court ordered them to release the documents, showing that they invented, out of thin air, a false narrative as to what happened at Benghazi and why, asserting a video that, in fact, was not supported by the facts; and for a long time, since September 11, 2012, we had been misled.

In an ongoing investigation, one in which they would have you believe that Lois Lerner would have testified if she just had a week more, they have had months to see if they could get Lois Lerner back to testify. Of course, they can't. She never intended to testify.

This has all been a game of catch me if you can; I say I will, I say I won't.

Our evidence, as the ranking member said, does not lead to the Oval Office. At this point, it leads to Lois Lerner. At this point, Lois Lerner attempted to assert the President's position as to Citizens United, using her power to stop these 501(c)(4)'s from their free speech.

□ 1830

At this point, the indication is that Lois Lerner says one thing to the Justice Department and a different thing to Congress.

So as we consider the simple issue of did she waive her rights or not and get it, as the gentleman from Vermont suggested, before a judge, that is all that is before us today. And the idea that we would release, in their entirety, those thousands of pages in order to give a road map to those yet to be deposed is wrong and inappropriate, and the gentleman knows it or he would have released them himself, which he has every right to do. But it would be irresponsible.

So I ask people to vote for contempt because it takes to an impartial Federal judge that question, a question already decided by our committee that had a vote, a question that will be voted the same way by the ranking member no matter how many experts are listened to. Go ahead and have the vote. Send it to a judge. Let a judge decide.

In the meantime, let's continue with the investigations as to the IRS' targeting of conservative groups, something that has been documented to have been inappropriate if you were conservative and not so much if you were moderate or liberal.

We have an individual who is at the center of it all. I have never alleged that it goes to the President. I have said that the Tea Party would clearly and fairly be described as enemies of or adverse to the President's policies, and I think that is pretty comfortable to understand. And they were targeted by somebody who politics with the President and who, quite frankly, was trying to overturn the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United in support of the President's position using her power.

And with that, I urge support and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the motion to refer has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 568, the previous question is ordered on the motion to refer.

The question is on the motion to refer.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to refer will be followed by 5-minute votes on the motion to recommit, if offered, adoption of House Resolution 574, and adoption of House Resolution 565.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 191, nays 224, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 202]

YEAS—191

Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—224

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—16

Bentivolio
Boustany
Clark (MA)
Coble
Crawford
Duffy
Eshoo
Griffin (AR)
Hinojosa
Hurt
Johnson (GA)
Kingston
Nunnelee
Pelosi
Rush
Schwartz

□ 1855

Messrs. YOUNG of Indiana, SESSIONS, TERRY, McKINLEY, CANTOR, and KELLY of Pennsylvania changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Messrs. THOMPSON of Mississippi, GRIJALVA, FARR, and BARBER changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to refer was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 202, on referring the resolution on H. Res. 574 to Government Operations. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 202 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 187, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 203]

YEAS—231

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—187

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

Bentivolio
Clark (MA)
Coble
Crawford
Duffy
Griffin (AR)
Hinojosa
Honda
Kingston
Nunnelee
Pelosi
Rush
Schwartz

□ 1902

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 203, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the resolution (H. Res. 565) calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 250, nays 168, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 204]

YEAS—250

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Esty
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed

Reichert	Schneider	Tsongas
Renacci	Schock	Turner
Ribble	Schweikert	Upton
Rice (SC)	Scott, Austin	Valadao
Rigell	Sensenbrenner	Wagner
Roby	Sessions	Walberg
Roe (TN)	Shimkus	Walden
Rogers (AL)	Shuster	Walorski
Rogers (KY)	Simpson	Walz
Rogers (MI)	Sinema	Weber (TX)
Rohrabacher	Smith (MO)	Wenstrup
Rokita	Smith (NE)	Westmoreland
Rooney	Smith (NJ)	Whitfield
Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (TX)	Williams
Roskam	Southerland	Wilson (SC)
Ross	Stewart	Wittman
Rothfus	Stivers	Wolf
Royce	Stockman	Womack
Ruiz	Stutzman	Woodall
Runyan	Terry	Yoder
Ryan (WI)	Thompson (PA)	Yoho
Salmon	Thornberry	Young (AK)
Sanford	Tiberi	Young (IN)
Scalise	Tipton	

NAYS—168

Bass	Green, Gene	Neal
Beatty	Grijalva	Negrete McLeod
Becerra	Gutiérrez	Nolan
Bishop (GA)	Hahn	O'Rourke
Bishop (NY)	Hanabusa	Pallone
Blumenauer	Hastings (FL)	Pascrell
Bonamici	Heck (WA)	Pastor (AZ)
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Payne
Braley (IA)	Himes	Perlmutter
Brown (FL)	Holt	Peters (MI)
Butterfield	Honda	Pingree (ME)
Capps	Horsford	Pocan
Capuano	Hoyer	Polis
Cárdenas	Huffman	Price (NC)
Carney	Israel	Quigley
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee	Rangel
Cartwright	Jeffries	Richmond
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Castro (TX)	Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger
Chu	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Cicilline	Keating	Sánchez, Linda T.
Clarke (NY)	Kelly (IL)	Sanchez, Loretta
Clay	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Cleaver	Kildee	Schakowsky
Clyburn	Kilmer	Schiff
Cohen	Kind	Schrader
Connolly	Kirkpatrick	Scott (VA)
Conyers	Langevin	Scott, David
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Costa	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Courtney	Lee (CA)	Shea-Porter
Crowley	Levin	Sherman
Cuellar	Lewis	Sires
Cummings	Lofgren	Slaughter
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Smith (WA)
Davis, Danny	Lowey	Speier
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Swalwell (CA)
DeGette	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Takano
Delaney	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro	Maloney, Carolyn	Thompson (MS)
Deutch	Maloney, Sean	Tierney
Dingell	Matsui	Titus
Doggett	McCarthy (NY)	Tonko
Doyle	McCollum	Van Hollen
Duckworth	McDermott	Vargas
Edwards	McGovern	Veasey
Ellison	McNerney	Vela
Engel	Meeks	Velázquez
Enyart	Meng	Visclosky
Eshoo	Michaud	Wasserman Schultz
Farr	Miller, George	Waters
Fattah	Moore	Waxman
Frankel (FL)	Moran	Welch
Fudge	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Gallego	Napolitano	Yarmuth
Garamendi		
Grayson		
Green, Al		

NOT VOTING—13

Clark (MA)	Griffin (AR)	Rush
Coble	Hinojosa	Schwartz
Crawford	Kingston	Webster (FL)
Duffy	Nunnelee	
Gingrey (GA)	Pelosi	

□ 1910

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, I was at home in Wisconsin taking care of my amazing wife and our new baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways: H. Res. 574—A Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform "yea;" H.R. 863—To establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum of 2013, as amended "yea;" H. Con. Res. 83—Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha "yea;" H. Res. 565—Calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative non-profit groups by the Internal Revenue Service "yea."

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113–108)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To The Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012—is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2014.

The regime's brutal war on the Syrian people, who have been calling for freedom and a representative government, endangers not only the Syrian people themselves, but could yield greater instability throughout the region. The Syrian regime's actions and policies, including supporting terrorist organizations and impeding the Lebanese government's ability to function effectively, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared with respect to this threat and to maintain in force the sanctions to address this national emergency.

In addition, the United States condemns the Asad regime's use of brutal violence and human rights abuses and calls on the Asad regime to stop its violent war and allow a political transition in Syria that will forge a credible path to a future of greater freedom, democracy, opportunity, and justice.

The United States will consider changes in the composition, policies, and actions of the Government of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 7, 2014.*

□ 1915

ELECTRIFY AFRICA ACT OF 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2548) to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty alleviation and drive economic growth, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2548

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Electrify Africa Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to affordable and reliable electricity in Africa in order to unlock the potential for economic growth, job creation, food security, improved health, education and environmental outcomes, and poverty reduction.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) 589,000,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa, or 68 percent of the population, did not have access to electricity, as of 2010;

(2) in sub-Saharan Africa, electricity services are highly unreliable and they are at least twice as expensive for those with electricity access compared to other emerging markets;

(3) lack of access to electricity services disproportionally affects women and girls, who often shoulder the burden of seeking sources of heat and light such as dung, wood or charcoal and are often more exposed to the associated negative health impacts. Women and girls also face an increased risk of assault from walking long distances to gather fuel sources;

(4) access to electricity creates opportunities, including entrepreneurship, for people to work their way out of poverty;

(5) a lack of electricity contributes to the high use of inefficient and often highly polluting fuel sources for indoor cooking, heating, and lighting that produce toxic fumes resulting in more than 3,000,000 annual premature deaths from respiratory disease, more annual deaths than from HIV/AIDS and malaria in sub-Saharan Africa;

(6) electricity access is crucial for the cold storage of vaccines and anti-retroviral and other lifesaving medical drugs, as well as the operation of modern lifesaving medical equipment;

(7) electricity access can be used to improve food security by enabling post-harvest processing, pumping, irrigation, dry grain storage, milling, refrigeration, and other uses;

(8) reliable electricity access can provide improved lighting options and information and communication technologies, including Internet access and mobile phone charging, that can greatly improve health, social, and education outcomes, as well as economic and commercial possibilities;

(9) sub-Saharan Africa's consumer base of nearly one billion people is rapidly growing and will create increasing demand for United States goods, services, and technologies, but the current electricity deficit in sub-Saharan Africa limits this demand by restricting economic growth on the continent;

(10) approximately 30 African countries face endemic power shortages, and nearly 70 percent of surveyed African businesses cite unreliable power as a major constraint to growth;

(11) the Millennium Challenge Corporation's work in the energy sector shows high projected economic rates of return that translate to sustainable economic growth and that the highest returns are projected when infrastructure improvements are coupled with significant legislative, regulatory, institutional, and policy reforms;

(12) in many countries, weak governance capacity, regulatory bottlenecks, legal constraints, and lack of transparency and accountability can stifle the ability of private investment to assist in the generation and distribution of electricity; and

(13) without new policies and more effective investments in electricity sector capacity to increase and expand electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa, over 70 percent of the rural population, and 48 percent of the total population, will potentially remain without access to electricity by 2030.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States—

(1) in consultation with sub-Saharan African governments, to encourage the private sector, international community, African Regional Economic Communities, philanthropies, civil society, and other governments to promote—

(A) the installation of at least an additional 20,000 megawatts of electrical power in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020 to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth;

(B) first-time direct access to electricity for at least 50,000,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020 in both urban and rural areas;

(C) efficient institutional platforms with accountable governance to provide electrical service to rural and underserved areas; and

(D) the necessary in-country legislative, regulatory and policy reforms to make such expansion of electricity access possible; and

(2) to encourage private sector and international support for construction of hydroelectric dams in sub-Saharan Africa that—

(A) offer low-cost clean energy consistent with—

(i) the national security interests of the United States; and

(ii) best international practices regarding social and environmental safeguards, including—

(I) engagement of local communities regarding the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of such projects;

(II) the consideration of energy alternatives, including distributed renewable energy; and

(III) the development of appropriate mitigation measures; and

(B) support partner country efforts.

SEC. 5. DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIYEAR STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—The President shall establish a comprehensive, integrated, multiyear policy, partnership, and funding strategy to encourage countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, to provide sufficient electricity access to people living in rural and urban areas in order to alleviate poverty and drive economic growth. Such strategy shall maintain sufficient flexibility and remain responsive to technological innovation in the power sector.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report setting forth the strategy described in subsection (a).

(2) REPORT CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include a discussion of the elements described in paragraph (3), and should include a discussion of any additional elements relevant to the strategy described in subsection (a).

(3) REPORT ELEMENTS.—The elements referred to in paragraph (2) are the following:

(A) The general and specific objectives of the strategy described in subsection (a), the criteria for determining success of the strategy, a description of the manner in which the strategy will support partner country efforts to increase production and improve access to electricity, and criteria and indicators used to select partner countries for focused engagement on the power sector.

(B) Development, by partner country governments, of plans and regulations at the national, regional, and local level to increase power production, strengthen existing electrical transmission and distribution infrastructure, bolster accountable governance and oversight, and improve access to electricity.

(C) Administration plans to support partner country efforts to increase new access to electricity, including a description of how the strategy will address commercial and residential needs, as well as urban and rural access.

(D) Administration strategy to support partner country efforts to reduce government waste, fraud, and corruption, and improve existing power generation through improvement of existing transmission and distribution systems, as well as the use of a broad power mix, including renewable energy, and the use of a distributed generation model.

(E) Administration policy to support partner country efforts to attract private sector investment and public sector resources.

(F) A description of the Administration's strategy for the transfer of relevant technology, skills, and information to increase local participation in the long-term maintenance and management of the power sector to ensure investments are sustainable and transparent, including details of the programs to be undertaken to maximize United States contributions in the areas of technical assistance and training.

(G) An identification of the relevant executive branch agencies that will be involved in carrying out the strategy, the level and distribution of resources that will be dedicated on an annual basis among such agencies, timely and comprehensive publication of aid information and available transmission of resource data consistent with Administration commitments to implement the transparency measures specified in the International Aid Transparency Initiative by December 2015, the assignment of priorities to such agencies, a description of the role of each such agency, and the types of programs that each such agency will undertake.

(H) A description of the mechanisms that will be utilized by the Administration, including the International Aid Transparency Initiative, to coordinate the efforts of the relevant executive branch agencies in carrying out the strategy to avoid duplication of efforts, enhance coordination, and ensure that each agency undertakes programs primarily in those areas where each such agency has the greatest expertise, technical capabilities, and potential for success.

(I) A description of the mechanisms that will be established by the Administration for monitoring and evaluating the strategy and its implementation, including procedures for learning and sharing best practices among relevant executive branch agencies, as well as among participating countries, and for terminating unsuccessful programs.

(J) A description of the Administration's engagement plan, consistent with international best practices, to ensure local and affected communities are informed, consulted, and benefit from projects encouraged by the United States, as well as the environmental and social impacts of the projects.

(K) A description of the mechanisms that will be utilized to ensure greater coordination between the United States and foreign governments, international organizations, African regional economic communities, international fora, the private sector, and civil society organizations.

(L) A description of how United States leadership will be used to enhance the overall international response to prioritizing electricity access for sub-Saharan Africa and to strengthen coordination among relevant international forums such as the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the G8 and G20, as well as the status of efforts to support reforms that are being undertaken by partner country governments.

(M) An outline of how the Administration intends to partner with foreign governments, the international community, and other public sector entities, civil society groups, and the private sector to assist sub-Saharan African countries to conduct comprehensive project feasibility studies and facilitate project development.

(N) A description of how the Administration intends to help facilitate transnational and regional power and electrification projects where appropriate.

SEC. 6. USAID.

(a) LOAN GUARANTEES.—It is the sense of Congress that in pursuing the policy goals described in section 4, the Administrator of USAID should identify and prioritize—

(1) loan guarantees to local sub-Saharan African financial institutions that would facilitate the involvement of such financial institutions in power projects in sub-Saharan Africa; and

(2) partnerships and grants for research, development, and deployment of technology that would increase access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa.

(b) GRANTS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator of USAID should consider providing grants to—

(1) support the development and implementation of national, regional, and local energy and electricity policy plans;

(2) expand distribution of electricity access to the poorest; and

(3) build a country's capacity to plan, monitor and regulate the energy and electricity sector.

(c) USAID DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''USAID'' means the United States Agency for International Development.

SEC. 7. LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

In pursuing the policy goals described in section 4, the President should direct the United States' representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad development goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body—

(1) commit to significantly increase efforts to promote investment in well-designed power sector and electrification projects in sub-Saharan Africa that increase energy access, in partnership with the private sector and consistent with the host countries' absorptive capacity;

(2) address energy needs of individuals and communities where access to an electricity grid is impractical or cost-prohibitive;

(3) enhance coordination with the private sector in sub-Saharan Africa to increase access to electricity;

(4) provide technical assistance to the regulatory authorities of sub-Saharan African governments to remove unnecessary barriers to investment in otherwise commercially viable projects; and

(5) utilize clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such projects.

SEC. 8. OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Overseas Private Investment Corporation should—

(1) in carrying out its programs and pursuing the policy goals described in section 4, place a priority on supporting investment in the electricity sector of sub-Saharan Africa, including renewable energy, and implement procedures for expedited review of and, where appropriate, approval of, applications by eligible investors for loans, loan guarantees, and insurance for such investments;

(2) support investments in projects and partner country strategies to the extent permitted by its authorities, policies, and programs, that will—

(A) maximize the number of people with new access to electricity to support economic development;

(B) improve the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity;

(C) provide reliable and low-cost electricity, including renewable energy and on-grid, off-grid, and multi-grid solutions, to people living in rural and urban communities;

(D) consider energy needs of individuals where access to an electricity grid is impractical or cost-prohibitive;

(E) reduce transmission and distribution losses and improve end-use efficiency; and

(F) reduce energy-related impediments to business and investment opportunity and success;

(3) encourage locally-owned, micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises and cooperative service providers to participate in investment activities in sub-Saharan Africa; and

(4) publish in an accessible digital format measurable development impacts of its investments, including appropriate quantifiable metrics to measure energy access at the individual household, enterprise, and community level; and

(5) publish in an accessible digital format the amount, type, location, duration, and measurable results, with links to relevant reports and displays on an interactive map, where appropriate, of all OPIC investments and financings.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—Title IV of chapter 2 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

(1) in section 233 (22 U.S.C. 2193)—

(A) in subsection (b), by inserting after the sixth sentence the following new sentence: ''Of the eight such Directors, not more than five should be of the same political party.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) INVESTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The Board shall take prompt measures to increase the loan, guarantee, and insurance programs, and financial commitments, of the Corporation in sub-Saharan Africa, including through the use of an investment advisory council to assist the Board in developing and implementing policies, programs, and financial instruments with respect to sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, the investment advisory council shall make recommendations to the Board on how the Corporation can facilitate greater support by the United States for trade and investment with and in sub-Saharan Africa. The investment advisory council shall terminate on December 31, 2017.'';

(2) in section 234(c) (22 U.S.C. 2194(c)), by inserting ''eligible investors or'' after ''involve'';

(3) in section 235(a)(2) (22 U.S.C. 2195), by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2017'';

(4) in section 237(d) (22 U.S.C. 2197(d))—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', systems infrastructure costs,'' after ''outside the Corporation''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting '', systems infrastructure costs,'' after ''project-specific transaction costs''; and

(5) by amending section 239(e) (22 U.S.C. 2199(e)) to read as follows:

''(e) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The Board shall appoint and maintain an Inspector General in the Corporation, in accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).''.

(c) ANNUAL CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY AND REPORT.—

(1) SURVEY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of calendar years 2014 through 2016, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation shall conduct a survey of private entities that sponsor or are involved in projects that are insured, reinsured, guaranteed, or financed by the Corporation regarding the level of satisfaction of such entities with the operations and procedures of the Corporation with respect to such projects.

(B) PRIORITY.—The survey shall be primarily focused on United States small businesses and businesses that sponsor or are involved in projects with a cost of less than $20,000,000 (as adjusted for inflation).

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than each of July 1, 2015, July 1, 2016, and July 1, 2017, the Corporation should submit to the congressional committees specified in subparagraph (C) a report on the results of the survey required under paragraph (1).

(B) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report should include the Corporation's plans to revise its operations and procedures based on concerns raised in the results of the survey, if appropriate.

(C) FORM.—The report shall be submitted in unclassified form and shall not disclose any confidential business information.

(D) CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The congressional committees specified in this subparagraph are—

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

(ii) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 9. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Trade and Development Agency should—

(1) promote United States private sector participation in energy sector development projects in sub-Saharan Africa through project preparation activities, including feasibility studies at the project, sector, and national level, technical assistance, pilot projects, reverse trade missions, conferences and workshops; and

(2) seek opportunities to fund project preparation activities that involve increased access to electricity, including power generation and trade capacity building.

(b) FOCUS.—In pursuing the policy goals described in section 4, project preparation activities described in subsection (a) should focus on power generation, including renewable energy, improving the efficiency of transmission and distribution grids, including on-grid, off-grid and mini-grid solutions, and promoting energy efficiency and demand-side management.

SEC. 10. PROGRESS REPORT.

Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and post through appropriate digital means, a report on progress made toward achieving the policy goals described in section 4, including the following:

(1) The number, type, and status of policy, regulatory, and legislative changes implemented in partner countries to support increased electricity generation and access, and strengthen effective, accountable governance of the electricity sector since United States engagement.

(2) A list of power sector and electrification projects United States Government instruments are supporting to achieve the policy goals described in section 4, and for each such project—

(A) a description of how each such project fits into the national power plans of the partner country;

(B) the total cost of each such project and predicted United States Government contributions, and actual grants and other financing provided to such projects, broken

down by United States Government funding source, including from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of the Treasury, and other appropriate United States Government departments and agencies;

(C) the predicted electrical power capacity of each project upon completion, with metrics appropriate to the scale of electricity access being supplied, as well as total megawatts installed;

(D) compliance with international best practices and expected environmental and social impacts from each project;

(E) the estimated number of women, men, poor communities, businesses, schools, and health facilities that have gained electricity connections as a result of each project at the time of such report; and

(F) the current operating electrical power capacity in wattage of each project.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials they may want to in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Electrify Africa Act is a direct response to the problem that nearly 600 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to reliable electricity.

The Electrify Africa Act offers a market-based response to that problem, and it does this through U.S. private sector investment to develop affordable, reliable energy in Africa. Most importantly, I think it does so at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Why do we want to help increase energy access to the African continent? To create jobs, to improve lives. It will improve lives in Africa. It will create jobs there and here in the United States. It is no secret that Africa has great potential as a trading partner and could help create jobs here in the U.S.

As the Foreign Affairs Committee investigated how to make better use of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, landmark legislation that we passed over a decade ago to expand trade with Africa, we learned that the lack of affordable, reliable energy made the production of goods for trade and export nearly impossible.

How impossible? I will just give you an example. We were in Liberia looking at the interrupted power that is always a problem there. Even at our own Embassy, the cost of ruining that diesel generator is $10,000 a day sometimes when they have to get that thing up and running in order to keep power generated. You can imagine the problem when you are talking about a country with as much power generation and as much electricity as the size of the electricity that lights up the Dallas Cowboys stadium. That is the problem that one country has. You can imagine what it would mean if we could bring online electricity in order to electrify the subcontinent.

I would also remind the Members that the United States is not alone in its interests in enhancing trade with Africa through investment and energy. The example I would give you is China, because China has stepped in to direct $2 billion towards energy projects on the continent. As I speak, the Chinese Premier is in Africa signing deals that favor Chinese companies over American businesses. If the United States wishes to tap into the potential consumer base there in sub-Saharan Africa, we must act now.

This bill will also have a tangible impact on people's lives, as I said. As former chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, I have seen firsthand how our considerable investments in improving access to health care, improving access to education in Africa are undermined by the lack of reliable energy. In many places, schoolchildren are forced to study by inefficient, dangerous kerosene lamps. Cold storage of lifesaving vaccines is almost impossible without the existence of reliable electricity. Too many families resort to using charcoal and other inefficient and highly toxic sources of fuel whose fumes in Africa today cause more deaths than HIV/AIDS and malaria, combined.

Many of us on the committee have worked to transform our foreign assistance programs that offer extensive Band-Aids to policies that support economic growth. The Electrify Africa Act is part, frankly, of a very important transition here. This bill mandates a clear and comprehensive U.S. policy, providing the private sector with the certainty that it needs to invest in African electricity at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer. In fact, the bill is predicted to generate savings by requiring the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to focus on these energy priorities and undertake much-needed permanent reforms.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to begin by thanking our chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. ROYCE, for working with us in a bipartisan manner on this important legislation and for his longstanding commitment to improving U.S.-Africa relations and lifting Africans out of poverty.

Mr. ROYCE has long, for many years on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, worked with and been very concerned about Africa. This bill is, in part, a culmination of his hard work and his longstanding dedication.

In the United States, we take reliable electricity for granted. When we flip the switch, we expect the lights to come on. This winter many of us were frustrated when storms knocked out our power. Life was harder as we impatiently waited for the electricity to be restored. Imagine if the power never came back and that was your life every day, year in and year out. That is the stark reality facing many families in Africa.

Indeed sub-Saharan Africa is one of the most energy-deficient regions of the world, with nearly 70 percent of the population, more than half a billion people, lacking access to electricity. In some countries the figure is even higher: in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 85 percent of the population has no power; in Kenya, 82 percent of the population has no power; and in Uganda, 92 percent. These are truly staggering statistics.

The lack of reliable electricity has a major impact on day-to-day life and many negative consequences. In desperation, people burn anything they can find for heat and cooking: wood, plastic, trash, and other toxic materials. These dirtier fuels cause greater harm to people's health and also to the environment.

Many businesses have had a hard time succeeding because they are forced to pour expensive diesel fuel into generators day and night or deal with constant power outages from unreliable electrical grids. Hospitals cannot provide adequate services because they are unable to provide consistent cold storage, light, or power for lifesaving devices. The list goes on and on.

This legislation directs the executive branch to develop a strategy to increase electrification in Africa and to employ U.S. assistance programs to help accomplish that goal. This long-term strategy will focus not only on providing incentives for the private sector to build more power plants, but also on increasing African government accountability and transparency, improving regulatory environments, and increasing access to electricity in rural and poor communities through small, renewable energy projects.

Only by addressing all of these challenges in a comprehensive way will millions of people in Africa finally have access to electricity that will allow them to grow their economies and ultimately reduce their reliance on foreign aid.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment. It is a very important piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding to a dissenting opinion.

Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest complaints I hear is the practice of forcing taxpayers to underwrite the losses and risks of politically well-connected companies. Companies reap the profits; taxpayers pay for the losses.

Today the House considers a bill that perpetuates this policy with the objective of creating jobs not in America, but overseas. Quietly tucked into this bill is a provision to reauthorize the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, or OPIC, for another 3 years.

OPIC provides political risk insurance, loan guarantees, and direct loans to U.S. companies for their overseas investments, making U.S. taxpayers responsible for their losses. Recent beneficiaries include the Ritz-Carlton in Istanbul; Citibank branches in Pakistan, Jordan, and Egypt; and a SunEdison solar farm in South Africa.

According to the Congressional Research Service, this does nothing to help our economy. We are told it doesn't cost taxpayers because recent losses have been minimal and covered by fees. I remember similar assurances about Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Such assurances are good only until they are not good, and taxpayer exposure is monumental and growing.

This measure directs OPIC ''to prioritize investment in the sub-Saharan electricity sector.'' Yet one company doing so, Symbion, recently warned the Senate that it was owed $70 million at the end of February by utilities in just one African country.

□ 1930

Reviewing OPIC's $10 billion portfolio in Africa, the Center for Global Development reported that if the money had been used for natural gas plants rather than renewables, an additional 60 million people would have had electricity. But that is not politically correct.

OPIC pays for the bad business decisions of large corporations and underwrites job creation abroad, all ultimately underwritten by hardworking American taxpayers. What is not to like about that?

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

I share the gentleman's concern about corporate welfare. I have spent years pressing OPIC for greater transparency. Finally, in this measure we have a whole host of reforms.

But I will remind this body that years back we exposed and helped kill OPIC's investment funds that were helping political cronies.

I would also remind this body that we are only willing to give OPIC a short-term extension by redirecting it to focus on an area that lacks investment and will have a major impact on the long-term growth of a country, and that is electricity.

I can assure the gentleman from California that this committee will continue its OPIC oversight, but I should note that OPIC is not a free service. OPIC charges fees that generate a financial return for the U.S. Treasury. To ensure that OPIC is not crowding out the private sector, they must demonstrate that no commercial bank is willing to provide the financing package requested directly from OPIC, and this is the case in doing business in Africa.

The temporary authorization for OPIC, by the way, was included in the introduced version of the Electrify Africa Act and has remained in every following version.

I would also point out that this bill includes the significant reforms, additional reforms, that I and others have been trying to get into OPIC. For example, OPIC's operations will finally be transparent to the public, as the agency will be required to post specific information about all of its projects online, including each project's financing, the location, the partners. The bill also creates an OPIC inspector general. It forces OPIC's board to become for the first time in history bipartisan. This ensures that organizations interested in working with OPIC will be able to get a balanced perspective when reaching out to the agency.

I will also close in response by noting that OPIC's last multiyear authorization expired in 2007. The agency has been extended 28 times on appropriations bills and continuing resolutions with zero reforms. We come to the floor here in an open process to try to reform OPIC and to give it this mission. I think this legislation accomplishes a great deal on both fronts.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, when this bill was submitted it had, and continues to have, strong bipartisan support.

I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), one of the original cosponsors on the bill, our ranking member on the Africa Subcommittee.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act of 2014, a bill that directs the President to expand electrification in Sub-Saharan Africa.

I would like to thank my good friends and colleagues, Chairman ED ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, and the committee staff, for all of the work that they have done on this important bill.

H.R. 2548 directs the President to establish a multiyear strategy to assist countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions to provide sufficient electricity access to people living in rural and urban areas in order to alleviate poverty and drive economic growth.

With greater access to electricity, Africa has the capacity to grow its economies, facilitating greater volumes of interregional, transcontinental, and international trade. Greater access to electricity also enables countries to expand human capacity and address the critical challenges of underemployment. Access to additional power will also help both individual countries and geographic regions address infrastructure challenges related to things such as roads, rail, and ports, all of which contributes to increasing the capacity of African nations and the continent as a whole.

Greater access to electricity improves the quality of life for not only urban, but rural communities. Even though we are well into the 21st century, it is difficult to imagine two-thirds of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa lives without electricity, including more than 85 percent of Africans living in rural areas. Not having electricity means children study by candlelight and doctors and midwives delivering babies who must rely on flashlights. A life without electricity means education, health care, and the basic needs of millions of Africans suffer.

In summary, I believe we are taking a giant step in the right direction by helping to address the issues of access to electrical power in Africa. This bill provides an opportunity to work with the governments and private sectors of African countries anxious to increase their individual and combined regional access to electricity. We all know that seven of the 10 fastest-growing economies are on the African continent. This is a great step forward toward addressing poverty and changing the paradigm in U.S.-Africa relations.

I agree with the chair of the committee who talked about the reforms to OPIC. I would differ with my colleague from California though, because I do believe that as the economies of Africa strengthen, that increases the ability for those countries and businesses on the continent to do business with U.S. companies, which, in my opinion, also increases jobs in the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act of 2014.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I would like to once again point out that this is a bipartisan bill. The four original cosponsors are Chairman ROYCE and Chairman SMITH on the Republican side, myself as the ranking member, and Ms. BASS as the ranking

member on the Africa Subcommittee on the Democratic side. So this is truly a bipartisan collaboration that is very important, well thought out, and I agree with everything the chairman said. This bill will reform OPIC and will reform how this kind of aid is done.

I would like to again thank Chairman ROYCE for being an outstanding partner in drafting this legislation and for his leadership in passing the bill out of our committee unanimously. That is another thing that I think is so important to what we do on the committee. We try to pass things in consensus and try to let everybody put his or her thoughts into the bill. This passed unanimously out of the committee, and that doesn't happen lightly or easily. It is done because lots of concerns were taken into consideration, things were ameliorated, things were changed, and what we have is a very, very good product.

As has been said, this legislation has the potential to impact millions of people in Sub-Saharan Africa. A doctor in Kenya will be able to treat a patient without worrying about her equipment shutting off, a child in Congo can continue studying long after the sun sets. The bottom line is that reliable access to electricity will help build African economies and reduce their reliance on foreign aid, saving the United States money.

I hope the Senate will also take action on this bill, again, which has broad bipartisan support in the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support this positive piece of legislation for Africa.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I do want to thank Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL of New York, as well as Chairman CHRIS SMITH and Ranking Member KAREN BASS of the Africa Subcommittee, for working closely with me to craft the Electrify Africa Act.

I will remind the Members that where the United States has left a void for economic investment in the world—and Africa is one of them—China has stepped in. In this case, we are speaking at a time when the Premier of China is on the ground right now in Sub-Saharan Africa. China has stepped in to direct $2 billion to African energy projects. This bill will counter China's growing commercial and strategic influence.

But what else will the bill do? Unlocking the constraint on African economic growth means a continent less reliant on aid. The bill promotes an all-of-the-above approach to electricity that includes natural gas and clean coal and hydro.

The CBO estimates that this bill will save the U.S. Treasury $86 million. Electrify Africa imposes permanent reform, as I mentioned, on the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. The bill focuses OPIC on promoting electricity in Africa. It forces oversight. It demands transparency on the institution, lays that out, and makes the OPIC board bipartisan.

There is every reason to support efforts that encourage economic independence, that strengthen trading partners and that compete with Chinese influence in a vital region, as someone once said.

I also want to recognize the wide range of enthusiasm for this bill. We have received letters of support from 35 African ambassadors, the Chamber of Commerce, the Corporate Council on Africa, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics—and we know from KAREN BASS' testimony why they are in support—and from the One Campaign. Many of these supporters have joined us today in the House gallery to watch this landmark vote.

The United States has economic and national security interests in the continued development of the African continent. This bill sets out a comprehensive, sustainable, market-based plan to bring close to 600 million Africans out of the dark and into the global economy, benefiting American businesses and workers at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, today the U.S. House of Representatives considered legislation important to improving the quality-of-life and opportunities for the millions of people living in sub-Saharan Africa. H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act, would require the United States to develop a comprehensive strategy to improve access to electricity for the nearly 600 million people currently living without it in those countries.

Almost 70 percent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa lives in energy poverty, without access to even basic electricity services. The connection between energy poverty and economic poverty cannot be ignored. For those of us in the United States with access to reliable electricity, it is difficult to truly comprehend what life would be like without the services electricity provides: the ability to simply flip a light switch to have light at any hour of the day, or charge your cell phone; refrigeration of foods, medicines, and life-saving vaccines; indoor cooking; use of the Internet; advanced health care technology; clean water and sanitation services. The list goes on and on.

But consider how different our lives would be if we did not have access to affordable and reliable electricity—what it would be like if we had to travel miles each day to gather fuel sources to cook our food; had to rely only on daylight to accomplish tasks; had no access to clean water and other sanitation services; and no access to life-saving medical technology readily available in other parts of the world but that require electricity to work. That is the reality for the hundreds of millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa. They struggle each day to provide for their basic needs. Affordable and reliable access to electricity would transform these regions, providing opportunities for economic growth and a better quality-of-life.

What I consider especially important about H.R. 2548 is that this bill recognizes that a "one-size-fits-all" energy strategy will not benefit these countries and their populations. This legislation calls for an appropriate mix of energy options, non-renewable and renewable, to address the energy poverty endemic to these regions. In its report, the House Foreign Affairs Committee notes that coal, natural gas, and oil are all available potential energy sources to generate electricity in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as solar, hydropower, and geothermal.

An all-inclusive energy mix is vital to addressing energy accessibility and reliability in impoverished parts of the world. Regions and countries should responsibly generate power using the energy resources that are most readily available to them and that provide the most affordable and reliable option. If the energy source to generate the electricity is available but so expensive that people cannot afford to use it, then what good does it do? Similarly, an electricity supply too dependent on intermittent sources does not benefit a health care provider trying to perform a procedure using medical equipment reliant on a consistent source of electricity or administer vaccines that must be kept refrigerated.

The current Administration has unfortunately sought to dictate what sources of energy can be used in developing nations, promoting some and discriminating against others, namely cheap and abundant coal-fired power. This only does a disservice to the people who need the services and opportunities that electricity provides. H.R. 2548 reminds us of the consequences of not having access to affordable and reliable electricity, something I think many of us take for granted. It further reminds us about the importance of an all-of-the-above energy mix to our country's access to cheap and reliable electricity, economic stability, and quality-of-life. I am pleased that the Electrify Africa Act recognizes these realities, establishing a framework for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to pursue the energy development that makes the most sense for them.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL, thank you for introducing this important legislation H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act, which my subcommittee Ranking Member KAREN BASS and I have joined you in sponsoring. We acknowledge the importance of this legislation, and we hope our colleagues share our enthusiasm for what this bill can accomplish.

Congress' interest in Africa is not only longstanding, but also varied. Some of focus on development, and some are more interested in trade. Others are keen to meet the humanitarian needs of the continent, while still others believe education is the key to Africa's future success. All of those elements are important, but none of them can be accomplished fully without electricity, which is in far too short a supply throughout Africa.

In Africa's largest cities, there are plenty of lights, and in Lagos, Accra, Nairobi, Dakar, Johannesburg, Addis Ababa or Lusaka the modern way of life is thriving—day or night. Unfortunately, in many other cities, electricity is

fleeting, and in too many rural areas it is simply scarce. Generators provide the power by which many companies are forced to do business, and in many homes, generators are needed to ensure that modern activities can continue when the government-provided power flickers out. This is so expensive that many Africans are forced to rely on more basic means of providing light once night approaches, but in the 21st century, the people of Africa must not be dependent on the sun or candles and lanterns to deliver their light. Certainly, these means cannot power their cell phones, televisions or other technology on which today's societies thrive.

We all want Africa to join in the development the rest of the world enjoys, yet that is not possible without a steady source of energy. Manufacturing is only a notion without the power to move assembly lines and produce goods. Vaccines and other medicines will last only so long without refrigeration, and that requires steady electrical power. A student studying by candlelight or by the light of a lantern is a quaint notion that can no longer be the reality of young Africans striving to build a better life.

H.R. 2548 will improve access to affordable, reliable electricity in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than two-thirds of Africans lack access to electricity. This bill does not provide electricity as a gift; it facilitates cooperation between our government and African governments in finding the most efficient and effective means of establishing electric power for their citizens. By requiring our Administration to create a comprehensive multiyear strategy, H.R. 2548 ensures that there is a mutually agreeable plan that can be implemented by future Administrations and Congresses in collaboration with willing African partners. This bill also calls on U.S. representatives to international institutions to leverage other international support for providing electricity to Africa.

I call on my colleagues to join with us in voting for H.R. 2548. In doing so, we will not only provide power for Africa, but we also will energize our dreams for Africa's current and future development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2548, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

URGING BURMA TO END PERSECUTION OF ROHINGYA PEOPLE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 418) urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 418

Whereas over 800,000 Rohingya ethnic minority live in Burma, mostly in the western Rakhine state;

Whereas currently, approximately 140,000 Rohingya are internally displaced in central Rakhine state and hundreds of thousands have fled to neighboring countries, including at least 231,000 in Bangladesh, at least 15,000 in Malaysia, and many more in Thailand and Indonesia;

Whereas the current Government of Burma, like its predecessors, continues to use the Burma Citizenship Law of 1982 to exclude from approved ethnic groups the Rohingya people, despite many having lived in northern Rakhine state for generations, and has thereby rendered Rohingyas stateless and vulnerable to exploitation and abuse;

Whereas the Rohingya have historically experienced other particularized and severe legal, economic, and social discrimination, including restrictions on travel outside their village of residence, limitations on their access to higher education, and a prohibition from working as civil servants, including as doctors, nurses, or teachers;

Whereas authorities have also required Rohingya to obtain official permission for marriages and have singled out Rohingya in northern Rakhine state for forced labor and arbitrary arrests;

Whereas the Government of Burma has forcefully relocated Rohingya into relief camps, where they lack decent shelter, access to clean water, food, sanitation, health care, the ability to support themselves, or basic education for their children;

Whereas a two-child policy sanctioned solely upon the Rohingya population in the districts of Maungdaw and Buthidaung in northern Rakhine state restricts the rights of women and children, prevents children from obtaining Burmese citizenship, denies Rohingyas access to basic government services, and fosters discrimination against Muslim women by Buddhist nurses and midwives;

Whereas the United States Department of State has regularly expressed since 1999 its particular concern for severe legal, economic, and social discrimination against Burma's Rohingya population in its Country Report for Human Rights Practices;

Whereas the level of persecution, including widespread arbitrary arrest, detention, and extortion of Rohingya and other Muslim communities, has dramatically increased over the past year and a half;

Whereas communal violence has affected both Muslims and Burma's majority Buddhist population, but has overwhelmingly targeted Burma's ethnic Muslim minorities, which altogether comprise less than 5 percent of Burma's population;

Whereas violence targeting Rohingyas in Maungdaw and Sittwe in June and July of 2012 resulted in the deaths of at least 57 Muslims and the destruction of 1,336 Rohingyas homes;

Whereas on October 23, 2012, at least 70 Rohingyas were killed, and the Yan Thei village of the Mrauk-U Township was destroyed;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported possessing credible evidence of the deaths of at least 48 Rohingyas in Du Chee Yar Tan village in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine state in January 2014, and human rights groups reported mass arrests and arbitrary detention of Rohingya in the aftermath of this violence;

Whereas Burmese officials have denied the killings of Rohingyas in Du Chee Yar Tan village in January 2014 and responded to international media coverage of the violence with threats against media outlets, including the Associated Press;

Whereas violence has also targeted Muslims not of Rohingya ethnicity, including riots in March 2013 in the town of Meiktila that resulted in the death of at least 43 Burmese Muslims, including 20 students and several teachers massacred at an Islamic school, the burning of at least 800 homes and 5 mosques, and the displacement of 12,000 people;

Whereas on October 1, 2013, riots involving more than 700 Buddhists in Thandwe township resulted in the death of 4 Kaman Muslim men and the stabbing death of a 94-year-old Muslim woman;

Whereas over 4,000 religious, public, and private Rohingya structures have been destroyed;

Whereas Rohingyas have experienced and continue to experience further restrictions on their practice of Islam, culture, and language;

Whereas the violence against ethnic Muslim populations, including the Rohingya and other Muslim groups, is part of a larger troubling pattern of violence against other ethnic and religious minorities in Burma;

Whereas the Government of Burma expelled Medecins Sans Frontieres from Rakhine state, leaving Rohingya communities and others without access to health care and life-saving treatment for malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV; and

Whereas the Rakhine state threatens to ban all unregistered nongovernmental organizations from operating in Rakhine state, severely limiting the provision of necessary services to Rohingyas and others in need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the initial steps Burma has taken in transitioning from a military dictatorship to a quasi-civilian government, including the conditional release of some political prisoners, and calls for more progress to be made in critical areas of democracy, constitutional reform, and national reconciliation in order for Burma to achieve its own goal of political liberalization;

(2) calls on the Government of Burma to end all forms of persecution and discrimination of the Rohingya people and ensure respect for internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma;

(3) calls on the Government of Burma to recognize the Rohingya as an ethnic group indigenous to Burma, and to work with the Rohingya to resolve their citizenship status;

(4) calls on the United States Government and the international community to put consistent pressure on the Government of Burma to take all necessary measures to end the persecution and discrimination of the Rohingya population and to protect the fundamental rights of all ethnic and religious minority groups in Burma; and

(5) calls on the United States Government to prioritize the removal of state-sanctioned

discriminatory policies in its engagement with the Government of Burma.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 418. This is a bipartisan resolution offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) calling on the government of Burma to end its persecution of the Rohingya Muslims and respect the human rights of all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma.

The Rohingya Muslims are one of the most persecuted minority groups in the world. According to Burma's 1982 citizenship law, the Rohingya are prohibited from holding Burmese citizenship, even though they have lived in Burma for generations after generations. For over three decades, the government of Burma has systematically denied the Rohingya even the most basic of human rights, while subjecting them to unspeakable abuses.

Since 2012, 140,000 Rohingya and other Muslims in Burma have been displaced by violence, with hundreds killed. On January 13, unknown assailants entered a village in Rakhine State and killed 48 people while they slept.

□ 1945

This is what happens when a government refuses to recognize its own people.

In fact, a nongovernmental organization based in Southeast Asia recently disclosed credible documents detailing the full extent of state involvement in persecuting Rohingyas.

Not long ago, the Government of Burma expelled Doctors Without Borders from the country, denying, once again, the most basic of human rights. The Government of Burma cannot claim progress toward meeting its goals for reform if it does not improve the treatment of Rohingya Muslims and other minority groups.

The United States must prioritize the protection of human rights in its engagement with Burma. I urge the State Department to take off its rose-colored glasses and recognize that progress on human rights in Burma is, indeed, limited. Now is the time for the State Department to bring additional leverage to bear, and this resolution will help us do that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 418, a resolution urging the Government of Burma to end its persecution of the Rohingya people.

I would like to thank my good friend and cochairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), for authoring this important resolution.

H. Res. 418 calls on the Government of Burma to end its persecution of the Rohingya people and to respect the human rights of all ethnic and religious minority groups. The plight of the Rohingya gets very little public attention, and I am pleased that this House is addressing the abuses they and other minorities have suffered.

The State Department's 2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices acknowledges ''credible reports of extrajudicial killings, rape and sexual violence, arbitrary detentions and torture and mistreatment in detention, deaths in custody, and systematic denial of due process and fair trial rights overwhelmingly perpetrated against the Rohingya.''

Last month, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma stated that the recent developments in Burma reflect a ''long history of discrimination and persecution against the Rohingya Muslim community, which could amount to crimes against humanity.''

The U.N. has also described the Rohingya community as virtually friendless because they are denied citizenship and face severe restrictions on marriage, employment, health care, education, and daily movement.

In February, the Burmese Government expelled Doctors Without Borders; and since then, deaths due to preventable complications during pregnancy have occurred on an almost daily basis in Rohingya camps, where pregnant women make up a quarter of the group's emergency referrals.

Mr. Speaker, as the Government of Burma transitions from decades-long military rule to a civilian government, it is important to hold it accountable for persistent human rights abuses.

The killings, arbitrary detentions, and the destruction of homes have caused 140,000 people to be internally displaced; and hundreds of thousands have been forced to flee to neighboring countries, including to Thailand, Bangladesh, and Malaysia.

If Burma truly seeks to rejoin the international community, the manner in which it treats its own people will be a key marker of the government's sincerity. Burma must abide by human rights principles of equality and human dignity, and this resolution calls upon the Burmese Government to do just that.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 418, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT). He is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a strong supporter and cosponsor of H. Res. 418, urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and to respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma.

I want to commend the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my friend and colleague, for offering this legislation, which is certainly timely, and we appreciate his leadership on this.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I believe it is imperative that the U.S. and the international community raise awareness of this ongoing crisis in Burma and of the need for its government to respect the human rights of all of its ethnic and religious minority groups, which it is clearly not doing at this time.

Last year, we held two hearings in my subcommittee to examine the deteriorating human rights situation and ethnic unrest in Burma. It has become abundantly clear that the political and social situation there is extremely fragile and that the continuing persecution of the minority Rohingya population is just, as was said, a profound crisis.

Some 140,000 displaced Rohingya have been forced to live in camps described as open-air prisons. Doctors Without Borders was forced out by the Burmese Government, and since then, nearly 150 Rohingya have died of medically-related causes.

This particular photo illustrates that the Doctors Without Borders' clinic is shuttered. They are gone. The people are not getting the medical care that they are entitled to, and people are literally dying as a result of this.

Further, mob violence has made a number of other international NGOs evacuate Burma for fear and for being, essentially, excluded by the government. They were doing good work for people who really needed it, who were in dire straits.

The Burmese Government has taken few, if any, steps to forge a peaceful, harmonious, and prosperous future for the Rakhine State. It is complicit in extrajudicial killings, rape, arbitrary detention, torture, deaths in detention, and for the denial of due process and fair trial rights for the Rohingya.

As these horribly repressed people who are afforded no identity by the

Burmese Government have been forced into camps, the Burmese Government has confiscated their land, their homes, and property for redistribution to the Buddhist Rakhine majority.

A recent report by the group United to End Genocide found that nowhere else in the world are there more precursors to genocide—signs that genocide may well happen—than in Burma right now.

This is why I recently introduced H.R. 4377, the Burma Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2014, with my colleague from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), a Democrat. This legislation would place conditions on providing International Military and Educational Training or for Foreign Military Financing assistance to the Burmese Government.

In light of the Burmese Government's and military's complicity in these ongoing human rights abuses against the Rohingya and other ethnic groups, it is much too soon for us to be engaging at a level that provides U.S. foreign assistance to Burma's corrupt and abusive military.

It concerns me that the administration still refuses to cooperate or to detail what its strategy really is for the future of military engagement with Burma.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 418 highlights its need for the U.S. and international community to continue pressuring Burma to end its blatant persecution and discrimination of the Rohingya population.

I want to, again, thank Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FRANKS, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. SMITH for cosponsoring this resolution. I believe the passage of the resolution will send a strong message to the Burmese Government, and I would urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the author of the resolution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. ENGEL, for yielding me the time and for his leadership on this and on so many other issues of human rights. I also want to thank Chairman ROYCE for his support and Chairman CHABOT. I appreciate all that you do for human rights.

I admire all of these gentlemen who are here on the floor. They have been outspoken for human rights, not only in Burma, but all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise in support of this resolution urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and to respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma.

I especially want to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Congressman JOE PITTS, for his leadership on this issue and for joining me in introducing this bipartisan resolution.

Over 800,000 people of the Rohingya ethnicity live in Burma, mostly in the Rakhine State. Even though many Rohingyas have lived in the Rakhine for generations, the Burma citizenship law of 1982 has excluded them from approved ethnic groups, thereby rendering them stateless and vulnerable to exploitation, violence, and abuse.

While the Rohingya and other minorities in Burma have historically experienced severe discrimination, there has been a dramatic increase in discrimination and violence against them in the past 2 years.

Attacks in June and July of 2012 resulted in the deaths of at least 57 Muslims and in the destruction of 1,336 Rohingya homes. On October 23, 2012, at least 70 Rohingyas were killed, and their township was destroyed.

Further, the United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights reported possessing credible evidence of the deaths of at least 48 Rohingyas in January of this year, and human rights groups reported mass arrests and arbitrary detentions of Rohingya in the aftermath of this violence.

In addition, other Muslim minorities have also suffered from violent attacks, and many have lost their lives and property in the last year and a half. Such violence against ethnic Muslim populations, including the Rohingya, is part of a larger, troubling pattern of violence against ethnic and religious minorities in Burma.

The Government of Burma remains apathetic to the plight of the Rohingya population, and it has failed to properly investigate the major events of anti-Rohingya violence. Instead, both the Rakhine State and central government continue to impose explicitly racist policies that seek to control the everyday lives of the Rohingya.

Authorities require Rohingya to obtain official permission for marriages and have often singled out Rohingya for forced labor and arbitrary arrests. The Government of Burma has forcefully relocated Rohingya into relief camps, where they lack decent shelter, access to clean water, food, sanitation, health care, and the ability to support themselves, or basic education for their children.

The Rohingya are the sole targets of the two-child policy and are the subjects to severe restrictions of movement. Further, as evidenced by the latest census in Burma, the Burmese Government continues to deny the Rohingyas their right for self-identification, sending a clear message that the Rohingya are outsiders who have no place in Burma.

Today, approximately 140,000 Rohingya are internally displaced, and hundreds of thousands have fled to neighboring countries by boats; many have died at sea. Those who remain in the country live in dire poverty and deprivation.

Some relief used to come from humanitarian organizations like Doctors Without Borders, but even that aid is no longer available. The Government of Burma expelled Doctors Without Borders in March, allegedly after the group cared for the victims of a violent assault on a Rohingya village, an assault which the government denies ever happened.

Increasingly, severe restrictions and violent attacks on other humanitarian aid groups have forced the majority of them to flee the Rakhine State, and the Rohingya now remain with no one and with nowhere to turn for help and health care. Every day, more and more people die of causes that could be preventable or treatable if humanitarian groups had the chance to help.

According to a March 14 article in The New York Times, which I will submit for the RECORD, nearly 750,000 people, the majority of them Rohingya, have been deprived of medical services since the Burmese Government banned the operations of Doctors Without Borders.

According to the article, during the first 2 weeks of March alone, about 150 of those most vulnerable and in need of care died, including 20 pregnant women who were facing life-threatening deliveries.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 14, 2014]

BAN ON DOCTORS' GROUP IMPERILS MUSLIM MINORITY IN MYANMAR

(By Jane Perlez)

BANGKOK.—Nearly 750,000 people, most of them members of a Muslim minority in one of the poorest parts of Myanmar, have been deprived of most medical services since the government banned the operations of Doctors Without Borders, the international health care organization and the main provider of medical care in the region.

The government ordered a halt to the work of Doctors Without Borders two weeks ago after some officials accused the group of favoring the Muslims, members of the Rohingya ethnic group, over a rival group, Rakhine Buddhists.

Already, anecdotal evidence and medical estimates show that about 150 of the most vulnerable have died since Feb. 28, more than 20 of them pregnant women facing life-threatening deliveries, medical professionals said. Doctors Without Borders had been the only way for pregnant women facing difficult deliveries to get a referral to a government hospital, they said.

At the time of the order, the government said it was suspending the group's operations in Rakhine State in the far north, but it has offered no time frame for when services might be resumed. The deputy director general of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein, said in a statement that his department would manage the health needs of the ''whole community.'' A spokesman for President Thein Sein, Ye Htut, said the government dispatched an emergency response team with eight ambulances after the Doctors Without Borders clinics were closed.

Myanmar's health services are among the most rudimentary in Asia, and with severe government restrictions on movement that

prevent Muslims from seeking medical help outside their villages in Rakhine State, the impact of the shutdown will be severe, medical professionals said.

Doctors Without Borders was by far the biggest health provider in the northern part of Rakhine around the townships of Maungdaw and Buthidaung, serving about 500,000 people, most of them Rohingya, they said. An additional 200,000 people, many of them Rohingya in displaced camps around the state capital, Sittwe, had access to the group's services.

In Aung Mingla, a Muslim neighborhood in Sittwe, patients with tuberculosis, a common disease in the area, said they were down to their last supplies of medicine. The Rohingya who live in Aung Mingla are prevented from leaving the district by barbed-wire security posts and police officers.

''Since Doctors Without Borders is not in Rakhine, I don't know who will provide medicine when my supply runs out in three months,'' said one patient, Muklan, 30, who like many people in Myanmar goes by a single name. ''I hope Doctors can come back as soon as possible.''

Another Rohingya man, Shafiul, who worked for Doctors Without Borders in Aung Mingla, said he was concerned for his patients with tuberculosis, malaria and H.I.V. ''These patients have been getting help from Doctors Without Borders for years,'' he said.

In northern Rakhine State, where Doctors Without Borders had run five permanent clinics and 30 mobile ones, about 20 percent of children are acutely malnourished, medical professionals said. An intensive feeding center for those patients was shuttered as part of the government's directive.

For the most part, Western donors and the United Nations say they are reluctant to antagonize the government of Myanmar, which has started along the path of economic and political reform. The donors have chosen quiet diplomacy over outspoken criticism of the government's policies toward the Rohingya.

But the action against Doctors Without Borders raised some public alarm.

''We are extremely concerned about the situation,'' said Mark Cutts, the head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Myanmar. ''We are in intense discussion with the government in a way that will allow operations to resume as soon as possible.''

The deputy health director, Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein, said the government would accept supplies of medicine for tuberculosis and H.I.V. from Doctors Without Borders. But how these supplies will be distributed remains unclear. Negotiations are underway with the government over the distribution, Western officials said.

Other international organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, which supports government health centers around the towns of Sittwe and Mrauk U, have been allowed to continue operations in Rakhine. But Doctors Without Borders was by far the largest health provider.

The government targeted the group after its rural clinics provided treatment to 22 Muslims in the aftermath of a rampage by Rakhine security officers and civilians in the village of Du Chee Yar Tan in January. The United Nations says 40 people were killed in the violence that night.

The government has denied that the deaths occurred, and on Tuesday, a presidential commission sent to the village to conduct an inquiry reported that it could find no evidence of the killings. The commission was the third investigative group sent by the government, and its findings matched those of the previous inquiries.

After the killings in January, the government criticized Doctors Without Borders for hiring Rohingya and said the group was giving disproportionate attention to Rohingya patients. Under state regulations in Rakhine, Rohingya are prevented from visiting many of the state-run clinics.

Doctors Without Borders says it has treated patients in Rakhine since 1994 regardless of ethnicity, and foreign aid workers point out that the Rakhine Buddhist ethnic group has access to government health facilities that are generally denied to the Rohingya.

A radical Buddhist leader in Myanmar, Ashin Wirathu, who has compared Muslims to dogs, arrived in Sittwe on Wednesday for a five-day visit that was likely to stir anti-Muslim sentiments further. In a sermon at the main Buddhist temple Wednesday night, he said that if Western democracies were allowed to have influence in Myanmar, the Rakhine people would be overwhelmed by increasing numbers of Muslims, and would eventually disappear.

The monk's visit appeared to be timed ahead of a national census—the first in Myanmar in more than 30 years—that is due to take place March 30 to April 10 across Myanmar. Tensions during the census, funded in part by the United Nations and the British government, are expected to be high in Rakhine.

Rakhine politicians have said they oppose allowing the Rohingya to identify themselves as Rohingya when they fill out the census forms. If they did, the census would probably show that their numbers are greater than the current estimate of 1.3 million. The overall population is estimated at 60 million.

By shutting down Doctors Without Borders, the government is ensuring that there will be fewer foreigners to witness any outbreaks of violence during the census process, aid workers said.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, when Doctors Without Borders was able to work in Rakhine, they sent approximately 400 emergency cases every month to local hospitals, but according to the World Health Organization, fewer than 20 people received referrals by the government for emergency care in March. Such a difference suggests that the Rohingya who are in desperate need of emergency care are left to suffer or to die.

In light of these disturbing events, it is important that the House speaks with one voice today and calls on the Government of Burma to end all forms of persecution and discrimination of the Rohingya people and to ensure respect for internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma.

The Burmese Government needs to recognize the Rohingya as an ethnic group indigenous to Burma and work with the Rohingya to resolve their citizenship status.

Finally, the U.S. Government needs to make the removal of state-sanctioned discriminatory policies a priority in their engagement with the Government of Burma.

□ 2000

Let me be clear: the situation is dire and rapidly deteriorating. Multiple recognized independent human rights NGOs, as well as the U.N. Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma, have stated that the series of actions directed at the Rohingyas in Burma could amount to crimes against humanity.

Further, a recent report by the U.S. NGO, United to End Genocide, states that nowhere in the world are there more precursors to genocide than in Burma right now.

In the past few weeks, we have all taken time to remember and commemorate the victims of the Armenian genocide, the Holocaust, and the genocide in Rwanda. We saw the same disturbing signs in other moments of history, and we know what the consequences are of not paying attention. Showing support for this bill is one step that we can take today to fulfilling the solemn pledge of ''never again.''

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I would like to thank Congressman MCGOVERN, the gentleman from Massachusetts, for drafting this important legislation. Once again, I thank Chairman ROYCE for his continued bipartisan leadership.

As has been said, this resolution calls upon the Burmese government to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and to respect the human rights of all ethnic and religious minority groups.

Until now, the treatment of the Rohingya has been largely ignored by the international community. That is the purpose of this resolution—so they cannot be ignored any longer.

It is time for the United States to send a clear and strong message to the government of Burma that we will not tolerate the persecution of religious and ethnic minorities, and that it must abide by human rights principles of equality and dignity if it is to rejoin the international community.

So I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), for his support of the Rohingya people, but also for his dedication to human rights. I have had an opportunity to work with Mr. MCGOVERN on a number of different human rights bills. I think he eloquently explained tonight the challenge that we face here. I was proud to join him as a cosponsor of this measure and work with him.

I also, of course, want to thank the gentleman from New York, ELIOT

ENGEL, for his continued focus on human rights around the world.

On this issue, it is true that the Burmese government has recently taken steps to open its closed society, but the reality is that the recent events here are deeply, deeply troubling to anyone who is watching. As I indicated, 48 Rohingya were murdered, aid workers trying to care for thousands of displaced have been attacked in the country, and Doctors Without Borders was kicked out of Burma.

This resolution calls on the government of Burma to immediately recognize the Rohingya as an ethnic minority and to grant them citizenship, a step that is long overdue, as Mr. MCGOVERN pointed out.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution. Let's all send a message that the current state of human rights in Burma is unacceptable.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 418, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2155

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) at 9 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON H. RES. 567, PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012 TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–442) on the resolution (H. Res. 567) providing for the Establishment of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 567, ESTABLISHING SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–443) on the resolution (H. Res. 575) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 567) providing for the Establishment of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 10, SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT; RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4438, AMERICAN RESEARCH AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–444) on the resolution (H. Res. 576) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 10) to amend the Charter School Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; relating to consideration of the bill (H.R. 4438) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the speaker:

H.R. 4192. An act to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 8, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2014 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Ander Crenshaw	1/17	1/18	Germany		356.79						
	1/18	1/19	Turkey		100.00						
	1/19	1/19	Georgia								
	1/19	1/20	Jordan		355.41						
	1/20	1/21	United Arab Emirates		526.00						
	1/21	1/21	Afghanistan		0.00						
	1/21	1/23	Ethiopia		800.00						
	1/23	1/23	Uganda		0.00						
	1/23	1/25	Rwanda		676.00						
	1/25	1/26	Cape Verde		332.20						
Hon. Ken Calvert	2/13	2/15	Pakistan		210.00						
	2/15	2/17	Afghanistan		56.00						
	2/17	2/19	Qatar		860.00						
	2/19	2/23	Jordan		1,424.00						
Commercial airfare							10,113.15				
Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen	2/13	2/15	Pakistan		210.00						

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	2/15	2/17	Afghanistan		56.00						
	2/17	2/19	Qatar		860.00						
	2/19	2/23	Jordan		1,424.00						
Commercial airfare							10,147.65				
Hon. Peter Visclosky	2/13	2/15	Pakistan		210.00						
	2/15	2/17	Afghanistan		56.00						
	2/17	2/19	Qatar		860.00						
	2/19	2/23	Jordan		1,424.00						
Commercial airfare							10,147.65				
Hon. James Moran	2/13	2/15	Pakistan		210.00						
	2/15	2/17	Afghanistan		56.00						
	2/17	2/19	Qatar		860.00						
	2/19	2/23	Jordan		1,424.00						
Commercial airfare							10,148.15				
Paula Juola	2/13	2/15	Pakistan		150.00						
	2/15	2/17	Afghanistan		56.00						
	2/17	2/19	Qatar		860.00						
	2/19	2/23	Jordan		1,424.00						
Commercial airfare							10,147.65				
Brooke Boyer	2/13	2/15	Pakistan		150.00						
	2/15	2/17	Afghanistan		56.00						
	2/17	2/19	Qatar		860.00						
	2/19	2/23	Jordan		1,424.00						
Commercial airfare							11,203.85				
B.G. Wright	2/13	2/15	Pakistan		150.00						
	2/15	2/17	Afghanistan		56.00						
	2/17	2/19	Qatar		860.00						
	2/19	2/23	Jordan		1,424.00						
Commercial airfare							16,228.65				
Jim Kulikowski	2/19	2/21	Italy		1,242.84						
Commercial airfare							2,454.00				
Anne Marie Chotvacs	2/19	2/21	Italy		1,242.84						
Commercial airfare							2,454.00				
Jennifer Miller	2/16	2/19	Qatar		1,290.00						
	2/19	2/23	Jordan		1,424.00						
Commercial airfare							11,995.30				
Taxi							175.00				
Megan Rosenbusch		2/17	Travel Day		99.00						
	2/18	2/20	Germany		503.71						
	2/20	2/21	Italy		439.92						
		2/22	Travel Day		60.75						
Commercial airfare							2,708.10				
Taxi							140.00				
Paul Terry		2/17	Travel Day		99.00						
	2/18	2/20	Germany		503.71						
	2/20	2/21	Italy		439.92						
		2/22	Travel Day		60.75						
Commercial airfare							2,708.10				
Parking							102.00				
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	3/28	3/29	Haiti		266.00						
Commercial airfare							467.70				
Vehicle fuel							94.60				
Misc. delegation costs									355.00		
Hon. Adam Schiff	3/27	3/29	Lithuania		302.49						
Commercial airfare							3,430.00				
Extra transportation							11.76				
Misc. delegation costs									601.00		
Committee total					28,791.31		104,877.31		956.00		134,624.64

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Bill Flores	1/17	1/22	Guam								
	1/22	1/24	Hong Kong								
	1/24	1/26	Japan								
					625.93		8,935.80				9,561.73
Committee total					625.93		8,935.80				9,561.73

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PAUL RYAN, Chairman, May 2, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. George Miller	3/15	3/19	Chile		1,759.00						1,759.00
	3/19	3/22	Bolivia		421.00						421.00
Hon. Rush Holt	3/15	3/19	Chile		1,759.00						1,759.00
	3/19	3/22	Bolivia		421.00						421.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Leticia Mederos	3/15	3/19	Chile		1,082.00						1,082.00
	3/19	3/22	Bolivia		421.00						421.00
Hon. Frederica Wilson	3/28	3/29	Haiti		179.20		502.70				681.90
Committee total					6,042.20		502.70				6,544.90

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN KLINE, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. David McKinley	3/14	3/19	Afghanistan		425.82		9,913.20				10,339.02
Committee total					425.82		9,913.20				10,339.02

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. FRED UPTON, Chairman, Apr. 25, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Stevan Pearce	1/17	1/18	Germany		338.14		[3]				338.14
	1/18	1/19	Turkey		216.75		[3]				216.75
	1/19	1/20	Jordan		355.41		[3]				355.41
	1/20	1/21	United Arab Emirates		526.00		[3]				526.00
	1/21	1/23	Ethiopia		800.00		[3]				800.00
	1/23	1/25	Rwanda		776.00		[3]				776.00
	1/25	1/26	Cape Verde		374.25		[3]				374.25
Committee total					3,386.55						3,386.55

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. JEB HENSARLING, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Greg Simpkins	3/16	3/22	Ethiopia		1,309,85		10,640.42		697.83		12,648.10
Piero Tozzi	3/15	3/22	Ethiopia		1,514.00		6,053.42				7,567.42
Ari Fridman	3/16	3/18	Egypt		580.25		2,837.00				3,417.25
	3/18	3/20	Yemen		815.00						815.00
Andrew Veprek	3/16	3/18	Egypt		580.25		2,837.00				3,417.25
	3/18	3/20	Yemen		815.00						815.00
Brent Woolfork	3/16	3/18	Egypt		583.00		2,872.00				3,455.00
	3/18	3/20	Yemen		815.00						815.00
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	3/28	3/29	Haiti		186.00		502.70	[4]	2,248.00		2,936.70
Eddy Acevedo	3/28	3/29	Haiti		201.00		1,111.20				1,312.20
Eric Jacobstein	3/28	3/29	Haiti		205.00		1,096.70				1,301.70
Hon. Edward R. Royce	2/16	2/17	Japan		381.00		[3]	[4]	10,528.43		10,909.43
	2/17	2/18	South Korea		248.00						248.00
	2/18	2/20	Taiwan		491.00						491.00
	2/20	2/21	Philippines		240.00			[4]	3,045.18		3,285.18
	2/21	2/23	China		962.00						962.00
Hon. Steve Chabot	2/16	2/17	Japan		292.00						292.00
	2/17	2/18	South Korea		282.00						282.00
	2/18	2/20	Taiwan		461.00						461.00
	2/20	2/21	Philippines		190.00						190.00
	2/21	2/23	China		880.00						880.00
Hon. Brad Sherman	2/16	2/17	Japan		398.50						398.50
	2/17	2/18	South Korea		327.00						327.00
	2/18	2/20	Taiwan		505.00						505.00
	2/20	2/21	Philippines		209.00						209.00
	2/21	2/23	China		847.00						847.00
Hon. Joseph Kennedy	2/16	2/17	Japan		187.00						187.00
	2/17	2/18	South Korea		354.52						354.52
	2/18	2/20	Taiwan		568.02						568.02
	2/20	2/21	Philippines		237.56						237.56
	2/21	2/23	China		930.23						930.23
Hon. Randy Weber	2/16	2/17	Japan		421.00						177.00
	2/17	2/18	South Korea		347.00						150.00
	2/18	2/20	Taiwan		561.00						561.00
	2/20	2/21	Philippines		230.00						230.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	2/21	2/23	China		919.85						919.85
Hon. Luke Messer	2/16	2/17	Japan		391.00						391.00
	2/17	2/18	South Korea		327.00						327.00
	2/18	2/20	Taiwan		511.00						511.00
	2/20	2/21	Philippines		230.00						230.00
	2/21	2/23	China		870.00						870.00
Nien Su	2/16	2/17	Japan		291.00						291.00
	2/17	2/18	South Korea		237.00						237.00
	2/18	2/20	Taiwan		471.00						471.00
	2/20	2/21	Philippines		200.00						200.00
	2/21	2/23	China		830.00						830.00
Elizabeth Heng	2/16	2/17	Japan		420.47						420.47
	2/17	2/18	South Korea		328.67						328.67
	2/18	2/20	Taiwan		523.28						523.28
	2/20	2/21	Philippines		232.78						232.78
	2/21	2/23	China		920.49						920.49
JJ. Ong	2/16	2/17	Japan		410.00						410.00
	2/17	2/18	South Korea		337.00						337.00
	2/18	2/20	Taiwan		561.00						561.00
	2/20	2/21	Philippines		214.00						214.00
	2/21	2/23	China		905.00						905.00
Shane Wolfe	2/16	2/17	Japan		334.00						334.00
	2/17	2/18	South Korea		260.00						260.00
	2/18	2/20	Taiwan		380.00						380.00
	2/20	2/21	Philippines		204.00						204.00
	2/21	2/23	China		751.00						751.00
Hon. Ted Poe	1/16	1/18	Guatemala		307.97		1,517.28				1,825.25
	1/18	1/20	Honduras		402.28						402.28
Luke Murry	1/16	1/18	Guatemala		438.77		1,173.00				1,611.77
	1/18	1/20	Honduras		459.00						459.00
Tom Alexander	1/21	1/15	Spain		1,266.00		1,499.50				2,765.50
Ari Fridman	1/21	1/23	Spain		593.00		1,499.50				2,092.50
Andrew Veprek	1/21	1/25	Spain		1,266.00		1,499.50				2,765.50
Daniel Silverberg	1/21	1/23	Spain		593.00		1,499.50				2,092.50
Matt Zweig	2/16	2/20	Israel		1,889.00		1,232.00				3,121.00
Mira Resnick	2/16	2/20	Israel		1,930.54		1,232.12				3,162.66
Hon. William Keating	1/19	1/22	Russia		921.85		17,304.54				18,226.39
Naz Durakoglu	1/19	1/23	Russia		2,005.66		12,931.50				14,937.16
Hon. Adam Kinzinger	1/31	2/2	Germany		995.41		[3]				995.41
Hon. Eliot Engel	1/31	2/2	Germany		995.41		[3]				995.41
Hon. Ted Deutch	1/31	2/2	Germany		995.41		553.16				1,578.57
Hon. William Keating	1/31	2/2	Germany		995.41		[3]				995.41
Worku Gachou	1/19	1/26	Thailand		920.52		5,417.40		312.93		6,650.85
	1/22	1/25	Laos		585.99						585.99
Brent Woolfork	1/19	1/26	Thailand		915.52		5,617.40				6,532.92
	1/22	1/25	Laos		556.00						556.00
Hon. Dana Rohrabacher	1/17	1/18	Austria		624.00		11,902.98		3,315.25		15,842.23
	1/18	1/20	Egypt		535.38						535.38
	1/20	1/23	Israel		1,454.24						1,454,24
	1/23	1/25	Russia		976.65						976.65
	1/25	1/26	England		845.52			[4]	3,735.39		4,580.91
Hon. Steve Stockman	1/18	1/20	Egypt		535.38		14,733.22				15,268.60
	1/20	1/23	Israel		1,454.24						1,454.24
	1/23	1/25	Russia		976.65						976.65
	1/25	1/26	England		1,029.52						1,029.52
Hon. Paul Cook	1/17	1/18	Austria		624.00		11,902.98				12,526.98
	1/18	1/20	Egypt		535.38						535.38
	1/20	1/23	Israel		1,454.24						1,454.24
	1/23	1/25	Russia		976.65						976.65
	1/25	1/26	England		1,029.52						1,029.52
Paul Berkowitz	1/17	1/18	Austria		624.00		11,590.98				12,214.98
	1/18	1/20	Egypt		535.38						535.38
	1/20	1/23	Israel		1,454.24						1,454.24
	1/23	1/25	Russia		976.65						976.65
Paul Berkowitz	1/25	1/27	England		1,029.52						1,029.52
	2/16	2/18	Bolivia		348.00		3,036.00				3,384.00
	2/18	2/20	Ecuador		530.00						530.00
	2/20	2/22	Uruguay		412.00						412.00
Committee total					68,208.12		134,123.00		23,833.01		226,214.13

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Delegation costs.

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. F. James Sensenbrenner	1/31	2/3	Germany		1812.36		423.73		1303.04		3539.13
Committee total					1812.36		423.73				3539.13

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BOB GOODLATTE, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jared Huffman	3/16	3/18	Chile		1,653.00		[3] +4,788.00				6,441.00
Committee total					1653.00		4788.00				6441.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. DOC HASTINGS, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Brien Beattie	1/25	1/26	Germany		362.00		1656.00				2018.00
Hon. Cynthia Lummis	1/17	1/18	Austria		417.00						417.00
	1/18	1/20	Egypt		534.00						534.00
	1/20	1/23	Israel		1,828.00						1,828.00
	1/23	1/25	Russia		1,130.00						1,130.00
	1/25	1/27	United Kingdom		1,016.00						1,016.00
Hon. Jason Chaffetz	2/12	2/14	United Arab Emirates		793.00						793.00
	2/15	2/16	Papua New Guinea		314.00		19,393.00				19,707.00
James Lewis	2/12	2/14	United Arab Emirates		923.00						923.00
	2/15	2/16	Papua New Guinea		354.00		19,393.00				19,747.00
Hon. Stephen Lynch	3/19	3/21	Israel		982.00						982.00
	3/21	3/23	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	3/23	3/24	Ukraine		374.00						374.00
Hon. Michael Turner	3/20	3/23	Belgium		750.00		1,871.00				2,621.00
Committee total					9,833.00		42,313.00				52,146.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Angela Ellard	2/20	2/26	Singapore		1,925.00		13,717.20		291.11		15,933.31
Stephen Clayes	2/20	2/26	Singapore		1,862.77		13,717.20				15,579.97
Jason Kearns	2/21	2/26	Singapore		1,622.29		7,232.20				8,854.49
Hon. Erik Paulsen	1/22	1/23	Ethiopia		715.00		7,553.94				8,268.94
	1/23	1/25	Rwanda		272.00						272.00
	1/25	1/25	Cape Verde		332.00						332.00
Hon. Sander Levin	2/15	2/18	Colombia		315.00		510.90		7,299.00		8,124.90
Committee total					7,044.66		42,731.44		7,590.11		57,365.61

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVE CAMP, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Frank A. LoBiondo	1/17	1/18	Africa		508.00						
	1/18	1/20	Africa		552.00						
	1/20	1/21	Middle East		855.41						
	1/21	1/24	Africa		615.00						
Commercial airfare							18,036.40				20,066.91
Frank Garcia	1/17	1/18	Africa		508.00						
	1/18	1/20	Africa		552.00						
	1/20	1/21	Middle East		355.41						
	1/21	1/24	Africa		558.94						
Commercial airfare							16,816.10				18,790.45
Michael Bahar	1/18	1/20	Africa		552.00						
	1/20	1/20	Middle East								
Commercial airfare							9,560.10				10,112.10
Chelsey Campbell	1/19	1/20	Middle East		355.41						
Commercial airfare							8,368.00				8,723.41
Hon. Michele Bachmann	1/19	1/23	Southeast Asia		1,141.00						
	1/23	1/25	Southeast Asia		679.32						
Commercial airfare							22,705.20				24,526.34
Hon. James R. Langevin	1/19	1/23	Southeast Asia		1,001.25						
	1/23	1/25	Southeast Asia		679.32						
Commercial airfare							19,534.00				21,214.57
Brooke Eisele	1/19	1/23	Southeast Asia		1,339.18						
	1/23	1/25	Southeast Asia		679.32						
Commercial airfare							22,390.32				24,408.82
Carly Scott	1/19	1/23	Southeast Asia		1,257.82						

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	1/23	1/25	Southeast Asia		679.32						
Commercial airfare							22,864.50				24,801.64
Hon. Mike Rogers	1/31	2/2	Europe		1,314.65						
							(3)				1,314.65
Hon. Mike Pompeo	1/31	2/2	Europe		995.41						
							(3)				995.41
Hon. Mike Rogers	2/7	2/10	Europe		552.00						
Commercial airfare							1,696.60				2,248.60
Darren Dick	2/7	2/10	Europe		552.00						
Commercial airfare							1,064.50				1,616.50
Katie Wheelbarger	2/18	2/21	Middle East								
Commercial airfare							13,366.40				13,366.40
Chelsey Campbell	2/18	2/21	Middle East								
							13,366.70				13,366.70
Hon. Mike Pompeo	2/17	2/19	Africa		536.00						
	2/19	2/20	Africa		348.00						
	2/20	2/21	Africa		268.48						
Commercial airfare							12,057.10				13,209.58
Hon. Mike Rogers	2/17	2/19	Africa		536.00						
	2/19	2/20	Africa		348.00						
	2/20	2/21	Africa		268.48						
Commercial airfare							15,001.10				16,153.58
Hon. James A. Himes	2/17	2/19	Africa		536.00						
	2/19	2/20	Africa		348.00						
	2/20	2/21	Africa		268.48						
Commercial airfare							13,427.10				14,579.58
Darren Dick	2/17	2/19	Africa		536.00						
	2/19	2/20	Africa		348.00						
	2/20	2/21	Africa		268.48						
Commercial airfare							12,057.10				13,209.58
Geof Kahn	2/17	2/19	Africa		536.00						
	2/19	2/20	Africa		348.00						
	2/20	2/21	Africa		268.48						
Commercial airfare							12,058.20				13,210.68
Amanda Rogers Thorpe	2/17	2/19	Africa		536.00						
	2/19	2/20	Africa		348.00						
	2/20	2/21	Africa		268.48						
Commercial airfare							12,057.10				13,209.58
Shannon Stuart	3/16	3/18	Southeast Asia		474.00						
	3/18	3/22	Southeast Asia		942.24						
Commercial airfare							15,049.70				16,465.94
Robert Minehart	3/16	3/18	Southeast Asia		474.00						
	3/18	3/22	Southeast Asia		942.24						
Commercial airfare							15,049.70				16,465.94
Hon. Mike Rogers	3/18	3/20	Eastern Europe		732.81						
	3/20	3/23	Eastern Europe		911.33						
Commercial airfare							13,203.70				14,847.84
Sarah Geffroy	3/18	3/20	Eastern Europe		732.81						
	3/20	3/23	Eastern Europe		911.33						
Commercial airfare							12,008.50				13,652.64
Andy Keiser	3/18	3/20	Eastern Europe		732.81						
	3/20	3/23	Eastern Europe		911.33						
Commercial airfare							12,008.50				13,652.64
Hon. Mike Pompeo	3/28	3/29	Eastern Europe		260.43						
	3/29	4/1	Eastern Europe		1,086.40						
Commercial airfare							9,699.00				11,045.83
Hon. Adam B. Schiff	3/29	4/1	Eastern Europe		1,086.40						
Commercial airfare							6,352.40				7,438.80
Katie Wheelbarger	3/28	3/29	Eastern Europe		260.43						
	3/29	4/1	Eastern Europe		1,086.40						
Commercial airfare							9,699.60				11,046.43
Linda Cohen	3/29	4/1	Eastern Europe		1,086.40						
Commercial airfare							11,487.60				12,574.00
Committee total											386,315.14

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. MIKE ROGERS, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5564. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Annual Report for FY 2013 regarding the training, and its associated expenses, of U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) with friendly foreign forces for the period ending September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5565. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the annual report on operations of the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) in accordance with section 11(b) of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act as amended (50 U.S.C. 98 et seq.) detailing NDS operations during FY 2015 and for the succeeding 4 years (FY 2016-2019); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5566. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting a report on The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5567. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2013 financial report for the Biosimilar User Fee Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5568. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0169; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-020-AD; Amendment 39-17808; AD 2014-06-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5569. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LLC Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1057; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-041-AD; Amendment 39-17805; AD 2014-06-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5570. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0326; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-089-AD; Amendment 39-17786; AD 2014-05-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5571. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0798; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-087-AD; Amendment 39-17796; AD 2014-05-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5572. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to Class B Airspace Area; Detroit, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0079; Airspace Docket No. 09-AWA-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5573. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Amendments to Delegation of Authority Provisions in the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0943; FRL-9909-19-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AQ55) received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5574. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; Revisions to Fossil Fuel Utilization Facilities and Source Registration Regulations and Industrial Performance Standards for Boilers [EPA-R01-OAR-2012-0951; FRL-9800-2] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5575. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New York State; Redesignation of Areas for 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter and Approval of the Associated Maintenance Plan [EPA-R02-OAR-2013-0592; FRL-9909-65-Region 2] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5576. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; South Dakota; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0049; FRL-9909-08-Region 8] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5577. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revision for GP Big Island, LLC [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0191; FRL-9909-60-Region 3] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5578. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Redesignation of the Milwaukee-Racine 2006 24-Hour Fine Particle Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R05-OAR-2012-0464; FRL-9909-50-Region 5] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5579. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Special Exemptions from Requirements of the Clean Air Act [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0697; FRL-9909-18-Region 9] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5580. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; States of Arkansas and Louisiana; Clean Air Interstate Rule State Implementation Plan Revisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2009-0594; FRL-9909-56-Region 6] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5581. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Linuron; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0791-9908-83] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5582. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, El Dorado County Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0683; FRL-9909-66-Region 9] received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5583. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on Utilization of Contributions to the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5584. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting annual financial report as required by the Generic Drug User Fee Act for FY 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5585. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning methods employed by the Government of Cuba to comply with the United States-Cuba September 1994 ''Joint Communique'' and the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 ''Joint Statement'', together known as the Migration Accords; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5586. A letter from the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5587. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, ''U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Met Many Requirements of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 but Did Not Fully Comply for Fiscal Year 2013''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5588. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5589. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended for the six month period ending June 30, 2013, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5590. A letter from the Auditor, Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States of America, transmitting the annual financial report of the Society for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(19) and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5591. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Memorandum of Understanding Between the United States and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological Materials Representing the Cultural Heritage of Bulgaria, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2602(g)(1); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5592. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report to Congress on The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Budget Plan and Review P.L. 110-53, Section 1821(b)(2); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services.

5593. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, ''Finalizing Medicare Regulations under Section 902 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) for Calendar Year 2013''; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4058. A bill to prevent and address sex trafficking of youth in foster care; with an amendment (Rept. 113–441). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 567. Resolution providing for the Establishment of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi (Rept. 113–442). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 575. Resolution providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 567) providing for the Establishment of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi (Rept. 113–443). Referred to the House Calendar.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 576. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 10) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; relating to consideration of the bill (H.R. 4438) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit; and for other purposes (Rept. 113–444). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 4586. A bill to ensure that the provision of foreign assistance does not contribute to human trafficking and to combat human trafficking by requiring greater transparency in the recruitment of foreign workers outside of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SIRES, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. GARCIA, and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 4587. A bill to impose targeted sanctions on individuals responsible for carrying out or ordering human rights abuses against the citizens of Venezuela, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 4588. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to deny the right to grant retransmission consent to a television broadcast station if an AM or FM radio broadcast station licensed to the same licensee transmits a sound recording without providing compensation for programming; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 4589. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude dividends from controlled foreign corporations from the definition of personal holding company income for purposes of the personal holding company rules; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LABRADOR (for himself and Mr. SOUTHERLAND):

H.R. 4590. A bill to exempt certain 16 and 17 year-old children employed in logging or mechanized operations from child labor laws; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia:

H.R. 4591. A bill to establish a national strategy for identifying job training needs to increase opportunities for technical school training and promote hiring; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GERLACH (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 4592. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the diagnosis and treatment of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. STOCKMAN):

H.R. 4593. A bill to prohibit the Department of the Treasury from assigning tax statuses to organizations based on their political beliefs and activities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 4594. A bill to provide for a 1-year extension of the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 4595. A bill to encourage school bus safety; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 4596. A bill to limit investor and homeowner losses in foreclosures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. CARTER, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 4597. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the intentional discrimination of a person or organization by an employee of the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARCIA:

H.R. 4598. A bill to provide the heads of agencies with direct-hire authority to appoint qualified candidates to positions relating to information technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. NUNES, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HARPER, Mr. COOK, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HALL, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois):

H.R. 4599. A bill to authorize the use of force against those nations, organizations, or persons responsible for the attack against United States personnel in Benghazi, Libya; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COTTON, Mr. YOHO, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina):

H.R. 4600. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for premiums for insurance which constitutes medical care; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 4601. A bill to provide additional funding for the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4602. A bill to change the tax status of virtual currencies from property to foreign currency; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 4603. A bill to reauthorize chapter 40 of title 28, United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND (for himself, Mr. DUFFY, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. LONG, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER):

H.R. 4604. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to create a consumer opt-out list for data collected by the Bureau, to put time limits on data held by the Bureau, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ISSA:

H. Res. 574. A resolution recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; considered and agreed to.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 4586.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 4587.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 4588.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 4589.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and

Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LABRADOR:

H.R. 4590.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation has been written pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which gives Congress the authority ''To Regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;''

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia:

H.R. 4591.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GERLACH

H.R. 4592.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4593.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4594.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 4595.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4596.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 of the United States Constitution, giving Congress the authority to establish uniform bankruptcy laws.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 4597.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The 14th Amendment, section 5; Article 1, sections 3 and 18.

By Mr. GARCIA:

H.R. 4598.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 4599.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power provide for the common defense of the United States.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 4600.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to Congress' powers to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises under Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 4601.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States), and Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 (relating to the establishment of Post Roads) of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4602.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1. Section 8.

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes''

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 4603.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 and Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 4604.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. GARRETT, Mr. PETRI, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. PITTS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. GRANGER, and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 29: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 36: Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 460: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. LANCE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 498: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 523: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 630: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 647: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 713: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 755: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 831: Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 855: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1009: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1015: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 1070: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 1074: Mr. CARTER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 1097: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 1130: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1141: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 1217: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1250: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 1309: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 1428: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1449: Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1518: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 1527: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1616: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1717: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 1779: Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 1795: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 1801: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 1812: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 1830: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LONG, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1852: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 1937: Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 1998: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 2001: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 2012: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2130: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2144: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. BARROW of Georgia.

H.R. 2203: Ms. CHU and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 2283: Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. COLE, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 2387: Mr. OWENS, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 2499: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2652: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2673: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H.R. 2717: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2841: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 2901: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SALMON, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. ESTY, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 2921: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H.R. 2939: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 3116: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 3121: Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 3150: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 3211: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 3330: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 3335: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 3361: Mr. LANCE, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 3407: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 3408: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 3413: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 3494: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 3499: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 3530: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. LANKFORD.

H.R. 3544: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 3610: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. LANKFORD.

H.R. 3747: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3782: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 3836: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 3855: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 3862: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 3877: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3930: Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 3991: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 3992: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 4031: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LONG, and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 4040: Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 4056: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 4058: Ms. ESTY, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 4079: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 4091: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 4092: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 4136: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 4156: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 4158: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 4162: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 4200: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 4208: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 4213: Mr. COHEN and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 4219: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 4225: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 4236: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 4285: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 4305: Mr. LONG and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 4318: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 4347: Ms. MENG and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 4351: Mr. COSTA and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4365: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 4372: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 4383: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 4387: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 4395: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 4398: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 4421: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4437: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4440: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. POLIS, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 4443: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 4450: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 4465: Mr. SCALISE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 4491: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. ROSS, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. YOHO, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. LONG.
H.R. 4510: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 4521: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 4531: Mr. BARTON, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GOHMERT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HALL, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. COLE, Mr. SALMON, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 4568: Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 4578: Ms. MOORE, Ms. HAHN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4582: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. HAHN, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. KEATING.
H.J. Res. 34: Ms. SPEIER.
H.J. Res. 113: Mr. SCHRADER and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H. Con. Res. 69: Mr. DOYLE.
H. Res. 356: Mr. WALZ.
H. Res. 445: Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. REED, Mr. LANCE, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.
H. Res. 489: Mr. SIRES.
H. Res. 508: Mr. FARR.
H. Res. 522: Mr. MORAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PETRI, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H. Res. 525: Mr. YARMUTH and Ms. ESTY.
H. Res. 538: Mr. HANNA.
H. Res. 540: Mr. KING of New York.
H. Res. 561: Mr. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. CARNEY.
H. Res. 562: Mr. PERRY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H. Res. 565: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 571: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. COOK, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. WALZ.
H. Res. 573: Mr. LEVIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. WATERS, Ms. HAHN, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative KLINE, or a designee, to H.R. 10, Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MR. EDWARD H. ZIPPERER

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward H. Zipperer of Savannah, GA. Mr. Zipperer's ancestors immigrated to Savannah in 1734 from Salzburg, Austria, after the Trustees of the Georgia Colony invited the Zipperers from Salzburg to become part of the colony, which was settled only the year before.

Edward Zipperer was born in Savannah, GA, in the year 1931. He was raised on a farm on U.S. 17 South, adjacent to the Bamboo Farm. He went on to play football at Savannah High School and earn a degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Georgia in 1954.

In 1965, a few friends asked Edward to coach the Richmond Hill High School basketball team, one of only 16 integrated basketball teams in the state. While he had never played much basketball, his biggest concern in taking over was how to feed an integrated team on the road. His solution? He bought a hot dog machine with his own money and enlisted his wife to cook hot dogs for the team. Edward led the team to finish 10th in the state that year.

Edward served in the Georgia State Senate from 1967 to 1975 and was on thirteen separate committees during his tenure. He says his experience in the Georgia State Senate was ''a great education for a little ole country boy.'' Some highlights of his career as a State Senator are the constructions of Skidaway Island State Park, Fort McAllister State Park, and King's Ferry Ogeechee River public recreational area. It is obvious that he was truly committed to conserving and protecting the rich land of south Georgia for future generations.

Edward H. Zipperer has been an outstanding citizen and public servant for the great state of Georgia. Although he has been out of office for some time now, Mr. Zipperer is still very involved in public affairs and is a frequent visitor to my office in Washington, DC. I am proud to call him a close friend of mine and of the city of Savannah.

TO ACKNOWLEDGE VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2014 SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise to commend and express my sincere appreciation to Volunteer Fairfax and the extraordinary honorees of the 22nd Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

Volunteer Fairfax matches the skills and interests of volunteers to the needs of local nonprofit organizations. In a single year, more than 18,500 volunteers contributed a total of 55,683 service hours valued in excess of $1.2 million. This outpouring of generosity enables hundreds of public and private non-profit agencies to meet crucial community needs.

Each year from this group of extraordinary volunteers, Volunteer Fairfax selects a few exceptional individuals to be honored. It is my great pleasure to submit the names of the 2014 Service Award honorees into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Community Champions: Cheryl McDonald, Braddock District; Margaret Malone, Dranesville District; Amy's Amigos, Hunter Mill District; Bill Shuttleworth, Lee District; Mary Patricia Daniels, Mason District; Louise Cleveland, Mount District; The Oakton Virginia Stake, Providence District; Jim Kirkpatrick, Springfield District; Amrit Daryanani, Sully District; Scott Wheatley, At-Large.

Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Over: Ahsleigh Soloff.

Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under: Patti Schule.

Adult Volunteer Group: Friends of Richard Byrd Library.

Corporate Volunteer Program: BB&T.

Fairfax County Volunteer: John Bauer.

Fairfax County Volunteer Program: Ready to Read.

Family Volunteer: Anna and Kat Hayes.

Lifetime Achievement: Ramona Watson Morrow.

Rising Star: Nicholas Hartigan.

Senior Volunteer: Doris Crawford.

Volunteer Program: Food for Others.

Youth Volunteer: Jonah Basl.

Youth Volunteer Group: National Charity League—Cherry Blossom Chapter.

Integrate Individual: Roberto Quinones.

Integrate Group: St. Stephen's United Methodist Church.

RSVP Northern Virginia: Sharon Page.

In addition, Benchmark Honors will be awarded in four different categories to commend those who have contributed 100, 250, 500, or 1,000 hours of volunteer time to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in acknowledging Volunteer Fairfax for its decades of outstanding community service and in thanking the 2014 Service Award honorees for their incredible contributions to our community.

HONORING GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hannah Luce, Samantha Plouviez, and Meredith Waites on receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting. Being honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award is the culmination of a lot of hard work, dedication, and a commitment to serving others. Through their efforts, Hannah, Samantha, and Meredith have made our communities a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Girl Scouts today benefit from tangible outcomes such as a strong sense of self, practical life skills, healthy relationships, and feeling empowered to make a difference. In Southwest Missouri, Girl Scouts give back to their community with thousands of hours of community service each year.

Folks in Southwest Missouri should be proud to know that the Girl Scout program remains strong and provides a significant opportunity for girls today to learn and grow. I too am proud and honored to know that young girls like Hannah, Samantha and Meredith in the 7th District of Missouri are demonstrating positive values and strong leadership skills—and will continue to do so for years to come.

I again want to congratulate Hannah Luce, Samantha Plouviez, and Meredith Waites on receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DOWNINGTOWN EAST HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC TEAM

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Downingtown East High School Academic Team of Chester County, Pennsylvania on winning the Pennsylvania state academic competition on Friday, May 2, 2014.

This year marked the first time a Downingtown high school academic team has made it to the state competition since 2003 when the senior high school was split into two schools, Downingtown East and Downingtown West High Schools. Downingtown East advanced to the state competition following a thrilling first place victory in the Chester County Academic Competition. With this state championship win, the Team is now eligible to participate in the National Scholastic Championship held in Washington, D.C. on May 24th and 25th.

The Downingtown East High School Varsity Team includes: Neel Alex, Angela Cai, Varun Giridhar, Vis Lanka, Victoria Pan, Sarah Schieferstein, Neil Vinjamuri, Zack Weber and Nicholas Wu. The Junior Varsity team consists of: Erin Breslin, Nellie Butler, Megan Harley, Kaushik Manchikanti and Matt Roberts. The Teams are ably led by coach Daryl McCauley.

Mr. Speaker, in light of their outstanding accomplishment and commitment to academic excellence, we ask that our colleagues join me today in recognizing the members of the Downingtown East High School Academic Team of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

2014 CONGRESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to law enforcement men and women who have provided distinctive service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

Law enforcement is a demanding profession that requires sacrifice, courage and a dedication to serve others. Every day, brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to enforce the laws of our society and protect public safety. They deserve our gratitude and respect.

Three years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Law Enforcement Awards, CLEA, to give special recognition to law enforcement officers, departments, or units for exceptional achievement.

This year, I will present congressional law enforcement awards to the following winners chosen by an independent panel comprised of current and retired law enforcement personnel representing a cross-section of the district's law enforcement community.

Detective Jake Barlow of the Venice Police Department will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Corporal David Brunner of the Florida Highway Patrol will receive the Career Service Award.

Corporal Edward Kish of Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority Police Department will receive the Preservation of Life Award.

Sergeant Michael Laden of the North Port Police Department will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Investigator John Morningstar of the Bradenton Police Department will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Detective Joseph Rogers of the Palmetto Police Department will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Deputy Joseph Scott of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office will receive the Preservation of Life Award.

Task Force Officer Michael J. Skoumal of the Bradenton Police Department, assigned to U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration Tampa Office, will receive the Career Service Award.

Sergeant Randy Thompson of the Longboat Key Police Department will receive the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award.

Investigator Lynn Thomson of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Detective Miguel Torres of the Sarasota County Sheriffs Office will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Lieutenant Tom Ware of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will receive the Career Service Award.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF JUDGE HUEY RONALD HAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Judge Huey Ronald Ham. Judge Ham was a dedicated public servant, a loving husband, and a wonderful father. He devoted his life to serving the greater good of our community. He was a high school teacher for Vocational Agriculture for thirty years at Brantley County High School. He was also the Chief Magistrate Judge from 1984 to 2000.

Judge Ham was born in Lulaton, Georgia, on October 2, 1937. After graduating from Nahunta High School, he attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, GA. Following Junior College, he attended the University of Georgia before joining the U.S. Army. After his honorable service to our country, Judge Ham returned to the University of Georgia and earned his degree in Vocational Education in Agriculture.

In additional to his professional success, Judge Ham was also considered a local history expert. He was the driving force behind the Geortner Mumford Library and the Confederate Wall in Waynesville. He helped locate a Confederate Army cemetery where forty soldiers are buried. Judge Ham also served on the 6th Senatorial District for the Democratic Party, the Airport Advisory Board, and a volunteer EMT. He was also appointed by Governor Zell Miller in 1994 to the Coastal Zone Advisory Board.

Judge Huey Ronald Ham passed away on April 7, 2014, at his residence following an extended illness. Judge Ham will be remembered as not only a great family man, but also as an outstanding public servant. I am truly honored to be able to call Judge Huey Ronald Ham a friend. He was a straight shooter who was always looking out for his community. He will be deeply missed by his community, family, and friends.

IRENE WRIGHT TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Irene Wright from Pueblo, Colorado. After 35 years of service to Pueblo Bank & Trust, Ms. Wright is retiring to spend time with her husband, two sons and three grandsons.

Ms. Wright followed in her mother's footsteps and began working at Pueblo Bank & Trust 35 years ago. Through hard work and dedication, Ms. Wright moved her way up in the organization, starting out on their cleaning crew, moving to the kitchen staff, and becoming a teller in the mid-1980s. Since then, she has been promoted to a supervisor, and has helped the bank open many Colorado branches. For sixty years, someone from the Wright family has been a part of PB&T.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Wright's hard work and dedication serve as an example to us all. I know I speak for every customer and employee at PB&T when I say we will miss seeing her cheerful face, but I wish her all the best as she moves into a well-deserved retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF U.S. DISTRICT OF ARIZONA CHIEF JUDGE JOHN ROLL

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, 2014, I was honored to speak at the dedication of the new John M. Roll United States Courthouse in Yuma, Arizona. I joined former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Senators MCCAIN and FLAKE, Mayor Nicholls of Yuma and others at the ceremony.

I was able to take a tour of this new courthouse and it is remarkable. It is filled with natural light and the carpets look like an aerial view of Yuma County's agricultural fields. It's fitting that this impressive U.S. Courthouse is named after an impressive man, one who dedicated his life to justice and to upholding the rule of law.

U.S. District of Arizona Chief Judge John Roll, who was killed by a gunman at Congresswoman Giffords's event outside Tucson in 2011, served Arizona and our nation honorably for four decades. He was a wise and gracious man, who not only talked the talk but walked the walk. I hope that all those who work in the courthouse in the years to come will honor the legacy of Chief Judge Roll by executing the law with Lady Justice in mind: impartially, fairly and objectively—just as Chief Judge Roll did.

RECOGNIZING SCORE ORLANDO

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize SCORE Orlando on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 10 million Americans on their path to entrepreneurship.

SCORE is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through education and mentorship. Thanks to dedicated

volunteers, the Small Business Administration, and other partners, SCORE Orlando is able to offer its services at little to no cost to their customers.

In 2013 alone, SCORE volunteers donated over one million hours nationwide. These volunteers helped start up more than 38,500 companies, create over 67,300 jobs, increase revenue for 40,000 clients and mentor and train more than 124,600 business owners and entrepreneurs.

I am pleased to recognize SCORE Orlando for its dedication to equipping entrepreneurs with tools for fulfilling and successful careers, and I thank the SCORE Orlando volunteers for continuing to bolster the economy as well as the passions of people who are driven by new ideas, hard work and the desire to succeed.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA JANSA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Andrea Jansa of the Iowa House Democratic Research Staff for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Andrea in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Jansa for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Andrea on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING WILEY COLLEGE DEBATE TEAM ON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to recognize an incredible, charming, superlative institution of higher learning located within the First Congressional District of Texas. The historically significant Wiley College was founded in 1873 and is located in Marshall, Texas.

Wiley College first received national acclaim in 1935 when its debate team defeated the then reigning national forensics champion, the University of Southern California. The dramatic face off between these two universities was depicted in the movie ''The Great Debaters'' which helped reinvigorate the debate program at the college and began to erode the racial barrier that once plagued academia.

It is with tremendous pride that I can say ''The Great Debaters'' have done it again by bringing home first place honors in the National Pi Kappa Delta Comprehensive National Tournament which was held in Indianapolis, Indiana. After an outstanding period of 373 successful debates and 60 awards, this victory marks the pinnacle of the team's superb season.

The debate team which once again captured the enthusiasm and commitment of that 1935 team was comprised of only first and second year collegiate competitors: Austin Ashford, Dominick Taylor, Drake Pough, Eric Robinson, Farah Habad, Jhamiah Dixon, LaQuanda Streeter, Rachel Garnett, Autumn Locke, Autumnwind Spear, Mary Mitchell, Kayla Hall, Cameron Smith, Jesus Cardenas, Katori Mobley, Benjamin Turner, Marcus Rembert, Ernest Mack, Ki-Jana Hernandez, Aaron Tumbaga, Robert Hollar, Nathan Leal, and Lyle Kleinman.

The students of the Melvin B. Tolson/Denzel Washington Forensics Society's debate team would not have been able to accomplish this meaningful achievement without the excellent instruction given by Coach Christopher Medina, Director of Forensics; Coach Sarah Spiker Rainey, Assistant Director of Forensics; and Interpretation Coach Sean Allen—along with Forensics Specialists Coach Kris Stroup, Coach Jane Munksgaard, and Coach Todd Rainey.

Special recognition must also be given to the President and CEO of Wiley College, Dr. Haywood Strickland; Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Glenda Carter; and Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, Dr. Joseph Morale.

Heartfelt congratulations are extended to all faculty, staff, students and alumni of Wiley College as well as the entire east Texas community of Marshall, Texas, as their legacy of distinction is now recorded in the Congressional Record that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 2013 HONOREES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations and the honorees of its 64th Annual Awards Banquet. The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations is a coalition of civic and homeowners associations from across Fairfax County. Each year, the Federation honors a few select individuals for their extraordinary contributions to our community. As a former two-term President of the Federation, I understand that those who volunteer their time, energies, and talents to civic activities play a role in making Fairfax County one of the best places in the nation in which to live, work and raise a family. I am honored to recognize the following individuals for their service to the community:

2013 Citizen of the Year: Janyce Hedetniemi. Ms. Hedetniemi's service to Fairfax County has included positions on a wide variety of important boards and commissions. Since January 2013, she has served as a Member At-Large of the Fairfax County Planning Commission. Before that, she served as a Member At-Large of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. She is a member of the Fairfax County Community Revitalization and Redevelopment Advisory Group. Ms. Hedetniemi was the Braddock District representative to the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission for nine years and chaired the Commission from 2008 to 2010. She was a member of the Tysons Land Use Task Force and Vice-Chair of the Task Force Steering Committee, which helped formulate new comprehensive plan language for Tysons. She chaired two Fairfax County Bond Referendum Committees, has been President of the Oak Hill Citizens Association since 1997, and served as President of the Braddock District Council for two years. Professionally, she is an expert in community relations and enjoyed a distinguished career at the National Institutes of Health.

2013 Citation of Merit: Tena Bluhm. Ms. Bluhm was appointed to the Fairfax County Commission on Aging in 2004 and has chaired the Commission since 2007. Tena has been instrumental in increasing the Commission's presence and influence in Fairfax County through speaking on behalf of older adults and the issues of aging before elected officials of both Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia. She has educated older adults about services provided by Fairfax County and sought ways to make the county aging-friendly. Ms. Bluhm was elected to her homeowners association's board in 2000 and in 2005 became its president.

She is a member of the Braddock District Council, where she raised attention to aging issues by organizing a seminar about services available to older adults in Fairfax County. Ms. Bluhm worked for 45 years as a Home Care nurse and in 2008 was named Lady Fairfax for the Braddock District. She is now retired and resides with her husband, Ray, in Fairfax.

2013 Citation of Merit: Kathy Kaplan. Kathy Kaplan is an author, publisher, artist, naturalist, and activist who has lived in Reston for 31 years. Her novel, ''The Dog of Knots'', was recognized by the Association of Jewish Libraries and the Anti-Defamation League. Ms. Kaplan has worked as an interpretive naturalist, conducted workshops in art and bookmaking for youth camps and schools, and sculpted a bronze relief for the September 11 Memorial at Freedom Grove at Brown's Chapel in Reston. As co-chair of the Residential, Urban Design, and Livability workgroup for RCA Reston 2020, she wrote the Vision for Herndon Monroe Station area and worked on several alternate park designs for Reston

Town Center North. Ms. Kaplan was appointed Chair of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations' Library Committee in August 2013 to review proposed changes to the county library system and was named 2013 Citizen of the Year by the Reston Citizens Association for her work in library advocacy.

2013 Special Gratitude Award Honorees: U.S. Representative JAMES MORAN, U.S. Representative FRANK WOLF, Virginia Delegate James Scott. The Federation also will honor three Northern Virginia legislators, who are retiring this year after distinguished careers in public service. Representatives MORAN and WOLF have served the residents of our region for more than 30 years, and I have been pleased to partner with them, first as Chairman of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors and then as a Member of Congress, to champion the interests of Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth. Delegate Scott served the residents of our community for more than 40 years, including 14 years representing the Providence District on the Board of Supervisors prior to his service in the General Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these incredible individuals and in congratulating them on being honored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations. Civic engagement is the root of a community and Fairfax County residents enjoy an excellent quality of life due in part to the efforts of these individuals. The contributions and leadership of these honorees have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the First African Baptist Church of Philadelphia, the oldest African American founded Baptist congregation in Pennsylvania.

The First African Baptist Church of Philadelphia was established in 1809. Since then, it has helped establish many other churches and institutions, including the Downingtown Industrial School. The First African Baptist Church of Philadelphia has also played an integral role in helping to promote equality in Pennsylvania by establishing the first African American savings and loans bank and the first mortgage company for African Americans.

Throughout its rich history, thirteen pastors have held the honor of leading its distinguished congregation. Currently, The Reverend Terrence D. Griffith serves as the church's pastor. At its centennial celebration in 1909, the church welcomed Booker T. Washington as its keynote speaker. In 2009, both Ed Rendell and Arlen Specter joined the church to celebrate its bicentennial anniversary. This year, the church will be celebrating its 205th anniversary, which I am personally attending.

I invite you and all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating The First African Baptist Church of Philadelphia's 205th anniversary. May its success and commitment to helping the City of Philadelphia be an inspiration to all of us in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 194, H.R. 4292—"To amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 195, H.R. 3584—"To amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 196, Journal—On Approving the Journal. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,473,168,572,574.12. We've added $6,846,291,523,661.04 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT PITTENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote Nos. 194–196, I am not recorded because I was absent from the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On rollcall No. 194. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 195. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 196. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE BROOK HILL LADY GUARD 2014 STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I recognize and congratulate the Brook Hill Lady Guard on a stellar 2013-2014 soccer season in which they once again captured the TAPPS Division III state championship.

The Brook Hill Lady Guard triumphed over the Austin Veritas Lady Defenders with a final score of 1–0, and finished a magnificent season with a perfect 19–0 record.

The defending champion Lady Guard boasted 17 consecutive shutouts, and the entire season only saw them giving up two goals.

The Brook Hill Lady Guard's championship success is a tribute to the coach who brought his team back for another chance at victory, as well as a tribute to the players and all who assisted them along the way.

This recognition of their accomplishment is extended to all of the athletic staff including the outstanding Head Coach David Collins, Assistant Coaches Jordan Roquemore and Neal McGowan, and Trainer Tristan Trevino, all under the outstanding leadership of Athletic Director Wally Dawkins, as well as the stellar school administration headed by Rod Fletcher.

The team members responsible for bringing the second championship title home to east Texas include Hayden Langemeier, Kennedy Rose, Lily Cool, Katherine Stair, Tito Babatunde, Maria Moore, Ari Assad, Elise Hawkins, Danielle Adams, Janet Nwachukwu, Hope Cooper, Kendall Wells, Hayley Dumesnil, Li Ming, Morgan Moss, Penny End, Katie Smith, and Julia Troxell.

The Brook Hill staff and the entire community of Bullard have devoted countless hours to support and encourage these young ladies in the pursuit of their dream.

It is my most esteemed honor to congratulate everyone involved with this endeavor. May God continue to bless these young women, their families and friends, and all those individuals who call Bullard, Texas their home.

Congratulations to the 2014 TAPPS Division III State Soccer Champions, the Brook Hill Lady Guard, as their back to back championship legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

RECOGNIZING 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF FAIRBURN, GEORGIA

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 160th anniversary of the City of Fairburn, Georgia, situated within Georgia's Thirteenth District. Since its early

beginnings in 1830, Fairburn has continued to grow, evolving into a thriving community of historic homes, businesses, and places of worship. Originally named Cartersville, Fairburn's first charter was issued in 1854 which established the city's jurisdiction as a mere 600-yard radius from the central railroad depot. As time progressed, Fairburn steadily expanded, ultimately achieving ''city'' status in 1925. Throughout these years of development, the city gradually cultivated a bustling downtown area comprised of railroad infrastructure, public schools, and vibrant businesses which is now recognized in the National Register of Historic Places. With a population of nearly 14,000 residents, Fairburn still maintains the small town atmosphere that has remained a hallmark of the city's charm.

While remembering its past, Fairburn embraces the opportunities and challenges facing its citizens in the 21st century. In recent years, local voters approved a referendum to fund improvements for Duncan Park, downtown areas damaged by fire, infrastructure projects, and a new fire station. Further, Fairburn's Education Campus continues to expand, housing satellite locations of the Georgia Military College and Brenau University. This award-winning four acre campus, now boasting two 18,400 square-foot class room buildings and an 11,400 square-foot administrative building, is the result of a $10 million project funded through the Development Authority of Fairburn. Continuing with the spirit of growth, Fairburn recently received a $3.1 million grant for an innovative transportation project which is slotted to make the historic downtown area more pedestrian friendly. It is the city's hope that with an increased aim on a pedestrian-focused community, citizens will enjoy an improved connectivity between homes, shops, offices, and the campus.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the City of Fairburn on this momentous anniversary. Fairburn's storied history coupled with their innovative push to make their community not only a livable, but innovative, is truly something to be admired.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHANDRA DIANE CHAMPION-WALKER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of life-long Memphian Chandra Diane Champion-Walker, who passed away Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Chandra Champion-Walker was born on December 30, 1959, and was the first-born daughter of Dr. Charles and Carolyn Bailey Champion, the owners of Champion's Pharmacy and Herb Store on Elvis Presley Boulevard in Memphis, Tennessee. She attended Father Bertrand Elementary School and graduated from Memphis Catholic High School in 1977. She furthered her education by attending Memphis State University, Talladega College and Lemoyne-Owen College, where she graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration.

Following in the footsteps of her family, Chandra became a Certified Pharmacy Technician and joined the family business in delivering pharmaceutical and alternative medicines to the people of Memphis. Her father, Dr. Champion, a renowned herbal pharmacist, referred to her as his ''Rock'' and has received many prestigious awards with her by his side. These include the Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service by a pharmacist and the 1987 Pharmacist of the Year Award.

Chandra proved to be a woman capable of showing endless love and affection for all people who entered her life. She was a selfless giver and was always willing to help a friend in need. It was said that she always thought about how to take care of and make things better for others—never about how to take advantage of any situation for her own gain. Such compassion for others is rare among people and all who knew her are fortunate to have been able to call her a friend.

Chandra Diane Champion-Walker leaves behind her husband, Jeffrey Lind Walker; her children, Charles Edwin Champion and Jessica Michelle-Lynne Walker; her parents, Carolyn Bailey and Dr. Charles Champion; her adoptive grandmother, Bernice Sullen; two sisters, Dr. Charita ''Ricky'' Champion Brookins and Dr. Carol ''Cookie'' Champion; one niece, Rikki Charee Brookins, and many other loving friends and family throughout Memphis. She was eulogized at Mt. Olive Cathedral C.M.E. Church in Memphis, which she joined as a young child. The city of Memphis has lost a beloved member of the community and the difference she made each and every day will be remembered. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Chandra Diane Champion-Walker. Hers was a life well-lived.

LYMPHEDEMA AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I hope to raise awareness of lymphedema, a debilitating disease for which no cure has yet been developed.

Lymphedema is a blockage of lymph vessels that causes an accumulation of fluid, protein, and other cellular waste. This results in a swelling of the body in places where the blockage occurs. Though lymphedema can be passed down genetically, it most frequently occurs after surgical procedures to remove damaged lymph nodes or vessels. Often it is a tragic side-effect to cancer treatments, the highest risk occurring in breast and prostate cancer patients.

Doctors can screen for lymphedema using a number of diagnostic tools, and early detection is important to minimize the effects of this disease. Lymphedema, sadly, is not curable, but it is treatable through compression, specially designed exercises, or, in some cases, surgery.

One of my constituents, Jennifer Onks Hovatter of Johnson City, lost her husband Thomas to complications arising from lymphedema in 2007. Every year around June 18th—the day that Thomas passed away—Jennifer holds the Thomas Hovatter Lymphedema Awareness Day in memory of her husband. This year, Lymphedema Awareness Day is June 21.

Jennifer's efforts to raise public recognition of this disease—which have been reported on by the Associated Press—led the Tennessee legislature to declare that the third week of June each year to be ''Lymphedema Awareness Week.''

I applaud Jennifer for her tireless work to bring awareness to lymphedema, and encourage all Americans to learn more about this condition.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE LATINO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COUNCIL

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous work of the Latino Children and Families Council and their programs for the Latino community in Wisconsin's Second District.

The Latino Children and Families Council hosts El Día de los Niños, an annual event in Madison, Wisconsin for Latino children and their families. This event includes music, food and plenty of games and educational activities for youth to enjoy. Also featured are opportunities for parents to receive information about childcare, parenting and the resources available to them in our community. The day culminates with a parade of Latin American Nations which allows the children to showcase their talents and celebrate their heritage.

Through education and advocacy, the Council continually promotes the success and wellbeing of Latino children and families. The Council promotes strong partnerships between community organizations and works to ensure our schools provide quality education that is inclusive of all students and the unique backgrounds from which they come and the diverse languages that they speak. The Council also provides leadership, giving a strong voice to the concerns of the Latino community.

I am proud to celebrate Saturday, May 3, 2014 as ''El Día de los Niños.'' I thank the Latino Children and Families Council for their efforts to engage with and support the Latino community in Madison. This recognition is a most fitting honor of the important work that they do, not just today but throughout the year.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 110TH BIRTHDAY OF EULA MAE BREWER PROPHITT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to honor

Mrs. Eula Mae Brewer Prophitt on the occasion of her 110th birthday.

Mrs. Prophitt was born in Our Town, Alabama. When she was nine, she went to live with her brother, James William Brewer, and at 11, she began working at Avondale Mills in Alexander City. In fact, Mrs. Eula Mae Prophitt worked in textile mills including Avondale Mills, Mr. Vernon Mills, M. Snower Mill, Pepperell Manufacturing Company, Swift Spinning Mills, and Opelika Manufacturing, until she retired at the age of 66.

Eula Mae married Mr. Willis Guary Prophitt on March 10, 1923. They were blessed with four daughters, Ruby Frances, Mary Elisabeth, Willard Carolyn, and Dorothy Jeanette. Mrs. Prophitt has many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Prophitt served with her husband, a Church of God pastor, teaching young people in Sunday School for 37 years. She continued to independently maintain her home until age ninety, and now lives with her eldest daughter, Ruby. Mrs. Prophitt enjoys a little gardening and her beautiful flowers.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Mrs. Prophitt's 110th birthday. She is a blessing to her family and friends, and they plan to celebrate her birthday this Saturday, May 10th.

HONORING MR. CAO K. O

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an important pillar in New York's Asian American community, an advocate for equality and progress, and a steadfast champion for justice, Mr. Cao K. O.

Mr. O was a founding member of the Asian American Federation (AAF) and served as its first executive director until late last year. Over more than 23 years, Mr. O built the Federation into a leading pan-Asian organization. Under his leadership, the organization has become renowned in a range of areas that advance the Asian American community.

Under Mr. O's direction the organization has been a leader in policy research, examining the root causes of issues afflicting the community and helping develop commonsense solutions that better the lives of thousands of New Yorkers. The Federation has produced numerous studies examining the economic and mental health effects of 9/11 on New York's Asian American community, how to best care for the Asian community's elderly and children, and how to address poverty among this demographic group.

Beyond shaping the policy dialogue, Mr. O's emphasis on nonprofit capacity building and philanthropy has also led the AAF to steer resources to a range of community based organizations that tackle real world problems facing New York's Asian Americans. The Federation has raised and leveraged $10 million and made grants to organizations benefitting children, women, elders and recent immigrants, improving the lives of thousands of New Yorkers.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. O himself is an immigrant. Born and raised in Vietnam, he arrived a refugee in this country in 1975. It is clear that he has never forgotten his personal struggles but has instead used them as inspiration to help those around him. This Friday, the Asian American Federation will honor Mr. O for his many contributions. In advance of this celebration, I would ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this public servant for his many accomplishments on behalf of the Asian American community.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ''MEMPHIS 13''

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 13 individuals who broke the barrier of segregation in the Memphis City Schools on October 3, 1961. Formally known as the ''Memphis 13,'' these trailblazers of integration were the first African-American students to be enrolled in the all-white Memphis City Schools system at a time when institutional desegregation was widely criticized. The challenges and accomplishments of these courageous Memphians have been recognized across the country thanks to the work of University of Memphis Law Professor Daniel Kiel in his 2011 documentary, ''The Memphis 13.''

Almost 53 years ago, 13 first-grade students bravely entered the doors of Bruce, Gordon, Rozelle and Springdale Elementary Schools. These students, Sheila Malone Conway, E.C. Freeman Fentress, Alvin Freeman, Deborah Holt, Dwania Kyles, Sharon Malone, Pamela Mayes, Jacqueline Moore, Joyce Bell White, Leandrew Wiggins, Clarence Williams, Harry Williams and Michael Willis (Menelik Fombi), were some of America's bravest civil rights' activists, even at such young ages. At a time when the nation was witnessing widespread segregation and animosity towards African-Americans who desired equal opportunities, these young civil rights leaders and their families made a choice to take a step towards equality for all.

Before the momentous actions of the ''Memphis 13,'' Memphis City Schools had never before afforded African-American students the opportunity to receive a fair and full education. This pioneering instance of school integration went forth with little public discussion or advanced news attention. Because of the heartfelt work of Professor Daniel Kiel and his documentary, the stories of these children, who dared to receive an equal education in a desegregated school system, are now being heard by communities throughout the country.

As a strong believer in the importance of education, I cannot thank enough the ''Memphis 13'' for blazing the trail for other African-American students to receive the education they deserve and Daniel Kiel for telling their story. The selfless actions by the ''Memphis 13'' paved a way for students to receive an equal education in Memphis and across the nation. The difference that these legends made will always be remembered and celebrated by the city of Memphis. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the ''Memphis 13.''

HONOR OUR PUBLIC SERVANTS THIS WEEK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize our Nation's public servants and to thank them for their important contributions to our country.

In every community across America, federal employees work to make sure the government is effective and keep us safe; their daily contributions to their fellow citizens and to the cause of freedom are simply innumerable. And in America's First District, there are many hardworking and dedicated patriots who serve the people of this nation every day.

As we celebrate Public Service Recognition Week, which started on Sunday, May 4, and ends on Saturday, May 10, I want to express my utmost gratitude to the country's federal employees as well as our dedicated state, county and local public servants for their tireless service. I am proud to represent the tens of thousands of federal employees and retirees who live in the First District of Virginia.

Congress charges these individuals with important duties and expects these duties to be performed with the highest caliber of expertise—but rather than being recognized for their service, these public servants see their salary and benefits continually used as a pawn in the game of politics. I have opposed these efforts because I believe that as Congress continues to ask our federal civilian workforce to do more with less, we should instead be standing with them in recognition of their service.

From the CIA agents on the front lines of the War on Terror to the FBI agents finding suspected terrorists—our Nation's public servants perform critical national security jobs that make our country a safer place. As the House votes to establish a new Select Committee on Benghazi, it is important to note that the Foreign Service officers representing our government at the U.S. consulate and annex where the September 11, 2012, attack occurred were federal employees.

In addition to serving abroad, our Nation's federal employees frequently risk their lives to protect us here at home as well. The Customs and Border Patrol and DEA agents working to fight illegal immigration, human trafficking and drug running operations are federal employees.

These men and women often get little to no recognition for their work, but day in and day out are repeatedly put in harm's way.

We must also recognize the public servants who are not directly in dangerous situations, but on a daily basis perform duties imperative to our safety. Defense civilian riggers, machinists, refuelers and engineers who repair sophisticated weaponry systems at our Army depots, Air Force bases and shipyards are the federal employees who support our military personnel.

The scientists at Department of Energy laboratories, NASA astronauts, engineers and researchers all work to keep America competitive in the ever increasingly global economy. Meteorologists at the weather service track life-threatening storms, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis and blizzards so that we can prepare to the best of our ability for inclement weather and natural disasters.

The nurses and doctors at the VA who mind for our veterans and wounded warriors, researchers at NIH working to find a cure for cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's—all are federal employees. The FDA public health inspectors who track E. coli and salmonella outbreaks to make certain that our food is safe to eat are federal employees.

Air traffic controllers at FAA work to have safe skies for travelers. Federal firefighters protect homes and businesses during a national forest fire. National Park Service rangers facilitate safe hiking on historic grounds and camping in our parks and tours of our battlefields.

These are only but a few of the vital services federal employees provide to our Congressional Districts and the Nation alike. The federal workforce is full of dedicated and committed citizens who exemplify patriotism in everything they do and I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring them for their service to ensure the security of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 2013 RESTON ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2013 Reston Association Volunteer Service Awards. The Reston Association (RA) is the largest homeowners' association in Virginia and one of the largest in the country with more than 21,000 homes under its jurisdiction. Among other roles, RA serves as the steward of Reston's architectural aesthetics, recreational amenities, and environmental resources.

RA relies on hundreds of volunteers who serve on boards, committees, and projects to carry out its mission to keep Reston a model community where all can ''Live, Work, Play, and Get Involved.'' I am pleased to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the outstanding volunteers for 2013.

Volunteer of the Year: Diane Blust. Ms. Blust has been a Reston resident for 36 years and has made a long-standing commitment to protecting Reston's natural resources. She has chaired RA's Environmental Advisory Committee and RA's Sustainability Working Group. She serves as the President of Sustainable Reston, which is part of the Fairfax Coalition for Smarter Growth and was instrumental in developing a program to install garden plots near low-income housing. As a member of Reston Environmental Action (REACT), Ms. Blust works to promote energy efficiency and habits that lessen our environmental impact. She helped establish the Environmental Film series at Walker Nature Center and started the Smart Market, which is a seasonal, weekly farmers market. In addition Ms. Blust teaches various Home Food Preservation classes for Reston Community Center (RCC) and RA's Walker Nature Center.

Volunteer Group of the Year Garden Plot Coordinators—Karen Parnicky, Lake Anne; Richard Padgett, Golf Course Island; and Molly O'Boyle, Hunters Woods I & II. RA rents more than 270 garden plots each year in four locations. The garden plot coordinators serve as liaisons between the garden plot renters and Reston Association staff. This group also contributes by weeding and watering or coordinating volunteers to do so when a gardener may be on vacation or away due to a medical condition.

Community Partner of the Year: The Boofie O'Gorman Team. The Boofie O'Gorman Team donated $5,000 and more than 100 volunteer hours to the 2013 Reston Kids Triathlon. This generous donation provides funding for our scholarship participants and other Reston Association fee-waived programs. Their monetary contributions and personal efforts in race-day support, show their dedication to the youngest members of the Reston community. The team also supports scholarships for the Reston Triathlon, the Reston Sprint Triathlon, the Runners Marathon, the Reston Relay Triathlon, and RA Camps.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2013 Reston Association Volunteer Service Awards and in thanking them for dedicating their time, energy, and resources to the improvement of the quality of life and health of the Reston community.

RECOGNIZING MISS ISABELLA HIXENBAUGH

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young lady in my district, Miss Isabella Hixenbaugh of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Isabella is an eighth-grader at Forestbrook Middle School and was officially recognized in Washington, DC, this week as one of South Carolina's top two youth volunteers.

Isabella selflessly devotes her free time to helping others in need by volunteering at a therapeutic riding foundation, Fidelis Foundation. There she assists in the emotional healing of abused, neglected, and traumatized children by teaching them how to ride horses and care for the animals.

Isabella has been volunteering at Fidelis Foundation since its founding in 2010, and enjoys helping others find comfort in one of her favorite pastimes. When not teaching children how to ride or leading an arts and Crafts project at the barn, Isabella participates in horse shows to raise money for the Fidelis Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, young people, like Isabella, inspire and encourage so many. It is important that we recognize their leadership and service in our communities.

On behalf of South Carolina's Seventh District, congratulations Isabella and thank you for your volunteer service.

RECOGNIZING SGT. ROB JONES AND THE COALITION TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great American, Sgt. Rob Jones, who not only served our nation honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan, but continues to serve his fellow veterans here at home.

Sgt. Jones grew up in the 10th District—in Lovettsville, Virginia and graduated from Loudoun Valley High School. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps—where he was injured by an IED in 2010—he recovered and joined the U.S. National Rowing team, winning a bronze medal 2012 Paralympics.

Last October, Sgt. Jones began a long and difficult cycling journey across the country. His purpose was to shine a light on the struggles that young veterans face when they return home and to thank the military charities that have provided him with hope through his recovery. Specifically, Sgt. Jones has recognized three organizations that helped him through his recovery: Semper Fi Fund, Ride2Recovery and the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes.

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, which is headquartered in my district, is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit, non-partisan organization established in 2004 to provide severely wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with emergency financial assistance and other support services. The Coalition has done tremendous work in Virginia and across the country. Besides donating nearly $1 million in direct aid to veterans, the Coalition has provided thousands of dollars through grants to other notable veterans' organizations in Virginia. Under the leadership of David Walker, who serves as President and CEO, the Coalition has increased its efforts.

Most recently, the Coalition hosted a meaningful tribute to veterans at the new Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg, Virginia, where they were joined by the Boulder Crest Retreat for Military and Veteran Wellness, another organization in my district that is also doing tremendous work.

I look forward to seeing the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes continue to make a difference in so many lives. I also want to thank Sgt. Jones, for his inspirational journey and for his invaluable contribution to his fellow veterans. He proves that anything is possible and I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MEL HANCOCK

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Congressman Mel Hancock as he is inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians.

Mel was a dear friend, neighbor, and dedicated statesmen during his years of public service in the United States House of Representatives. His legacy will forever be a part of Missouri through the Hancock Amendment and his service to the people he represented.

Mel spent his time in public life advocating for the proper scope and role of government as an instrument to protect our individual liberties. He understood that government is a useful tool, but when it is given too much power it can be used to undermine the interests and freedom of the average person. Like our founders, Mel was a wise, just, and honorable man who worked tirelessly to advance the cause of liberty for which so many of our ancestors have sacrificed so much to promote.

In 1977 Mel founded the Taxpayer Survival Association, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing a constitutional amendment to limit taxes. He invested his personal effort, travelling across Missouri collecting signatures to put a ''Tax and Spending Amendment'' on the ballot. Through his hard work, the ''Hancock Amendment'' was added to the Missouri Constitution in 1980. Since then, Mel's leadership to secure the Hancock Amendment for Missouri has served as an inspiration for other legislative efforts around the nation.

After the passage of the Hancock Amendment, Mel continued his service to his state and his neighbors after being elected to represent Missouri's 7th District in Congress in 1988. During his time in Congress he served on the House Ways and Means Committee and advocated a balanced budget amendment for the federal constitution. Mel was a voice of prudence and reason in an unreasonable era.

He left Congress in 1996 to return to his home in Southwest Missouri, as was befitting a true citizen representative. Mel's towering stature had earned the deep gratitude of the people he served and would have ensured his continued re-election.

However, Mel believed that terms in office should be limited and had given his promise to the people that he would not serve more than four terms in office. With Mel Hancock, a promise made was a promise kept, something that Washington would do well to learn from today:

Only occasionally in life are we privileged to know someone as worthy of honor and emulation as Mel Hancock. Mel's well deserved induction in the Hall of the Famous Missourians is testament to a man who was a remarkable member of the House of Representatives and a true friend. May he forever live in the hearts of those whose lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING THE BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S 66TH ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS BANQUET

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, which is hosting its 66th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and in thanking its volunteers for filling an essential role in keeping the community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than 6 decades it has provided lifesaving fire suppression/prevention and emergency medical/rescue services to the residents of Burke, Fairfax County, and the surrounding communities. It also provides, houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment; provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership; and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the County's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in cooperation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. Last year alone, the Burke station responded to thousands of incidents.

I am honored to recognize several of the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as officers or as members of the board of directors or who are receiving awards for their superlative service to the department and the community. It gives me great pleasure to introduce the names of these individuals into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

2014 Award Recipients:

Founder's Award—Kevin Grottle.

Rookie of the Year—Chris Smith.

Firefighter of the Year—Paul Stracke.

EMS Provider of the Year—Emily Fincher.

Officer of the Year—Mike Powell.

Administrative Person of the Year—Nancy Stone.

Career Member of the Year—Mike Istvan.

Chief's Award—BVFRD Maintenance Team: Larry Bocknek, Kevin Grottle, Shaun Kurry, and Alex Budd.

Board of Directors:

President Patrick Owens.

Vice President John Powers.

Secretary Greg Fedor.

Treasurer Sheryl Gilhooly.

Larry Barnett.

Rich Guarrasi.

Alisha Sunde.

Officers:

Chief Thomas Warnock.

Deputy Chief Tina Godfrey.

Deputy Chief John Hudak.

Captain Melissa Ashby.

Captain Keith O'Connor.

Lieutenant John Rose.

Sergeant Jennifer Babic.

Sergeant Kevin Grottle.

Sergeant Mike Hertig.

Sergeant Mike Powell.

Team Leader FF Paul Stracke.

Team Leader Paramedic Dave Horne.

Team Leader Catherine Owens.

Chaplain Harry Chelpon.

I also wish to recognize Assistant Chief and Lifetime Member Lawrence A. Bocknek on the occasion of his retirement following 29 years of service with the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and 40 total years in the fire service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 66 years of service and in thanking all of the brave volunteers who do not hesitate to drop everything when the community calls in need of help. To all of these men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents I say: ''Stay safe.''

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGIA SOCIETY OF HOSPITAL ENGINEERS

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Georgia Society for Hospital Engineers (GSHE). It is appropriate at this milestone to reflect on and celebrate the importance and achievements of this organization.

On October 1, 1964, the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) launched the GSHE at a meeting in Macon, GA. The GSHE owes much of its success to the strong foundation laid by the original charter members: Billy Wise, Dewey Moon, Wendell White, Jerry Adams, Darryl Goodwin, Mahlon Hill, and the first GSHE president, Mr. P.J. Wise. These men showed extraordinary foresight and wisdom as they established a forum for hospital engineers, supervisors, maintenance managers, and other hospital and medical center personnel from across the state to meet and share ideas on improving patient care.

Throughout the years, the GSHE has offered a number of programs to increase efficiency and efficacy in hospitals. The earliest programs included ''helping hand'' and ''special tools'' which allowed hospital engineers to offer assistance and resources to one another. As innovative technology plays an increasingly major role in health care, the GSHE continues to help hospitals keep up with new technologies and provide exceptional care for citizens across Georgia.

With Mr. William A. Elrod at the helm serving as the 50th president of the GSHE, the organization maintains the same objective of the original charter members, to unite hospital engineers so that they might collaborate and learn from one another. Mr. Speaker, please join me on behalf of the great people of Georgia in wishing the GSHE many more years of continued success in transforming the delivery of healthcare.

HONORING SUE MAGNER

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sue Magner, an outstanding volunteer of AARP from Illinois. Recently, Sue was named the first ever winner of the AARP Director's Award for Distinguished Service. This award is given to an outstanding volunteer who consistently exceeds what is asked of them and provides exceptional service to the community.

Sue Magner performs many different activities as an AARP driver safety volunteer. She is an instructor, trainer, and VMIS data manager.

During her time at AARP, Sue has jumped at the challenge of familiarizing new volunteers with computer systems knowledge and computer-based technology and is always looking for new methods on how best to teach incoming volunteers and optimize their experience.

Sue's colleagues report that she is eager to answer any coworker's questions and does everything she is asked with a smile. Her kindness and ability to help others is truly commendable. Through hard work and tireless dedication, Sue Magner has helped make a difference in countless lives.

Mr. Speaker, and my distinguished colleagues of the House, please join me in congratulating Sue Magner on receiving this distinct honor and wishing her many future successes as she continues her work with AARP.

IN MEMORY OF CHIEF ROBERT KNIGHT OF THE SAYVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the Long Island delegation to offer our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of Robert ''Bobby'' Knight, former Chief of the Sayville Fire Department of Suffolk County, New York. Congressmen BISHOP, ISRAEL, MCCARTHY and I had the sincere pleasure of working with Chief Knight on important fire services issues that directly impacted the safety and wellbeing of our constituents. His tireless service to the firefighter community has been invaluable, and his counsel was always sought by lawmakers. He honorably served with the Sayville Department for 35 years. He was also a former member of the East Hampton Fire Department, 1975–1979, and the North Patchogue Fire Department, 1968–1969.

Bobby was loved by everyone who knew him. His selfless commitment to the safety and security of our state was evident in his work as the Legislative Committee Chairman for the Firemen's Association of the State of New York. He passed in the Line of Duty doing what he loved—advocating for the needs of our first responders. I know myself and many of my delegation colleagues met with him just hours before his unexpected passing. He didn't feel well, but he was more concerned with carrying the message of the Long Island firefighters than he was for his own well being. We have lost a true advocate and friend.

HONORING COACH ED STEERS

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding career and accomplishments of Coach Ed Steers. At the conclusion of this school year, Coach Steers will be retiring as Athletics Director of Porter-Gaud School after nine great years. Under his leadership, Porter-Gaud has consistently had one of the most successful and well-rounded athletics programs in the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA), winning twenty-six state titles, as well as the SCISA President's Cup for three of the past four years.

As much as Coach Steers has done for the Cyclones, many do not know the details about Ed's career prior to his arrival at Porter-Gaud. As a student-athlete at the Citadel (Class of 1968), Coach Steers was a three-time Southern Conference champion in wrestling, never losing in a dual meet. He entered the coaching profession following a brief stint as a tank officer in the Vietnam era, coaching for the Army, then as head coach at William and Mary and later at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He is still the winningest wrestling coach in the history of both programs, and has been named to the Citadel's Athletics Hall of Fame, the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, and the New York Collegiate Wrestling Hall of Fame. He also was named the Citadel's Alumnus of the Year in 2002.

More important than all of these accolades has been Coach Steers' influence on the coaches, athletes, and the entire Porter-Gaud community. Ed models a lifestyle of personal fitness and discipline by squeezing in a run every day. He knows the name and the story of every single athlete and coach—and chokes up in telling the best ones every season at the athletics assemblies. He is present when buses pull out at 5:00 a.m., and he is present on the sidelines of almost every athletics event, whether bantam, junior varsity, or varsity. My boys Marshall, Landon, Bolton, and Blake join me, the Porter-Gaud Athletics Department, and the entire school in thanking Ed for his service and wishing him all the best in his well-deserved retirement. While his leadership and guidance will be sorely missed at Porter-Gaud, his legacy at the school will remain long after he departs and we wish him and his wife Sally all the best as their next journey begins.

RECOGNIZING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE SHEPHERD CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the volunteers of the Shepherd Center of Oakton-Vienna and to thank them for their many contributions to the Northern Virginia community. Organized in 1997, the Shepherd Center of Oakton-Vienna is a non-profit that provides services to help older adults continue living independently, and it offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization.

The center works to support older residents who want to age in place in their homes and to engage them in social activities. Every year, approximately 200 volunteers for the Shepherd Center serve as medical drivers, companion drivers, friendly callers and visitors, health and wellness counselors, fundraisers, and grant writers. These volunteers run programs such as Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and caregivers' support groups. Services are available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

The Shepherd's Center has also been recognized as ''One of the Best'' 2012–13 by the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington and the 2012 Nonprofit of the Year award from the Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce. The services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use their experience, training, and skills in significant roles in society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Shepherd Center of Oakton-Vienna for the services which enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are deserving of our highest praise.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Nurses Week which began on Tuesday, May 6 and ends on Friday, May 9. During the first full week of May each year, we recognize nurses across our country. Nurses represent the largest single component of the health care profession with approximately 3,100,000 registered nurses in the United States.

This year's theme for National Nurses Week is ''Nurses Leading the Way.'' Nurses not only

provide essential care to their patients, but they are also health innovators. Nurses are constantly bringing themselves up to speed on the new technologies and new medical research required to effectively serve their patients. We must support our nurse leaders by recognizing and thanking them for their daily work.

With a clear commitment to wellness promotion and illness prevention, the Obama Administration and Congress must support this large contingency of our health care community. There is convincing evidence that the health of our country can be dramatically advanced by deploying our greatest and most trusted national health resource, our nurses. Given a clear leadership role, the dedicated nurses of our country provide key services and preventive guidance for effective health care, not ''sick-care.''

National Nurses Week is dedicated to recognizing the work that our nation's nurses perform each day. We must also realize the potential that the nursing profession has to become the premier leader in preventive and public health. No matter the certification or registration, each nurse is important each day to each patient. Help me celebrate National Nurses Week by recognizing nurses in your community and nationwide.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the many dedicated volunteers of the Washington County Historical Society in my State of Minnesota as the organization celebrates its 80th anniversary. Since its inception in 1934, the Society has played an invaluable role in preserving the history of the county and educating today's citizens about past generations.

Eighty years ago, a local women's group identified the need to protect stories and artifacts from Washington County. Working together with the Stillwater Rotary Club, the group formed and held its inaugural meeting on April 11, 1934 where it elected its first president and received its first donation, a copy of the ''History of Washington County and the St. Croix Valley.'' The Society still has the work in its collection today, in compliance with its policy of permanently keeping all donations.

After first operating out of a single room in the Stillwater Public Library, the Society has steadily grown in size by increasing the number and variety of items and locations in its collection. It purchased the former Stillwater Prison Warden's House from the State for $100 in 1941 and turned the property into a museum. The Warden's House museum is still in operation today, making it the second oldest house museum in Minnesota.

The Historical Society continues to grow to this day. It recently purchased a 14,000 square foot building in Stillwater, MN, that will be made into a state-of-the-art museum and research facility. The Society currently has about 700 members, operates two interpretive museums, and provides educational, research, and historical preservation opportunities throughout the county.

Mr. Speaker, the valuable efforts of the Washington County Historical Society during the past eight decades are commendable and worthy of recognition. In honor of many people who have built the success of the Washington County Historical Society, it is a privilege to submit this statement in honor of its 80th anniversary.

CHIEF ROSEMARY CLOUD

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special woman, Chief Rosemary Cloud, of East Point, GA. She is the first African-American woman to lead a paid professional fire department in America.

I am proud to recognize my amazing constituent on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. A native of Atlanta, Chief Cloud began her career in the fire service 30 years ago at the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department as a firefighter. For the past 12 years, she has served as the Fire Chief of the East Point Fire Department. Over her years of service, Chief Cloud has managed 35 fire stations and over 1,000 employees.

Chief Cloud's service extends beyond Metro Atlanta. She was the Appointed Subject Matter Expert on Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8 for the White House National Security Council. She helped develop policies to help the United States prevent and respond to terrorist threats, major disasters, and other emergencies. Chief Cloud was also recently inducted into the International Women in Homeland Security and Emergency Management Hall of Fame.

Additionally, Chief Cloud is actively involved in her community. She currently mentors young people through leadership programs. She has also established more than 10 community service public safety programs in East Point.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Cloud's dedication to public service is inspirational and patriotic. I applaud her service and leadership, and I congratulate her on this historic appointment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AFGHAN ALLIES PROTECTION EXTENSION ACT OF 2014

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, a bipartisan coalition of Members in the House and Senate have introduced the Afghan Allies Protection Extension Act of 2014 in an effort to protect the thousands of brave Afghan men and women, from translators to drivers, who risked their lives to protect our service members. The Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program was created to help them come to America if their safety was threatened as a result of their work on behalf of the U.S. mission.

Too often, however, the Afghans who are supposed to be benefitting from the SIV program have been put through delays and a bureaucratic nightmare, and many have lost their lives. Today's legislation is intended to extend the program while fixing many of these problems that will enable the SIV program to function as intended.

More specifically, the Afghan Allies Protection Extension Act of 2014 authorizes an additional 3,000 SIVs for 2015; authorizes unused FY14 SIVs to be carried forward and issued by the Department of State in 2015; extends the Afghan SIV applicant deadline until Dec. 31, 2015; authorizes the Department of State to process all SIVs that meet the Dec. 31, 2015 application deadline until the authorized SIV cap is met or the processing deadline of Dec. 31, 2016 is reached, whichever comes first; provides parity in the definition of ''family'' between the more thoughtful Iraq definition and the narrow Afghan definition; and finally, allows a critically overlooked population of Afghans—those who worked for U.S. media outlets, NGOs and those who worked for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)—to become eligible for an SIV.

We have frankly fallen short of the mark. It is clear that these Afghan men and women are at risk and that the situation is likely to get worse rather than better. Should America be at war again someday, there is nothing more important than the ability to follow through on our word to aid those who risked their lives to protect our troops.

You don't have to be an American to be an American hero. It's time for Congress to step up and do the right thing for these brave Afghan men and women.

NATIONAL DAY TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy which is May 7 this year. Across the country, hundreds of thousands of teens and hundreds of organizations will participate in activities and events today to focus on the avoidance of teen pregnancy.

Since the 1990s when groups began to bring attention to teen pregnancy rates in the United States, teen pregnancy has decreased by 44 percent. However, three in ten teenagers in the United States still become pregnant. There are clear disparities in teen pregnancy rates that are often the result of social issues like poverty, educational attainment, and involvement in the criminal justice or welfare systems.

Each year, teen childbearing costs our taxpayers at least $9 billion. Texas contributes

approximately $1.1 billion to that price tag. A child born to unmarried teen parents is nine times more likely to grow up in poverty and subsequently incur the additional costs associated with public health care and participation in welfare programs. The average cost to taxpayers associated with a child born to a teen mother each year from their birth to age fifteen is $1,682. Between 1991 and 2010 in Texas, there were more than one million teen births.

We must commit to efforts to reduce the high rates of teen pregnancies and births in this country. Please join me in supporting the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy by raising awareness, promoting parent-child communication, and supporting educational programs that have been proven to reduce teen pregnancy.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.
SD–226

10 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine high frequency and automated trading in futures markets.
SR–328A
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Suzette M. Kimball, of West Virginia, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, and Estevan R. Lopez, of New Mexico, to be Commissioner of Reclamation, both of the Department of the Interior, and Monica C. Regalbuto, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management.
SD–366
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine strengthening minority serving institutions, focusing on the best practices and innovations for student success.
SD–430

10:30 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine expanding economic opportunity for women and families.
SD–608
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine improving financial management at the Department of Defense.
SD–342

2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
To hold hearings to examine economic espionage and trade secret theft, focusing on if laws are adequate for today's threats.
SD–226

3 p.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife
To hold hearings to examine polluted transportation infrastructure stormwater runoff.
SD–406

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alice G. Wells, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Cassandra Q. Butts, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, both of the Department of State.
SD–419

MAY 14

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine a collection, analysis and use of elections data, focusing on a measured approach to improving election administration.
SR–301

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine defense research and innovation.
SD–192
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, ''The Strong Start for America's Children Act'', and the nomination of R. Jane Chu, of Missouri, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts.
SD–430
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine charting a path forward for the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.
SD–342
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, focusing on supporting law enforcement officers.
SD–226

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine strengthening oversight and integrity of the financial markets, focusing on fiscal year 2015 resource needs of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission.
SD–138

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mark Sobel, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director, and Sunil Sabharwal, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director, both of the International Monetary Fund, Matthew T. McGuire, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and Mileydi Guilarte, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.
SD–419

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine promoting the well-being and academic success of college athletes.
SR–253
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia
To hold hearings to examine the role of mitigation in reducing Federal expenditures for disaster response.
SD–342
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine wildfires and forest management, focusing on how prevention is preservation.
SD–628

MAY 15

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine online advertising and hidden hazards to consumer security and date privacy.
SD–342

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrew H. Schapiro, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, and Nina Hachigian, of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, both of the Department of State.
SD–419

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cheryl A. LaFleur, of Massachusetts, and Norman C. Bay, of New Mexico, both to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
SD–366

11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

MAY 21

10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on the Bureau of Indian Education.
SD–628

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222